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Lent starts on Wednesday, March 5. Because of this, I thought it might be helpful to provide you with a few Lenten fun facts:

- Lent is a time we set aside each year to remember the love of God that is poured out through Christ Jesus on the cross in His death; and His defeat of death, sin and Satan in Christ's death and resurrection that brings Eternal Life to you. This season has a penitential character, a solemn nature to it. This is to help us remember to be repentant and remind us of our sin and our mortality.
- Lent begins a bit later this year, because Easter is later this year. The date of Easter is tied to the Jewish festival of Passover, and computed through a calculation known as *computus paschalis* (Latin for Easter computation). Basically, it is determined by the first Paschal full moon - or the first full moon on or after March 21.
- Lent begins on Ash Wednesday
- The date of Ash Wednesday is determined by counting back 46 days from Easter. Lent is a 40-day season, but it doesn't count the Sundays, since every Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection.
- Ash Wednesday features the imposition of Ashes as a reminder to us that we will return to the dust from which we are made (Genesis 3:19). It also reminds us of Jesus' defeat of death and sin on the cross, and the atonement for our sin by His blood
- The liturgical color for Lent is purple, a color of penitence.

This year, after taking a year off to let our interns preach, we will once again welcome pastors from our local partner congregations in LCMC. We'll hear from Pastor Brian Nehring from Christ the King, Pastor Aaron Albrecht from St. Matthew's, Pastor Brian Lauer from Zion, and our newest partner, Pastor Mahlon Bekedam from St. Paul's in Stewart.



MIDWEEK LENT 2025
FIVE ENDURING
PROMISES OF CHRIST
03.12 | 03.19 | 03.26 | 04.02 | 04.09

Our theme this year is "Five Enduring Promises of Christ," as we explore these life-giving words from our Savior. Join us each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. as we journey with Jesus to the cross.

See you in church!

Pastor Dave

LIVE TV BROADCAST
SUNDAYS AT 8 A.M.
NUVERA & MEDIACOM
ON CH. 7

PRE-RECORDED TV
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



Inside

Lent & Holy Week Music	2
Stump the Pastor Financial Update	3
Adult Education Leap of Faith	4
Children and Youth Ministries and Calendar	Insert
Missions	5
Seniors Scene	6
Staff Directory Prayer Requests	7



Ash Wednesday and Lent Schedule

Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return. Genesis 3:19

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5, 2025. Faith Lutheran will have two services with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at 12 noon and 6:30 p.m.

Mid-week Lenten services will continue for the following five weeks on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. (Note for confirmation students: You will meet with your small groups after each week's Lenten service.)

Holy Week will follow, beginning with Palm Sunday on April 13, Maundy Thursday (including first communion for sixth-grade students) on April 17, Good Friday on April 18, and Easter on April 20. Please put these dates on your calendars now so that you and your family are available to participate in these very important and special services.



Palm Sunday Breakfast

The FLY youth will serve breakfast on Palm Sunday, April 13, from 8:30-11:30 a.m. in the Faith Center. This breakfast is a fundraiser to support this summer's mission trip to Indianapolis, Indiana. Come and enjoy a yummy hot breakfast and support the youth at the same time!

Another way you can support the youth is through the Coffee Fundraiser that will continue on March 23 and April 27. Come and enjoy a specialty coffee served by the youth, before or after worship.



Lenten Picnic

The Faith Lutheran Annual Lenten Picnic will be held on Wednesday, March 26, from 5:00 – 6:15 p.m. in the Faith Center. Come in for a picnic supper of grilled hotdogs, beans, chips, lemonade, and bars, and to spend some time in fellowship with the Faith family before the Lenten worship service at 6:30 p.m.!

Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus

As a guy who is saturated in music every day, I am more susceptible than the average person to the incessant “ear worm.” I am sure you can relate as that catchy commercial jingle you heard last night on TV bounces around in your head as you go about your day. Fortunately for me, it is not the latest Burger King ad that turns over in my brain, but the enduring church hymn. As we enter the season of Lent, one lyric has been resonating with me, “Let us ever walk with Jesus.” This hymn of commitment to follow in Christ’s footsteps has long been a favorite of mine. The text beautifully crafts the message of the Gospel through the four-stanza hymn. “Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure” What does it mean for us as present-day Christians to follow in Christ’s footsteps? Through Epiphany, we have seen miracles and witnessed healings, we have heard Christ teach and watched as he grew from a boy, was baptized, and called his disciples. Now we follow Christ as he makes his way to the cross. “Full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Father’s bidding.” The reflection and self-examination that comes during Lent reminds us that the wages of sin is death. St. Paul tells us to “mortify all passion that would lead us into sin,” for through baptism we have been united with Christ in a death like his. So “let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death he conquered death.” This is how we follow Christ. We live in the promise that we will also rise with Jesus. Let us ever walk through our work, relationships, family life, and faith with Jesus. “For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be reunited with him in a resurrection like his.” (Romans 6:5)



Onward! - Austin Willhite

STUMP THE PASTOR

Stump the Pastor

Q: *I heard someone talk about water baptism versus spirit baptism. I thought there was only one baptism?*

A: Lutherans, in line with most of the Christian Church, believe that there is only one baptism, in which God pours out the Holy Spirit on those who are baptized. The Biblical word translated as baptism means to dip in water, so it is directly tied to the use of water. Holy Baptism is a gift that is complete in itself. It never needs to be repeated and it does not need anything more added to it.

On the basis of a few Bible passages (Acts 2 and 8:14-17, among others), Pentecostal or charismatic churches separate baptism from a later experience of the Holy Spirit. That so-called “Spirit baptism” is evidenced by a person receiving a particular spiritual gift, such as speaking in ecstatic tongues. These churches consider this experience of the Holy Spirit as more significant than actual baptism and believe it marks the fullness of Christian identity and experience.

Perhaps unintentionally, those convictions can lead to a subtle denigration of Holy Baptism (“water baptism”) as having little importance or consequence. In fact, such churches do not view Holy Baptism as a sacrament in which God is active, but only as a sign to the world that believers have accepted Jesus as their Lord (not that Jesus has accepted them as His children—note who is the subject and object of each phrase).

While some people undeniably do receive special spiritual gifts, the conviction that every Christian must demonstrate such a gift in order to have full Christian faith is not supported by the Bible. In fact, St. Paul argues against such thinking in I Corinthians 12 and 14.

The promise of Christ, for example in the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20, and the dominant teaching of the Christian Church is that there is one baptism into Christ in which God creates a covenant of salvation with us, pours out the Holy Spirit on us and incorporates us into the Church, the Body of Christ. “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.” (Ephesians 4:4-6) That’s a promise you can take to the bank!



Stewardship Matters

Why is stewardship—the sound management of our time, talent and treasure—such a vital topic in the Bible and the Church? At its root, it is not a matter of budgets or bills the church has to pay. It is primarily a theological issue.

Because we are creatures, made by God, we are naturally more in tune with creation, which we can see and experience, than we are with God, who is invisible to us and can be apprehended only by faith. That reality makes it really natural for us to treat creation as more important or having more value than the Creator.

St. Paul named exactly that problem in Romans 1:25. He insisted that even Gentiles who did not know God’s self-revelation to Israel could still discern God’s reality and will by observing creation, but, he wrote, “They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.”

Biblical stewardship practices help to remind us that everything in creation—from our own lives to our possessions to the world around us—are gifts from God and not to be worshiped or thought to have ultimate value. As we give of our time, ability and money, we come to appreciate them more as tools God gives us to serve our neighbors and support the work of His kingdom. There is freedom and joy in honoring the distinction between the Creator and His creation.



“Faith Seeks Understanding”
 Continuing Learning Opportunities for Adults
 Digging Deeper sessions are held between services on Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

Jesus’ Closing Argument: *Final Disputes During Holy Week*

Matthew, Mark and Luke all record a similar series of controversies that Jesus addressed in the week before his crucifixion. What was at stake in these disputations? How do they help to reveal the good news about Jesus and how can they prepare us to celebrate Holy Week again this year? Join Pastor Scott in the Faith Center to explore these key texts during Lent.

Imperfect Parents: *Building Relationships and Teaching Values To Teens*

Join Pastor Dave in the Conference Room as we confess our struggles as parents of teens and how we can intentionally strive to connect with our kids.

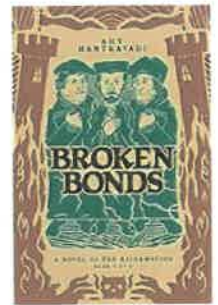


New Member Orientation Class

We will receive new members on **Sunday, April 6** with Orientation sessions on **March 23, 30, and April 6** during the education hour. If you are interested in joining Faith Lutheran, please contact Marsha at 587-2093 or marshas@faithlc.com.

New Theo Thursday!

Theo Thursday is an adult book study that meets with Pastor Dave in the Faith Center at noon on Thursdays, beginning March 13! (There is no class on Seniors’ Potluck days!) “The Church is fracturing, revolution is brewing, and society is changing rapidly. Three authors who shaped this new world with their pens—Martin Luther, Desiderius Erasmus, and Philipp Melanchthon—will now be shaped by it in turn.” Join Pastor Dave as we engage in a new novel titled *Broken Bonds* by Amy Mantravadi, which imaginatively explores the pivotal events and figures of the Reformation. If you have trouble finding the book, or have any questions about the class, contact Pastor Dave.



Leap of Faith Capital Campaign

Around the time this newsletter goes out, the initial results of the Leap of Faith capital campaign will be announced. That will help to determine the next steps the congregation might take toward the goal of completing Phase II of Faith’s long-term building plan. Any decisions or commitments for Phase II can be made only by the congregation. Be sure to attend any special meetings that may be scheduled, so that your voice and vote can be part of this process. In the meantime, please pray constantly for God to provide clear discernment and leading in how Faith Lutheran can and should move forward.

Important Rummage Sale Dates

Thoughts of spring, warmer temperatures, and melting snow bring anticipation for the annual church rummage sale that will be held on May 1 and 2 this year. At our house, the garage is already filling up with bags and boxes of items from family and friends. How is your cleaning and sorting process going?

You are invited to join the planning committee on Friday, March 7, at 11 a.m. Come with your ideas and suggestions as we start to put some plans into place.

Set aside the week of April 27—May 3 to help with set-up, organize for the sale, help with the sale itself, and/or help with clean-up after the event. Many hands make light work!



Special Mission Partnership Brings Great Joy and Bold, Effective Witness

Report from Pastor Paul



Over ten years ago, I was personally blessed by having Pastor Dawit y Wario of Ethiopia stay at our home, speak to area church members, and invite us into a partnership in mission. For me, it has been ten years of being blessed with a very special bond with this great man of faith. For our congregation and the Augustana District, it opened doors for our helping his congregation and more to multiply their evangelical outreach.

Presently Pastor Dawit made what was, to me, a very bold step of faith, to answer a new call to be the pastor of a relatively small congregation in the middle of Addis Ababa, a city of about nine million people and the capitol of that country. Our congregation has entered into a partnership with the Bole congregation where he serves. We are helping them sustain mission outreaches that, in time, have become independent churches.



Here you see a couple pictures from an outreach center that has now become an independent congregation. Pictured are members after worship in their simple worship center, and, to the right, you see Pastor Dawit at worship serving Holy Communion.



Many more stories could be told of the challenges and blessings of witnessing to Christ in an often hostile environment. Orthodox Christians in name are more culturally dominant and have struck out at more evangelical Christians, even taking their lives for their witness.



“Help the Food Garden Grow”

Now through the end of March, the Congregational Life team invites you to bring in non-perishable food and other items listed below to help the McLeod County food shelf. Please place your donations in the garden box by door #2.

Most Needed Items: canned fruits and vegetables, whole grain cereals and pasta, nuts, canned meats, baking items, personal care and household items. Cash is always appreciated for the purchase of the most needed items. Please bring any cash gifts to the church office, rather than placing them in the garden box.

Thank you!

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 one of 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.)





Seniors' Scene

by Pr. Paulus Pilgrim

Ever heard that a bad nickel always comes back to you? Actually I believe the saying is "penny," not nickel, but...I hear they are thinking of taking pennies out of circulation, so I wanted to be up to date. Now I hear even nickels might be eliminated.

Anyway, the saying refers to people coming back to you when you don't exactly want to see them again.

We know a pastor who keeps coming back to his old stomping grounds. But unlike a bad penny we love to see him back, and we give him a good welcome when he does. We like to remember the good times we had when he was a pastor here at Faith Lutheran.

This pastor has a name; it is Pastor Randy Freund, and he'll be back with us on **Thursday, March 27**, for Seniors' Potluck, which begins with our potluck dinner at 12:00 noon. Randy will be our featured speaker that day.

Some time back Pr. Randy took a trip and a video was made during that journey. It was not a sight-seeing vacation. This trip had a special purpose. He wanted to document and share information about a mission that has been dear to Faith Lutheran Church. That mission is **NEW HOPE MISSION SOCIETY (NHMS)**. Faith Lutheran was at the center of establishing this world mission partnership in southern India, with K.K. Alavi, a former Muslim, whom Jesus brought into His Kingdom. Now Abdul, K.K.'s son, is leading the mission.

Now, you and I can take a trip to India to see the work of this mission with our own eyes, because Randy had a videographer documenting this visit. You can essentially be there too, with Randy...without getting plane tickets or packing your luggage.

So mark your calendars, invite a friend, and "see you at seniors' potluck."

Volunteer Today!

Volunteers willing to host one of Faith's Free Monthly Meals are still needed for May 11, June 8, August 10, September 14, and November 9. If your Bible study group, Faith Group, friend

FREE
community
MEAL

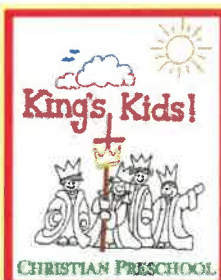
Volunteer Today!

group, or family would volunteer to prepare and serve one of these meals, please contact the church office to get on the calendar for the month of your choice.



SCAN TO GIVE
TO FLC OR GO TO
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COM/GIVE-2/

Support the mission and ministry of Faith Lutheran Church by using this QR code or link to reach the Faith Lutheran online giving page.



King's Kids Preschool

Open House and public registration opportunity on Saturday, March 22 from 9-11 a.m. at Christ the King: 1040 South Grade Rd. SW

A registration fee of \$35 is due at sign-up.



Have you given up your landline?

We have found that we have some "out of service" phone numbers in the church records. If you have eliminated your landline, please update your information with the office by filling out an "Update Your Information" card in the pews, e-mailing office@faithlc.com, or by calling the office at 320-587-2093.

Thank you for updating your information and helping us stay in touch with you!

Please Remember in Prayer



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

Alice Hansen

Shirley Holtz

Wilbur Johnson

DuWayne Peterson

Oaks

Phyllis Blum

Caroline Ficker

Alice Poshek

Pines

Elaine Blade

Maynard Holtz

Woodstone

Cyndy Ollrich

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

LtCdr. Brett Stadskev (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.

Faith Lutheran Church INFORMATION & STAFF DIRECTORY

335 Main St. S. 320-587-2093 FaithLC.com

Pastors

Scott Grorud	320-587-0171 (home)	scottg@faithlc.com
Dave Wollan	320-583-2385 (cell)	davidw@faithlc.com
Paul Knudson, Missions Ministry	320-587-2227 (home)	paulk@faithlc.com
Paulus Pilgrim, Visitation	320-234-9753 (home)	paulusp@faithlc.com

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Jeff Amundson, Pastoral Associate	320-587-2093 (office)	jeffa@faithlc.com
Marsha Schmit, Director of Pastoral Care & Evangelism		marshas@faithlc.com
Austin Willhite, Director of Music & Worship		austinw@faithlc.com
Kristen Durst, Director of Youth & Family Ministry		kristenm@faithlc.com
Laura Stowman, Director of Children & Family Ministry		lauras@faithlc.com
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Sara Wegner, Finance Coordinator		finco@faithlc.com
Owen Weikle, Custodial Services Coordinator		320-587-2093



Lent

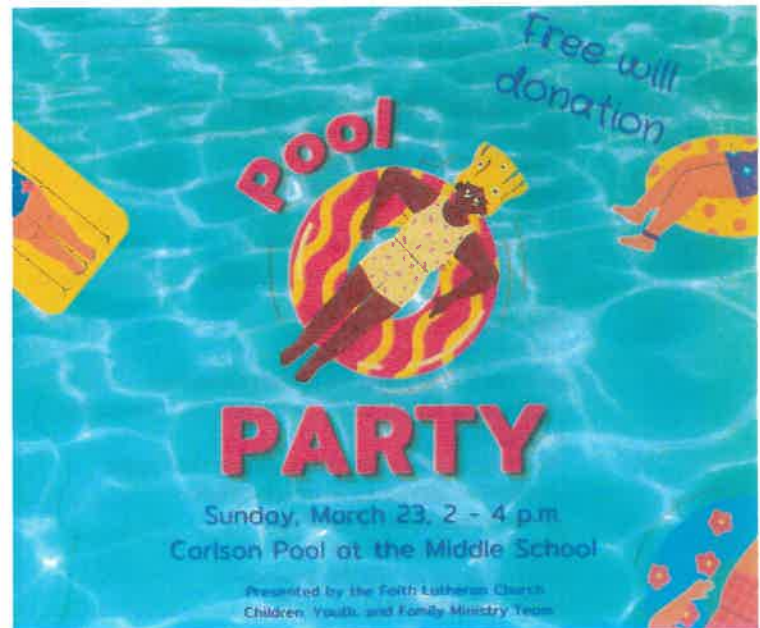
This may be a little known fact about me, but I (Kristen) grew up Catholic and Lutheran. My parents were of differing faith traditions when they got married and decided that their family would know both of them. For my brother and me, this meant that we went to Catholic school during the week and to our Lutheran church on Sundays. It was an interesting perspective for me to grow up with and at times it was complicated to know what was the right thing to do.

During Lent, there was an outcry in the Catholic church to give something up for the season and not to eat meat on Fridays. Honestly, I wasn't good at either of those things. I would attempt to give something up and I would maybe get all of a week in before caving. Regularly, I would have a meat-free lunch at school and then come home to dinner of steak or meatballs. All of the striving that I was doing to "do more" for God because it's the "right thing to do" left me feeling more and more like a failure.

This Lent, I could be writing to you to pick up a spiritual discipline for the season and give it a try or I could remind you that you should be in church more, pray more, read the Bible more, etc. But, I don't want to leave you in the "shoulds" and "coulds," but rather the promise that God loves you. May this season of Lent remind you that He has taken the time to walk among us, to suffer, die, and rise again all because He deeply loves you. May we draw closely to Him in the promise that He is FOR YOU regardless of our striving to do better. Praise be to God.

Kristen Durst, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Laura Stowman, Director of Children and Family Ministries



Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Dates



Sunday School

This month, students will learn about parts of Luther's Small Catechism. The preschoolers will be getting to know Jesus, Kindergarten and 1st graders will learn about baptism, 2nd and 3rd graders will learn about the Lord's Prayer, and the 4th and 5th graders will learn about confession.

First Communion Instruction

The 6th-grade students have started their first communion instruction. This is a time for students to understand what communion is before receiving their first communion on Maundy Thursday. There will be **regular Sunday School on March 9**. And they will **paint their chalices on March 16 at 8:30 a.m.**

56er's

At 56er's, we play games, have a snack, and see what the Bible says about a variety of questions. This month, we are covering the questions, "What Does the Bible Say About What I Look at Online?", "Is God Okay with Me Getting Angry?", and "Who's Right: God or Science?"

No 56er's on March 12 and April 2.



Sprouts

Sign up to help with Sprouts via this QR code! This is a time when preschool—1st graders leave during the sermon at the Foundation worship service for an age-appropriate lesson.

Aftershock

Aftershock is an afterschool ministry for Kindergarten—5th grade on the early release days. Kids come after school for snack time, crafts, games, Bible stories and worship.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Laura Stowman.

Our next date is April 2.



Confirmation

This school year, our confirmation students are learning about the Bible and are currently in the Old Testament. Confirmation meets on Wednesdays from 3:45 p.m.—5:30 p.m. with hang time right before.

Mentor Meeting—Wednesday, May 7, 2025

FLY Night

Faith Lutheran Youth night continues for all high school students on Wednesdays from 7:00—9:30 p.m.

AP Theo

Sophomores—seniors meet on Tuesday mornings from 6 –7 a.m. at Caribou to discuss what they are learning from their book study on *The Reason for God* by Tim Keller.

Sign Up for the Mission Trip!

We are going to Indianapolis, Indiana, July 11—19, 2025. Registration information can be found on the Faith Lutheran Youth Instagram page.

Free Lunch

Each week, high school students have the opportunity to go to Crosspoint Church for a free meal and hear a message by a local youth director or pastor. The meals are prepped and served by churches in town.

Please mark your calendar for **April 10** to help serve the meal.

Questions? Contact us!

Kristen Durst—Director of Youth and Family Ministries—kristenm@faithlc.com
Laura Stowman—Director of Children and Family Ministries—lauras@faithlc.com

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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