

*Faith Matters* *September 2024*



# *Giving All That We Have*

## EMBRACING BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

✚ FAITH LUTHERAN FALL THEME 2024



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Hutchinson, MN 55350  
Phone: 320-587-2093  
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LIVE TV BROADCAST  
SUNDAYS AT 8 A.M.  
NUVERA & MEDIACOM  
ON CH. 7

PRE-RECORDED 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



### Pastors' Page

Do you ever feel...

- you have no control over your life?
- that you don't control your schedule; your schedule controls you?
- like your body is against you?
- like you have too much, or not enough, stuff?
- that you don't manage your money, but your money manages you?

These issues all relate to stewardship, which is about managing what we have been given, and stewardship is hard! First, we forget that "the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it" (Psalm 24:1). This causes us to think that everything we have is ours, that we earned it, and that it's ours so we can have our way with it. The second mistake we make is mismanaging everything. Whether it's our time, our talents, our possessions, our money, or a number of other things, we are prone to use it in wrong ways. As a result, we get out of balance, and turn good things into bad things, and bad things into good.

Yet, God entrusts us with his good and gracious gifts, and commissions us to be stewards of it all. Frankly, I would have found someone more qualified, but here we are! These good and gracious things—like ourselves, our time, and our possessions—are given to us to enjoy! And we do! I love being active, playing 4-Square with the youth and taking walks with my wife. I'm thankful for the gift of my body and life! I'm also thankful for the time I have, and that I can spend it with family and friends—and watching Vikings' victories! And I am thankful for the house I live in, the finances I have, the car I drive, and the coffee I can buy! But I also know that part of enjoying these good and gracious things is using them rightly and sharing them generously. Whether that is using my time and strength to serve someone in need, or putting my offering in the plate on Sunday morning, I am learning what it means to be a good steward, and the joy that comes with it.

This fall, I invite you to learn those valuable lessons, and experience those joys with me! We will learn what it means to be "Giving all that we have," as together we embrace Biblical stewardship. We will explore how we can enjoy and steward all sorts of things, including our vocations, our bodies, our marriages and families, our possessions, our money, and even our faith. Our prayer is that the freedom and joy we receive as we learn to be good stewards will overflow in our lives, our congregation, and throughout God's kingdom.

So join us! Rejoice in what we've been given! And rejoice in what we can give!

See you in church!  
Pastor Dave

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## “Faith Seeks Understanding” Continuing Learning Opportunities for Adults Digging Deeper sessions are held between services on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m.

### Disciples of the Cross

Faith Lutheran will focus on Biblical stewardship this fall, which is a call to faithful management of our whole lives as disciples or followers of Jesus. But what does it mean—and *not* mean—to be a faithful Christian disciple? What defines the Christian life? This class will explore Christian discipleship in light of the cross and how Lutheran theology informs it. *Meeting in the Faith Center, starting on September 8.*



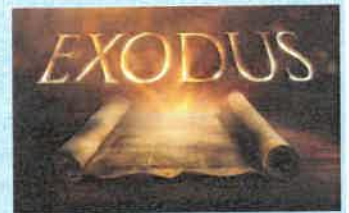
### “How to talk to your kids...”

*Tackling difficult subjects with your kids*

Join Pastor Dave and friends, along with other parents, to discuss how you can approach difficult conversations with your kids. We’ll talk about faith-related discussions, like prayer and worship, about difficult life situations, like cancer and divorce, and about formative topics, like technology and money. We’ll meet in the park on September 8, and then the third-floor conference room the following weeks.

### Monday Morning Bible Study The Story of Israel’s Origins

*The Story of Israel’s Origins*, a study of the book of Exodus, will meet on Mondays from 10:30 a.m. until noon, starting on September 9. This class will build on last year’s study of Genesis, *The Origins Story*, as Exodus relates how God’s saving will led to forming the people of Israel into a nation, a divine process which foreshadowed the Gospel in intriguing ways.



### BY WHAT AUTHORITY? Biblical Authority Today



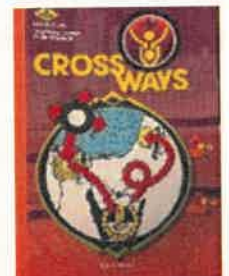
Fall 2024 Faith Groups Series  
Faith Lutheran Church

### Join a Faith Group this Fall!

Faith Groups are a great way to connect with others about faith in a short-term small group experience. This fall’s Faith Group series is “By What Authority?” as we explore how we read and interpret the Bible, and apply that knowledge to a few current topics in the church. Faith Groups will watch a recorded teaching by Pastor Scott or Pastor Dave, and then discuss the lesson with small group questions. Our fall series begins September 22, and there are groups that meet on different days at different times throughout the week, or you can form your own! Talk to Marsha to plug into a Faith Group!

### Crossways Bible Study

A new year-one *Crossways* Bible study will begin in September. *Crossways* is a “big picture” study 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. Want to know your Bible better? *Crossways* is for you!



*Crossways* classes meet for 20 weeks per year for three years.

**Year 1**—The NEW class will begin on **Sunday, September 15 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Faith Center.

**Year 2** class will resume on Monday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Faith Center.

**Year 3** class will not be held this year.



## STUMP THE PASTOR

### Stump the Pastor

*Q: If God is in heaven, why do we look down when we pray?*

A: Christians are not required to adopt any particular posture when we pray. We can pray anytime and anywhere, eyes open or closed, hands folded or not. There are many hints in the Bible that God's people looked up when they prayed, as in Psalm 141:2, "Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice."

In Luke 18, however, Jesus told a parable of two men who "went up to the temple to pray." One was a Pharisee whose prayer was prideful and self-righteous. The parable does not say how he prayed, but Jesus noted that the other man, who was in great spiritual distress, "would not even look up to heaven" as he begged for God's mercy. That wording suggests that the normal posture for prayer was to look up to heaven, but also that looking down while praying signified humility and repentance.

That is the chief reason that Christians traditionally bow our heads when we pray. To look down and avoid making eye contact has long been a way to show humility. As we come before God as sinners in need of mercy, it is fitting to do so humbly and contritely.

There is also a more practical reason for bowing our heads, closing our eyes and folding our hands when we pray. It prevents distractions, helping us to concentrate on the prayers we offer and on God's presence with us. It is by no means a requirement, but just a helpful practice to make time spent in prayer as enriching as possible.

### Stewardship Matters

Stewardship  
*A way of living*

The treasurer's report at last year's annual meeting included an appeal to the family of Faith to change the long-term pattern of opening up an enormous deficit during the year and relying on a flood of giving in December to overcome it. The plea was to spread out the offerings we give more evenly through the year, since the church's expenses are fairly level from month to month.

Unfortunately, this summer has seen that old pattern emerge. Offerings, especially in June, dropped significantly, while expenses are actually a bit higher than usual, not least because three payroll dates will fall in August, rather than the typical two. Please consider carefully how God has blessed you and offer a percentage of that back to the ministry He has given us here at Faith. "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." (II Corinthians 9:8)



### Phase II Finance Team

The Phase II Finance Team is doing a lot of work behind the scenes to discern how best to raise the funds necessary to complete Phase II of Faith's long-term building plan. The team members spent significant time reviewing the last 20 years of capital campaigns at FLC and how they were conducted. They reviewed data about our church, along with public financial data about McLeod County to assist in determining our financial goals.

With that background, the team interviewed two consulting firms potentially to assist us with this process, but decided to move forward using an internal team of Faith Lutheran Church members, rather than hire an external consulting firm. This decision will reduce campaign expenses, but also increase the work-load for P2FT and the church staff. Please help them out by watching for campaign information as it rolls out this fall and responding with your commitment to the effort. Thank You!



## Seniors' Scene by Pr. Paulus Pilgrim

The summer has gone by and we are ready to launch our 2024-2025 Seniors' Potluck meetings and programs. The steering committee met recently and I believe we have a very interesting program year ahead. We try our best to provide programs that make it worth your while, and to expect a meaningful time following your potluck dinner and fellowship so that you can return home feeling warmed and renewed in pursuing our missions as followers of Jesus Christ: to proclaim His Name and His presence in all areas of our life on earth.

Speaking of which... here is one of those areas: Mona Hjerpe will inform us in-depth about "Meghan's Place." In checking out its website, I am convinced you will be surprised to learn what all takes place in the building down by the river, a lot that is so meaningful to those who participate, and to their kin.

I served a parish in Montevideo which included two young persons who were in need of special care due to mental disabilities. I admired the fact that their parents chose the "high road." While they could not deny feelings about wishing their children were not disadvantaged, they did not wallow in those feelings. They chose to do everything they could to provide a quality life for their offspring.

I see the same in Mona and Kurt Hjerpe, and their daughter, Meghan. So we can look forward to a heart-warming experience at our first **Seniors' Potluck** meeting, on **Thursday, September 26**, beginning with potluck dinner at **12:00 noon**.

I really hope to see you there. Bring a friend, perhaps someone new. Let us share together the spirit of Christ Jesus who lives in us.

## News from the Faith Lutheran Church Women

### Augustana District Women of the Word 2024 Fall Gathering

The Augustana District's Women of the Word Fall Gathering is almost here. This event will be held on Saturday, September 21 right here at Faith Lutheran. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with opening worship at 9:00 a.m. The registration fee is just \$25 which includes lunch. The **deadline to register is September 9** and forms (found in the church office) along with payment need to be mailed to the WOW board. The featured guest speaker will be Gretchen Ronnevik. She is a writer and speaker, and is passionate about exploring rich theology rooted in real life. You can check out her book "Ragged" or listen to her podcast "Freely Given."

Invite a friend and register today for this uplifting and inspiring women's event.



**2024 Fall Gathering**  
Augustana District  
**Women of the Word**  
**September 21, 2024**  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 9, 2024



### Mugs and Muffins

Mugs and Muffins is on the calendar for 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 7. Save the date now and watch your bulletin for details.



## Mission Partners in Ethiopia Overwhelmed by Inflation Challenges



One of the mission partners that Faith Lutheran Church supports through the Augustana District is the Tabor Congregation outreach program. This congregation sends out approximately 40 evangelists. In response to our inquiry about the effects of inflation on their evangelists, the leader of their elders indicated that, in 2023, the inflation rate was 29% and now in 2024 another 20% inflation is facing them. Until recently their evangelists were receiving \$125-\$150 per month. Imagine having inflation account for a more than 50% decrease in buying power in a two-year period! The Augustana District, and we as a congregation, surely need to reflect on our response to this concern.

Faith Lutheran supports two evangelists in a congregation led by Pastor Dawit y Wario, who previously served at Tabor. Pastor Dawit noted that his salary, a modest \$320.00 per month, now has a buying power after inflation of approximately \$170. To live in one of the world's most populated cities, Addis Ababa, with that level of income is overwhelming.

We in America are also faced with inflation pressures. It may be good for us, however, to consider what some of our brothers and sisters in Christ are facing as they pour out their lives in witness to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of all.

*Pastor Paul Knudson*

<p><b>FREE community MEAL</b></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Free Community Meal</u></b></p> <p>The September Free Community Meal will be served on September 8, from 4-5:30 p.m. by the Congregational Life Team. They will be serving chicken Faith-doba: chicken and rice with a variety of fixings all in one Delicious bowl. Hope to see you there!</p>
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### **Faith Lutheran Church Support Groups**

We are truly blessed with wonderful pastoral care efforts here at Faith Lutheran! People come together and, by faith and God's grace, they are helped through three support groups offered here at Faith.



#### **1) FAcE Cancer Support Group**

Having cancer can be hard and very challenging. Often you can feel alone or without hope. The FAcE group is here to help. We can, by the grace of God, shed a little light into the darkness, a little knowledge and experience to the unsure, a little love to let you know you are not alone. This group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the upstairs conference room at Faith. Those fighting cancer and their caregivers are welcome to attend. E-mail Jeff at [jeffa@faithlc.com](mailto:jeffa@faithlc.com) with questions or for more information.

#### **2) Caregiver Support Group**

The Caregiver Support Group is currently meeting monthly on the third Thursday of each month at 4 p.m. in the office conference room. This group is for people who are the primary caregiver for a friend or family member. You can contact Pr. Paulus Pilgrim or Marsha Schmit for more information by calling 320-587-2093.

#### **3) Grief Support Group**

This group is offered at different times of the year as the need arises. Please contact Pr. Paulus Pilgrim or Marsha Schmit for information about the next session by calling 320-587-2093.

Faith has a number of books and resources used by the Grief, Caregiver, and FAcE Cancer Support group participants. If you are interested in checking out a group or the material, or if you want to help offset the book costs for others, please reach out to Pastor Paulus Pilgrim, Marsha Schmit, or Jeff Amundson.



**HAWL**  
HUTCHINSON AREA  
WORSHIP LEADERS

# ONE VOICE

## IN LIBRARY SQUARE

**THURSDAY**

**05 SEPT  
2024  
6-7PM**

**FREE EVENT**

A NIGHT OF WORSHIP LED BY HUTCHINSON  
AREA WORSHIP LEADERS FROM:  
CHRIST THE KING    CROSSPOINT    FAITH LUTHERAN  
HUNTERS RIDGE    HUTCH EV FREE    OAK HEIGHTS  
RIVER OF HOPE & KIRK HENDRICKSON

Proceeds from event  
donations will go towards  
Common Cup Ministries



### Fall Music Ministries

It's not too late to register yourself or your child for one of the music ministries at Faith for this upcoming program year. Ringers of Faith meets on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m., Kids' Music Club meets on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m., and Faith Singers meets on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Sign up via this QR code today!



### Program Year Sunday Morning Schedule

**8:00 a.m. First Word Service**

**9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation Class**

**9:15 a.m. Digging Deeper classes and B23 (third Sunday of each month)**

**10:10 a.m. Simultaneous Sanctuary and Foundation Services**

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first and second Sunday of each month in the two services held in the sanctuary and in the Foundation service on the third and fourth Sundays of each month.

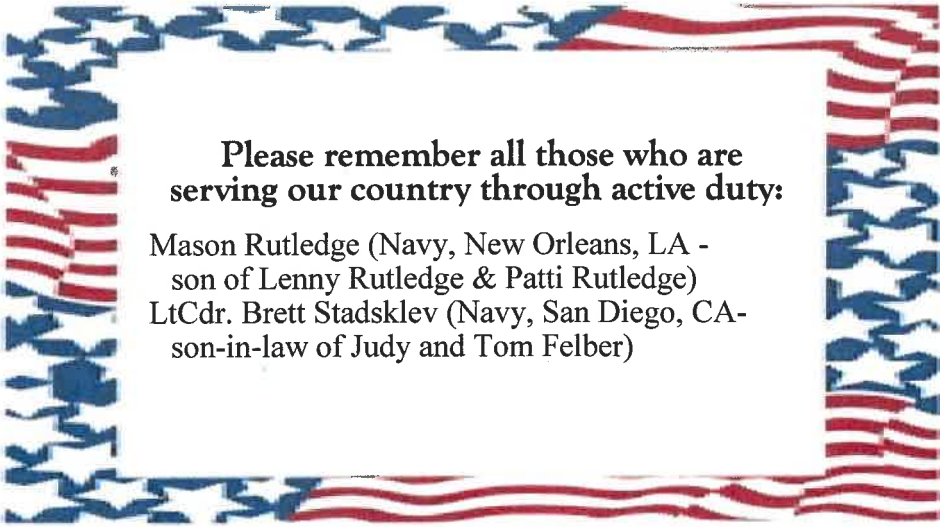
### **Matins** *Morning Prayer*



### Morning Mattins and Morning Prayer

What are some ways that you can participate in some daily devotional time? You are encouraged to begin your Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings with a brief 10-15 minute time of worship beginning around 9 a.m. The FLC staff take turns leading a brief devotional time on these three days a week. Another option for weekly devotional time is Wednesday mornings at 7 a.m. when Pastors Scott and Dave take turns leading a half-hour of prayer time. You can stop into the sanctuary or join via Facebook live to participate in either of these worship opportunities.

# Please Remember in Prayer



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

Mason Rutledge (Navy, New Orleans, LA - son of Lenny Rutledge & Patti Rutledge)  
 LtCdr. Brett Stadskev (Navy, San Diego, CA - son-in-law of Judy and Tom Felber)



**Remember our Faith members in nursing homes and health care centers:**

## Faith Lutheran Church

### INFORMATION & STAFF DIRECTORY

335 Main St. S. 320-587-2093 FaithLC.com

#### Pastors

<b>Scott Grorud</b>	320-587-0171 (home)	scottg@faithlc.com
<b>Dave Wollan</b>	320-583-2385 (cell)	davidw@faithlc.com
<b>Paul Knudson, Missions Ministry</b>	320-587-2227 (home)	paulk@faithlc.com
<b>Paulus Pilgrim, Visitation</b>	320-234-9753 (home)	paulusp@faithlc.com

#### Staff

<b>Jeff Amundson, Pastoral Associate</b>	320-587-2093 (office)	jeffa@faithlc.com
<b>Marsha Schmit, Director of Pastoral Care &amp; Evangelism</b>		marshas@faithlc.com
<b>Austin Willhite, Director of Music &amp; Worship</b>		austinw@faithlc.com
<b>Kristen Durst, Director of Youth &amp; Family Ministry</b>		kristenm@faithlc.com
<b>Laura Stowman, Director of Children &amp; Family Ministry</b>		lauras@faithlc.com
<b>Wendy Magruder, Administrative Assistant</b>		wendym@faithlc.com
<b>Sara Wegner, Finance Coordinator</b>		finco@faithlc.com
<b>Owen Weikle, Custodial Services Coordinator</b>		320-587-2093

#### Buffalo Lake Nursing Home

Kathy Fabel

#### Cedar Crest - Silver Lake

Patricia Lambert

#### Cokato Nursing Home

Clara Betker

#### Oaks

Phyllis Blum

Alice Poshek

#### Pines

Elaine Blade

Maynard and Shirley Holtz

Frances Olson

#### Woodstone

Cyndy Ollrich

# Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Dates



## Sunday School

**Starts September 8, from 9-10 a.m.**

For children 3-years-old (BEFORE September 1) through 6<sup>th</sup>-grade.

Please register now on the church website.

## Fall Kickoff

On September 8 at 9 a.m. in Library Square.

This is the first day of Sunday School and the last day of outdoor worship.

All 3-year-old children will receive a Beginner's Bible during the 10:10 a.m. worship service.

## B23 (Birth-To-Three)

This program is for the parents of children up to 3-years-old. This group meets the third Sunday of each month during the school year in the nursery for small group discussions geared towards Christian parenting. Beginning September 15, from 9:15 - 9:50 a.m.

## 56er's

For students in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Wednesdays, after school - 5 p.m., starting September 11. We have a snack, a lesson, and play games. This ministry is open to everyone, so the kids can bring their friends. Sign up on the church website.

## NEW! Aftershock (Early Release Ministry)

This NEW ministry is for children in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. It will be held on early release Wednesdays, after school - 4:30 p.m. We will have a snack, Bible story time, crafts, and games. Register on the church website. Space will be limited.



## Confirmation Parent Meeting

A meeting for parents and confirmation students in 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be held on Wednesday, September 4, at 5:30 p.m. Meet in the Faith Center.

Wednesday afternoon confirmation classes for 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade students will begin on September 11. Students can come for hang time right after school, class starts at 3:45 p.m. and will end at 5:30 p.m.

Confirmation Sunday School will begin on September 15, at 9:10 a.m. in the youth space.

## FLY Night

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

## Ansgar Community (Young Adult Community)

This group of college and young adults will meet on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. at the Ansgar House. Contact Kristen with any questions.



**Consider volunteering! We are looking for people to lead our children and youth.**

Contact Laura Stowman if you can serve as a Sunday School teacher, Sprouts Leader, Faith Seeds Leader, Aftershock

helper, or Christmas Program team member. Contact Kristen if you can serve as a Confirmation guide or mentor, or a High School Free Lunch helper.

## Questions?

If you have questions about programs for children birth through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, please contact Laura Stowman, Director of Children and Family Ministry.

If you have questions about programs for 7<sup>th</sup> grade through young adult, please contact Kristen Durst, Director of Youth and Family Ministry.

**320-587-2093**



## Mission Trip Recap

As the mission trip craziness has officially wound down and we look into fall, I wanted to share about our trip to Bayou La Batre, Alabama! We took six vans, one trailer, 57 youth, and 11 adult leaders all the way down to the Gulf of Mexico, and we were able to experience the Lord's provision and joy consistently. We ask the kids always to be on the lookout for Jesus and ask them to share in whom or what they saw Him in that day. It never ceases to amaze me how many places they see Jesus! The list is too long for me even to attempt sharing, but I want to name a few places I saw Jesus in Alabama.

1. I consistently saw Jesus in our youth and leaders.

Whether it was helping with meal prep, serving whole heartedly in the humid hundred-degree heat, in worship, in random acts of kindness, and so much more. This family is one that I am extremely blessed to know.

2. Monday night, after taking a trek to Dauphin Island, we were blessed to be able to go into the water as riptides and storms had been wreaking havoc on the island all summer. This was the first time that they had a green flag flying on the island. The Lord blessed us as we took Kylie into the water to be baptized beneath the waves. Her testimony is moving and it was an amazing moment to be a part of.

3. The community of Bayou La Batre is one where I saw Jesus beautifully. They welcomed us with deep hospitality and love. They poured into us energy, good food, care, and so much more. What a wonderful community to serve in on this trip.



These are just a few of my Jesus sightings. There are so many more. The last one I will share is that I saw and see Jesus in our congregation as you all have faithfully supported these trips from start to finish. Thank you for loving us. **We can't wait for our next mission trip to Indianapolis, Indiana in 2025!**

Kristen Durst, Director of Youth and Family Ministries  
Laura Stowman, Director of Children & Family Ministries

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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**