

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

Making
Disciples
for Life



Lutheran Schools Week 2022-23

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'" (Matt 28:18-20)

We often think of the impact that Luther and other reformers had in terms of pointing the church and its people back to the Word of God, so that we might once again understand God's grace, plan, and will for us. However, in order to help people to grow in such an understanding and in their relationship with Him, God also did a great deal of other work through the reformers. Helping give people better access to God's Word meant that unless everyone was going to speak Latin, Greek, or Hebrew, the Bible would need to be translated into other languages, like German. Furthermore, if most people were not going to be limited to having the Bible read to them, then much work also needed to be done to help more people learn to read. Basic literacy rates back then were as low as 5-10% in most places. The wealthy and the priests were often the most literate. Yet even here most of us would be surprised at the literacy rate. We don't want to forget that sharing the faith has powerfully taken place in times and places where written language and literacy have been far less common. However, to try to counter some of the ways in which the church had gotten off track, and to help ongoing generations of church leaders and Christians better improve and maintain their understanding of God's Word, Luther and others recognized, much would have to change and be developed when it came to helping people learn and grow. The *Who*, *What*, and *How* of education, especially in Lutheran circles, began to change substantially. Writings like Luther's sermon "On the Duty of Sending Children to School," stressed the importance of the connection between literacy and Biblical upbringing or character. Thanks to the development of the printing press, books like *Luther's Small Catechism* began to help to bring just such education home.

The effects of such work in terms of learning and education were nothing less than profound. Despite some attempts to marginalize or remove Christian influences on education today, many of the educational successes in the United States and other countries can be traced back to values and past efforts made by Christians, based on sound Biblical teaching. These values include:

1. Universal Education: Unlike in previous times, reformers' educational efforts and the schools that followed were not just limited to the wealthy and religious elite. Their schools were the first to educate girls and saw the importance of developing the potential of every child (and adult) for the glory of God. Helping people to be able to educate themselves was also stressed.

2. The Church and Family have the Primary Responsibility for Education: Luther personally started numerous schools in existing churches. Congregations and their leaders were expected to provide the necessary funding and oversight (with possible infrastructure support from the state). Parents were also expected to play an important role in making sure their children attended class and in reinforcing instruction at home.

3. The Goal of Education Is Faith Based, Applied, and Includes Study of the Natural World:

God's place as creator, sustainer, and sovereign ruler of all things, impacted how the reformers approached the study of all topics, not just religion. This world and all the various gifts that God had created for the benefit of mankind, were to be learned about and used just as God intended. A study of the arts and sciences, as seen through the lens of scripture, were considered important to growth and the Christian life.

4. Good Education Requires Gifted Christian Teachers

The Reformers saw the job of the teacher as extremely important. Teachers were expected to be trained in their subject area, theology, and "be of mature and good character." Adequate pay was encouraged both for the sake of the teacher and so that poor students would not miss out due to their own inability to pay.

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From the home to higher education, education at all levels was encouraged to help people carry out their work, civic, and general life in a faithful manner. Encouraging people to serve God to the best of their ability whatever their role, while encouraging them to work and educate themselves toward their full potential as individuals and as a society, lead to what many have called the protestant work ethic. Despite mankind's sinful shortcomings, which are often pointed out these days, God's work and the spreading of His Word through Christian education, have positively shaped Western Civilization for centuries.

During this month of Lutheran Schools week I want to personally thank all of the teachers in our midst, including those that serve in the VCA, our Sunday School, and the various educational institutions in our community. Thank you to all those who serve in financial and other support roles for our teachers and the sharing of the good news of Jesus Christ. Praise God for all of you and for those who have gone before you. May your efforts continue to glorify God and draw you and your students ever closer to Him.

In Jesus' name,
Pastor Eric Schoech

This article draws on material from various sources including: *How the Reformation Changed Educaion forever*, by Hugh Whelchel



Third Thursday ToGather

Retired, nearing Retirement, or available on **Thurs afternoons?**

Looking to spend time with older adults, learn about issues related to this age group, or just like to eat and play?

Third Thursday ToGather (*Official group name still to be decided*) might be just the right thing for you or someone you know. Starting in January, Faith Lutheran church will be starting a group gathering on Thursdays with the following:

11:30 am - Bible study or a presentation that the group feels relates to their present/ upcoming needs

12:00 pm - Potluck or delivered lunch - determined by group

12:30 pm- Cards, games, or other activities – determined by group

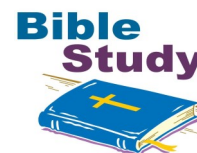
You and your friends are invited to attend

DISCIPLES OF LIGHT

Disciples of Light is a small group for busy adults who want to make time for Bible Study. We are meeting monthly on Fridays at church for dinner and to discuss "The Chosen" series. Babysitting is provided for those with children.

Our next meeting is Friday, January 27 and we will be having tacos. Dinner is at 5:00 with study beginning at 5:30.

Come join in the fun!

A movie poster for "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe". It features a large lion's face in the center, with a castle and a witch in the background. The text includes "DISNEY and WALDEN MEDIA", "THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA", and "THE LION, THE WITCH and THE WARDROBE".

**FAMILY LARGE SCREEN
MOVIE EVENT!**

In celebration of Lutheran Schools Week & as a wrap up to our Wednesday night Advent theme— Join us for the movie version of the classic Christian Children's book
The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe
Saturday, January 21
3:00 – 6:00pm
Faith Lutheran Church Gathering Space

Popcorn and Pop Provided.

JANUARY

Best wishes to our members born in January!

Karen Martinsen	January 3
Jon Dunlap	January 13
Shirley Knutson	January 13
Ken Kehe	January 15

If we need to add someone's birthday please call the office at (219) 462-7684 or email office@faithmemorial.net



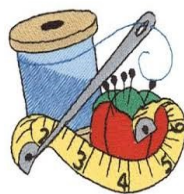
Gail Hoover is modeling a remake of a one hundred -year -old apron that the Grossnickles gave our sewing group. The ladies worked on remaking a pattern , which Gail used to cut and sew for them. We hope someone in the Grossnickle family gets many years of cooking using the apron.



One of our small groups, the Brew Crew, went Christmas caroling in the Banta Neighborhood on December 19. We started out from Barb Kehe's brewery. A great time was had by all.

THANK YOU FROM SEWING SEEDS OF LOVE!

Many thanks to the Faith congregation for supporting our Christmas sale. Your support will help buy supplies and pay for postage when projects are mailed for missions.



Thank you to everyone who donated or otherwise helped with the basement window project. The project was completed successfully. This upgrade should help keep our basement warm for years to come!

Thank you ❤️

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FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Epiphany, January 1, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Baptism of Our Lord, January 8, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Second Sunday after Epiphany, January 15, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Third Sunday after Epiphany, January 22, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, January 29, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 5, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 12, 9:00am Non-Comm. Service
The Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 19, 9:00am Holy Communion
Ash Wednesday, February 22, 7:00pm Holy Communion
The First Sunday in Lent, February 26, 9:00am Non-Comm. Service

