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FAITH MATTERS

OCTOBER 2026

PASTORS' PAGE

It is no secret that I am just slightly obsessed with the proper use of the English language, which, I might add, is a very fine obsession to have! I highly recommend it. A few years ago, however, as I explained (or perhaps ranted) about the latest destructive trend among English speakers, a staff member asked when a certain improper usage becomes so common that it no longer qualifies as misuse of the language but has become the new, proper use instead.

It was a serious question and a difficult one. The English language is constantly changing. Try reading the original 1611 Authorized (or King James) Version of the Bible to see how much the meaning of words and English syntax have changed in the last 400 years. Yet, many errors in how people write or speak are simply that—errors. To accept them as new and proper usage would threaten the consistency of the language and hinder our ability to understand one another. That is a tension that cannot be entirely resolved.

A similar question is sometimes asked about theology and church history. Lutherans mark Reformation Sunday each year on the last Sunday of October. We recall with gratitude how God raised up Martin Luther and the other Reformers to restore the Gospel to its Biblical roots and meaning. But that all occurred over 500 years ago! At what point does ancient history become too ancient to be relevant? What do the battles that Luther and his colleagues fought have to do with our lives today?

Those, too, can be difficult questions. Trying to grasp events from centuries ago may be more suited to a museum or a history class than to Christian congregations, and honoring tradition just for tradition's sake quickly becomes a hollow exercise. On the other hand, our modern world is especially susceptible to what C.S. Lewis called “chronological snobbery,” the assumption that new or modern ideas are, by definition, better and more valuable than those of the past. Lewis argued the exact opposite. He urged his students to read the “old books” and original sources to get a solid foundation for their studies.

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Stump The Pastor!



Q: I just noticed that some verse numbers are missing in my Bible. Why is that?

A: The Bible did not originally include chapter or verse numbers. They were added much later to make it easier to read and study. When verse numbers were added to the New Testament, scholars used a widely available Greek manuscript called the Textus Receptus (received text).

In the centuries since, scholars have discovered a number of much older manuscripts, copied far closer to the time when the books were first written, which are believed to be more accurate. Those older manuscripts revealed that many additions and changes had crept into the Textus Receptus over time, including whole verses that were missing from the older manuscripts. How did that happen?

Before the printing press was invented, New Testament manuscripts were copied by hand, often in a large room called a scriptorium, where a monk would read the text out loud as others sat at desks copying it down. That transmission process proved to be quite accurate, but it is not surprising that some errors crept into the manuscripts along the way. One particular problem involved “glosses.” They were comments or clarifications that a copyist would jot down in the margin of a manuscript, but when that copy was copied, the marginal notes were incorporated into the text. They were usually not incorrect; they just were not part of the original work.

Once some of those glosses were assigned verse numbers, they could not simply be removed. Bible studies, lectionaries and other works had long referred not only to them, but also the verses around them, by their number. To change the numbering because a gloss was removed would be very confusing. Imagine if it was suddenly announced that John 3:16 would be John 3:15 from now on!

Instead, when modern Bible translations take out those added verses, the verse numbers drop out with them. When that happens, there is nearly always a footnote that prints the removed verse while noting that it does not appear in the oldest manuscripts. The editors are not tinkering with the Bible or its meaning, but only trying to present the text as accurately as possible.



Ongoing education is not just for children. What Bible study or class will you jump into this year?

Digging Deeper Classes are offered on Sunday mornings from 9:15 - 10 a.m. with different topics offered every four to seven weeks.

"Being Family":

Passing Down the Faith Through the Generations

This class explores the pivotal vocations of being a mom or dad, a husband or wife, in the role of faith formation in children. Based on Scott Keith's book of the same name, we'll talk about parenting, marriage, grandparenting, worship, and other issues revolving around families and faith. Meeting in the Faith Center.



The Organ: History, Mystery & Music

What exactly is an organ and why has this remarkable instrument played such an important role in Lutheran worship for centuries? Join Austin in the Sanctuary for an exploration of the organ. Together, we will dig deeper into the history of the organ in the Church and especially its place in the Lutheran tradition, while discovering what makes the organ a unique and fascinating instrument. This will be an up-close opportunity to hear and experience what our new organ can do.

Through demonstrations and discussion, we will discover how its many voices can support congregational singing, accompany choirs and instrumentalists, lead worship, and simply make beautiful music. Whether you are fascinated by the mechanics of the instrument, curious about its history, or just want to learn more about the new organ in our church, come discover the remarkable instrument that will become part of our worship and ministry for generations to come.



New Member Orientation

A new member orientation session will be held on November 1, 8, and 15 during the education hour at 9:10 a.m. New members will then be received on November 15. If you are interested in joining Faith Lutheran, please contact Marsha at 587-2093 or marshas@faithlc.com to register for this class.



Faith Groups are Back!

A new six-week Faith Group series has just started. Contact Marsha for details on how you can still connect with a current group or start a new one.

Pastors' Page continued from page 1

Tending to the solid foundation of our faith is why we continue to celebrate Reformation Sunday. It is not simply an effort to live in the past. It is surely not a smug exercise in Lutheran superiority over other Christian churches. The point of looking back to the Reformation is to make sure our preaching, teaching and beliefs are solidly grounded in the great truths that God recovered and revealed during that remarkable era. Some of the specific issues have changed since then, but the Scriptural and theological principles at stake have not, and the Church today can just as easily lose track of those foundational convictions (and, in many ways, has!) as the Christian Church did before God sparked the Reformation.

So we continue to lift up the profound insights of Martin Luther and Philip Melancthon, Justus Jonas and Nicholas von Amsdorf, George Spalatin and Johannes Bugenhagen. They are hardly household names anymore, but the battles they fought for the truth of the Gospel are perpetual. It is vital for the Christian Church in every age to treasure the "old books" of the Reformation so that we will stay solidly grounded in the radical good news of God in Jesus Christ. See you in church!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott Grorud



Calling All Artists & Artisans!

**Come one, come all to the Art Fair sponsored by
the Congregational Life ministry team!**

**We are looking for local creators to share and showcase their talents.
What hobby do you have that you can share? Enter your artwork—whether
it's quilting, painting, pottery, woodworking, photography, coloring, etc.!**

Artisans of all ages are welcome to submit their artwork!

**Date: Wednesday, December 2
(Coinciding with the Soup and Chili Supper)
followed by the Advent worship service at 6:30 p.m.**

Submission Deadline: Sunday, November 15

**To enter your favorite piece, pick up a registration form in the church
office or contact Marsha at marshas@faithlc.com or call 587-2093.**



Make
a

Joyful unto the
noise *Lord*

Psalms 98:4



Time to Chime!

Sunday, October 4, at either the First Word and/or Sanctuary service there is an opportunity for you to chime! Austin is starting a new, low-stress program for people ages 10 to 110 who have limited or no musical background to participate in worship by chiming along during worship songs. This musical opportunity will be offered on the first and last Sundays throughout the program year. Watch the bulletin for upcoming Sundays that the chimes/bells will play and plan to arrive half an hour before your preferred service. We will run through a brief rehearsal on what will be played during the service(s). This is a great opportunity for grandparents and grandchildren, parents and children, mentors and mentees, and siblings and friends to participate actively in worship together. You can contact Austin for more information or just come to the sanctuary a half hour before worship on October 4.

Stewardship Matters

Recently, there has been a lot of negative news about the economy. Then again, I can hardly remember a time when there was positive economic news. Year after year, it seems that people are anxious and unhappy about their economic situation, and no matter who is running the government, voters are ready to bet that the other party will do a better job.

Stewardship
A way of living

The Bible, however, promises that God steadfastly and reliably provides for people and all creation. That does not deny that there are downturns in the economy or our personal finances, but that, over time, we can trust that God will provide what we need to survive. That is the motivation for Christian giving—to give as God first gives to us in confident trust that God will faithfully provide for and sustain us.

We currently see evidence of that here at Faith Lutheran. Despite the economic gloom in the news, offerings to the church have been strong and noticeably higher than last year. It is testimony not only to the generosity of the family of Faith, but even more to trust in God's faithful providing. Thank you for your ongoing investment in the ministry God is doing in and through Faith Lutheran Church!



Leap of Faith Capital Campaign

Believe it or not, the Leap of Faith campaign is nearly halfway through its three-year commitment period. The gifts received so far also comprise about half of the amount that was originally pledged. We will celebrate the halfway point of the campaign this month and bring important updates to the congregation. Watch for those opportunities to learn more and stay up-to-date. Let's all take this Leap of Faith together!



**Leap of Faith
Online
Pledge Card**



Our Witness Through One Student at the Shaliach's Bible College and Seminary: The Testimony of Bhima Singh, Student Preparing for Witness

by Pastor Paul Knudson

Though an individual student might appear to be of little importance in the eyes of the world, a single reliable witness can transform a family, a village, or even several generations. Think about the far-reaching consequences: a well-trained pastor looks after hundreds of people, a missionary takes the Gospel to new villages, a teacher influences future church leaders, and a church planter sets up a congregation that will last longer than we all will.

A good example of the Gospel's influence is Bhima Singh, a student from Odisha. Bhima's experience started in a Hindu family that was characterized by disorder, addiction, and even hostility towards Christians; his family was known for opposing their Christian neighbors. However, when Bhima's mother fell seriously ill, a Christian pastor prayed for her, and she was cured. This incident led to new relationships and a commitment of faith. Bhima, who had previously been stuck in a destructive cycle, now found hope and a sense of purpose. He developed a growing desire to study the Bible and share Christ with others who lived as he once had.

Bhima, presently a student at the Shaliach's Bible College and Seminary, shares the following in a personal testimony: "When I first heard of Jesus, my life was marked by addiction and anger; our family was strongly opposed to Christians. The pastor taught us the Bible and our home became a place for prayer and fellowship. I am preparing to help those people who are in the same situation as I once experienced. If God wills it, I hope to become a pastor and go to homes like mine to spread Christ's love. Glory be to God."

Program Year Sunday Schedule

- 8:00 a.m. First Word Worship Service (Traditional Style)
- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for children 3 years old - 8th grade
- 9:15 a.m. Digging Deeper for adults (Usually two sessions at a time, and topics change every few weeks.)
- 10:10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Service (Blended Style)
- 10:10 a.m. Foundation Worship Service (Contemporary Style)

A staffed nursery is available from 9-11:30 a.m. for children under 3 years old.



Celebrating these baptismal birthdays this month!

October 1

Dee Tepley
Lisa Thompson
Stacy Hammer
Elijah Sheggeby
Charlie Kaping

October 2

Janet Hausladen
Jennifer Selle
Tegan Hanson
Deacon Kieke

October 3

Steven Larson
Mary Guggemos
Cody Anderson

October 4

Lisa Adamek
Caleb Marquardt
Broden Demere
Jaxon Adams

October 5

Clara Pedersen
Huxley Schwecke

October 6

Barb Burkstrand
James Flemming
Sullivan McDowell

October 7

Steven Bruhn
Jay Christopherson
Manny Pearce

October 8

Judy Flemming
Derek Durst
Reagan Kottke

October 9

Ray Selle
Jameson Draeger
Walker Mandelkow

October 10

LeRoy Karg
Andrew Grorud
Madison Fimon
Tanner Scheevel
Kaden Schantzen

October 11

Ida Karstens
Lyla Selle
Grant Hoff

October 12

Geri Johnson
Greg Pearce
Mason Getz

October 13

Ryan Uecker
Cassandra Vacek
Stephanie Sterner

October 14

Reagan Duehn
Oaklyn Krause
Emmirsyn Boike
Stella Fasching
Asa Kamrath

October 14

Ronald Anderson
Patricia Koelln
Alex Hantge
Mellisa Bonde
Jasmyne Jensen
Adeline Ewert

October 15

Bonnie Portele
Sharon Schwantes
Shannon Brice
Dylan Carter
Mackenzie Smith
Miles Anderson
Jameson Stone

October 16

Linda Fairchild
Roger Wersal
James Klatt
Reba Peterson

October 17

Muriel Dobratz
Aaron Karl
Nicole Kurth

October 18

Larry Romo
Isaiah Barlow
Nicholas Walters

October 19

Lily Solien
Luke Wollan

October 20

Barbara Hoppe
Virginia Kirchoff
Marlene Olsen
Patsy Amundson
Matthew Lynaugh
Kimberly Bollman
Lance Bussler
Andrew Pearce
Marlee Harlander

October 21

Wesley Lohrenz
Nikki Krueger
Ryan Wersal
Tyler Rath

October 22

Bob Kreie
Raydon Bipes
Millie Neumann

October 23

Glinnis Gatzmeyer
Donnette Garberich
Gary Nelson
Gunnar Bick

October 24

Grant Kropp
Lola Schramm
Tyler Schiller

October 25

Mark Simonson
Leslie Plath
Malea Rude

October 26

Wanda Anderson
Jonathon Metag
Steven Knick

October 27

Riley Carter
Jacob McDonald
Kellen Karg

October 28

Jonathan Briest
Liam Ovadje

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October 27

Michael Schultz

Noah Ishihara

Paige Schmidt

Isaiah Gandrud

Hattie Smith

Ryleigh Schiller

October 28

Robert Hantge

Sandra Knick

Amanda Landmark

Marlys Miller

Adam Griebie

October 29

Melissa Davis

Phillip Mielke

Nicole McLain

Caleb Inselmann

Callier May

Joseph May

October 30

Debbi St. Onge

Ethan Dressel

October 31

Barry Anderson

Nancy Koelln

Larry Gasow

Joe Eck

Shelly Schmidt

Matthew Binder

Caleb Dahle-Fox

Theo Pessek

Evelyn Langer

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2026



Confirmation Service

October 25, 2026

at 1:30 p.m.



Seniors Scene

We'll have another interesting program for **Seniors' Potluck** in October. We'll see photographs of old buildings in many locations here in Minnesota, but it's more about what those buildings represent for us. Justin Beck has spent a lot of time taking those pictures and also reflecting on what they tell us. It's about art, which was exhibited throughout Minnesota a few years ago. Justin believes his art tells an important story; a story that has effects on our lives. Here is how he puts it. "This series of photos highlights an unmistakable identity that speaks purely to rural Minnesota. I hope to encourage and inspire audiences to be introspective about future possibilities for our landscape and rural communities." Also, "...I will be discussing the visual aspects of rural architecture and its importance in rural culture."

This will be interesting. Justin has some Fascinating photos that speak to him, and just might speak to you as well. We look forward to that at our **Seniors' Potluck on Thursday, October 29, beginning with our potluck dinner at 12:00 noon.**

Please bring a friend. Perhaps someone who can't otherwise get to the Faith Center. See you at Seniors' Potluck!!



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 - 5th grade. Children get picked up from school, have a snack, make crafts, play games, have a Bible story and worship time.

UPCOMING DATES: October 7 & November 4.

To volunteer to help with Aftershock, please reach out to Laura Stowman. Thank you!

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, a snack, Bible lessons, 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 OCTOBER 7, 14 & 28.

Sunday School

In October, the Sunday School children will learn about the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, and Confession.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on OCTOBER 18.

Important Children's Ministry Dates

October 25

Parents and students in second grade will attend an Intro to the Bible Class with Pastor Dave. Then they will receive Bibles during the 10:10 a.m. Sanctuary worship service.

November 22

Sunday School children will sing at the 10:10 a.m. Sanctuary worship service.

Months of November and December

Children will practice songs and parts for the Christmas programs during the first part of the education hour.



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!

Mark your calendar for December 17 when Faith Lutheran serves the high school free lunch. If you are able to help from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 pm., please let Kristen know!

Middle School Release Time

Faith Lutheran participates in HAY's Release Time for Middle School students. This takes place on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month at Oak Heights Covenant Church. Use this QR code to register your middle school student!



Trick or Treat for the Food Shelf

Hutchinson Area Youth are collecting Food for the McLeod County Emergency Food Shelf on Wednesday, October 28.

Please consider donating by having non-perishable food items ready or placed in a bag and set outside your front door. You can also donate monetarily.



Questions? Prayer Requests? Contact us!

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



VOLUNTEERING

Nurturing a Generous Generation

Why do you volunteer?

When I was younger, I probably would have said that my parents were volunteering, so I did too. I enjoyed walking up and down the aisles at church passing the offering plates with my dad. I had fun interacting with the senior citizens who received Meals on Wheels. I loved teaching Sunday School with my mom as I got older. Going shopping for items to fill Operation Christmas Child boxes was a major highlight each November! (My mom, sister and I STILL go shopping for items to put in the Christmas Child boxes because it is so much fun!) Whatever we were doing, I look back on those moments and appreciate how my parents involved my sister and me with ways to serve our church and community.

Now as an adult I would say that volunteering gives me joy and purpose. God gave me gifts, talents, and time to share. As a staff member of Faith Lutheran Church it is hard for me to define the line between work and volunteering within the church. That is why I try to seek volunteer opportunities outside of church. This August, I was able to help with Common Cup Ministries' Back to School drive by setting up the donations and "shopping" with the children who benefited from this awesome opportunity. I loved serving alongside families who helped set up the supplies. The children found a lot of joy in it and it was fun to see parents use this as a teaching moment.

Through volunteerism, I learned joyfully to share what I had with others. It taught me to be more compassionate, understanding, generous, and kind by putting others' needs before my own. By sharing what I have it has helped me loosen my grasp on my worldly possessions and trust God in His provisions.

I do not share this to boast, but to give hope and encouragement to parents who want to volunteer with their children or grandchildren. By volunteering you are teaching them the importance of sharing and loving their neighbor.

So why do you volunteer?

How can you serve with your family?

Laura Stowman, Director of Children and Family Ministry

PRAYER REQUESTS

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 Schutetz)

FBPFA Holden Anderson (Border Patrol at the Northern
MN/ND Border - son of Shawn and Beth Anderson)

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

Pastors and Staff

Pastor Scott Grorud

Pastor Dave Wollan

Pastor Paul Knudson, Missions

Pastor Paulus Pilgrim, Visitation Pastor

Pastoral Associate, Jeff Amundson

Marsha Schmit, Director of Pastoral Care and Evangelism

Kristen Durst, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Laura Stowman, Director of Children and Family Ministry

Austin Willhite, Director of Music and Worship

Wendy Magruder, Administrative Assistant

Sara Wegner, Finance Coordinator

Owen Weikle, Custodial Service

Monica Schiller, Nursery Supervisor

Joshua Fernandez, Tech Lead



Staff can be reached
by calling the office
at 320-587-2093 or
by sending an e-mail
to office@faithlc.com

Live TV Broadcast

Sundays at 8 a.m.

Nuvera & Mediacom
on Ch. 7 & 10

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



Remember our Faith members
in Nursing Homes and
Health Care Facilities

Buffalo Lake Nursing Home

Kathy Fabel

Cedar Crest – Silver Lake

Patricia Lambert

Cokato Manor

Clara Betker

Ecumen – Litchfield

Diane Christensen

GlenFields – Glencoe

Barb Helland

Harmony River

Shirley Holtz

Wilbur Johnson

Prince of Peace

Maynard Holtz

The Oaks

Helen Kieper

Deloris Olson

Carol Otto

DuWayne Peterson

Alice Poshek

The Pines

Ron Max

Dave Skaar

Woodstone

Cyndy Ollrich



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To support the
mission and
ministry of Faith
Lutheran use
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Newsletter Switch From USPS To 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

Invoke all people

Teach Christian truth

Help all who are in need

