FAITH
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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FAITH MATTERS
NOVEMBER 2026

PASTORS' PAGE

Faith Lutheran is a strong and healthy congregation. It has faced harder times in the past, but ever since the calendar flipped over to a new millennium, it feels like this has been a healthy and thriving place. I continue to be so thankful for the privilege of serving in this place, first as Youth Director and now as Pastor. We have an exceptional staff, healthy leadership, generous givers, gifted and giving volunteers, eager learners and crowded worship services. You could hardly ask for anything more! Faith is a strong and healthy congregation!

Our building, however? Not so much. Faith Lutheran's physical structure—in particular, the oldest part, built in 1938—faces some serious structural issues that need to be addressed. These problems only recently came to light and the extent of them caught us off guard. The Management ministry team and the Phase II Building and Finance committees have consulted multiple experts in the field who have provided options and estimates for how the church might proceed. In this process, a few items have become clear:

- These issues need to be addressed, and addressed soon, in some fashion.
- The cost to address them will be significant; that could affect our plans for Phase II of our building in various ways.
- Because of those two realities, we need you, as the family of Faith, to be informed and to provide direction.

So, please plan to attend **an informational meeting at 9:15 A.M., Sunday, November 22**, in the **Faith Center.** At this meeting, during the Digging Deeper hour, we will present, in detail, the structural issues that need to be addressed, and explore various options to do so. **No decisions** will be made and **no votes** will be taken at this meeting; rather it is to **inform you** about the situation the church faces and to **gather responses** on how to proceed. Any final decision to approve a plan of action would require a vote at a special congregational meeting in the future.



Our building has served this congregation so well, through good times and difficult times! Please pray for God's guidance and direction that a strong and useful building might continue to serve this ministry for many years to come!

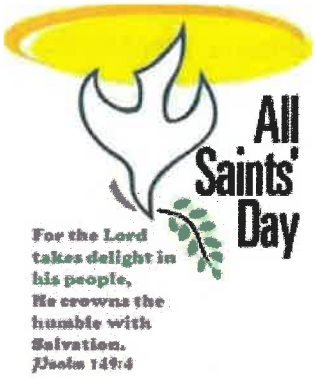
See you in church (and at the meeting)!

Pastor Dave

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All Saints Sunday
November 1, 2026





Stump the Pastor

Q: I just saw a reference to All Souls' Day. I've never heard of that before. Is that the same as All Saints' Day or is it something different?

A: These two festivals are closely related—they occur back-to-back on November 1 and 2 each year—but they are not identical. In fact, the difference between them is why All Souls' Day is not (and really should not be) observed in Lutheran churches.

The issue at stake is how a saint is defined. In the New Testament, St. Paul addresses all Christians as saints, for example, in I Corinthians 1:2, but he clearly does not do so because of their faithful behavior—the Corinthian church was a mess. They were saints only because they had been claimed by Christ in Holy Baptism.

Later Church teaching, however, reserved the title of saint for Christians who were seen as especially faithful or devoted to God. Still today, the Roman Catholic Church has a detailed process for determining who qualifies as a saint. All Saints' Day was originally designed to honor collectively all those who had been named officially as saints, but who did not have a special feast day of their own on the Church calendar.

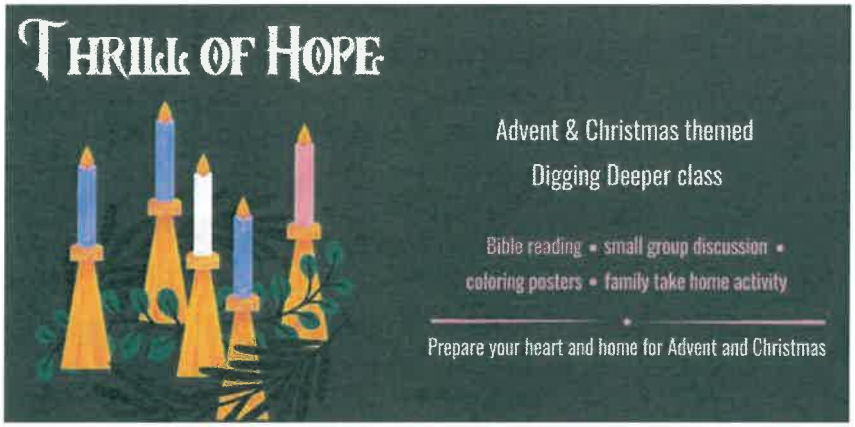
Many Christians, however, wanted to honor dead family members and others who had lived in faith, but had not been awarded the status of saints, so All Souls' Day was then developed to honor and give thanks for "non-saint" Christians. Over time, another distinction was drawn. Saints were said to be already present in heaven, while ordinary souls were still waiting in Purgatory. Because of that, All Souls' Day has been a solemn, almost mournful festival, rather than one of thanksgiving and joy that the faithful dead rest with Christ.

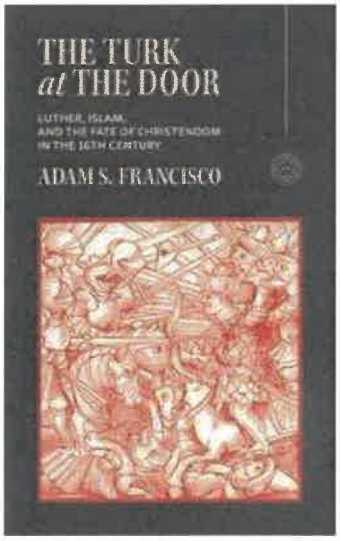
Lutherans do still refer to some people as saints (St. Paul, St. Peter), but only out of tradition. Otherwise, we can find no Biblical support for the notion that saints are only spiritual over-achievers or for the existence of Purgatory. Theologically, both concepts undermine the clear promise that we "are now justified by (God's) grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus…He justifies the one who has faith in Jesus." (Romans 3:24, 26b) Faith in Christ alone is what makes all people who are baptized into Christ true saints, and we trust that the faithful dead rest with Christ in Paradise (Luke 23:43), awaiting the resurrection to eternal life on the Last Day.

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

Family Digging Deeper: *Thrill of Hope*

Do you want to make Advent and Christmas more meaningful this year for you and your family? Join us in the main floor conference room as we look ahead at the upcoming gospel readings, explore what the readings and themes mean in our lives, color (yes, there is a matching coloring poster!), and take an activity home for you and your family. Through December 13 (not meeting November 29).





Martin Luther and the Specter of Islam

(The announcement of this class comes a little late, since it started already on October 25, but it continues on most Sundays through December 20. If you haven't joined it yet, we hope you still will!)

The rise of Islam, especially in the Western world, raises some troubling questions and concerns. A similar situation existed in Martin Luther's day, and he addressed the topic of Islam several times. This class will explore Luther's writings about Islam along with a new book on the topic by Adam Francisco, *The Turk at the Door.* Meeting in the Faith Center.



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.

Music Notes



Coming Together in Song

A Community Fundraising Concert Supporting Common Cup Ministry

Date/Time: Sunday, November 15 (a week earlier than past years) at 3:00 p.m.
Location: Christ the King Lutheran Church, Hutchinson

Join us for an uplifting afternoon of music, unity, and purpose at Coming Together in Song. This heartfelt community concert will feature musical groups from local churches and schools and conclude with a mass choir.

Experience the power of voices raised in harmony as we come together to support the vital work of Common Cup Ministry, providing hope and help to those in need in McLeod County. A freewill offering will be accepted, with all proceeds going to Common Cup Ministry.

If you would like to participate in this event as a singer, usher, door greeter, or volunteer in other ways, reach out to Austin Willhite at austinw@faithlc.com for music info and Bailey Willhite at bailey.a.willhite@gmail.com for all other volunteer opportunities.

Worship Snapshot: The organ celebration was just the beginning!

We've already gathered for the dedication of the organ and spent time digging deeper into its history, mechanics, and many voices through our adult education class. But there is still much more to hear, explore, and experience. Over the next several months, we'll continue celebrating the gift of this instrument through music, worship, and special events.

First Up: "All Together: A Hymn Festival Celebrating the Song of the Saints."

Sunday, November 1 at 3:00 p.m.



What exactly is a hymn festival? A hymn festival is more than a concert and different from a worship service. A hymn festival is just that, a time of singing hymns! It is also an opportunity to gather around the great songs of the Church to sing them, hear them, learn about them, and experience them in new ways. Hymn festivals are a great time to sing some of your favorite hymns as well as learn or experience some new ones, too!

At a hymn festival, the congregation is not simply an audience, but the main instrument. We sing together, while the organ provides the sound and support that can make a familiar hymn feel entirely new. Together, the hymns, scripture, prayer, and brief reflections help us discover the stories and theology behind the words we sing.

Our November 1 (All Saints' Day) festival will explore the theme of the "great cloud of witnesses" from Hebrews 12:1. We will reflect on the saints who have gone before us, the faith we share with them, and the song that continues from generation to generation.

This is one of the beautiful things about hymn festivals: we get to experience the Church singing together outside of a Sunday morning worship service. We remember that these hymns do not belong to one person, one congregation, or even one generation. They belong to the whole Church.

So, bring your voice, your memories, and your love of good music. Whether you know every hymn by heart or are discovering some of them for the first time, there is a place for you in the song.

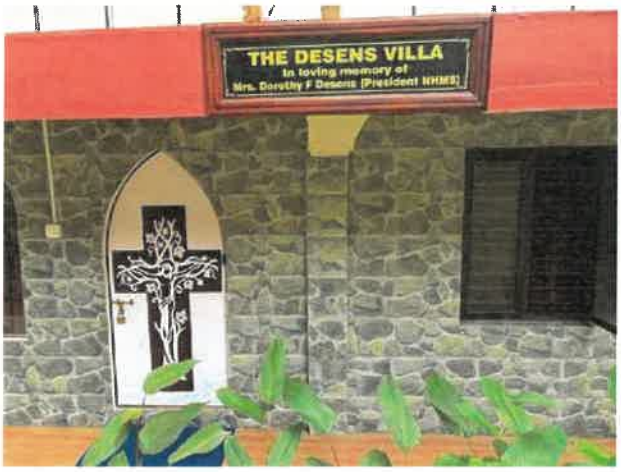
And this is only the beginning! Looking ahead:
December 6 - Harp & Organ Advent Concert
January 17 - Silent Movie Night with the Organ

Come celebrate, listen, sing, and discover what this instrument can do!

Bishara Remembers Dorothy Desens With Villa Dedication

Dorothy Desens, a long-time member of Faith who recently died, was heavily involved in the New Hope Mission Society (NHMS), an organization founded by Faith Lutheran to support mission work at the Bisharah Center in southwest India. She served as president of NHMS for many years and took several trips to India where she taught English to students and helped start a sewing center where young women could learn vocational skills. When the leaders of Bisharah, K.K. Alavi and his son, Abdul Messiah, received news of Dorothy's death, they named a building at the center "The Desens Villa" in memory of Dorothy and in honor of her work there. The pictures below show the new sign on the building, which will temporarily house Muslim converts to Christianity, and the dedication ceremony.

Villa's Dedication Plaque



Villa's Dedication Ceremony



Stewardship Matters

Stewardship
A way of living

At the October church council meeting, the treasurer's report included a stunning note. Through September 30, offerings to the church were $22,000.00 over budget and the church's expenses were $29,000.00 under budget! This financial position at this time of the year is dramatically better than it has been at any time in recent memory. The General Fund is still running a deficit that will need to be made up by year's end, but that, too, is notably smaller than it normally has been at this point. The leaders of Faith **thank God and thank you** for your faithful and generous commitment to the mission and ministry God has entrusted to us here!

Faith Lutheran Church Women

FLCW Annual Meeting

The Faith Lutheran Church Women's group invites all women of Faith to the annual meeting in the Faith Center on Sunday, November 8, at 11:30 a.m. Appetizers and hot apple cider will be served. The meeting will include a time of devotion, election of new officers, and the disbursement of funds. Come help decide which ministries the 2026 funds will support.



FLCW Christmas Luncheon

The Christmas Luncheon, sponsored by the FLCW, will be held in the Faith Center on Saturday, December 12, at 11 a.m. More details will follow in your weekly church bulletin.



Why Our Focus Is on the Great Commission

by Pastor Paul Knudson

In the New Testament, we are called to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. The Great Commission calls us uniquely to answer our Lord's call to make disciples, followers of him, among people of all nations. We begin this witness to our own loved ones, through our congregations, and larger national and international bodies of Christians.

One of the joys of my retirement years here at Faith has been to focus my energies with you to keep this focus on witness central. It's not that we don't also give our time and resources on the Great Commandment, "to love our neighbors near and far," some of whom are hungry, impoverished, and much more. It is just that only the Great Commission is uniquely ours as sons and daughters of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The joys of my focus on this unique witness to the Lord Jesus Christ have brought and continue to bring good news that is beyond natural human expectations. In this land, too often we seem to see all about us a certain embarrassment at the focus of lifting up the name of Jesus Christ as the name that is above every name. We are seeing church bodies seemingly ashamed of this witness or whose actions surely diminish its centrality in our witness.

For me, one of my personal joys continues to be encouraging leaders in distant lands to keep putting their energies on Great Commission witness. The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus has, in just my years of retirement, nearly doubled in size to now over 14,000,000 members. The Lutheran Church in Estonia, which had reduced its membership from 90 percent of the population to 5 percent Christian when occupied by the Soviet Union, has seen growth of more than another 5 percent in just a few years. I, for one, give thanks to you members of FLC, who in your generosity are part of a great support network undergirding these Christian communities in their witness. We encourage you both to pray and financially support these Spirit-led witnesses in their nations.

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 (one or two items per person)
To enter your favorite piece, pick up a registration form in the church office, contact Marsha at marshas@faithlc.com, or call 587-2093.



Celebrating these baptismal birthdays this month!

November 1
Marne Martin
Jacob McLain
Mitchell McLain
Faith Mois
Megan Corrow

November 2
Steve Meier
Jacob Inselmann
Grayson Christie
Chase Pedersen

November 3
Lloyd Hemmah
Melisa Zenner
Kerry Ward
Jace Drape
Samuel Sanders

November 4
DeNeil Thompson
Andrew Knick

November 5
Orv Moe
Joel Schlueter
Julie Wendland
Nathan Johnson
Peyton Schumacher
Ezra Kamrath

November 6
Richard Zuehlke
Curt Westland
Hannah Stromseth
Anna Nellis

November 7
Barbara Degn
Joan Manthei
Mike Blake
Julia Witt
Brendan Wicklund
Brady Andersen
Avery Fasching

November 8
LouAnn Kulberg
Sandra Defries
Tessa Ewert

November 9
Marjorie Brugman
Kristin Gores

November 10
Barbara Christopher
Priscilla Rauch
Doreen Vacek
Jennessa Klatt
Aniston Lauer
Noah Lauer

November 11
Patty Pearce
Travis Bussler
Danielle Gustafson
Anthony Wegner
Ashley Hanson
Rachel Johnson
Logan Piehl
Peyton Betker
Mia Trukki

November 12
Susan McGraw
Belinda Guetter
Steven Sterner
Andrew Hantge
Joshua Lauer
Philip Lauer

November 13
Kevin Hodson
Kelly Rath
Payton Eastman
Erika Mielke
Kayden Beilke
Carter Verhasselt
Elsie McDowell
Fallon Albrecht

November 14
Kathy Fabel
Jeff Krueger
Rebecca Kuras
Hudson Smith

November 15
Shirley Bowen
Susan Peterson
Randall Seifert
Tara Strey
Gene Jutting
Jacob Hanson

November 16
Brady Jensen
Mason Lux

November 17
Charlene Dale
Brock Gasow
Vincent Heilman
Harley Albrecht
Keegan Niebuhr
Grady Yanish

November 18
Morgan Draeger
Soren Andres
William Frank
Grayson Schumaci

November 19
Lynn Lange
Scott Vacek
Kiara Wakefield
Elian Dawkins
Olive Yurek

November 20
Philip Bipes
Kellie Powers
Philip Nelson

November 21
Linda McGraw
Heidi Gasow
Eric Johnson
Lex Ostlie
Nash Boike
Sophie Schwecke

November 22
Ronald Pagel
Jaedyn Buck

November 23
Rachel Kruse
Claire Snell
Rowan Kilian
Hawkins Thode

November 24
Glenna Reiner
Kathrine Jacobsen
Deacon Carter
Marisa Uecker
Kaiser Kellner

November 25
Brenda Tschimperle
Emma Olberg
Kathryn Felber
Olivia Mason

November 26
Myron Oftedahl
Richard Westlund
Brent Reiner
Mikaela Jutting
Derek Knoll

November 27
LoAnn Hanson
Haley Burgart
Ried Boese
Ethan Peterson
Daniel St. Onge
Jonathan St. Onge
Onnika Dale
Cecilia Lang

November 28
Maureen Froemming
Michael Dettman

November 29
Kathleen Silvernale
Derrick Burkstrand
Corey Kurth
Emily Hanson
Avari Piehl
Alayna Dawkins
Grayson Ewert

November 30
Joyce Rust
Jennifer Wicklund
Barb Poshek
Anthony Amundson
Robert Martin
Corina Powell
Alexandra Kottke
Rylee Koehler



See a friend or family members name on this list? Reach out and wish them a Blessed Baptismal Birthday!

Seniors Scene

It's here! The time of the year when our evangelism and missions take the shape of filling Christmas Child boxes. These boxes are used to bring the Name of Jesus to young children in many countries throughout the world. This "Operation Christmas Child" mission is facilitated by Samaritan's Purse. For those who prefer, we'll also have bandage rolling available for your serving opportunity.

Our Seniors Potluck meeting is **Thursday, November 12, 12:00 noon**. We meet early due to Thanksgiving Day being just around the corner.

You can prepare early for this mission opportunity by picking up small items that will easily fit in the boxes whenever you do your regular shopping. They can be hygiene items, small toys, games, booklets, socks and underwear, shirts, shorts, etc. DO NOT include liquids, candy (hard or soft), toothpaste, etc. Samaritan's Purse will send you information on who received your box if you pay a $10.00 postage fee for each box. You may also make this a family event by packing boxes at home, then bringing them to us.

**IF you bring items to the church, see that they get to Pastor Paulus' office. Ask someone in the office.

A big way to help is to get a Thrivent $250 gift card to be used for buying box items. Anyone with a Thrivent policy is eligible. You can either use it to do the shopping yourself, or bring it to Pastor Paulus. He will secure people who like to do the shopping. Let us know if you need help with securing the cards.



Participants at Meghan's Place will be joining us again. They bring a special spirit to our fellowship that inspires us. Thank you, Mona Hjerpe and friends

Any questions? Call or see Pastor Paulus, and thank you!

SEE YOU AT SENIORS' POTLUCK!



Thanksgiving Worship Opportunities

Thanksgiving Eve (Nov. 25)
at 6:30 p.m
Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 26)
at 10 a.m.
Both services will
include Holy Communion.



Thanksgiving Eve Dessert and Pie Social

Wednesday, November 25 in the Faith Center following the 6:30 p.m. worship service. Come for fellowship, coffee and a treat!
**We also are looking for people to sign up to bring a pie or dessert
(Sign-ups located in the church office or outside the sanctuary)

CHILDREN, YOUTH
& family

The Power of a Servant Heart

November is the month when thousands of Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes make their way to processing centers so that they can be prepared to travel by plane, boat, truck, camel, or donkey to children around the world. These children receive these amazing Christmas gifts AND have the opportunity to hear about THE Christmas Child, Jesus.

I love Operation Christmas Child because it is fun to do on your own or with your family. It allows you to put someone else's wants and needs before your own. You also get to be a part of the journey of a child having the opportunity to hear about a God who chooses, loves, and forgives them.

I first heard about Operation Christmas Child when I was a child. My parents had my sister and me each shop for a child. We picked a boy or girl and what age group we would shop for. With that in mind, my mom took us to the store to buy hygiene items, school supplies, clothes, and toys. It was so much fun that we begged to pack more boxes and anticipated this time of year every year. Still to this day, this is one of my favorite things to do.

As I got older, the mission of Operation Christmas Child impacted my faith more and more. This service project showed me the importance of sharing the Good News, the joy that comes with it, and a wonderful example of showing love to God's children.

So whether it is packing Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, packing bags for Common Cup's Weekend Food Program, helping a neighbor move, raking leaves, making hygiene kits, knitting hats, etc., I hope you are able to find something that instills loving servant hearts in your children the way that my parents did for me and my sister.

Laura Stowman, Director of Children and Family Ministry



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, read a Bible story, and worship time.

NEXT DAYS: November 4 & February 3.

If you can 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 5th and 6th 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.

56er's are packing boxes for Operation Christmas Child on November 11.

NO 56ER'S on November 4 & 25.

Sunday School

This month, Sunday School children are learning about people in the Bible who showed courage like David when facing Goliath, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace, and Zacchaeus welcoming Jesus to his table.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL November 29.

Operation Christmas Child

Drop off individual donations like new toys, school supplies, and hygiene items by November 10.

Drop off filled boxes by November 15.

Christmas Programs

Sunday, December 20 in the Sanctuary

Preschool - 1st Grade at 10:10 AM
2nd - 5th Grade at 2 PM

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!

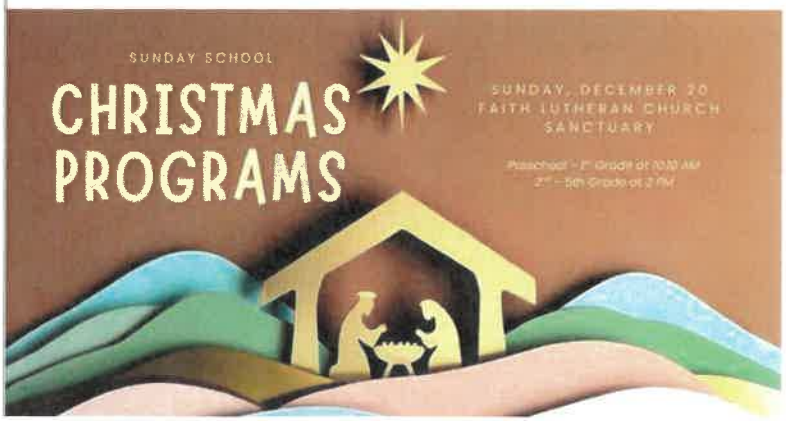
Faith Lutheran serves the high school Free Lunch on Thursday, December 17. If you are able to help from 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 pm. please let Kristen know!

Confirmation Mentor Meeting!

The second confirmation mentor meeting of the program year is on Wednesday, November 4, at 5:30 p.m. As always, if you (mentor and mentee) agree to meet at a different time or place, please let Kristen know in advance.

Mission Trip Meeting!

Students planning to go on the 2027 mission trip (along with their parents) are required to attend a mission trip planning meeting on Wednesday, November 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Faith Center. Mission trip meetings are important and filled with a lot of valuable information and communication about what is needed and when to make this trip a success, so please plan now to attend!



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

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

FBPFA Holden Anderson (Border Patrol at the Northern MN/ND Border - son of Shawn and Beth Anderson)
SMSgt. Jeff Benson (Air Force, Jordan - son-in-law of Delgene and Pat Boll)
Spc. Jones R. Reid (Space Force, Patrick, FL - son of Melissa Straka, grandson of Sherry Schutetz)
LtCdr. Brett Stadsklev (Navy, San Diego, CA - son-in-law of Judy and Tom Felber)

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

Pastors and Staff

Meet the STAFF

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

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

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

YouTube

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
Barb Degn

GlenFields – Glencoe
Barb Helland

Harmony River
Shirley Holtz

Prince of Peace
Maynard Holtz

The Oaks
Helen Kieper
Deloris Olson
Carol Otto
DuWayne Peterson

The Pines
Ron Max
Dave Skaar
Alice Poshek

Woodstone
Cyndy Ollrich

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To support the mission and ministry of Faith Lutheran use this QR code.

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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
Invite all people
Teach Christian truth
Help all who are in need