



What's Your Excuse?

As a society, we like to make excuses. In my humble opinion, the Minnesota Vikings have never lost a game on their own. There's always an excuse. It's the ref's fault! We make excuses for all sorts of things. Mostly, to let ourselves off the hook. It's easier to be the victim than to be at fault.

You may or may not have noticed, but the roads around church and around Library Square are a mess this summer. With Hassan Street and other roads between Hassan and Main under construction, we recognize that getting to, and parking for, worship is going to be a challenge. As a staff, we have discussed ways in which we can alleviate the issue—steps we can take to make worship more accessible. Our fear is that, if parking becomes too much of a hassle, people might decide Sunday morning worship isn't worth it. They might conclude that the rigmarole of getting to and from the Sanctuary or Library Square outweighs the need for corporate worship. In short, **we are putting a lot of thought and effort to solve the construction-obstruction issue because we do not want to give people another reason not to come to worship.**

What's Your Excuse?

What is your excuse not to come to worship? It seems the world we live in offers up a lot of options!

- Sunday is my day to sleep in!
- We go to the cabin/camping!
- We have softball/baseball/volleyball/basketball....!
- I'm fishing!
- The pews are too hard!
- Dave makes too many Vikings references!
- Scott might correct my grammar!

The list goes on... Whereas in a bygone era it seemed that the whole community revolved around corporate worship—stores were even closed—nowadays it seems like Sunday morning is one of the most coveted times of the week. There is a lot of competition for worship time, which means a lot of ready-made excuses to skip. Sometimes it seems the only time some worship is when the stars happen to align—no tournaments, no weekend plans, and the Sunday School kids are singing!

I wonder, what would it look like if worship, instead, became our excuse for other commitments? What if, "Sorry, we have church," became the excuse

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AFTERNOONS



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STUMP THE PASTOR

Stump the Pastor

Q: We hear so much in the Bible about “righteousness,” but what exactly does that mean?

A: Righteousness is the quality or state of being correct, proper and meeting expectations. In the Bible, the standard for judging righteousness is God’s Law. The people of Israel understood righteousness as a status they could and needed to maintain by obeying every detail of God’s commands. That is why the Pharisees would refer scornfully to “tax collectors and sinners.” It was not that they thought themselves free from sin, but rather that they were more committed to obeying the Law than other Jews. To them, the central goal of religious life was perfect obedience to God’s law.

The Gospel, however, gives righteousness a new meaning. St. Paul insisted that it is not a spiritual or moral quality that we must achieve, not least because as sinners we could never do so. Instead, God considers us to be righteous, even though we are still sinners, by forgiving our sin and filling us with faith in Christ. That is, God looks at us and sees Christ; we are clothed with his righteousness, covered by his perfect faith in and obedience to God the Father. This is precisely why Jesus hung out with “tax collectors and sinners.” They were absolutely not righteous under the Law, and *for that very reason*, he went to proclaim forgiveness to them, so that the Holy Spirit could justify them by faith and thereby reckon them *as* righteous.

In that sense, in the Christian Gospel righteousness becomes a verb—not grammatically, but theologically. It describes the *action* of God in *making* sinners righteous by his forgiving grace through Jesus’ death and resurrection. It is not a status we can achieve or a quality we possess, but a gift that is given by God through faith in Christ and sustained in us by the power of the Holy Spirit. As Paul wrote in Romans 1:17, “For in (the Gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The one who is righteous will live by faith.’”

Leap of Faith Capital Campaign

The initial response from those members of Faith who have responded to the Leap of Faith campaign has been really encouraging. They pledged \$2.7 million in new gifts. Together with the funds given during Upon This Rock+, Faith will receive about \$3 million toward the total cost of Phase II. Of that pledged amount, almost \$275,000 has been given already in 2025! The only disappointment in Leap of Faith is the large percentage of Faith’s households who still have not responded to the campaign. If you have not yet made your intentions known, please do so. With broader support from the family of Faith, this important project could well be within reach!



Faith Lutheran Church Support Groups

For more information or to plug into any of the following support groups, please call the church office at 320-587-2093 and ask for Pastor Paulus Pilgrim, Jeff Amundson, or Marsha Schmit.



- 1) **FACe Cancer Support Group** This group is open to members and non-members of Faith alike. Those with cancer, those who are in remission, and family members who are caregivers of those with cancer are encouraged to participate in this support group. The FACe group meets the second and fourth Thursday morning of each month in the third floor conference room at 10 a.m. A Zoom option is available for those who are not able to attend due to health or distance obstacles.
- 2) **Caregiver Support Group** (Will resume in the fall)
- 3) **Grief Support Group** meets as needed throughout the year.



Stewardship Matters

It is no secret that most people are intensely private about their personal finances. That is certainly the case in our community and in the family of Faith. I have heard financial planners testify to how very close to the vest many people keep their financial status.

Because of that, your pastors at Faith choose not to know what people give to the church, despite the fact that many church leaders consider giving to be a vital indicator of spiritual health that pastors ought to know.

What drives that intense financial privacy? I honestly don't know, but it does make me curious. Do people feel guilty over how much money they have or ashamed of how little they have? Are they fearful that others will try to take their money if it is known what they have? Is there a sense of shame in being compared to other people who may have much more or much less than they do? Or does acknowledging God's blessings in their lives feel too prideful? Is it anxiety that their money might not last and so they feel the need to protect it, or that they want to be able to spend it on themselves and not be expected to give generously? I suppose any or all of those motivations might be involved, and probably many others, as well.

Whatever the cause, that fervent insistence on privacy is not spiritually healthy. It suggests, at least, that we may be too attached to our wealth and too invested in our possessions, rather than trusting in God who provides everything we have.

One blessed result of engaging Christian stewardship—to acknowledge that everything we have is a gift from God, to give generously as our first expense each week or month and to find our security in God and not our wealth—is that we can be open, grateful and content with whatever our financial situation is. There is a marvelous freedom in resting back in the promise of Psalm 145, "The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing."

Shared Passion? Unique Calls? Reflections?

Pastor Paul Knudson



It's one thing to declare that we honor our Lord's call to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations." It is quite another matter to own this passionately at the center of our witness. Faith and the Augustana District rejoice that we have mission partners in places like Ethiopia and Estonia. Ethiopian partners focus on witness to the Muslim people in their country. In Estonia our partners own their call to bring their secular citizens back to faith in Jesus Christ. In Ethiopia they are experiencing amazing results. In Estonia the challenges are testing the faith of our partners. There the "harvest" is not presently abundant.

One of the questions that some of us are pondering is how the Spirit will light a fire under us to give primary energies to bear witness to Christ to those

right in our midst. We find ourselves in an alive, dynamic congregation. Does it haunt us, however, to leave worship and drive on highway 15 through the shopping district in Hutchinson on a Sunday morning and see masses of folk oblivious to being at worship? Do we wonder how our Lord might be calling us to new and imaginative witness to secular, consumer-driven community members?

Our Lord declares to us: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and you will be my witnesses beginning in" Hutchinson... Let us pray together for the Holy Spirit to renew within us a passion for this witness and for wrestling with the uniqueness of our Lord's commission to us to be his witnesses.

Thank you from the FLCW!



We had another successful church rummage sale in May. Thank you to everyone who donated, worked, served meals, brought snacks, purchased items or helped in any way. Twelve charities received free items the last two hours. The total earned from the sale was \$5,600, of which 30% or \$1,680 will go back to the church.

Music and Worship



Worship Snapshot: “Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it!”

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (LBW 499), penned by pastor Robert Robinson in the late 18th century, was a text written in light of Robert’s own rebellious youth. He was preparing a sermon for Pentecost Sunday and recalled the warnings of a voracious preacher, the fire and brimstone type, from his early years as a teenager roaming the streets of London. When pondering the power of the Holy Spirit that descended on the Apostles that Pentecost day, he couldn’t help but be moved by the self-examination of his own need for mercy and forgiveness moved by the Spirit. Out of this reflection came the prayerful words of *Come, Thou Fount...* and the lyrics of one beloved hymn. The tune is a traditional American folk hymn. In the sweeping rhythm and dance-like melody, we can forget that these words are those of a prayer for mercy and a calling for God to move our hearts closer to him. Like the youthful Robert, we are rebellious too, rebellious in sin. Yet, Jesus comes to seek our hearts and lead us back to him. Ponder these words.

*Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here’s my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

We are prone to wander, like small children or lost sheep, easily distracted. But like that understanding parent or devoted shepherd, God seeks us out, finds, and forgives us. What a powerful message of salvation for us to have! As we conclude our Easter season and celebrate Pentecost, let the Spirit move you to profess this same truth as Robert once did long ago.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Austin



Congratulations to Our High School Graduates!



Holden Anderson
Raydon Bipes
Jack Burczek
Dylan Carter
Zachery Ehlers
Nash Fitzwater
Ava Hingst
Hannah Hoffman

Nathan Johnson
Hannah Karg
Brady Larson
Max Martin
Hudson Nelson
Arielle Niemeyer
Manny Pearce
Abigail Peterson
Siri Sanders

Peyton Schumacher
Grace Solien
Landon Struck
Zoe Verhasselt
Julian Volkov
Morgan Wagner
Jaiden Wakefield
Norah Wendling



Good News!

Our former Flintern, Joshua Fernandez, and his wife Maddy (and baby Fernandez, due in July) are moving to Hutchinson! Joshua and Maddy are looking for an apartment or house to rent, so if you have any connections, please let Pastor Dave know.



Pastor's Page continued from pg. 1

for coming late to a tournament, or turning down a social event, or returning early from a weekend away? What if we flooded the streets and lots around church and Library Square with vehicles so that the city had to adjust to us? Wouldn't that be fun? Wouldn't that be powerful!?

Excuse yourself for worship!
And we'll see you in church!

Pastor Dave



Summer Outdoor Worship

It is time to resume summer worship services at Library Square.

Beginning Sunday, May 25, through September 7, Faith will once again hold the 10:10 a.m. Sunday services in Library Square. If the weather does not cooperate on any Sunday, the service will be moved back into the sanctuary. You can check the Faith Facebook page or listen to the live 8 a.m.

HCVN TV broadcast for changes due to the weather. Meanwhile, now is the time to dust off your lawn chairs, shake out your picnic blanket and get ready for worship in God's great outdoors.

Construction Note: Due to the Hassan Street construction project, parking for these outdoor services may be a bit challenging this year. Included in this newsletter you will find a map with suggested parking near Library Square and we ask, if you are able to walk a block or two that you consider one of those spaces, leaving the closer spaces for those with small children and mobility issues.

We are also hoping to have a drop off spot on the SW corner of the park so that drivers can drop off family and chairs and then move on to park in one of the area lots.

Thank you for your patience and consideration of your Faith family as we gather to worship once again in the great outdoors.

Float in the Water Carnival Parade

The Discipleship Ministry team is looking for people of ALL AGES who would like to walk in the Water Carnival Parade and hand out information about Faith Lutheran Church to our neighbors along the route. Faith has not had a float in a number of years; this team thinks that this would be a great way to reach out to people in the community who may not have a church home. If you are interested in participating in the parade this year, please reach out to the church office via e-mail at office@faithlc.com or call 320-587-2093.

Bike/Walk/Roll To Worship on Sunday, June 29

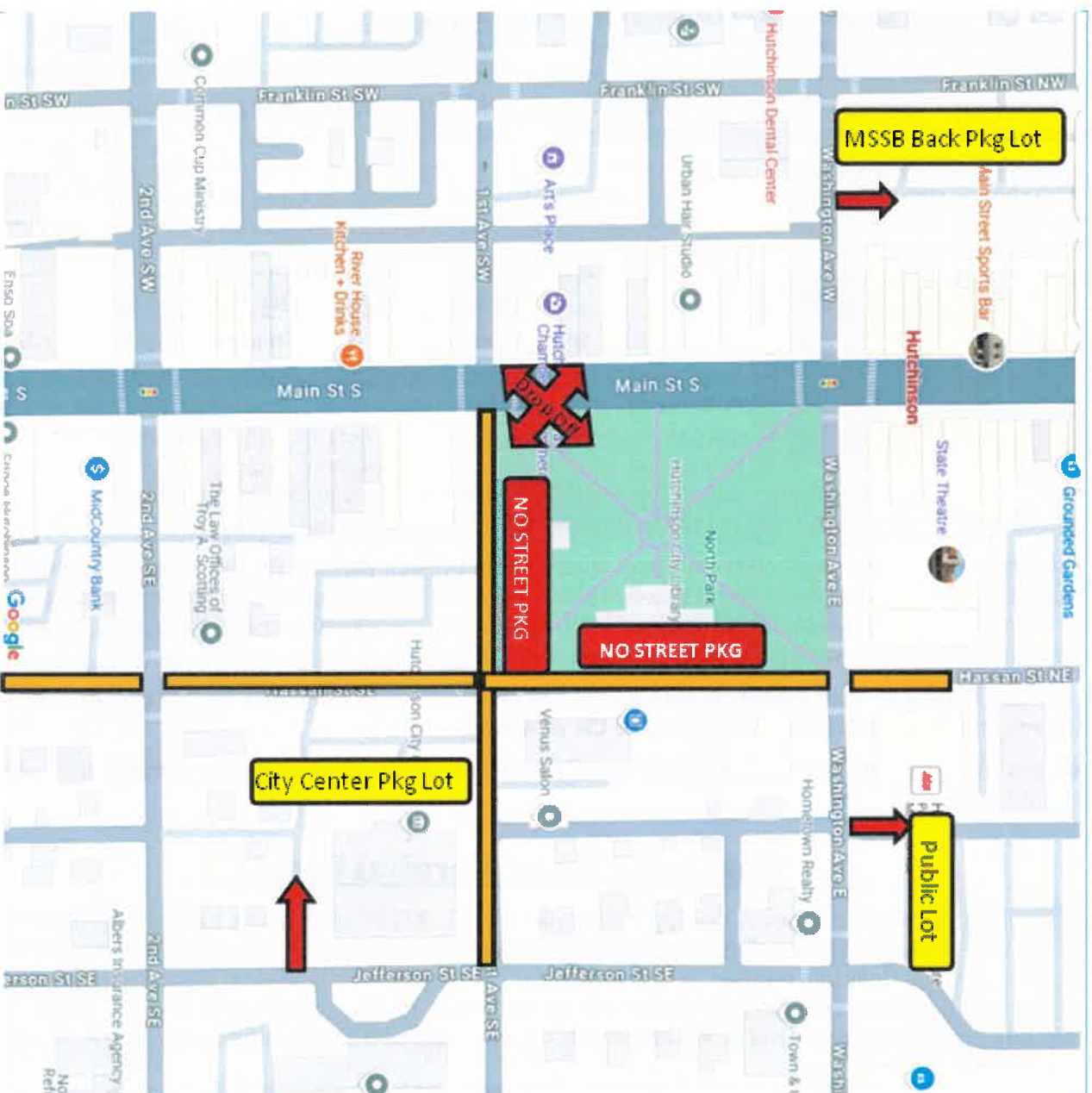
One way to avoid the parking issues is to join the Faith Family and ride your bike, walk, or roll (strollers, rollerblades/skates, scooters, etc.) to worship. On June 29 we invite you to Bike/Walk/Roll to worship. Then we will have maps available to take a ride/stroll along the trails to see some of the new sculptures and end with time for a treat at Below Zero or Dairy Queen. The maps will have a couple of different routes of different lengths so you can find one that works best for your family. Watch for more information in the mid-June announcements.



Free Community Meals

The monthly free community meals at Faith are provided the second Sunday of each month for those in the area that need a hot meal. They are also for members of Faith Lutheran who would like to gather for good food and great fellowship.

In order to continue to provide these meals, volunteers are needed to prepare and serve them. There are funds available through the church to pay for the food. ***Currently, servers are still needed for the June, August, September, and November meals.*** If you, your family, Bible study group, or other group are interested in serving a meal, please reach out to the church office.



Parking Map for Faith Lutheran Church Summer Worship.

With the Hassan Street Construction project happening this summer, parking for our outdoor worship services will be a little challenging. There will be no parking on the south and east side of Library Square.

Here is a map with a few options for you marked in **yellow** along with **red** arrows to show how to enter those lots.

We ask that if you are able to park a little ways away that you do so and allow the elderly and those with small children to park closer.

We are planning also to have a **drop-off** spot on **Main Street** (see the red **X**), where you can drop off your passengers and lawn chairs and then drive to one of the suggested parking lots.

One other option is to park in the church parking lot and walk the two blocks from there.

If you have any questions feel free to reach out to the church office Monday - Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 587-2093. See you in Library Square for Worship!

Orange markings are Closed Streets



How Summer Affects Your Family's Worship

As the days get long, the grass grows greener, and the temperatures get hotter, we dream about all the summer fun we have planned for our families. Baseball and softball games, swimming lessons, weddings, graduation parties, road trips with new sites to see, visiting family and friends, days at the lake, fishing, gardening, swimming, grilling, and nights around the campfire. But soon we realize our calendars are filling up fast! The summer does not seem as restful as you had hoped.

That is exactly why worship should be a priority, especially in our busyness. Worship is a time to gather with your brothers and sisters in Christ, a time to slow down and rest, to praise God for all the good, to lay down your worries, troubles, and sins at the foot of the cross, to hear the remarkable forgiveness God has for you, to eat together at the Lord's Supper, and to hear the Good News.

But what does that look like when you are gone at the cabin or visiting family and friends? Find a place to worship where you are! Just as many of us have our home away from home, so too you can have a church away from church... although that does not sound as catchy.

My first job out of college was working as the Education Coordinator at a church in a lake town. The congregation grew significantly in the summer as people joined for worship since they were at their cabins over the weekend. That church became their church away from their church home. I admired seeing people prioritize worship in the busyness of their summer schedules.

This past summer I had the challenge, but also joy, to encourage some of my in-laws to find a church to worship at near my mother-in-law's cabin. I knew my mother-in-law wanted to worship with her family, but she never pressed us and assumed we all wanted to relax and sleep in on Sunday mornings at the cabin. To her joyful surprise, we started going to church when we were there. I loved taking the time to worship, because otherwise I feel like something is missing when I skip a Sunday of worship. Plus it is fun to visit other churches! Sometimes it reminds one how much I appreciate my church home!

So as you enter into your summer schedule, I pray that you will prioritize worship for you and your family, whether you are here or there. Take time to rest and worship your Savior. But also know that God's love, forgiveness and grace is given to you whether you are here every week or you sleep in on a Sunday morning at the cabin.

Blessings and peace to you,

Laura Stowman, Director of Children and Family Ministry

Kristen Durst, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Mark Your Calendars for All the Summer Fun!

All registrations can be found on the Children or Youth pages at <https://www.faithlc.com/>



Mystery Bus

June 24—26 from 8 a.m.—5 p.m.

This mini mission trip is for 5th—7th-grade students. Each day we meet at Faith Lutheran Church, then take off to our service sites and fun-filled activities. Cost is \$100. Students can get \$10 off if they volunteer to help with VBS for the entire week.

Vacation Bible School

June 30—July 3 from 9 a.m.—noon at Christ the King Lutheran Church

Each summer, Faith and Christ the King Lutheran Church partner together to host VBS for Preschool—4th-grade students. Cost is \$20 (\$50 family max.) At True North VBS, children will learn that we can trust Jesus when we wonder, feel alone, feel powerless, and need hope.



High School Mission Trip

July 11-19

This summer, 8th—12th-grade students are going to Indianapolis, Indiana to serve with YouthWorks. Registration information can be found on the Faith Lutheran Youth Instagram page. Students can get \$25 off if they volunteer to help with VBS for the entire week.

Bible Camp

Outdoor ministry is a wonderful experience for children as they grow in their faith. That is why Faith wants to help families bring their children to Bible camp through camperships.

The last few years we have been helping to send students to **Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps** in Wallingford, IA. This summer, Faith and Christ the King students are attending **the week of July 13 – 18**.

Follow the link for more information and how to register for Bible camp: <https://www.okoboji.org/youth>

Another favorite Bible camp that our confirmation students have attended for retreats and absolutely love is **Inspiration Point** in Vining, MN. There is no specific week Faith is attending, but I encourage you to talk with friends who are interested. Follow the link for more information and how to register for Bible camp: <https://ipoint.org/camps-retreats/summer-camps>

Day Camp

August 4—7 from 9 a.m.—noon at Faith Lutheran Church

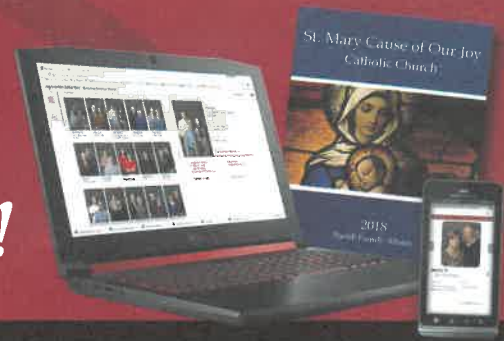
Another summer ministry where Faith and Christ the King partner together, but this time we have camp counselors from Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp lead a Day Camp for the Kindergarten – 5th -grade students. Cost is \$25.



Questions? Contact us!

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

Dear Church family, It's time for a New Directory!



*Celebrating faith.
Connecting families.
Sharing hope.*

When people enter the doors of our church they are looking for a place to belong. Our directory brings us together to develop new relationships, connect with our own families, and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. Join us for this "Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at our church!

Directory Committee

Connections Event

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.

- **Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at the church or simply go online and follow the instructions below.** If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.
- **Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!**
- **Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church!** You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

Set your appointment with Universal today!



*Gathering families,
Connecting generations.*



To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to **www.ucdir.com**, click on photography appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter **MN562** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday. **Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.**



Please Remember in Prayer

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

LtCdr. Brett Stadsklev (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.



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
Elaine Blade

Harmony River

Alice Hansen
Shirley Holtz
Wilbur Johnson

Oaks

Phyllis Blum
Carol Otto
DuWayne Peterson
Alice Poshek

Woodstone

Cyndy Ollrich

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ministry of Faith
Lutheran Church by
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Would you be willing to receive your monthly copy of *Faith Matters* via e-mail?

It saves the church postage and printing costs, and you get to see it in color every month!
You can request a change to e-mailed newsletters by sending a request to office@faithlc.com
or calling Wendy at 320-587-2093.



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

