

Faith Lutheran Church

The Parish News

This Month's Message from Pastor Paul Dunbar

Did any of you grow up in a church where the doors were left intentionally unlocked? I know both urban and rural congregations which made that their policy. I'd love to do a little study sometime, delve into the history of that practice, to see how far back and how widespread the custom was and is. I remember a time when we staff here at Faith would unlock all the doors in the morning, Monday through Friday, and only lock them again at the end of the day. We didn't want the possibility or even the suggestion that God's house was unavailable to someone in need.

Over the years, we had some incidents where people – usually bored or curious neighborhood kids and teenagers, out of school for the summer, looking for some adventure and maybe light mischief – came in and wandered through the building without our knowing, until we were startled by them somewhere in the basement. We'd have a gentle but direct conversation with them, ask what they were doing, see if they needed to use the restroom or drinking fountain, show them our sanctuary, ask if they had a church home, and generally try to make a friend out of them. I like to think we planted some seeds in the process. Unfortunately (and unrelated to the harmless youngsters and their curiosity,) there were also over the years a couple incidents of break-ins to vehicles in our lot, and a bigger break-in to the building itself a few years back.

Fast-forward to today where our general rule is to have only the west/main doors open on weekdays. It helps us direct visitors and strangers to the office, and allows us to know who is coming and going. I really hope it's not an inconvenience to you, or worse yet, a deterrent to someone who may have finally mustered the courage to come to this house of prayer and refuge for sinners, maybe for the first time in their life, only to tug at a locked door, lose their nerve, and head home. I'm not suggesting a change of policy. We do, after all, live "in the world." But part of me still wishes, even if it feels a bit naive or idealistic, that we could have the church be a place with perpetually open doors.

Regardless, it's good to remember that in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we have a God who is perpetually, continuously available. No matter the day, the hour, the person, the need. Hymn #915 in our Lutheran Service Book has grown to become one of my favorites in all hymnody. Verse two says, "Today your gate is open, and all who enter in will find a Father's welcome, and pardon for their sin." Verse three says, "No question will be asked us how often we have come; although we oft have wandered, it is our Father's home." The fourth and final verse perhaps says it best: "O all embracing mercy, O ever-open Door, what should we do without You when heart and eye run o'er? When all things seem against us to drive us to despair, we know one gate is open, one ear will hear our prayer." Amen to that truth and promise!

It's worth adding that I have, I know, in my years as pastor, written and spoken the words, "My door is always open." While it's true that I leave my office door propped open, pretty much 24/7, with a carved wooden bird doorstop, (a gift from Cindy O'Donnell before her retirement,) I admit that I'm not ALWAYS in my office. Sometimes you've come by to visit, hoping to talk, only to learn that I'm out on some personal or work errand. You've called and I've been on the line with someone else. I recently had someone try to leave me a message in my voicemail, only to find my mailbox full (I've since cleared it out!) But I do want to invite you again, if you want to talk, please call or email or text me, and we'll set something up. I love you and you are important to me.

My office number is (402) 462-5044. My email is pastorpaul@afamilyoffaith.com. And the number for my cell phone, which I have on me most of the time, is (402) 984-5843. I'm not omnipresent, still just uni-present, and I do try to honor times of Sabbath rest, but I'll work hard to be available to you.

In the name of Jesus, our Ever-Open Door,
Pastor Paul

Contact us at:

402-462-5044

Visit us at:

AFamilyofFaith.com

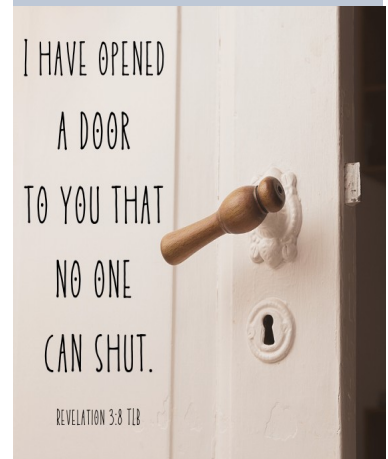
For your calendars:

July 4—Office closed

July 9—10:30 service XYF
Commissioning for the
Urban Plunge Service Trip

July 16—10:30 service Soul
Patrol Commissioning for
South Dakota Service Trip

July 23—11:45 Quarterly
voters' meeting



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Prayers

Celebrations

We celebrate baby girls born to:

- Bryson & Morgan Henkel
- Schyler & Jamie Bohlen
- Isaac & Tessa Mertens
- Aaron & Courtney Mangels

We celebrate the baptisms of:

- Edward Jack Gloystein
- Miley Marie Waite
- Emma Violet Mangels
- Jason Jordan
- Echo Ann Jordan
- Jay Eugene Jordan
- Gracyn Elise Bohlen

Health & Healing

Recently included in our prayers:

Georgia Fahrenholtz, Phil Fisher, Becky Hamik, Kaitlyn Hesman, Jim Hodson, Bob Johnson, Carter Johnson, Carol Krause, Finley Mertens, Steve Ocker, Carolyn Prauner, Victoria Vinzant, and Eric Young.

We continue our prayers for:

Vicki Fisher, Harvey Goings, Justys Hurt, Julie Kempf, Sheila Lightner, Bob Matthies, Andrea Niemann, Gail Shively, Melissa Svoboda, Chase Van Scyoc, and Paul Wathen.

Sympathy

We pray for all those who mourn the loss of loved ones, especially:

- The families of Pam Baker, Jerry Kehn, and Milton Lisius
- Betty Kort at the death of her husband, Ron
- Peg Scott at the death of her husband, Rod
- The Hemberger family at the death of Roger and Diane's son, Jared
- Sherrill Crone at the death of her son, Craig
- Doll Wiegel and Lindsay Frey at the death of Doll's mother
- Lori Hodson at the death of her mother
- Vickie, Sean, Jeremy, and Ryan Gerloff and Mecala Poppe at the death of Vickie's stepfather.
- Vic Ockinga and Kayin Lovgren at the death of Vic's sister
- Phil & Brenda Herrmann at the death of their niece



TheoPub - July 6, 6:30pm at Steeple Brewing.

All men (21 & over) are invited to join others for informal Bible Study and Christian fellowship.

Priscilla Circle - July 11, 1:00pm. All women are welcome to join with us for this month's meeting of Priscilla Circle.

Book Club - July 13, 7:00pm at Dally's on South Street. We'll be discussing - *A Perfect Evil* by Alex Kava. If you'd like to join the group, contact Deanna Dirks for more information.

Bible Study for Women - July 27, 6:30pm at Rivals. All women (21 & over) are invited to join together for a time of fellowship and informal Bible Study.

Coming Next Month

Women's Retreat

August 5

9:00am—12:30pm

Cost: \$20



The 2023 Women's Retreat, "Stepping Out with Jesus", is coming to you on August 5, 2023 from 9:00 am- 12:30 pm. Our theme is based around Colossians 2:6, "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him."

We all have endless to-do lists and never-ending tasks. Sometimes they are literal miles- stretch after stretch of road that you must travel every day to get things done. God teaches us that the first thing on our to-do list has already been done by Him when He took our place on the cross. Walking with Jesus is all we need, He is the perfect travel companion. This gives a new approach to our daily living. Please RSVP to DCE Leah by July 30th.

Community News

Food Pantry Ministry

Faith Lutheran Church has donated **800 pounds** of shelf-stable food to the Hastings Food Pantry so far this year. Please consider giving as you are able. Collection carts are located at the back of the sanctuary and under the coat rack at the west entrance.



Thank You

There are simply no words that can fully express our thanks for the love, support and sympathy you have extended to our family during this hard time. It means everything to know that we have such wonderful friends like you. God's blessings to all of you. ~**Roger, Diane & Travis Hemberger**

Thank you all for the cards for my 80th birthday! I appreciated them all and am truly blessed!

~**Wyoma DeVries**

Thank you to all who have sent cards, phone calls, and prayers before and after my surgery.

~**Georgia Fahrenholtz**

Adult Bible Study Sundays

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT [E-100] - Fellowship Hall. Have you heard of the fruits of the Spirit? Can you name them? In this summer-long study we'll take time to do a deep dive into each of these nine Christian qualities listed in Galatians chapter five. (The children's summer Sunday School class will also be studying the Fruits of the Spirit).

JESUS' FAREWELL MESSAGE [E-201]- Rm 102-103. Do you know Jesus? It's one thing to know facts about Him, but to experience His love, wisdom, and guidance in your life is what it means to follow Him. On the night before He was crucified, Jesus invited His disciples into a deep relationship with the triune God—and His invitation stands for us too... This video series and study by Francis Chan is led by DCE Wade Johnson starting July 2 and running 6 weeks through the middle of August.

Wednesdays

MORNING BIBLE STUDY [E-100] - Room 11 at 9:00am. Pastor Dunbar leads the group. This is a time of prayer, devotion, and sermon discussion. All are welcome to be a part of this wonderful group of friends.

Staff on the Move

The following staff members will be out of the office on the following dates.

Pastor Josh Davis out 7/1—7/8

DCE Leah Werling out 7/9—7/14

Heather Jones out 7/12—7/18

DCE Wade Johnson out 7/23—7/28

DCE Leah Werling out 7/23—7/28



Sponsoring our Website

www.afamilyoffaith.com

Bill and Shirley Schmidt

49th Anniversary

Paul and Pat Wathen

50th Anniversary

Two special couples are sponsoring our website for July and August in celebration and thanksgiving to God for His many blessings on their marriages.

Our website is your go-to location to find out what is happening at Faith. If you'd like to sponsor the website for a month (the cost is \$40) please call the church office at 402-462-5044.

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you and that your joy might be full.

John 15:11



Sunday School Offerings

Sunday school offerings through the summer will go to supporting Freddy Victorio Sanchez Sanchez, our Compassion International child in Nicaragua.



South Dakota Service Trip Meeting

Wednesday July 5th, 7:00pm.

Students and parents need to be there to sign forms. If you cannot attend you need to make

other arrangements with DCE Wade Johnson.



Perfect Attendance

Sunday School –

Pre-School: Isaac Bulas, Brady Henkel, Georgia Stickels, Theodore Stickels.

Kindergarten: Stella Jones. **1st:** Sophie Bulas.

2nd: Abraham Stickels. **3rd:** Nolan Bulas.

Weekday School –

Pre-School: Kayler Arneson, Isaac Bulas, Maddyn Modlin, Addison Nelson, Connor Shelton, Nolan Wissing. **Kindergarten:** Aubree Brooks, Autumn Davis, Stella Jones, Drake Lemke, Calley Poppe, Kaylyn Timko, Holly Valentin, Calvin Wissing.

1st: Sophie Bulas, Maggie Frey, Faith Hoins, Oliver Keilig, Andy Klabenes, Audrey Konert, Reid Modlin, Preston Nelson, Lena Perez, Chloe Wahlmeier.

2nd: Simeon Huber, Julia Jabs, Ryker Kapustka, Logan Poppe, Kody Rossi, Gus Wissing.

3rd: Logan Arneson, Nolan Bulas, Emma Edwards, Emma Hoins, Emmery Jacobitz, Carter McIntyre, Brantley Nelson, Quinn Oakeson, Gage Rossi, Jace Schenk, Gentry Timmerman, Claire Valentin.

4th: Ryker Ayres, Karlei Gentert, Hannah Jabs, Kaleb Kapustka, Cady Klabenes, Maxx Poppe, Ava Valentin.

5th: Emmy Frey, Michael Hoins, Kyler Hughes, Ben Kuehn, Davis McIntyre.

6th: Braylen Arneson, Abby Jabs, Rylan Kapustka, Ava Konert, Josh Muske, Macy Shelton, Anna Sidlo, Jaxen Valentin, Emma Wilson.

7th: Jaxon Brooks, Ashton Kapustka, Audrey Keilig, Brynn Lemke, Harper Rundle, Ellie Wahlmeier.

8th: Isaac Ablott, Azul Amaya, Kiley Ayres, Gracie Craig, Maddie Groff, Katelyn Hoins, Kolt Hudson, Mady Karr, Ava Katzberg, Grady Krueger, Eva Magallanes, Barrett McIntyre, Lily Sorgenfrei, Sarina Wilson.



Summer Sunday School!

9:15-10:15am

Ages: Preschool-6th grade

Join us each Sunday this summer as we learn about the Fruits of the Spirit! Parents are always invited (but not required) to stay with their kids. Led by Dan & Beth Jabs, Jean Davis, and Cole & Lisa Bulas.



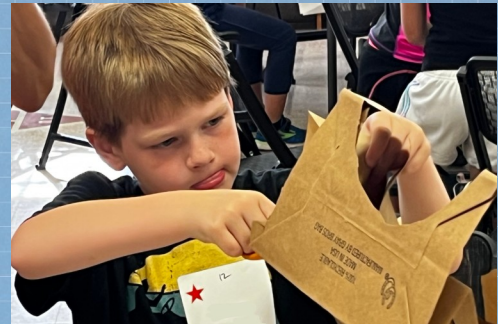
Summer Hot Talks

Wednesdays at 10:00 am

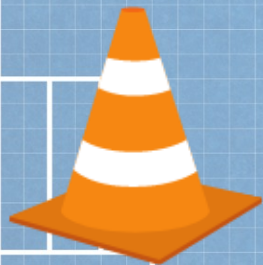
This year, Hot Talks will continue to meet during the summer! Join us for Bible

study on Wednesday mornings in the Youth Room. Students going into 9th-12th grade in the 2023-2024 school year are invited to attend! Contact DCE Leah if you need a ride to this weekly event.

VBS UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Thanks to all who
helped to make our
Under Construction
VBS a success!



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Hastings, NE 68901

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Wade Johnson, D.C.E.
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Leah Werling, D.C.E.
leah@afamilyoffaith.com

Support Staff

Tina Clark, Admin. Asst.
Heather Jones, Bookkeeper

Our Mission Statement: Faith Lutheran Church is the body of Christ,
called to be the caring hands and loving voice of Christ in this world.

2023 Church Council

Chairman: Cole Bulas

Vice Chairman: Doug Koopman

Treasurer: Adam Jacobitz

Recording Secretary: Lisa Worley

Board of Education: Lindsay Frey, Heather Jones, Marisa Butler

Board of Evangelism: Mindy Wetherbee, Monica Lange, Shannon Nelson

Board of Family Life: Sarah Hoins, Linda Parnell, Liz Karr

Board of Finance: David Bierman, Ron & Linda Hemberger, Rick & Deb Runyan,
Linda Venteicher, Dan & Deb Laux, Kathy Hansen & Scott Hansen

Board of Lay Ministry: Rhonda Rail, Bryce Brodrick, Ellen Jank,
Becky Hamik, Ron Haase, Tony Shafer

Board of Stewardship: Mecala Poppe, Jamee Bockerman, Kayla Edwards

Board of Trustees: Donna Buss, Michele Overy, Dave Utecht,
Deb Bunde, John Bartunek, Eileen Saathoff