

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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*Embraced by God through Jesus Christ our Lord, we share this gospel of hope and healing
within and throughout our community*



Getting Down to the Story: You can't Judge a Book by its Cover

Psalm 105:1-6 *Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! ² Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! ³ Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! ⁴ Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! ⁵ Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered, ⁶ O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!*

They say you can't judge a book by its cover. You certainly can't get at the story inside very well. Yet plenty of people don't get past the dust jacket of many books or the summary on the back. Others do get by the cover only to read the first few chapters, skim a page here and there, and then skip straight to the end, figuring they have the general idea. Then the book goes on the shelf, and it's off to other things. I must admit to thinking I fooled a few teachers and scraped by a few quizzes with such reading methods, but I can honestly say I have no real understanding of what was inside the books. Whatever story or life lessons might have impacted me in these books, are lost on me.

Which brings us to an important point. While you can't always judge a book by its cover, you can tell something about its owner and what they value. Show me a dusty book on a shelf and I can show you an owner who isn't currently all that enthusiastic about interacting with the story inside. Maybe they figure they already know it. Maybe they think it is over their head. Maybe they think it is old and outdated. Whatever the reason, getting it down off the shelf isn't a priority right now. Or is it?

One book that often draws my attention is a tattered old Bible, the kind that is often filled with underlining or notes in the margins. Such Bibles tell a deeper story which includes not only the story contained in the pages, but also what that means to their reader. Something in those pages has kept that person coming back for more. Something in there is worth reading again and again. What I am asking is how the story of the Bible is impacting your life? What draws you back to the word and what do you have yet to explore? How is your story and God's story growing more intertwined? If you are not sure, or you feel God pulling you to go deeper, then I have an opportunity for you!

Now before you either get excited because you have already heard about *The Story* or before some say, "Another book for me to read? 'I think I'm going to skip this one,'" or "I'm not joining a small group", I want you to stop and ask yourself some questions. What's *The Story*? How deeply do I want God's story to impact my life? What does it mean to have a relationship with God and His Word?

Ann Kroeker puts it well in her article "What's your Story?," *The Bible offers wisdom through proverbs and poetry through psalms; it includes laws and letters, genealogies and prophesies, but much of God's Truth is given in the context of story... In fact, we're banking our eternity on story. The plan of salvation is explained in New Testament letters, but the work of salvation is conveyed via stories told throughout Scripture — Old Testament stories set the stage for man's sin problem and God's solution to that problem, leading to the Gospels, which contain the climax of the story, as Jesus died once for all.. We stake our eternity on that grand story — the true story that starts in the garden and has yet to conclude with complete restoration ushered in by Christ Jesus Himself.*

So then, what is your story? How might God's story be impacting you in powerful ways, both for yourself and for his kingdom? How can knowing God's story empower you to live differently? How might it allow you to have a greater impact on those around you? What difference might joining a small group make in your life and the other members of the small group? How might you invite others to share in the story? How might the small group you join impact the community by sharing the *Greatest Story* ever told?

This isn't just some story you're being offered— **THE** Story. So far you've at least seen the cover. The question remains, what are you going to do with it?

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schreck

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday, **September 8** during the Sunday School hour we will celebrate Grandparents Day. All grandparents, honorary grandparents, family members and friends are cordially invited!

Our Service Project for this fall will be making and donating crafts and warm socks to Avalon Manor. We will work on these projects through the months of September and October and will deliver them to Avalon on Sunday, **November 10**.

Friday, **October 4** is Family Bonfire Night beginning at 5:00pm.

Please join us!



If you are interested in helping out with Sunday School or any of the above projects and activities please see Jackie Allwardt, Sherri Nord or Dorothy Kehe.

PLEASE MAKE NOTE!

Voters' Assembly will be Sunday, November 10 at 12:15.

Please plan to attend! The 2020 budget and Board members will be presented and voted on and upcoming church events and activities will be announced.

WE CARE!

During the months of September and October, the Care Committee of Faith Lutheran will be collecting paper products for area food banks and other agencies in need, such as Housing Opportunities and the Caring Place. (hint..disposable diapers are always appreciated by agencies serving our community.)

Please leave donations in the grocery cart in the Narthex. If you are interested in knowing which organizations will receive our donations please see Nancy Kickbush.



Jacob Grossnickle	Sept.8
Adison Foxx	Sept. 9
Dorothy Kehe	Sept. 10
Bruce Lindner	Sept. 10
Aaron Porter	Sept. 12
Pastor Schoech	Sept. 13
Karen Albertson	Sept. 16
John Frank	Sept. 21
Bruce Kehe	Sept. 21
Ilona Allwardt	Sept. 22
Carlene Schultz	Sept. 26
Annette Frank	Sept. 30
Nancy Kickbush	Sept. 30

Happy Birthday



What: Faith Ladies Lunch
When: Wednesday, Sept. 4
Time: 11:30am
Where: Round the Clock, Valpo
Please join us and bring a friend!

THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

"Because he cleaves to me in love, I will deliver him."

Psalm 91:14a

One of those great inventions of the 20th century that we use, but don't give much thought, was Velcro. Swiss electrical engineer George de Mestral invented his first touch fastener when, in 1941, he went for a walk in the woods and wondered why burdock seeds clung to his coat and dog. He discovered it could be turned into something useful. He patented it in 1955, and subsequently refined and developed its practical manufacture until its commercial introduction in the late 1950s.

The fastener consisted of two components: a lineal fabric strip with tiny hooks that could "mate" with another fabric strip with smaller loops, attaching temporarily, until pulled apart. Initially made of cotton, which proved impractical, the fastener was eventually constructed with nylon and polyester. The name Velcro came from the combination of two French words -velour ("velvet") and crochet ("hook"), to his invention as well as his company, which continues to manufacture and market the fastening system.

As we read verse 14 of Psalm 91, we realize that the only way we can cleave to God in love, is because God first cleaves to us in love. God is those hooks that grab onto us and don't let go. "We love because God first loved us." (1 John 4:19) The entire Bible is one great love story. Even in the midst of the most awful stories, God's steadfast love is never-ending. God's love never lets go of us. God never breaks the covenant promise of love and salvation. We may pull away. We may run away. We may turn our backs on God, but God's grip of love – stronger than any Velcro – never lets go.

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!"

Psalm 118:1

IT'S A 40TH BIRTHDAY PARTY!

Join us to celebrate Pastor Eric's 40th birthday!

When: Saturday, September 14,
7:00pm

Where: The home of Paul and
Michelle Grossnickle.

Please bring whatever you would
like to drink, a snack or finger food
to share and a humorous birthday card if you so choose.



VALPO CHRISTIAN ACADEMY NEWS

VCA will be having a Scholastic Book Fair September 9 through the 16th. There will be an open house on September 12 from 6:30-8:00pm. Church members are more than welcome to come and check out the fair. There will be Christian age-appropriate books available.

Trunk or Treat will be October 31 at 10:00am. Volunteers are needed! Please speak with Mrs. Jackie or Ms. Brenda if you would like to help out. Thank you!



MATEHUALA SCHOOL KITS PROJECT

Back in July we began our school kits project. As usual you all stepped up to help in any way you could: purchasing kits, praying for our action team, contributing money and being great cheerleaders. With all this help we were able to send 30 kits, which totaled \$600 to Matehuala, Mexico. It cost \$281 to mail (for which I used the \$250 seed money.) We were also able to donate \$70 in school supplies to Compass for their registration and back to school store for international families.

We will also be giving a check to Compass for \$100 for supplies that they may need throughout the school year. We also are fortunate to be able to send a \$320 check to Latin American Lutheran Missions. This money will be sent to missionary pastors in Mexico to help with their congregations. So, a BIG THANK YOU to you all for a job well done.

Total project: \$1371.00

- Dorothy Kehe



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PRAYER & PRAISE

Thursday evening Prayer and Praise Contemporary Worship Services kick off on September 19 with a free concert. A free -will offering will help to support the artist and local missions.

Prayer and Praise Services will resume on **September 26** with a pre-worship supper offered at 5:00 and service beginning at 6:00.

*Be refreshed through
Prayer, Praise &
Community.*



FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, September 1, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 8, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 15, 9:00am Holy Communion
Prayer & Praise Concert, September 19, 6:00pm Contemporary Worship
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 22, 9:00am Morning Prayer
Prayer & Praise, September 26, 6:00pm Contemporary Worship
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 29, 9:00am Holy Communion
Prayer & Praise, October 3, 6:00pm Contemporary Worship
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 6 , Holy Communion

