

Faith Matters

HELLO

January

2025



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Hutchinson, MN 55350
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LIVE TV BROADCAST
SUNDAYS AT 8 A.M.
NUVERA & MEDIACOM
ON CH. 7

PRE-RECORDED
BROADCASTS
SUNDAYS 10 A.M.
AND 5 P.M.
TUESDAYS 5 P.M.
THURSDAYS 10 P.M.
NUVERA CH. 10
MEDIACOM CH. 8

RADIO BROADCAST
SUNDAYS 8 A.M.
KDUZ 1260 AM
(PRE-RECORDED)

YOUTUBE
SERVICE RECORDINGS
POSTED SUNDAY
AFTERNOONS



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Pastors' Page

Ready to leap?

For over a year, now, Faith had been intentionally imagining what Phase II would look like for our church. We have formed two teams, a building team and a finance team, have worked with Zerr Berg Architects, and interviewed several capital campaign consultants. The plans, first developed during Phase I were updated, and the decision was made to hire capital campaign organizers from in-house. Then, at the November special congregational meeting, we voted overwhelmingly to proceed with a capital campaign to attempt to raise money to build Phase II.

Now it's time to leap!

The Leap of Faith Capital Campaign kicks off on Sunday, January 12. Over the course of the seven-week campaign, we're excited to share with you the possibilities we believe God has presented to us, and the potential for improved and expanded ministries that we pray can help further the advancement of the Gospel. Here's what you can look forward to:

A trip down memory lane: Depending on how long you have been involved at Faith, you'll notice some blasts from the past, as we remember where we have been from the beginnings of Phase 1 to now. You'll recognize some old capital campaign names, logos, symbols, and media. As we remember where we've been, we hope it will create excitement for where we are going!

A call to prayer: During the month of February, specifically, we'll be united in the word and in prayer, as we journey through a Leap of Faith devotional prayer booklet featuring devotions written by our own members (and a couple of old friends). As we seek God's will, and not our own, seeking His word and engaging in prayer is so important!

Our vision, our mission, and how it might be possible: There's no denying, Phase II is going to cost a lot! But we feel that it is not only necessary, but also possible! We'll talk more about what we feel God is up to here at Faith, and how we as a congregation can give sacrificially to make it happen.



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Pastor’s Page continued from pg. 1

All of that, and more, you can expect from us. Now, here’s what we expect of you, the members of Faith Lutheran Church:

- Engage:** We’re working hard to make sure we have a compelling presentation of our mission and vision, so please engage in it! We will be offering a ton of Leap of Faith Gatherings beginning the last week of January and going into February. Altogether, there will be over 50 different gatherings offered! We are asking you to plan on attending ONE. **Attend just one gathering** to hear about this Leap of Faith and consider how you might be called to jump!
- Pray:** This big Leap of Faith for our congregation has the potential to transform it in major ways, not unlike how Phase I did! Please pray that we do the right things—and by “we” I mean both we as a congregation and we as individual members of it!
- Spread the news:** In addition to your personal participation, please consider how you can encourage others to engage! Ask them if they’ve signed up for the Leap of Faith Gathering. Invite them to attend with you! Share how God might be inspiring you!

Faith Lutheran, it’s time to leap! But we know we don’t jump blindly! God is with us, and nothing is impossible with God!

See you in church, and at a meeting!
Pastor Dave

LEAP OF FAITH MEETING TIMES

Monday, January 27
9:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m.,
4:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, January 28
7:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.,
4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, January 29
9:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m.,
6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. (FLY)
Thursday, January 30
7:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m.
4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
Friday, January 31
10:30 a.m.
Saturday, February 1
(Nursery Provided)
9:30 a.m., and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, February 2
9:15 a.m. (Digging Deeper)
11:30 a.m.
Saturday, February 8
(Nursery Provided)
10:30 a.m.
Sunday, February 9
9:15 a.m. (Digging Deeper)
Monday, February 10
9:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 11
7:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.,
4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 12
7:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m.,
7:30 p.m. (FLY)

Thursday, February 13
8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m.,
4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
Friday, February 14
10:30 a.m.
Saturday, February 15
(Nursery Provided)
9:30 a.m.
Sunday, February 16
9:15 a.m. (Digging Deeper)
11:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.



“Faith Seeks Understanding”
Continuing Learning Opportunities for Adults
Digging Deeper sessions are held between services on Sundays at 9:15 a.m.
beginning on January 5. **Watch the announcements for class locations.**



II Timothy: A Guidebook for the Christian Life
In II Timothy, an elderly St. Paul wrote to encourage Timothy in his faith and ministry. It is a more personal letter than I Timothy and serves as a guide to the promises and call of the Christian life; with Pr. Scott Grorud.
Marriage Enrichment Class
Join Pastor Dave Wollan for a class focusing on uplifting and encouraging you in your marriage.



Stump the Pastor

Q: *There was only one Christmas, so why do Matthew and Luke describe it so differently?*

A: There are several reasons why the two accounts of Jesus’ birth in the Bible differ in many details. One is the type of sources that ancient writers had. There were very few libraries, no newspapers and obviously no internet. The only record of events like Jesus’ birth were memories that were told orally long before they were written down, most likely in a compact version boiled down to just the main facts.

Partly because of that, ancient historians were not only allowed, but expected to take those compact accounts and fill them out in a way that fit their overall approach, while still remaining true to what facts they knew. So, Matthew and Luke understood that their job as historians was to tell the core account of Christmas each in his own way.

A third reason for the differences is that the ancient world did not view history as merely a report of details and facts, but as an effort to persuade the reader of certain conclusions about the people and events described. It was not meant to be disinterested and totally objective, but to make a case to the reader. With the Christmas accounts, the case Matthew and Luke made is that God kept His long-standing promise to send a Savior by having the Son of God be born as a human baby.

Given all that, the most important relationship between Matthew’s and Luke’s accounts of Christmas is not the differences between them, but all the points of contact. They agree that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but raised in Nazareth; that his mother was named Mary and was still a virgin when Jesus was conceived in her; that she was betrothed to a man named Joseph who stood by her and raised Jesus as his own son; and that all the events were directed by angels sent from God. Those common details leave no doubt that the two accounts of Jesus’ birth share a common skeleton that each author developed in the way that ancient historians were expected to do.

Recognizing that makes the Christmas accounts more trustworthy, not less so, since it is clear that they both relate the exact same event. If Matthew and Luke had simply made up a birth story for Jesus, their accounts would surely sound nothing like one another. As it is, we can be confident in the core of the story, as we also listen to how Matthew and Luke each make the case that the child of Bethlehem is Messiah, Savior and Lord.



Stewardship Matters

Early in 2024, Faith’s leaders urged the congregation to work toward changing its established pattern of building up a large deficit in the General Fund during the year, only to cover that gap with enormous offerings in December. That pattern has worked out for many years, but it puts the church in a precarious position should those massive year-end offerings not materialize.

Despite that encouragement, the old pattern repeated itself again in 2024. By the time you read this, we will know how the year turned out, but as of mid-December, Faith still faced a deficit of over \$100,000. We hope that will be overcome again this year, but we also continue to hope that the family of Faith can begin to establish a new, healthier pattern of giving in 2025.

Thank You for all your faithful support of the ministry God has entrusted to us here at Faith Lutheran Church!

**An Invitation for Prayers for Global Mission Witness
Through the Augustana District**

By Pastor Paul Knudson



It has been a privilege for me to have been able to work with a number of people in the AD with a passion for witnessing to Jesus Christ especially in foreign lands. I wish to thank Faith Lutheran for its continued willingness to give special leadership to this witness.

Now we enter into a new chapter, with the Augustana District calling Pastor Nathan Hanson to offer part-time leadership to extend its work with international partners. Some years back, I traveled to Ethiopia with Pastor Hanson and others. He has now assumed a position coordinating ongoing efforts in that area and more. Pastor Hanson brings long-time experience working with rural congregations and will assist the AD Board of World Missions in encouraging more congregations to join this mission endeavor. One of the congregations he presently serves recently gave several thousand dollars to support the witness of the Tartu Academy of Theology in Estonia.

Members of the board, along with Pastor Hanson, covet the prayers of Faith’s members for evangelical witness to Jesus Christ in places and with leaders who share our passion to bear witness to Christ. Presently some have not heard, may be resisting being at home with our heavenly Father through his beloved Son, or may be rejoicing that some have a passion to draw all God’s beloved children home. Pray especially for Pastor Hanson that he can be used mightily in this witness.

Faith Lutheran Church Support Groups

The various support groups at Faith Lutheran are ready to help whether you are grieving, facing cancer, challenged by illness, or feeling alone. Maybe you want to enter the mission field by helping on these teams or need the help yourself. The love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is there for all of us to share. Contact the pastoral care team by calling 320-587-2093 for more information or to join one of the following groups:



- 1) Grief Support Group (Dates vary)
- 2) FAcE Cancer Support Group (Second and fourth Thursday of each month at 10 a.m.)
- 3) Caregiver Support Group (Third Thursday of each month at 4 p.m.)



**FREE
community
MEAL**

Faith Lutheran Outreach Opportunities

The 2025 sign-up boards are available for sponsoring a Sunday morning radio broadcast on KDUZ (\$145/broadcast), and for providing flowers for worship in memory or honor of someone or a special event. There is a separate sign-up in Foundation for those who want to provide flowers for worship there. (For a flower sponsorship, contact the florist of your choice, order the flowers, and request delivery to church on the preceding Friday afternoon.)

There is also a board where you can sign-up to serve one of the Free Community Meals. These meals are provided on the second Sunday of each month from 4-5:30 p.m. There are funds available to help pay for the food, but volunteer groups are needed to plan, prepare, serve and clean-up after these meals.

Camp Penuel - Costa Rica

January is my favorite time of year, as my memories are quickly filled with Camp Penuel in Costa Rica. Our church partners with this ministry and we are able to send missionary teams down every few years. This January will mark my third trip to the camp and our church's fourth. Camp Penuel has become one of my favorite places because of the immense joy and Spirit-led nature that exists there.

Faith Lutheran was introduced to Camp Penuel by a Hutchinson native, Paul Bernhagen. He and his wife, Thelma, lovingly run this camp for kids in Costa Rica. The camp is free for those who participate. Our church donates to their ministry often, and it is cool to be able to see what their ministry is all about and how God is at work.



Kristen Durst
Director of Youth and Family Ministries



Each time we have gone down, we have been met with the warmest hospitality by the staff, their volunteers, and the campers. We help out with projects around the camp and then we get to spend time with the campers, playing games, singing songs, or just being with them. It is truly one of the happiest places on earth. The language barrier, though a challenge, quickly melts away as we sing “Who is the King of the Jungle” and worship through dance.

Through this camp, so many kids learn of God’s love for them for the first time, and to witness that is incredible. This month, we will get to deliver New Testament Bibles to the kids in their own language. Please be in prayer for our trip, for our safety and health, and also for the campers that attend.



Seniors' Scene
by Pr. Paulus Pilgrim



Here it is—a new year, 2025. How does it feel so far? Same as always? On how many checks or papers will you still write 2024? One man told me he never gets it right until August. I don't take that long; but I'll miss a few. Embarrassing!

Well, let's celebrate something new. We have five new Seniors' Potluck meetings and programs coming our way and they look like really good ones. Please stay well, so you don't miss any of them.

We'll begin with welcoming Chaplain Steve Timm from the Harmony River Living Center, where he serves the residents and staff. It's an important position, keeping Harmony River a Christ-centered care facility. But what all does he do? What do his days of activity look like? What are his joys, his difficult times doing pastoral care? Pastor Steve told me he is looking forward to being with us. I hope YOU are looking forward to his visit too.

The January Seniors' Potluck meeting, our first for 2025, is on **Thursday, January 30**, beginning with our potluck dinner at **12:00 noon**. Hope to see you there and don't forget to *bring a friend*.

Caring Card Ministry

The Caring Card Ministry is an outreach program to the people of Faith Lutheran who are going through a transition in life, medical tests, have been recently hospitalized or are suffering from cancer or other illness. Birthday cards are also sent to those 80 and over in the congregation. Each month one person from the ministry is assigned to send these cards. Please let Marsha know if you are interested! marshas@faithlc.com or 587-2093. Thank you!



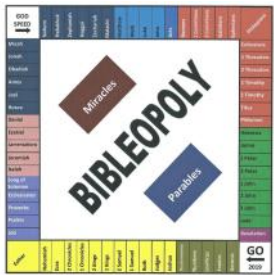
Sunday, January 26, 2024 at 12:00 noon

ANNUAL MEETING

Lunch will be served from 11-11:45 a.m.

Bibleopoly Is Back!

Pick a reading plan up from the church and track your Bible reading for the year on one of the Bibleopoly boards. Join the family of Faith in reading through the whole Bible in 2025!



SNOW BIRDS

For those of you who head south for the winter, this is your reminder to keep looped in with all that is happening at Faith Lutheran while you are gone. You can stay “in the know” by **making sure the church has your temporary address** so we can send newsletters, envelopes, and tax statements to you. If you would prefer to get your newsletters by e-mail, we can do that, too. Also, if you are on **Facebook**, make sure to **follow FaithLutheranHutchinson**, you can **watch the services via the YouTube Page at faithlchutch**, and of course, you can always **check on the latest news by going to the Faith website at Faithlc.com**.

Finally, if you don't want giving envelopes sent to your temporary address, let the office know and those mailings can be stopped. If you prefer, you can still give while away by going to the website **Faithlc.com/Give-2/** or using this QR Code.



Please Remember in Prayer

Please remember those who are serving our country through active duty:

LtCdr. Brett Stadslev (Navy, San Diego, CA-son-in-law of Judy and Tom Felber)
Spc. Jones R. Reid (Space Force, Patrick, FL - son of Melissa Straka, grandson of Sherry Schuetz)

Please contact the church office to make any changes or additions to this list.



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Owen Weikle, Custodial Services Coordinator		320-587-2093

Remember our Faith members in nursing homes and health care centers:

Buffalo Lake Nursing Home
Kathy Fabel

Cedar Crest – Silver Lake
Patricia Lambert

Cokato Nursing Home
Clara Betker

Harmony River
Wilbur Johnson

Oaks
Phyllis Blum
Caroline Ficker
Alice Poshek

Pines
Elaine Blade
Maynard and Shirley Holtz
Frances Olson


Woodstone
Cyndy Ollrich

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OUR MISSION IS:
BUILDING FAITH
*“EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY,
FOR BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST”*
EPHESIANS 4:12

TO LIVE OUT THAT MISSION, GOD CALLS US TO:

FOLLOW JESUS
ANNOUNCE THE GOSPEL
INVITE ALL PEOPLE
TEACH CHRISTIAN TRUTH
HELP ALL WHO ARE IN NEED

