

Faith Matters

February 2025

We love
BECAUSE
He first
LOVED US



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Pastors' Page

When this article is published, the Leap of Faith capital campaign will be half over. Have you attended a Leap of Faith gathering yet? If not, there are 23 different times between February 8 and 16 that you can attend. Register on-line at signupgenius.com/go/faithlc or call the church to register. We are asking each member of the family of Faith to attend *one* gathering to learn more about the need for Phase II of our building project, how Leap of Faith will work and the part that each of us can play in it. Also, watch for a special Leap of Faith devotional book written by members of Faith Lutheran to be used throughout February.

If you have already attended a gathering, this will be a reminder; if not, here's a preview. Two vital convictions lie behind the Leap of Faith capital campaign and the Phase II building project. The first is that this project is needed, not only to accommodate future growth, but also to meet the present needs of Faith's ministry. The Holy Spirit has been at work powerfully in our congregation! Our ministries are flourishing and attendance at worship services is growing. The grace and providence of God is what has brought us to this point.

The other conviction arises from the first and that is that we can meet the goals of Leap of Faith only as the Holy Spirit inspires each of us to leap out in faith. A *strong supporter* of the campaign recently said, "There is nothing rational about this effort." That's true. It's not terribly practical, not carefully prudent and certainly not cautious. It's a bold, even risky act of faith in response to God's promises and the evidence of how He is at work in our midst. But, as Jesus himself promised in the theme verse of the Leap of Faith campaign, "All things can be done for the one who believes." (Mark 9:23)

The members of Faith Lutheran who are leading the Leap of Faith campaign are confident that it is possible to raise \$7-\$10 million dollars, because God has blessed us so generously. That will only happen, however, if all of Faith's members embrace this opportunity as a call from the Holy Spirit to look at our finances in light of God's promises, to give sacrificially, and to trust that, even if we give more generously than we might ever have thought possible, God will continue to provide all that we need for life and health.

On *Leap Day*, Sunday, February 23, members of Faith are asked to return three-year pledge cards for the Leap of Faith campaign. Pledges are *statements of intent*, not legal contracts. Should a change in your situation prevent you from fulfilling the pledge, that is not a problem. But please return a pledge card—even if you decide to give nothing!—



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



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because the church can know how to proceed only if we have a reliable sense of how much might be received over the next three years. The next week, March 3, will be *Celebration Sunday* when we will report the response to Leap of Faith and what next steps that result will suggest. Until then, please pray diligently for God to guide your decision and inspire your commitment to Leap of Faith.

Hebrews 11:1 declares that “faith is the *assurance* of things *hoped* for, the *conviction* of things *not* seen.” Those two contradictory definitions powerfully describe what it means to take a leap of faith—whether it’s to put our faith in Christ in the first place or it’s to give sacrificially to the Leap of Faith capital campaign. It is not a sure bet, but a matter of trust. Yet, by the gift of faith, the Holy Spirit does *assure* us that our hope in Christ is well-founded and *convinces* us that what we cannot see is nevertheless completely true and utterly reliable.

So, trusting in the crucified and risen Christ, let’s come together by February 23 and respond to the powerful work God is doing at Faith Lutheran Church. Together, let’s take a Leap of Faith!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott Grorud



Leap of Faith Gatherings

Saturday, February 1

(Nursery Provided)
9:30 a.m., and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, February 2

9:15 a.m. (Digging Deeper)
11:30 a.m., 4 p.m., and 6 p.m.

Saturday, February 8

(Nursery Provided)
10:30 a.m.

Sunday, February 9

9:15 a.m. (Digging Deeper)

Monday, February 10

9:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m.,
4:00 p.m., and 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 11

7:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.,
4:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 12

7:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m.,
and 7:30 p.m. (FLY)

Thursday, February 13

8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m.,
4:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.

Friday, February 14

10:30 a.m.

Saturday, February 15

(Nursery Provided)
9:30 a.m., and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, February 16

9:00 a.m. (Digging Deeper)
11:30 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.

Register on-line at
signupgenius.com/go/faithlc
or call the church office at
320-587-2093 to register.



“Faith Seeks Understanding”

Continuing Learning Opportunities for Adults

Digging Deeper sessions are held between services on Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

Leapers of Faith: Commemorating Some Unsung Saints

St. Valentine’s Day and St. Patrick’s Day are coming soon, but there are many other saints—official or not—who are honored with special days on the church calendar. This Digging Deeper will focus on several of these faithful servants whose commemoration days fall in this time of year. Meeting in the sanctuary on Feb. 2, 9 and 16, and in the Faith Center on Feb. 23 and March 2.

Feb. 2—St. Ansgar, Apostle to the North

Feb. 9—Rasmus Jensen, First Lutheran Pastor in North America

Feb 16—St. Valentine and St. Patrick, Saints of Love and Snakes

Feb 23—St. Mathias, The Substitute

March 2—John and Charles Wesley, Preachers to the People

STUMP THE PASTOR

Stump the Pastor

Q: If God is all-powerful, why didn't He just wipe out sin and evil, instead of letting it continue?

A: Simply eliminating sin might appear to be straightforward and efficient, but the Bible shows that it is not, for two reasons. The first is that sin runs so deep in people and all creation that it could be removed only by destroying the world and starting over. The other is that God is too invested in creation to do that. As John 3:16 proclaims, "God so loved *the world* that He sent His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may *not* perish but may have eternal life."

Genesis 6 provides a marvelous example of God's fierce condemnation of sin weighed against His determination to redeem creation. Genesis 6:6-7 tragically reports, "The LORD was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the LORD said, 'I will blot out from the earth the human beings I have created...for I am sorry that I have made them.'" But the *very next verse* says, "But Noah found favor in the sight of the LORD." God was so angry at sin and its destructive effects that He sent the great flood to destroy the earth, but at the exact same time, God loved Noah and his family so profoundly that He allowed him and his family to survive the flood on the ark.

Tragically, Noah barely got off the ark before human sin picked right up where it had left off. Yet, God promised never again to destroy creation by a flood and instead initiated the plan of salvation that began with the call to Abraham and culminated in Jesus' death on the cross. There was nothing straightforward or efficient about that new plan, but its success was assured when Jesus rose from the dead and it will be consummated at the Last Day when he returns in glory.



Stewardship Matters

Once again, the members of Faith Lutheran showed astounding generosity and commitment at the end of 2024. In the month of December alone, just over \$200,000.00 in offerings were given to the General Fund! Moreover, the amount received almost exactly matched what the church needed to break even on the year. The Lord does indeed work in surprising and gracious ways!

Thank you all!

For as amazing and generous as that outcome was, however, it also raises a concern. Relying on a flood of year-end giving is a long-standing practice at Faith, but it is becoming a bit more pronounced each year. In 2024, fully 22% of all 2024 offerings to the General Fund were given *in December*. That puts the church in a really vulnerable position. If one "black-swan" event were to occur in a future December, it could cause severe financial trouble for the church.

A year ago, the family of Faith was urged to move some of those late gifts earlier in the year to avoid opening such a big deficit in the General Fund. That didn't happen in 2024. Could we take on that challenge this year and avoid the December panic? What a joy it would be to go through Advent with a lot less worry about Faith covering its ministry expenses for the year. That would make Christmas doubly merry!



Have you given up your landline?

We have found that we have some "out of service" phone numbers in the church records. If you have eliminated your landline, please update your information with the office by filling out an "Update Your Information" card in the pews, e-mailing office@faithlc.com, or by calling the office at 320-587-2093.

Thank you for updating your information!

Missions

Did you know that Faith Lutheran Church tithes from the general offerings received each year? This year we will use this space in *Faith Matters* to share some of the local and global missions that Faith Lutheran supports through these tithes.



Local Mission Highlights:

There are four ways that FLC supports hunger relief in McLeod County.

- 1) The Blessing Box on the SE corner of the church building. This box is stocked regularly with non-perishable food items that those in need can pickup as they walk by. Donations of food are accepted in the church office and taken outside as needed.
- 2) The monthly Free Community Meals. These meals are served the second Sunday of most months by members of Faith for members of the church and the community.
- 3) The McLeod County Food Shelf is supported through the spring food drive (coming up soon), the October Trick-or-Treat food collection night, and food that is dropped off in the church office and designated for the food shelf.
- 4) The Common Cup weekly backpack program. Through this program bags are packed with food items for children in low-income situations to take home on Fridays to eat throughout the weekend. Each church that participates is asked to help supply a different food item, Faith collects individual fruit and applesauce cups for this program. These donations can be dropped off in the church office anytime.

Global Mission Highlight:

The New Hope Mission Society was formed in 2002 to bring the love of Jesus Christ to the Muslim World after a missionary to India spoke at Faith. Support goes to the Bishara Mission, Shaliach Bible school, Bishara Sewing Project, Otten English School and more. Many of you have met K.K. Alavi and his son Abdul Messiah when they have been in the United States. Today prayers are being asked for:

- * Pastor K.K. Alavi, the long-time leader of the Bishara Center in southeast India. K.K. recently had a surgical procedure to remove a cancerous growth on his liver. The procedure was successful, but he is facing serious health issues now. His physical and emotional well being are weighing heavy on him and he is very weak.
- * Dr. Abdul Messiah, K.K.'s son and administrator of the mission New Hope Mission Society supports, was ordained on January 26. This is the end of a long journey, and he expresses his thanks for our support of his leadership of the mission.

Faith Lutheran Church Support Groups

The various support groups at Faith Lutheran are ready to help whether you are grieving, facing cancer, challenged by illness, or feeling alone. Maybe you want to enter the mission field by helping on these teams or need the help yourself. The love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is there for all of us to share. Contact the pastoral care team by calling 320-587-2093 for more information or to join one of the following groups:

- 1) Grief Support Group (Dates vary)
- 2) FACe Cancer Support Group (Second and fourth Thursday of each month at 10 a.m.)
- 3) Caregiver Support Group (Third Thursday of each month at 4 p.m.)



FEBRUARY



Seniors' Scene by Pr. Paulus Pilgrim

Brrrrrrrrrrrr! As I write this it is cold—below or right around zero. When I called a member to schedule a visit, he wondered if I was really out making visits. After registering our dislike for frigid temps, we reminded ourselves that this is Minnesota and we can expect cold temperatures here, before welcoming the more soothing spring weather later. Meanwhile, we look for inside things to warm our spirits.

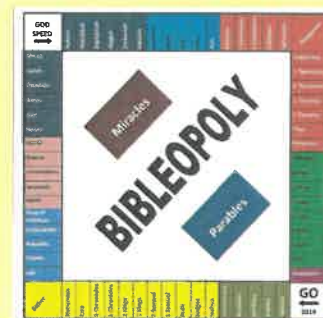
Speaking of which, I have a warm, indoor event for you. **Seniors' Potluck** meets this month on **Thursday, February 27**, beginning at **12:00 noon** with our famous potluck dinner. Following the dinner and fellowship, we will hear from Valerie Mackenthun, leader of the Hutchinson Chamber of Commerce. Valerie is fairly new in her position but also very excited about the present and future of Hutchinson. Valerie and her family are also members of Faith Lutheran, so many of you know her personally.

Whether zero or above outside, our time together will warm your hearts. Plan to attend Seniors' Potluck, on Thursday, February 27 at 12:00 p.m. Bring someone new with you. **"See you at the Seniors' Potluck!"**

The Bibleopoly Challenge Is Back!

How is the first month of reading going for you? Do you have questions about what you have read? Do you find it hard to make time everyday to read? Are you reading as a family? Are your kids asking questions? Have you been able to get a sticker or two on the Bibleopoly Board?

We would love for you to share your questions, struggles and joys of reading. You can post your thoughts and questions on our Facebook Page, e-mail them to scottg@faithlc.com, davidw@faithlc.com, or bring them into the office anytime.



Fun Fact: Because of our social media presence, last time we participated in Bibleopoly we had folks from around Minnesota, and even a few other states, join the Bibleopoly Challenge. Feel free to share the Bibleopoly Challenge with your friends and family, and, it's not too late for YOU to accept the challenge!



SNOW BIRDS

For those of you who head south for the winter, this is your reminder to keep looped in with all that is happening at Faith Lutheran while you are gone. You can stay "in the know" by **making sure the church has your temporary address** so we can send newsletters, envelopes, and tax statements to you. If you would prefer to get your newsletters by e-mail, we can do that, too. Also, if you are on **Facebook**, make sure to **follow FaithLutheranHutchinson**, you can **watch the services via the YouTube Page at faithlchutch**, and of course, you can always **check on the latest news by going to the website at Faithlc.com**.

Finally, if you don't want giving envelopes sent to your temporary address, let the office know and those mailings can be stopped. If you prefer, you can still give while away by going to the website Faithlc.com/Give-2/ or using this QR Code.





Ash Wednesday and Lent Schedule

Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return. Genesis 3:19

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5, 2025. Faith Lutheran will have two services with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at 12 noon and 6:30 p.m.

Mid-week Lenten services will continue for the following five weeks on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. (Note for confirmation students: You will meet with your small groups after each week's Lenten service.)

Holy Week will follow, beginning with Palm Sunday on April 13, Maundy Thursday (including first communion for sixth-grade students) on April 17, Good Friday on April 18, and Easter on April 20. Please put these dates on your calendars now so that you and your family are available to participate in these very important and special services.



Handel's

MESSIAH

Sunday | 05.04.25 | 3 p.m.

PERFORMED AT CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONCERT PRESENTED BY CHRIST THE KING
AND FAITH LUTHERAN CHORAL ENSEMBLES



Messiah 2025

Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

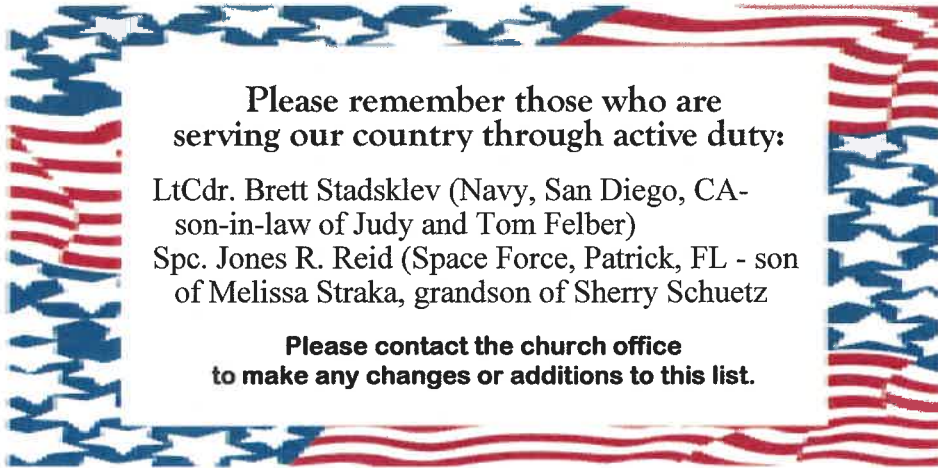
Join us in participating in the fourth annual Handel's *Messiah* concert!

Chorus rehearsals will be held at Faith Lutheran Church, from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m., on Wednesday evenings beginning February 12.

Instrumental music is available for any strings or wind players who are interested in participating in the orchestra.

A full rehearsal calendar and details of the concert can be found at faithlc.com under "Music Ministry" or by contacting the director, Austin Willhite, at austinw@faithlc.com.

Please Remember in Prayer



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

LtCdr. Brett Stadskev (Navy, San Diego, CA - son-in-law of Judy and Tom Felber)
 Spc. Jones R. Reid (Space Force, Patrick, FL - son of Melissa Straka, grandson of Sherry Schuetz)

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



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

Scott Grorud	320-587-0171 (home)	scottg@faithlc.com
Dave Wollan	320-583-2385 (cell)	davidw@faithlc.com
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Paulus Pilgrim, Visitation	320-234-9753 (home)	paulusp@faithlc.com

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Kristen Durst, Director of Youth & Family Ministry		kristenm@faithlc.com
Laura Stowman, Director of Children & Family Ministry		lauras@faithlc.com
Wendy Magruder, Administrative Assistant		wendym@faithlc.com
Sara Wegner, Finance Coordinator		finco@faithlc.com
Owen Weikle, Custodial Services Coordinator		

320-587-2093

Buffalo Lake Nursing Home

Kathy Fabel

Cedar Crest – Silver Lake

Patricia Lambert

Cokato Nursing Home

Clara Betker

Harmony River

Wilbur Johnson

DuWayne Peterson

Oaks

Phyllis Blum

Caroline Ficker

Alice Poshek

Pines

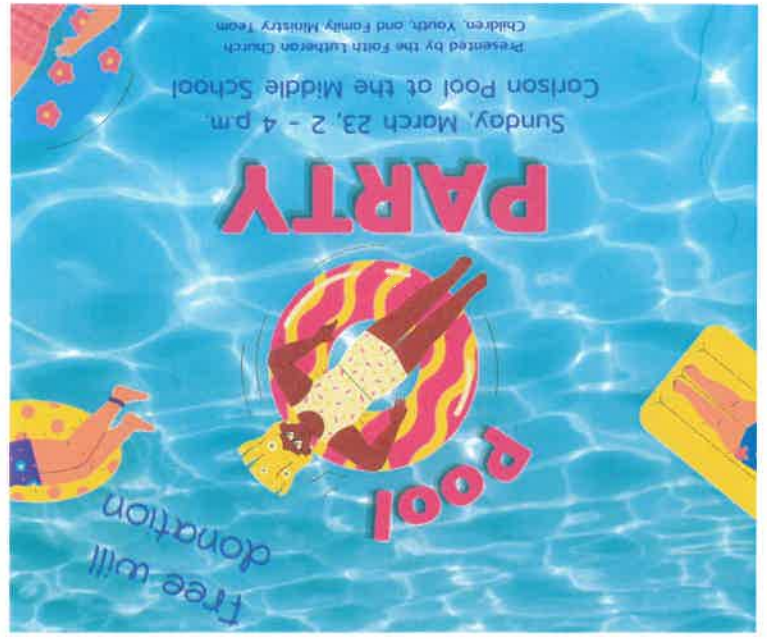
Elaine Blade

Maynard and Shirley Holtz

Frances Olson

Woodstone

Cyndy Ollrich



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

- Congratulations for being chosen to be a baptismal sponsor! You were most likely chosen because the baptized or the parents of the baptized admired your faith and knew you would be actively involved in that person's life. The day comes when you witness the baptism of your godchild and declare in front of the congregation that you promise to support the parents of the baptized as they faithfully bring them to worship, and teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. And as the child grows in years, the parents will place in its hands the Bible and provide for instruction in the Christian faith. You go sit back down. The worship service later concludes. Now what?
- First and foremost, pray for your godchild regularly. Mark the anniversary of his baptism and make it a habit to especially pray for him on that day. Pray for his faith and how the Holy Spirit is working in his life.
- Ask your godchild about what she is learning in Sunday school, confirmation, youth group or at church. As your godchild gets older, ask her deeper questions about her faith and encourage her.
- Check in with the parents. See how often they get to worship as a family and attend Sunday School.
- Encourage and support godchildren as they go on mission trips, join Bible studies, attend Bible camp, or Vacation Bible School.
- Give meaningful gifts. You can give age-appropriate Bibles, Bible story books, devotionals, journals, tickets to a concert of a Christian artist, a cross necklace, or each Christmas provide a new piece for a nativity scene.
- Lastly, continue to be a good example of what it looks like to live a Christian life.

I Am a Baptismal Sponsor: Now What?



Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Dates



Sunday School

This month we are learning about the parable of the lost son, the parable of the lost sheep, and the Fruits of the Spirit. Then the students will learn about parts of Luther's Small Catechism. The preschoolers will be getting to know Jesus, Kindergarten and 1st graders will learn about baptism, 2nd and 3rd graders will learn about the Lord's Prayer, and the 4th and 5th graders will learn about confession.

First Communion Instruction

The 6th-grade students will start their first communion instruction on **February 23** during Sunday School. This is a time for students to understand what communion is before receiving their first communion on Maundy Thursday.

B23

B23 is a small group time during the education hour for parents with children under the age of three.

Next B23 is February 16.

56er's

At 56er's, we play games, have a snack, and see what the Bible says about a variety of questions. This month, we are covering the questions, "Does God Expect Me to Hang Out With Weird People?" "How Could a Loving God Let People Go to Hell?" and "What Does the Bible Say About What I Look at Online?" **No 56er's on February 5 and March 12.**



Sprouts

Sign up to help with Sprouts via this QR code! This is a time when preschool—1st graders leave during the sermon at the Foundation worship service for an age-appropriate lesson.



Confirmation

This school year, our confirmation students are learning about the Bible and are currently in the Old Testament. Confirmation meets on Wednesdays from 3:45 p.m.—5:30 p.m. with hang time right before.

Mentor Meeting—Wednesday, February 5, 2025

FLY Night

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

AP Theo

Sophomores—Seniors meet on Tuesday mornings from 6 –7 a.m. at Caribou to discuss what they are learning from their book study on *The Reason for God* by Tim Keller.

Sign Up for the Mission Trip!

We are going to Indianapolis, Indiana, July 11—19, 2025. Registration information can be found on the Faith Lutheran Youth Instagram page.

Free Lunch

Each week, high school students have the opportunity to go to Crosspoint Church for a free meal and hear a message by a local youth director or pastor. The meals are prepped and served by churches in town.

Please mark your calendar for **February 6** and **April 10** if you are able to help serve the meal.

Questions? Contact us!

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

Faith Lutheran Church
335 Main Street South
Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350

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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:

- F**OLLOW JESUS
- A**NNOUNCE THE GOSPEL
- I**NVITE ALL PEOPLE
- T**EACH CHRISTIAN TRUTH
- H**ELP ALL WHO ARE IN NEED