



# Faith Matters April 2026



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## Pastors' Page

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

## The Passion(?) of the Christ?

As Christians, we are entering into the most holy time of the year: Holy Week. The eight holy days (or “holidays”) begin with Palm Sunday on March 29, continue with Maundy Thursday on April 2, Good Friday on April 3, and climax with Resurrection Day, or Easter Sunday, on April 5. In the church, we often refer to this sequence of days, and the events they commemorate, as Christ’s “passion.” You may have seen the powerful movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, which depicts these events.

Now, you might be thinking, passion? That seems like an odd word to describe the death and resurrection of Jesus! When we use the word “passion” we are often describing an intense interest and emotional investment in something. For example, for some reason people accuse me of having a passion for the Minnesota Vikings! It might have something to do with the twenty Vikings-related decorations I have in my office, or the fact that I bring them up in about every other sermon! I guess you could say that I am passionate about the Vikings! So, is this what we mean when we describe the events of Holy Week as Christ’s passion? Do we mean that Jesus was intensely interested and emotionally invested in dying and rising for us? Well, not exactly.

It’s true, Christ was absolutely committed and invested in His Holy Week mission for us, but that is not, in this case, what “passion” means. The word, “passion” comes from an old twelfth-century Latin word *passio*, which means “to suffer” or “to endure.” So when we talk about the passion of the Christ, what we mean is “the suffering of Christ.”

And suffer he did:

- Betrayed and abandoned by those closest to him
- Arrested and beaten
- Whipped with a Roman *flagrum*, a brutal whip featuring multiple leather thongs embedded with small metal balls or sharp bone fragments, designed to tear skin and muscle.
- Carried the heavy cross to the site of his execution
- Crucified, the Roman empire’s favorite form of capital punishment. It was such a horrible way to die that we get our English word for excruciating from it.



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The passion of Jesus was brutal. The movie depiction only captures a fraction of what he endured. And there's more! In addition to the physical torture and anguish, Jesus also endured the weight and punishment of the sin of humanity. The prophet Isaiah describes it like this "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."

So, my friends, during this Easter Season, come and worship. Come, enter into the passion of the Christ. Celebrate his triumphal entry. Sit with him at the Last Supper. Tremble at the foot of the cross. And wonder at the miracle of the Resurrection. Because his passion is for you.

See you in church!  
Pastor Dave



### Holy Week

### Holy Week

- \* **Mundy Thursday** - April 2, services at 6 and 7:30 p.m. (First Communion students will receive the Lord's Supper for the first time)
- \* **Good Friday** - April 3, joint services at 12 noon at Christ the King and at 6:30 p.m. at Faith Lutheran.
- \* **Easter Sunday** - April 5, Sunrise service at 6, Easter Festival services at 8 and 9:30 a.m. and a Foundation-style service at 11 a.m.



### New Member Orientation Class

A three-session New Member Orientation Class will be held at 9 a.m. on Sunday, April 12, 19, and 26. New members will then be received on Sunday, April 26. Please contact Marsha at [marshas@faithlc.com](mailto:marshas@faithlc.com) for more information or to register for the class. Thank you!

### Stewardship Matters

Stewardship  
*A way of living*

A central aspect of Biblical stewardship is the call to give *in proportion* to our income, basing our offerings not on a specific dollar amount, but a percentage of what God first gives to us. The Bible recommends a tithe or 10%, but that is not a law for Christians. Whether we give 1%, 5%, 15% or more, the practice of giving proportionally is what makes all the difference, for three reasons.

One is that many of us do not have a clear sense of just how much money flows through our hands. Financial advisors will sometimes ask clients to track every cent they spend for a period of time, and the grand total is often much higher than they expect. To give in proportion to all God has given us will often result in much larger offerings than choosing a specific dollar amount each week.

Another reason for proportional giving is that it remains fair across all income levels. If one person has \$10.00 and another has \$100.00, and they both give \$1.00, those are equal amounts, but not equal gifts. But if the first person gave \$1.00 and the second \$10.00, they both gave 10% of what God gave them. Proportional giving is a living response to St. Paul's declaration, "If the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have." (II Cor. 8:12)

The third reason to give proportionally is the most important. It roots us in trust that God is the giver of all we have and are, and thus we can trust Him steadfastly to provide for us. Even if our income drops (and likewise the amount of our offerings!), giving in proportion to what we receive keeps our confidence in God, who "opens (His) hand, satisfying the desire of every living creature." (Psalm 145:16)



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

## STUMP THE PASTOR

### Stump the Pastor

*Q: How can we trust in God when there is so much suffering and evil in the world?*

**A:** This question from a young woman voiced one of the great challenges to faith.

Accidents, illness, crime and death afflict all people, and that can make us question if God is trustworthy, or whether we want to trust in such a God at all. The Bible and the Christian faith are well aware of this challenge and they offer several encouraging truths in response.

First, the creation accounts in Genesis emphasize that God's *will* and *design* for creation were good, and that goodness is still evident in many ways. Suffering and tragedy grab our attention, but it is easier to overlook the many ways God sustains and protects life, day in and day out. Sleeping all night, entirely unconscious, without being attacked or robbed, the astounding bounty of food the earth produces each year, the unseen power of white blood cells to ward off illness, law enforcement that stops crime and arrests offenders, the experience we have all had of narrowly avoiding an accident or injury, and the miracle of new life are just some of the countless examples of how God steadfastly supports life amidst the dangers of this world.

At the same time, the entire story of creation is how it has been fractured by sin, so that disaster, illness and tragedy undermine God's intention for life. One might conclude that God has no power to stop all that or does not care, but the Bible points instead to the *method* He is using to overcome evil. The Great Flood in Genesis was a blunt force attack on it, but God promised never to do that again. Rather, as a pastor once beautifully stated, God decided a long time ago not to fix the world, but to save it instead. He chose not simply to destroy evil—and all sinners with it—but sent Christ to the cross to take on Himself all the ravages of sin, death and the devil in order to destroy them once for all.

It may well seem that, if we believe in God, suffering and tragedy should not afflict us, but the truth is that we believe in God *because* suffering and tragedy *do* afflict us. At those times, the faithful response is not to shake our fists at heaven, but to flee to the cross to see there God's ultimate solution to sin and evil. Tragedy and evil sharply remind us that we are creatures, not gods. We do not fully control our lives, but we can trust Christ Jesus for hope, solace and the assurance that, even when death strikes, eternal life awaits us in the resurrection of the dead.

### Seniors Scene

One of our greatest assets in the city of Hutchinson is Harmony River nursing home. Run by Presbyterian Homes, a highly respected organization managing homes for the elderly in the state of Minnesota, Harmony River is a quality institution. The staff is committed and its their faith-based commitment is seen in having a chaplain on staff.

We have members of our congregation who live there saying they couldn't be in a better place. We are grateful to have Harmony River in our community. Our pastoral care staff members make frequent visits to our members. Some of our Befrienders do the same. We conduct a monthly communion worship service with attendances far above just Faith Lutheran Church members.

One of the home's staff will be speaking to us at our April **Seniors' Potluck** on **Thursday, April 30**. She is Juliann Knudson, whose career at Harmony River and Burns Manor spans 25 years. She began in Activities, later named "Life Enrichment." She has been director of that department for ten years. Later she added "Volunteer Director" to her title. Julianne knows the high value of volunteers to Harmony River and the residents. From physical exercises to creative art and group games, the residents experience times of interesting volunteer-led activity that would otherwise be times of inactive boredom. So our thanks to Juliann and her army of volunteers who bring joy and excitement to Harmony River residents.

Be sure to come and hear more about Life Enrichment at **Seniors' Potluck, Thursday, April 30, 12:00 noon.**

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





## Sharing a Challenging Reality for One Mission Partner

*Pastor Paul Knudson*

Imagine being excited about a new call to leadership for your national church. You have served as a synod president, and your two terms are up. You have applied for and been given a new position in the national offices of your church body, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. You will lead this church of some ten-million plus members' outreach to countries beyond your nation's borders. This means you will oversee the work of over 50 missionaries in other countries.

There is, however, a major challenge before you. Your salary is to be \$300 per month, not unusual in this impoverished nation, the cost of housing alone is likely to take up 90% of this figure, leaving next to nothing for all your family's other needs. You are excited, as is your family, but this is a financial challenge not able to be met even with your wife's salary that is very small.

One family's difficulty is the stuff which can inspire brothers and sisters in Christ to step up and make this possible. The Augustana District, through individual families and a couple congregations, stands with this leader of EECMY so that its amazing outreach leadership needs can be met. We at Faith Lutheran Church have undesignated global mission funds that can be another significant source of support.

Challenges can be blessed opportunities to stand together so leadership will be available to cover this need. It is opportunities like this which bring joy to us as brothers and sisters in mission. Thanks be to God.

### How Not to Be a Heretic

Why Theology Matters



Spring 2026 Faith Groups

Faith Lutheran Church

### Faith Groups Return

It is time to touch base with your Faith Group and start to make plans for a new series. This series will begin the week after Easter, which is April 5 and will last 6-sessions. The topic is "How Not to be a Heretic." In this series we will look at some old, but unfortunately still very present, heresies. What are these false beliefs, what is true, and how do we still fall for the same ideas today?

If you have not participated in a group before, please contact Marsha and she will help you plug into an existing group or help you gather your friends and/or family to start a new one. Plug in today!

### Leap of Faith Capital Campaign



On March 1, the Phase II Finance Team (P2FT) announced the good news that Leap of Faith received nearly \$1 million in gifts in its first year, and that the total in the fund is well over \$1.1 million. Most of that is currently earning interest in very safe investment accounts.

One idea the P2FT discussed together was to set a goal of \$1.5 million for the second year of Leap of Faith and perhaps \$2 million for the third. Those are ambitious totals, to be sure, but the Phase II building project is in a race against rising costs and mortgage rates. The longer it takes to raise the needed funds, the further away the end goal is.

**Thank you** for your faithful, generous support of Leap of Faith. As the family of Faith, let's continue to pursue this vision God has put before us!



Leap of Faith  
Online  
Pledge Card



## 2026 Rummage Sale

*Thursday, April 23, 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.*

*Friday, April 24, 8:00 a.m. - 6 p.m.*

Spring time means Rummage Sale time!  
There will be a few exciting changes this year and that includes trying to recruit more help.

The first change is that more items will be located on the main floor. The Faith Center and main hallway will be where you will find the items normally found on the third floor in the Sunday School rooms.

A second change is that donations will be dropped off at Door #2 (the sanctuary entrance) April 20-22 from 8 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. Please note that donations can not be dropped off before April 20 as the church does not have the space to store items for the sale.

A third change is that the committee is looking for "Second Shift Help" April 20 and 21 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. You can sign up for just a half-hour shift or longer to come and help sort and move donations to the correct locations.

As in the past, help is needed for set-up on Sunday April 19 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., and for clean-up on Saturday, April 25 from 9-11 a.m.

You can choose your preferred time to volunteer by using this QR Code, by following this link <https://tinyurl.com/msfj2wja> or call Bobbi Knudson at 320-587-2227 to let her know when you are available to help.

As usual, donations of large appliances, exercise equipment, TV's, computers, or other personal devices cannot be accepted.

# Scan Me

RUMMAGE SALE  
VOLUNTEERS



## 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 p.m.
- 3) Grief Support Group** meets as needed throughout the year.



## **Worship Snapshot: The Good Shepherd**

*A devotion for the Fourth Sunday of Easter – Good Shepherd Sunday, April 26, 2026*

Each year during the Easter season, the Church pauses on the Fourth Sunday of Easter to hear again the voice of the Good Shepherd. After the empty tomb, after the astonishment of the resurrection, Christ speaks to His people with a familiar promise: He is still our Shepherd, and we are still His flock.

The image of the shepherd is one of the most beloved pictures of Christ in Scripture. A shepherd knows his sheep, calls them by name, leads them to pasture, and lays down his life for them. What makes the Easter proclamation so remarkable is that Jesus truly did lay down His life for His own. The Shepherd who died for the sheep now lives to guide them forever.

Because of this, the Church has always “sung” the Good Shepherd. For centuries, Christians have lifted their voices with the words of Psalm 23: *“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”* This psalm has been prayed, chanted, and sung in every corner of the Church’s life—from quiet funerals to joyful praise services. In it we hear both comfort and confidence: the Shepherd leads, restores, protects, and finally brings His flock to dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

One of my favorite reflections on this psalm is the hymn *“The King of Love My Shepherd Is.”* Written by Henry W. Baker in the nineteenth century, the hymn gently paraphrases Psalm 23 while pointing clearly to Christ as the Shepherd of His people. Each verse walks through the promises of the psalm—green pastures, restored souls, guidance through the shadowed valley, and the everlasting home prepared for the flock. In worship, the hymn allows the Church to sing these promises personally, confessing together that the Shepherd’s goodness and mercy truly follow His people all their days.

Good Shepherd Sunday is therefore a beautiful reminder of why the Church sings. We sing because the Shepherd speaks first. In worship, Christ calls His flock through Word, preaching, and the sacraments. Our hymns and liturgy are the flock’s response to that voice. When we sing together, we do what sheep have always done: listen for the Shepherd and follow where He leads.

Easter adds an even deeper layer. The risen Christ is not merely guiding us through the pastures of this life but He is leading us toward resurrection. The Shepherd who walked through the valley of death has opened the path to life. So when the Church gathers and lifts its voice, we hear more than beautiful music. We hear the living Shepherd caring for His people. He gathers us, feeds us, restores us, and sends us out again. And wherever the flock goes, the song of the Shepherd goes with it. *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”*

Soli Deo Gloria!

Austin



CHILDREN, YOUTH  
& family

## It Matters!

Faith Lutheran is a robust church! With daily ministries filling up the church most days of the week, we really are blessed. In speaking for the church staff, I know that we all care deeply about our ministries to the point that many of us go above and beyond our roles and integrate into one another's ministries. I (Kristen) serve on the worship team, Laura and Dave lead at FLY, Marsha is a confirmation guide, and so many more examples exist.

Church is home. That was true for me not only now, but growing up. I was consistently at church. My mom was on the praise team, we rarely missed a Sunday growing up, we volunteered with VBS, went to day camp, and just overall it was easily the place where I spent the third most time. Now, it's where I spend my second most time, but it's a close tie between here and my own home.

So why does going to church, being active in our community, and consistency matter? I'll give you three reasons!

1. Hebrews 10:24-25 says "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Community is the BEST part of the church. We are meant for it! It's how we build one another up because this life is hard! We are faced with hardships that we can then face together in prayer or in advice. I have felt less alone in many of my struggles because of my Faith Family.
2. II Timothy 3:16-17 says "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." It is vital to hear God's word. It examines us and teaches us time and time again. Each Sunday we are reminded of how sinful we all are, but then reminded that despite that Jesus still died for us. When my sin feels heavy, I am reminded how forgiven I am. When I am weak, I am reminded that Christ is my strength. What a gift to be able to hear from God's word and from the Lord through our pastors each Sunday.
3. Proverbs 22:6 says "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Encouraging to your children to go to Sunday School, confirmation, youth group, and so much more creates habit. When I went away to college, I didn't go to church my whole first year. I was involved in Christian community on campus, but I was missing the church piece. I started attending church every Sunday at a little LCMS church off campus because the pastor took a special interest in college students, often hosting us for lunch once a month at his house. Because of the level of consistency that was ingrained in my head, I missed that piece. You are an instrumental piece of your child's faith walk and you can have the biggest impact on their future walk too. Keep it up!



### Aftershock

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

**NEXT DAYS: April 1 & May 6.**

**If you are able to volunteer for Aftershock, please reach out to Laura Stowman. Thank you!**

### 56er's

56er's is an after-school program on Wednesdays for ANYONE in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Our time is filled with hang time, snack, Bible lesson, and games. This group meets right after school until 5:15 p.m. Go to our church website to register your child.

**NO 56ER'S on April 1 & May 6.**

### Sunday School

This month, Sunday School children are learning about Luther's small catechism. Each age group will be learning something different. Preschool will learn about church, K - 1<sup>st</sup> grade will talk about the seasons of the church, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will learn about the 10 commandments, and 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade will study the Apostles' Creed.

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL April 5.**

**Sunday School children will sing at the 8 a.m. and 10:10 a.m. Sanctuary worship services on April 26.**

### Sign up for summer opportunities!

**Mystery Bus**  
5<sup>th</sup>—7<sup>th</sup> grade  
June 9—11



**Vacation Bible School**  
Preschool—4<sup>th</sup> grade  
June 29 - July 2

**Day Camp**  
Kindergarten—5<sup>th</sup> grade  
August 3—6

**Sign-ups are on the children's page of our website [faithlc.com](http://faithlc.com)**



### FLY Night

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



### Free Lunch!

Faith Lutheran serves the high school Free Lunch on Thursday, April 30. If you are able to help from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 pm. please let Kristen know!

Join us for a night of fellowship & fun including Games, Pizza, Games, Snack, and did we say Games?

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026

## POWERHOUSE

Faith Lutheran Church  
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
5th - 8th Grade (Bring a Friend)  
\$5/youth  
Register BEFORE April 15

### **Questions? Prayer Requests? Contact us!**

Laura Stowman—Director of Children and Family Ministries—[lauras@faithlc.com](mailto:lauras@faithlc.com)  
Kristen Durst—Director of Youth and Family Ministries—[kristend@faithlc.com](mailto:kristend@faithlc.com)

# 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

GlenFields- Glencoe

Barb Helland

Harmony River

Shirley Holtz  
Wilbur Johnson

Meeker Manor-Litchfield

Larry DeGrote

Prairie Senior Cottages

Lorallen (Smudge) Schmeling

Prince of Peace

Maynard Holtz

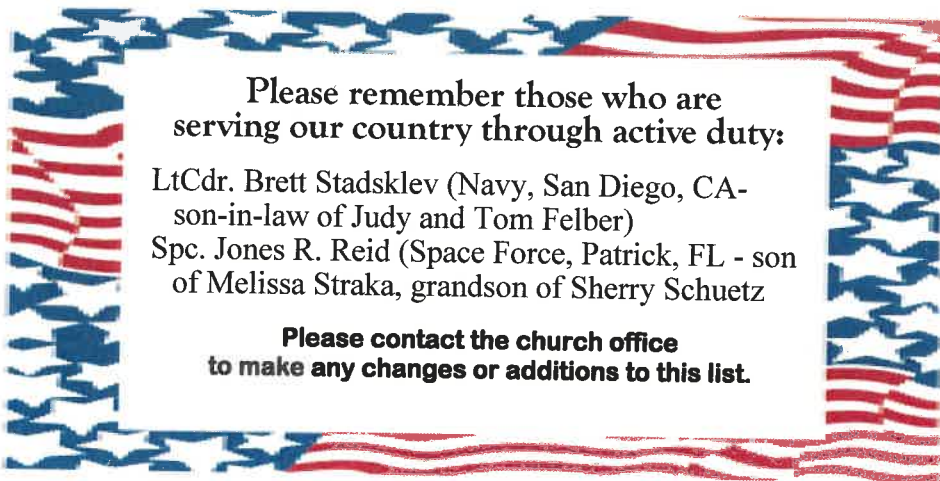
Oaks

Phyllis Blum  
Helen Kieper  
Deloris Olson  
Carol Otto  
DuWayne Peterson  
Alice Poshek

Woodstone

Cynda Ollrich

You can support the mission and ministry of Faith Lutheran Church by using this QR code or go to the FLC online giving page at [Faithlc.com/give-2/](http://Faithlc.com/give-2/)



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	320-583-1456 (cell)	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**

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Austin Willhite, Director of Music & Worship		austinw@faithlc.com
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Monica Schiller, Nursery Supervisor		

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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](mailto: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

