

## THE HERITAGE OF **CONNECTING** CONTINUES

With a rich heritage of reaching out to **connect** ourselves, our congregation, our youth and our community to Christ, we embark on our new campaign called **CONNECTING FAITH!**

We have three areas of focus, all directly related to the Mission of Faith to reach out and **connect** ourselves to God, **connect** us with our brothers and sisters in the congregation, and **connect** those in the community who are unsaved with the Savior Jesus.

We will expand our ability to "**connect**" by adding a Director of Christian Education (DCE) to our staff, who will focus on children and youth programs, as well as family-strengthening opportunities for fellowship, the study of the Word, and reaching out into the community with special events.

The hope is that as we come together in our **CONNECTING FAITH** campaign and reach our ministry goals, the Holy Spirit will work among us, as He did in the early church, for the good of our church: ***“And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”*** (Acts 2:47)



# Connecting Faith Past, Present, & Future



*“We are a caring community of FAITH, connecting people to Jesus and to one another.”*

## A HERITAGE OF **CONNECTING**

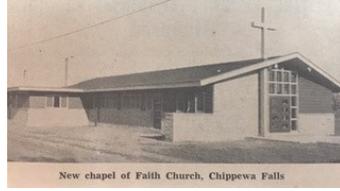
In the summer of 1954, two seminary students canvassed the Chippewa Falls and Lake Wissota area. The results of the canvas indicated there was a need for a mission church on the south side of Chippewa Falls. By October 1954, the first worship services were held at the Seventh Day Adventist Church at the corner of Woodward Avenue and



Faith's 1st Meeting Place 1954

Wisconsin Street.

On November 7, 1954, an organizational meeting was held and the name of the church was selected – **Faith Lutheran Church**. In November 1954, Rev. C.J. Cizek was called to serve as pastor of the new mission church and was installed in December 1954. **Connections** were beginning. In January 1955, Faith was received into membership of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.



New chapel of Faith Church, Chippewa Falls



As the church grew, the rented facility being used for educational purposes was too small. Plans were drawn up and in September 1964, ground was broken



again. The new addition was dedicated on May 22, 1966, which included a sanctuary, offices, and classrooms. The original building became what we now call the parish hall, creating another place for members to **connect**.

In February 1971, Pastor Cizek took another call. The Rev. Dan Seng accepted the call to Faith and was installed in June 1971. Rev. Seng stayed until May 1976. A call was extended to the Rev. Ronald Hofmann who accepted and was installed in October 1976.

Under Pastor Hofmann's leadership, a young mother's group **connected** in 1977, with the intent of starting a preschool. In September 1978, Faith's preschool was licensed by the State of Wisconsin and has continued to operate successfully to the present. The following persons had been or are currently employed by our preschool: Laura Hills, Cindy Swoboda, Judy Sedivy, Mrs. Ruhe, Caroline Black, Tracy Maland, Rosemary Plautz, Holly Weiland, Jessi Joles, Keri Robotti, Tresa Juedes, and Tracie Dallas.

1982 saw Faith's first Director of Christian Education (DCE), Earl Katt. This contractual arrangement lasted for one year.

August 1985 saw the arrival of the first Vicar – Michael Schumacher. As with most vicarages, Vicar Schumacher was with us for one year.

In 1986, Pastor Hofmann accepted a call. A call went out to the Rev. William Plautz who accepted the call and was installed in September 1986. November 1986 brought the arrival of our second Vicar – Bradley Ketchum, who was with us until February 1988.

To better serve and **connect** with our members and the community, the congregation decided to call an Associate Pastor. A seminary candidate, Rev. Keith Jones, arrived in July 1988, serving until October 1990.

In July 1991, Associate Pastor Rev. Timothy Klinkenberg came and remained until January 1993. In April 1993, David Reineke was called to fill the position of DCE. Mr. Reineke left Faith in June 1998.

At the December 12, 1995 Voters Meeting, a motion was approved to allow the Building Committee a budget of \$450,000 to add on to Faith Lutheran. In April 1999, the Building Committee made final plans to set in place a 5500 square foot addition to include classrooms, administrative offices, choir room, library and enlarging the narthex. In March 2000, the new addition was dedicated.



In February 2000, Vicar Craig Mathews was called. In July 2001, Vicar Mathews was installed and ordained as the Reverend Craig Mathews. Pastor Mathews served at Faith until November 2010.

In September 2007, Faith Lutheran reached out to **connect** to our community by serving meals at Agnes' Table, a community effort to provide meals to the poor and homeless of Chippewa County.

March 2010 brought more changes to the church's governance. A new mission statement "Faith exists so that each disciple will know Jesus, grow in His word, and share His love with all" was also adopted.

In December 2011, a call was extended to Michael Kipp to serve as Director of Christian Education for Youth and Family Ministry. Mr. Kipp served from January 2012 until 2014.

In 2015, Valerie Brooks joined us as Director of Youth and Family Ministry and served until August 2018.

In June 2017, Pastor William Plautz retired, and in January 2019 Pastor Daniel Wonderly was installed as our full-time minister.

In 2021, a Vision/Clarity Team was formed and began work on a capital campaign to expand Faith's ministry and to make improvements in the church's facilities. The following purpose statement was adopted: **"We are a Caring Community of Faith, Connecting People to Jesus and to one another."**