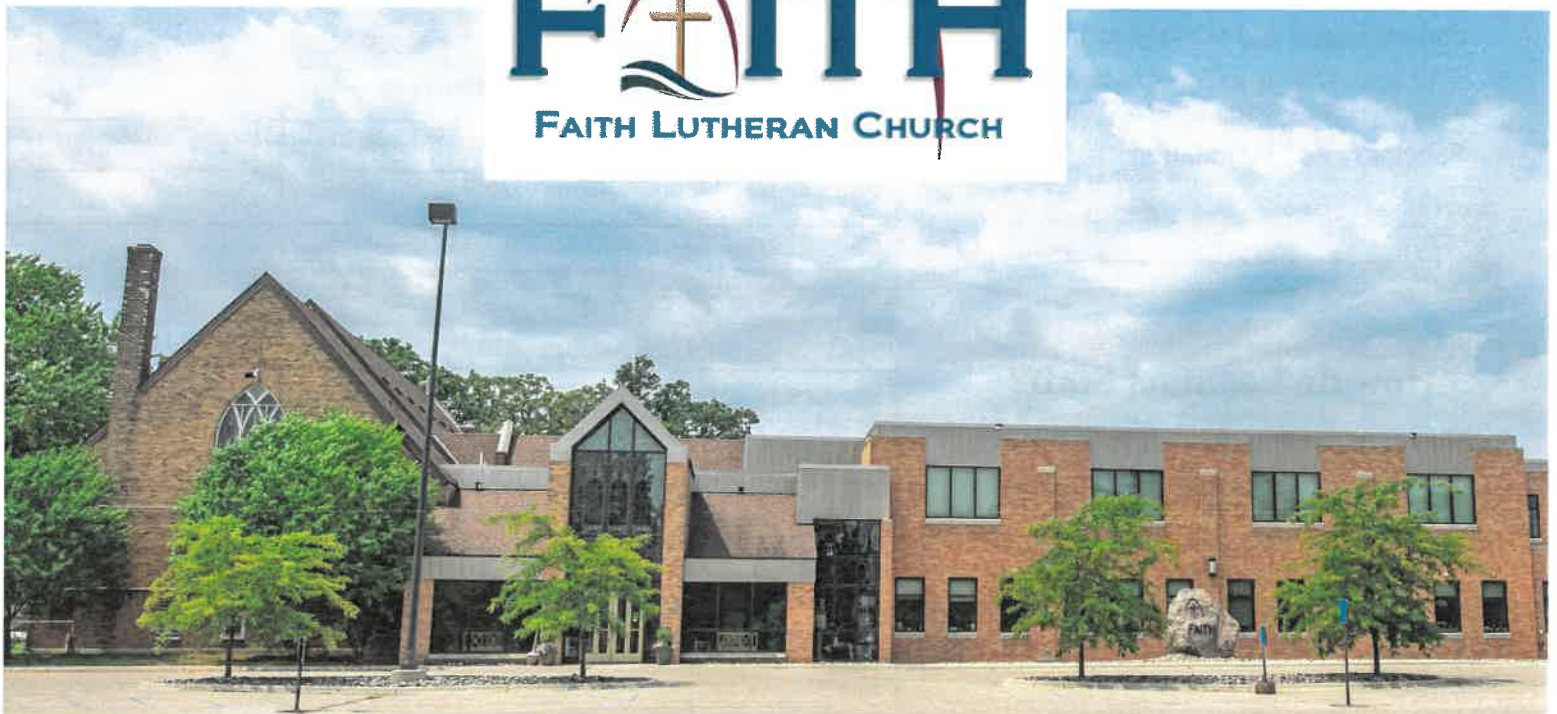


Faith Lutheran Church

September 2025

**“How To Guide”
Edition of *Faith Matters***





335 Main St. S.
Hutchinson, MN 55350
Phone: 320-587-2093
Email: office@faithlc.com

Faith Matters

September 2025

Church Office Hours

Sunday	7 - 11:45 a.m.
Monday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tuesday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday	Church offices closed

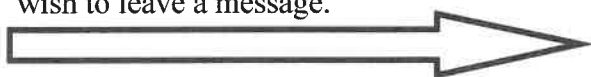
Sunday Morning Schedule During the Program Year (September –May)

- ⇒ 8 a.m. First Word Service in the Sanctuary
- ⇒ 9 a.m. Sunday School & Confirmation classes begin, and nursery opens
- ⇒ 9:15 a.m. Digging Deeper classes
- ⇒ 10:10 a.m. Simultaneous services in the Sanctuary and Foundation



How do I contact Staff?

People often say that they are interested in a ministry but do not know who to contact to plug in. Here you will find each staff member's name, their e-mail address and, for the pastors, a phone number. Above is the church phone number that can be called anytime and you will be transferred to the staff member you wish to speak with. After hours you will be prompted through voicemail to the staff member for whom you wish to leave a message.



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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
Staff		
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
Wendy Magruder, Administrative Assistant		wendym@faithlc.com
Sara Wegner, Finance Coordinator		finco@faithlc.com
Owen Weikle, Custodial Services Coordinator		
Monica Schiller, Nursery Coordinator		320-587-2093

Pastors' Page

We all know that people are creatures of habit. Once we become familiar with something—a building, a process, a travel route or whatever it may be—most people lock into it and do not change it unless we are forced to do so. On the flip side, our natural love of routine is how easily we can overlook or simply not realize that our routines may seem utterly strange and forbidding to those not familiar with them. What is simple, obvious and clear to us may be a fog of confusion and mystery to others.

That all clearly applies to a congregation like Faith Lutheran. On one hand, the church is a place where habit rules supreme. It is a running gag that most people sit in exactly the same seat at every worship service. An old joke asks, “How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb?” The answer is, ‘Change!?! What do you mean, change?!? My *grand-parents* gave that light bulb to the church!’ That is an exaggeration, to be sure, but not by much!

Those well-established habits, however, make it really easy to underestimate or completely miss how intimidating it can be for church members, much less visitors, to enter into the life of the church or to know how to participate in church ministries. The church staff especially, as we work on the inside every day, can assume that everyone is as informed and familiar with the ministries of the church as we are.

We need to remind ourselves that many people might find entry into the life of the church mysterious and intimidating, instead.

*How do I enroll my children in Sunday School or confirmation?

*Can just anyone attend a Bible study and, if I do, will I have to answer questions I don't understand?

*Is it O.K. just to show up for an event or a meal, or do I need an invitation?

*Do I need to qualify to be a teacher or guide for youth ministries?

*Can I join one of the choirs if I don't have any musical training?

Questions like these are a reminder that what is so routine to us can look really perplexing to others.

To help de-mystify Faith Lutheran Church, this issue of *Faith Matters* is a “how-to guide” that describes many of the church's ministries and how you can take part in them. We encourage you to hang onto it as a guide or pass it on to a friend, neighbor or the person sitting next to you at a worship service. We do not want anyone to feel mystified, intimidated or confused by the many facets of our church's life. And if this guide does not answer all your questions, call, text or e-mail any member of the staff to figure out the rest!

Grace and peace to you,
Pastor Scott Grorud



How Does Someone Join Faith Lutheran?

If you have been attending Faith and want to join, or know someone else who is interested in joining Faith, the process is pretty easy! Obviously, you can be involved in the church without joining (except if you want to vote at congregational meetings or be on the church council). We receive new members in the spring and the fall. It involves contacting us to get on the list, attending three orientation sessions on Sunday mornings and then joining during the worship service on the third Sunday. After that, it's up to you! Worshipping is vital to each of us, giving of our time and our financial gifts and plugging into opportunities to dig deeper into the Bible and our faith life are important in belonging to the church family!

Watch for information on the fall New Member Orientation Session to join or contact Marsha Schmit for more information.

“Faith Seeks Understanding”

Continuing Learning Opportunities for Adults

How Do I Join a Bible Study or Other Class?

Faith Lutheran has a strong commitment to ongoing Christian education for adults. **Anyone is welcome to join in the following study opportunities! In most cases, all you need to do is arrive at the stated time.** You can bring your own Bible or use one from the church. You are free to join in the discussion or just listen quietly. If anything else is needed, it will be noted below.

Digging Deeper—These adult studies are held during the Education Hour, at the same time as Sunday School. They cover a variety of topics that last from one to six weeks. Two different options are offered on most Sundays. The current topics are listed in the newsletter, bulletin and on the announcement monitors at the church. The groups meet mostly in the Faith Center and the office conference room or third floor kitchenette.



Two Digging Deeper options will begin in September

1) “The Anxious Generation: Parenting in the age of mental health crisis”

Join Pastor Dave for this Parenting Digging Deeper exploring Jonathan Haidt’s book *The Anxious Generation*. Begin at 9:15 a.m., Sunday, September 7 in a corner of Library Square and then meet in the third floor kitchenette the following Sundays. No need to sign up or register, just show up!



2) “Perplexing Parables” will be led by Pastor Scott in the Faith Center beginning at 9:15 a.m. on September 7.

Lectionary Study—This group meets every Tuesday at noon in the office conference room for an informal discussion of the Gospel text (usually) for the next Sunday. It is a great way to prepare for next Sunday’s worship service. No preparation or class materials are needed.

Faith Groups—These small-group, video-based discussions meet twice each year for six or seven weeks. The next Faith Group study is called **“Don’t Just Do Something! Sit There!” Paul’s Defiant Gospel in Galatians**. It begins **the week of September 21**. Groups meet on different days and at various times. On Tuesday evenings, several groups eat dinner together and then divide into individual groups for discussion while kids go to the staffed nursery. There is no cost for the meal. To find out more, join a group or start a group of your own, talk to Marsha Schmit.

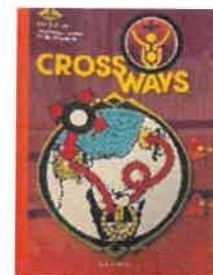


Women’s Bible Studies—Two different groups meet on most Fridays, one at 7:00 a.m. and the other at 9:00 a.m. All women are invited to participate. If the groups are using a book or a published study, copies will be available.

Men’s Bible Study—This group has been meeting on Thursdays at 6:30 a.m. for more than 20 years! The early time is designed to fit in before the work day starts. Pastor Scott leads a close reading and discussion of various parts of the Bible or, on rare occasion, another book.

Crossways

Crossways is a broad survey of the entire Bible. It includes an overview of each book, placed within the framework of the Bible’s “big story.” It combines Bible reading, commentary and full-color illustrations to show how the whole Bible fits together. If you want to know your Bible better, *Crossways* is for you! *Crossways* includes a total of 60 sessions, but the classes meet for only 20 weeks each year for three years. They do not meet during December and are generally finished before Easter. You may purchase your own set of the books or borrow a set from the church.



Year 1—A **NEW** class will begin on **Thursday, September 18 at 4:30 p.m.** in the Faith Center.

Note that this is a different, earlier time than all recent Crossways classes. Come after work and, on most weeks, still get home before dark!

The Year 2 class will resume on Sunday, September 14 at 6:00 p.m.

The Year 3 class will resume on Monday, September 15 at 6:30 p.m.

To get more information about *Crossways*, enroll in the new class, secure course materials or other details, please call, write or talk to Pastor Scott before the study begins.

Monday Morning Bible Study

This group began as a *Crossways* class in 2008 and wanted to keep meeting after that study was done. Each year offers an in-depth study of one or more Biblical books or, on occasion, a theological topic. The title for the topic this year is ***Shaping Israel for Rest: A Study of Numbers and Deuteronomy***. The class meets from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Monday mornings starting on **September 15**. It does not meet during December and finishes in the spring. Anyone in the church or community is welcome to participate and no registration is necessary. Just bring a Bible and a pen or pencil. To learn more about this year's study, contact Pastor Scott or watch your weekly church announcements.

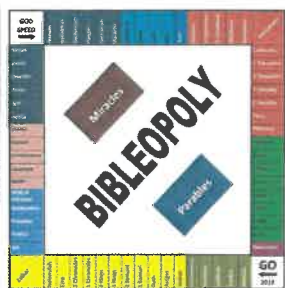
Matins and Morning Prayer

What is Matins and how do I participate?

Matins is a short morning prayer service that meets at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. There are two ways to participate in Matins. First, you can join us in-person in the Sanctuary- just show up! The second way is to join us on Facebook, where we live-stream it. Join the "Morning Matins" group through the Faith Lutheran Facebook Page. Contact the office if you need help with this.

What is Morning Prayer and how do I participate?

Every Wednesday morning at 7 a.m., one of the pastors leads a live streamed morning prayer time. The pastors guide the time through some prayer prompts, and participants type prayer petitions in the comment box. Join the "Faith Lutheran Morning Prayer" group through the Faith Lutheran Facebook page. Then log on at 7 a.m. Wednesday mornings. You can type your petitions in the comments, or you can pray on your own. If you miss the time, you can go back and watch the prayer time and add your prayers. Contact the office if you're having tech issues.



Bibleopoly Update

After counting how many books were read in 2019 we found that there were 2,487 books read. Then we counted how many have been read so far this year (2/3 of the way through 2025) and we have only read 711 books. That means we have to read 1,776 books in the next 4 months to match what we did in 2019! Some of us have been reading and not marking the board so stop in and get those dots on. Some of us have not read anything yet so we encourage you to kick off the fall program year by reading and then come in and put your dots on one of the boards. (Note that we ran out of green dots so you can also use the pink ones for adult readings.)

READ ON!!

How Do I Volunteer to Help in Worship?

Sunday mornings are super busy around here and we need a lot of hands to cover all that is happening. Because of this, we regularly looking for volunteers! Some of the volunteer opportunities on Sunday mornings are:

- * **Ushers** to hand out bulletins and take the offering (commit to one month of Sundays or one or two Sundays as you can)
- * **Scripture readers** to read the lessons (one per service per Sunday – you choose dates that work for you)
- * People to **distribute communion** bread (several per service when communion is served)
- * **Computer** helpers (one per service – you choose dates)
- * **Sound** operators (one per service – you choose dates)
- * **Video recording** (one per service – you choose dates)
- * People to do **Faith Seeds** (on a rotation – you choose dates and do all three services)
- * **Altar preparation** (fill candles with oil, set up for communion, wash communion cups)
- * **Communion bread bakers** (one baker per communion Sunday)
- * **Serve at the doughnut table**

Training and instruction is provided for each of these rolls.

To learn more, or to volunteer for any of these opportunities please contact Marsha Schmit via e-mail at Marshas@faithlc.com or call 587-2093.

Seniors Scene

How to participate in Seniors' Potluck: Watch the monthly *Faith Matters* newsletter and Sunday bulletins for potluck dates and times. Then come to the Faith Center on the designated day (usually the last Thursday of the month September - May with a couple of exceptions) with a hotdish, salad or dessert to share. All are invited to come eat, laugh, and learn from some great local speakers.

Many of you have dogs or cats at home; maybe both. They actually can be great friends and companions for you. But how about a horse? As a child I loved the movie "*My Friend Flicka*." Flicka was a horse that had a deep friendship with a young girl, who considered Flicka her special friend. They became close as they went through the ups and downs in their lives together.

How can a horse bring positive things into a human being's life? Really serious things? Well, have you heard about the local program called Equal Access? It's an organization that brings people and horses together to unite positive forces in the lives of both. It's fascinating!

You can learn all about Equal Access from its director, Marsha Anderson, at our initial **Seniors' Potluck meeting** on **Thursday, September 25**, beginning with our potluck dinner at **12:00 noon**.

I am looking forward to a brand new season of SENIORS' POTLUCK meetings. The steering committee is working on a lineup of topics to entertain, educate and inspire you as we share another year of Christian fellowship together, sharing tasty and special foods from your kitchens and hearts to each other.

See you at Seniors' Potluck! Bring a friend with you.



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** meets the third Thursday of each month, September—May, at 4:00 p.m. beginning September 18 in the office conference room.
- 3) **Grief Support Group** meets as needed throughout the year.



**Grief Support
Group**





How Do I Worship With My Children?

Here are some suggestions. You know your child best. Think about what they can do and see how you can challenge them as they grow. The biggest thing is consistency and participation.

- The most obvious one, go up for the **children's sermon**, Faith Seeds. I know it might not be "cool" but Faith Seeds is for children through 6th grade.
- Do you worship in the Sanctuary? Then have your child **look up the songs in**

the hymnal. Even the brief order of confession and forgiveness is in there!

- Do you worship in the Foundation? Encourage your preschool—1st grader to attend **Sprouts**.
- **Bring your Bible**. At Faith, children receive Bibles in 2nd grade. Have them bring their Bible and look up the readings at the beginning of worship, mark the pages, and then follow along when it's that time during worship.
- **Bring an offering**. Have your child put your family's offering envelope in the plate. If you do electronic giving, have your child put in a quarter or a dollar. Once you start to talk about money with your child don't forget to teach them about the importance of giving back.
- **Prepare a prayer request**. During the Prayers of the Church there is either a time of silence to lift up your own prayers or during the Foundation worship service a microphone is passed around for anyone else who has a prayer request. At breakfast that morning or at bedtime the night before, ask your child what they would like to pray about at worship. Write it down. Then whisper the prayer request with them during worship or have them share with the congregation.
- **Move**. Stand when the congregation stands. Move around and greet people during the passing of the peace. Pause and fold your hands during the prayers. As your child gets older they will have a better understanding of what each part of worship means, but in the meantime it helps to learn the movements.
- **Volunteer as a family**. This is a great way to instill the importance of volunteerisms in your child. Your family can usher for a Sunday or decorate the church for Christmas or Easter.

How can we use the nursery?

Want to teach Sunday School, attend a Digging Deeper class, or worship without distraction? Then bring your infant or toddler to the nursery! Our loving and welcoming nursery staff member, Monica Schiller, is happy to care for your child any time from 9 a.m.—11:30 a.m. Stop by the nursery, sign your child in, write your name and phone number down, and enjoy the education hour and worship. Monica will call or text you if you are needed.



What is Sprouts?



Sprouts is a time after the children's sermon where children in preschool through 1st grade go with a volunteer Sprouts leader to the Youth Space for an age appropriate lesson on the Gospel reading for that day. The lesson consists of a ice breaker question, story, comprehensive questions, prayer, and craft. Sprouts is currently offered only during the Foundation worship. You can sign up to volunteer for a Sunday by going to the children's page at faithlc.com or scanning the QR code to go to the Sign-Up Genius link.

How do I lead Sprouts?

Adult volunteers are urgently needed for this ministry to continue. On the Sunday you are volunteering for Sprouts, you will stand at the back doorway by the sound booth during Faith Seeds. When Faith Seeds is over you will guide the students to the youth space where you will find a black cart with your craft supplies, lesson, and storybook Bible.

You will invite the children to go over to the 4-square area to sit in a half circle for the Bible story, questions, and prayer time of the lesson. Then you will go over to the tables and chairs for the craft. The lesson is prepared by Laura Stowman and is easy to pick up and lead on the spot. To the right is a sample of the Bible story book and a lesson.

A suggestion is to have a friend or spouse text you when the sermon is done or have someone from the Foundation service come up to let you know that the sermon is over and the children can return.





How To Volunteer With Children's Ministry?



Simple! Pick an area of Children's ministry you are interested in and let Laura Stowman, Director of Children and Family Ministry know. You can e-mail, call, text, stop by at church, or fill out The Children's Ministry Volunteer Interest Form on the children's page on our church website faithlc.com.

Where do we need volunteers?

- Sunday School teachers (Sundays from 9 a.m.—10 a.m.)
- Help with the Christmas Program (Sundays from 9 a.m.—10 a.m. in November and December)
- Leading Faith Rocks, kids music time (Sundays from 9:10 a.m.—9:30 a.m.)
- Leading Faith Seeds, the children's sermon (Sundays at all three worship services)
- Leading Sprouts (during the sermon at the 10:10 a.m. worship services)
- Helping shepherd a small group or lead a rotation during Aftershock (early release days from school from 1:15 p.m.—4:30 p.m.)
- Helping with Vacation Bible School as a room leader or crew leader (typically the last week of June from 9 a.m.—noon)

Why is it important to volunteer with children's ministry?

Children's ministry is where the foundation and nurturing of a child's faith begins. This is when they learn about God our Creator, Jesus our Savior, and the Holy Spirit our Helper. They learn about the Bible being God's Word to us. This is when children learn about the unconditional love that God has for each of them. Plus, we promise at each child's baptism, that we (the congregation) will support the parents as they faithfully bring their child to worship, and teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. And as the child grows in years, the parents will place in their hands the Bible and provide for instruction in the Christian faith. We provide that support through prayer, encouragement, *and volunteering in children's ministry.*

Enough from me, I want you to hear what some of our faithful volunteers have to say about why they volunteer in children's ministry.

"Being a Sunday School teacher allows me to share in the promise I make to children and families in baptism, that I will support and help nurture their faith so that they might grow in their Christian faith."
- Shelly Grorud, Pre-school Sunday School Teacher

"Every time I witness a baptism at Faith, I reaffirm why I choose to be involved in children's ministry. When the congregation responds with, 'we welcome you into the Lord's family,' I feel a commitment to help families with the promises they made at their child's baptism. Plus it happens to be a great way to continue learning about the Christian faith and spend time with the young members of our church!"
- Maria Weikle, 6th Grade Sunday School Teacher & VBS Room Leader

"One of the reasons I volunteer in children's ministry is it brings me such joy to see the excitement in the children as they learn about Jesus and His love for us. The lessons are planned out for you, and to be honest, I have learned so much more about the Bible stories by teaching the lessons."
- Niki Pokornowski, Faith Seeds Leader, First Communion Instructor and former Sunday School Teacher

"For one, faith formation at a young age is crucial to creating a stable foundation youth can lean on as they grow through life's challenges. Secondly, while navigating life's challenges as an adult, it is uplifting to watch the youth engage in music and scripture. When leading music, I often stop singing so I can hear the kids which brings me a level of peace and joy that is unique to children's ministry."
- Kevin Elton, Faith Rocks Leader



School is just around the corner, which means it is time to register for children's ministries! Use the QR Code above or go to the Children's page on our website to register your child(ren), www.faithlc.com/ministries/children/

Sunday School

Sunday School is for children who are 3 years old (by September 1)—8th grade. We meet between worship services from 9 a.m.—10 a.m. Please register immediately so we can assign your child to a classroom before the first day..

FIRST DAY: September 7

Fall Kickoff—Sunday, September 7

Each year, we kick off our first day of Sunday School at Library Square from 9 a.m.—10 a.m. Children get to meet their teachers and classmates and have their first lesson outdoors. Please arrive BEFORE 9 a.m. to find your child's class before Faith Rocks begins at 9 a.m.. Parents are welcome to stay and participate with their children to make the day easier.

Bible Presentation to 3-Year-Old Children

As 3-year-olds begin their first year of Sunday School, the children and their parents/guardians have a special time during worship on September 7, when the children receive their Beginner's Bible.

56er's

56er's is an after-school program on Wednesdays for ANYONE in 5th and 6th grade. Our time is filled with hang time, snack, lesson, and games. Meets right after school and goes to 5:15 p.m.

FIRST DAY: September 10

Aftershock

This ministry meets on the early release days from school, from 1:15 p.m.—4:30 p.m., and is for children in kindergarten—5th grade. Children get picked up from school, have a snack, make crafts, play games, have a Bible story time, and worship time.

FIRST DAY: October 1

**FAITH KIDS**
MUSIC CLUB
Calling all incoming 2nd - 4th graders
You Are Invited!
DO YOU LOVE TO SING OR PLAY INSTRUMENTS?
COME JOIN US AS WE LEARN TOGETHER
ABOUT MUSIC IN WORSHIP!
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 | FROM 3:30 TO 5:00 P.M.
IN THE MUSIN ROOM AT FAITH
Register at faithlc.com or with this QR code
Contact Austin with questions at austinw@faithlc.com.

Faith Kids' Music Club meets on Wednesdays throughout the program year on the same schedule as confirmation and 56er's.

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

How Your High School Student Can Get Involved With FLY?

Faith Lutheran Youth Night meets every Wednesday, year-round from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. Students dive into a book of the Bible, a topic that pertains to teenagers, and have a lot of fun while doing it. They play games, worship together and genuinely enjoy Christian fellowship. We have amazing adult leaders that pour into our students each week and they help make this program a success!

If your high schooler is resisting coming to FLY, my encouragement to you is to encourage them to bring a friend that they can spend time with if they are unsure if they will know anyone there. I also think that each youth should give it at least two weeks consecutively or three separate weeks before deciding how they feel about FLY. Each week is unique but that's what makes it fun.

This fall we are starting a series on classic children's books and we are going to identify Biblical themes in them and see how God can use things as simple as those stories to speak to us. Encourage your teen to come join us!



How You Can Help With High School Free Lunch?

During the school year, Hutchinson Area Churches serve a free meal for our high school students. Faith Lutheran participates in and has been a part of this ministry from the start. We have the opportunity to serve four times each school year. Helping is super easy, we prepare the food, set up the space, serve the lunch, and then tear down. It is super easy! You don't even have to help the whole time! I am usually there starting set up around 9:00 a.m. and that is typically when my food prep team gets started putting the pre-cooked pulled pork in the roasters and

making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. We usually finish prepping around 10:30 a.m. and then we get ready to serve. There are three lunches, so we serve three times! Then after that is all finished, we clean up and head on our merry way! How to sign up? Talk to me (Kristen) and I will get you plugged in. Our first lunch is October 2 and we will also serve December 4, February 12, and April 30 this year. Put those dates on your calendar and I hope you can come join us!

Kristen Durst, Director of Youth and Family Ministry





How to Get Involved in the Music Ministry at Faith Lutheran Church

Ensembles – Ringers of Faith and Faith Singers: Being a part of a music ensemble is a rewarding experience! Although, it can seem intimidating if musical activity is something that is new or unfamiliar and especially if there is already an established group. **Here are a few suggestions if you want to learn about or join one of the ensembles at Faith Lutheran Church.**

1. Find a friend! Members in both the Ringers and Faith Singers ensembles vary in age and experience. There are also representatives from all three of our worship services. If you do not know any of the members who are currently in an ensemble, bring a friend of your own! It is much easier to integrate into a group when there is buddy you can do it with. Also know that we love new members and the only welcome you will get is with kind words and open arms!
2. Observe a rehearsal. All rehearsals are open rehearsals, meaning there are no strings attached. If you want to know more about how the groups operate during rehearsals, you are welcome to come try it out for one night without feeling pressure to join immediately. If you would rather sit and listen or observe from the side, that is welcome too. Membership in the ensembles is flexible. If you do decide to join, you do not have to be committed to the whole year, and we will not make you feel guilty for taking a break or vacation. There are members currently in both groups that play/sing for the whole season, for part of the season, and song by song basis. There is always a place for you here no matter how often you can attend.
3. Talk to the director. I love to share about and discuss the ministry of the ensembles at Faith. There is far more under the surface than what the congregation sees on a Sunday morning. In addition to music, this is a place of community, fellowship, prayer, friendship, and Spirit! I am here to answer any questions or concerns you may have about taking the steps in joining an ensemble and I will help guide you through the whole experience.

Kids' Music Club: Kids' Music Club is a place of fun, music, games, and learning centered around the life of worship in the church. The program is targeted towards children who have a particular passion for music or for hanging out at church! The calendar follows that of our congruent 56er's and Confirmation groups so families with youth in multiple aged programs can follow the same schedule. For more information about how to join and to find the registration link for Kid's Music Club, go to page 9 in this packet.



Foundation Band and Worship Leadership: Faith Lutheran Church has a rich history of offering worship styles that appeal to everyone. From traditional organ to contemporary praise band, there is something here for you! Worship music is in fact the people's song and is strongest when all voices and abilities in the congregation unite. I am always looking for individuals who are interested in offering special music or music leadership during our worship services. If you sing, play trombone, strum a guitar, bang a bongo or anything in between, there is an opportunity here for you! Contact me or find me before or after worship and let me know how you want to share your gifts with God's people in the church.

Austin Willhite, Music and Worship Director
Daytime phone: (320) 587-2093
Email: austinw@aithlc.com

Worship Snapshot: Why Music?

In 2013, researchers out of the Sahlgrenska Academy at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden studied the physical effects that singing has on the human body. Individual heart monitors were attached to singers in a high school choir that measured the members' heart rates as they joined together in singing the beloved Swedish hymn, *Beautiful Savior*. The results were extraordinary. What started out as a jumble of jagged lines on the screen quickly became a uniform series of peaks, all hearts beating in rhythm like one. As the choir sang through the flowing stanzas, their movement, breathing, listening, and emotion synchronized externally and internally. This study proves that music involvement is not only a form of artful expression but also a biological phenomenon. There is simply no other activity in our day and age that directly involves a uniform biological response in a group of people. A study titled "Acute effects of singing on cardiovascular biomarkers" out of the National Institute of Health investigated the impact of singing on heart and other cardiovascular health markers. The findings suggested that as singing slows down breathing and increases heart rate, the exercise and cardiovascular benefits over time were comparable to that of regular light exercises like jogging and swimming. Involvement in musical activity also has positive influence on the brain. Several studies out of Harvard Health have confirmed that music has a lasting impact on memory and overall brain cognition. Musical engagement activates parts of the brain that are otherwise unused or under stimulated during normal day-to-day activity. Such engagement contributes to enhanced cognitive function, neuroplasticity (auditory and motor function), and structural brain health. In other words, music is a foundational activity, especially in the formative years of brain development. Unlike most other physical activities, music and its benefits can be enjoyed well into the later stages of life too. Singing particularly fosters episodic memory (long-term memory tied to past life experiences and events), particularly in individuals with dementia. Supplemental music therapy, among other forms of art therapy, in conjunction with prescription medications have proven over time to be most effective in treating memory and behavioral diseases and disorders when compared to individuals who receive medication alone. In summary, involvement in music is a whole-body experience, literally! In addition to every function listed above, musicians use muscles in the head and throat, the torso and ribcage, as well as the legs and feet in ways that no other activity requires. All this considered, music has one final benefit that is, in my opinion, the most important of all: social connection. Community! Singing and playing instruments enhances mood and allows for emotional expression in an environment that is safe and controlled. Music moves people physically, emotionally, and spiritually in ways that no other form of expression can. When all of this is done in community, a sense of belonging is created. This is what God calls us to be, a community, a fellowship of believers, the Church, one body of Christ. There are several common sayings that would fit well as a closing remark; "When words fail music speaks," "The aim and final reason for music is to glorify God and refresh the Spirit," "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." But instead, I'll leave you with this, "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Colossians 4:16



"You Shall Be My Witnesses"

At Faith we take Acts 1:8 literally and seriously. We begin in our Jerusalem (locally), move out to where our witness to Jesus Christ is needed in our state, region and nation. We then give special attention to partners in Ethiopia, Estonia, Costa Rica, Madagascar, and more. We work with partners who take the lead in witness, and we stand with them in prayer and generous financial support. Our financial support of 11% of our offering income this year amounts to over \$102,000 divided equally between local/regional and global missions. We are blessed to be a blessing with marvelous partners in witness to our Lord's "Great Commission."

You can find out more about the missions that Faith supports by going to the Mission Board and Mission Table that are by the restrooms on the main floor near the offices.



Right outside the office is a Common Cup Ministry Table with information about a local ministry that we support. One way you can be the hands and feet of Christ is to offer to host one of the 2026 Free Community Meals. You prepare and serve a meal that is open to the public. The church has funds for you to shop with and it is a much appreciated outreach to our community. Ask one of the staff how you can care for your neighbors through this ministry.



How can I support the mission and ministry of Faith Lutheran Church?

- 1) Giving a portion of what God has first given me through regular offerings at church.
- 2) Giving your offerings via direct deposit through Simply Giving. You can do this via the website and the GIVE button which allows one time giving as well as repeated giving and you can designate where you want your giving to go and when you want the payment to be made. There is even a downloadable app (Vanco Mobile app) for those of you who like to use that means of giving.
- 3) Those of you who have Thrivent products are eligible for a) Two Thrivent Grants of \$250 each per year. Faith has many ministries that can be supported through these grants. b) Thrivent Choice Dollars which vary depending on the Thrivent products you have. These Choice Dollars can be designated once a year to the non-profit of your choice, one of which is Faith Lutheran Church.
- 4) Give your time: Lawn mowing, yard care, volunteer with children's programs and Sunday worship, bulletin assembly, newsletter assembly, funeral lunch service, help with the Sunday doughnut table, and more.
- 5) Donate items to support the Blessing Box and Common Cup needs as they arise.
- 6) Please watch the monthly Faith Matters and weekly bulletins for many more opportunities as they come up and then, bravely reach out, and let us know what kind of service brings you joy.



THRIVENT
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Women's Opportunities

Faith Quilters meet monthly and create a lot more than quilts. All ability levels are welcome, and you don't even have to know how to sew.

The FLCW do things like organizing the rummage sale, preparing a Christmas Tea, participating in the annual Augustana District WOW event and so much more. Watch the weekly bulletins for information about events that they have coming up.



2025 Fall Gathering of the Augustana District Women of the Word

September 20, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. –3 p.m.

Registration Deadline—September 2, 2025

Hosted by New Creation Lutheran Church

295 Coney St., Perham, MN

Guest Speakers with a focus on “Being Still” are Pastor Erica Varcoe, an LCMC pastor of the Table Ministry; Pastor Lexy Carson from Salem and Sauk Valley Churches in Osakis; and Jessica Bergland, a physical therapist. More details about the speakers and the schedule for the day are available in a brochure you can find in the church office.

Perham is a three-hour drive from Hutchinson, SO – we are planning to carpool (and will be leaving at 5:30 a.m. in the morning). If you wish to join us for the day, PLEASE REGISTER in the church office or contact Jan Kreie at 320-510-1942 by September 2.

There is also an option to watch the gathering in person or as a group via Zoom, and an option to go up on your own and stay overnight. If you are interested in one of these options, sign-up forms are available in the church office.

Stay Connected

How Can I Watch Faith Lutheran Church Services From Home?

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



YOUTUBE SERVICE RECORDINGS ARE ALSO SHARED ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND WEBSITE.

How can you stay plugged into everything that is happening at Faith?

- 1) This monthly newsletter: you can receive it via USPS or by e-mail.
- 2) Friday morning E-Newsletter via e-mail
- 3) Weekly church bulletin announcements
 - a) pick one up on Sunday at worship and take it home with you
 - b) access it online through the link in the weekly E-Newsletter
 - c) find a copy on the website
- 4) The website is updated multiple times a week so check back to it frequently

Website
Find us @
FaithLC.com

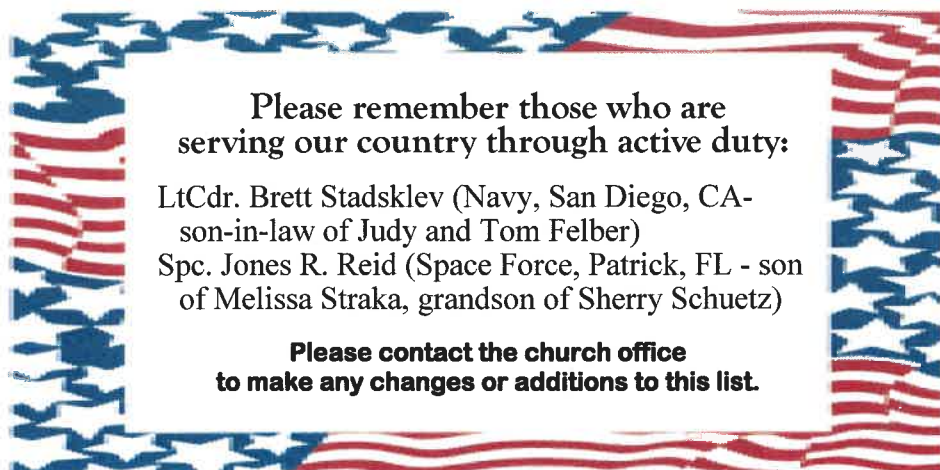
5) Faith Facebook Page—if you are on Facebook please make sure to follow us. It helps the church rise in the algorithms if you interact with the posts which are made almost daily.

6) Church Council Minutes are available every month as they are approved. They are shared in the weekly newsletter, posted on the website and posted on the church bulletin board.

7) Community Bulletin Board can be found in the hall between the sanctuary stairs and the Faith Center.

8) Monitors in the two main gathering areas with current scrolling announcements.

Please Remember in Prayer



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.

Did you know?

If you want to be added to the nursing home list or blue prayer sheet that is shared on Sunday mornings that you or an immediate family member need to reach out to the Pastoral Care Team (Pastor Scott, Dave, Paulus, Paul, Jeff or Marsha Schmit). They do not know where you are or if you want a visit if you do not let them know.



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

Meeker Manor Nursing Home

Barb Helland

Oaks

Phyllis Blum

Carol Otto

DuWayne Peterson

Alice Poshek

Woodstone

Cyndy Ollrich

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



Running out of time to schedule your photography appointment online, go to www.ucdir.com. Go to photography appointment scheduling, login on the right side by entering **MN562** and password **photos**. Currently the three September dates are full but the office can take a few people on a wait list in case there are any last minute cancellations. The October 2 date has about a dozen spots left open so don't wait any longer to get your name in.

Set your appointment with Universal today!

*Gathering families,
Connecting generations.*



Faith Apparel Options Are Back With Some NEW Choices

The Faith Lutheran Church Apparel store will be open once again in mid-September! There are t-shirts, dress shirts, sweatshirts and more. You can place your order online via the QR code or go to

<https://www.brandedsolutionsstores.com/faithlutheran/shop/home>

The store will only be open a couple of weeks in September so get your order in as soon as you hear the store is open!

If you need help placing an order, please call or stop by the church office.



Faith Lutheran Church
335 Main Street South
Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350

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Newsletter via USPS or E-mail?

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

