



THE MESSENGER

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish
but have eternal life. John 3:16*

THE NEWSLETTER OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 2025

*Faith's Mission is to reach people, young and old, who need Christ
in their lives, and to help them know, love and serve Christ.*

In the name of the risen and living God, Jesus Christ, to those who are called to be saints of Faith Lutheran Church and who call on the name of our Lord: Grace and peace to you.

One of the things I've been reflecting on lately is how easy it is to drift through the days without noticing just how present God really is. We get busy. We go from one thing to the next, and before long, the week has passed, the month has gone, and another season has rolled around. Life doesn't slow down, but God has a way of calling us to pause, to look up, and to see his hand at work in the middle of it all.

As Lutherans, we confess that God comes to us not through vague feelings or wishful thinking, but through his Word and promises. That means the Lord is not far off, waiting for us to climb up to him. He comes down to us. In Jesus, God has stepped into our very ordinary lives. In the water of baptism, he has named us and claimed us as his own. At the Lord's table, he feeds us with his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. And in the preaching of the gospel, he speaks a word that creates faith, lifts our hearts, and anchors our hope.

I need these reminders daily. Maybe you do too. Because if we're honest, our hearts are quick to wander. We try to carry our burdens alone. We measure our worth by how productive we've been or how well we've managed to keep everything together. And when we fall short, as we always do, guilt and shame creep in. But here is the good news: Christ has already carried what we cannot. The cross wasn't just a symbol of love, it was the place where your sin and mine were nailed once and for all.

The resurrection wasn't just a happy ending, it was God's victory breaking in for us.

So, as we gather for worship, we are reminded again and again that God is faithful even when we are not. His mercy is

from the
PASTOR

new every morning. His promises do not expire. And his Spirit continues to work in us, shaping us into people who trust, who serve, and who love in Jesus' name.

My prayer for you is simple: that in the rush of daily life, you would pause long enough to hear Christ's word for you. A word of forgiveness. A word of life. A word that never fails.

Once again, until next time, God's peace to you.

Your brother in the Gospel,

Pastor Scott

P.S.: Please invite one person to worship with you on Sunday. If you did, OUR ATTENDANCE WOULD DOUBLE!

***How fast a year passes and it's now here....
40th Annual Fall Festival!***

The pork chop dinner includes pork chop, potato salad, coleslaw, green beans, applesauce, roll and dessert. One chop is \$12 and two chops \$15. We have some new items and some returning from previous years.

- We'll have a book mobile with children's books they can take. If you have children's books you'd like to donate to the book mobile, please bring them.
- Also new this year is a petting zoo.
- Sweet shop is back, full of pie, ice cream, root beer floats & yummy sweets.
- Cake walk is back. Pick up a pan on the info table to make cakes for this.

We need lots of helpers for that day to make it work! Please sign up on the info table for the job that fits you best!

Pick up a personal service certificate to donate your time or item...homemade pies/cookies, babysitting, yard work...to be auctioned off at the live auction.

Talk to Lynne Crandall if you have any quality items to donate to the live auction.

Pick up a gift basket form with info and ideas on one side and a form to fill out on the other to include with your basket you put together and donate.

Bring your garden veggies & homemade/canned goods to the country store.

In advance, thank you to everyone for every bit of participation that you have done to make this successful! Most important, it's our outreach of Faith to the community and beyond.

Freely, freely we have received, freely, freely given.

(see the reference in Gloria's article)



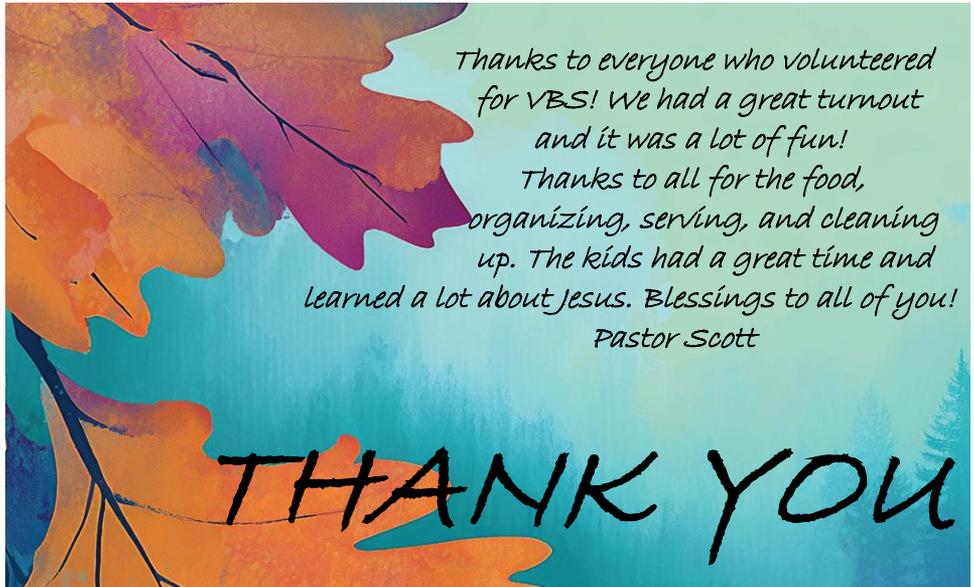
MARK YOUR CALENDARS

After a short summer break, here are the dates when some events will resume this fall:

- Women's Bible Study begins Sept. 25th with coffee & visiting at 9:30 AM and study begins at 10 AM. All women are invited so invite your friends!
- Rally Sunday is Oct. 5th – Sunday school begins at 11 AM.
- Men's Breakfast resumes Saturday morning Oct. 11th. (This is the only meeting on the 2nd Saturday, they'll go back to the 1st Saturday.)
- Sunday morning Bible study begins Oct. 12th at 9 AM.

ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE

Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge is coming to Faith on Sunday, October 6th. They'll be singing and sharing their powerful testimonies in faith from recovery of addictions during the 10:00 service. Afterwards, we'll have a potluck and be able to visit with them one on one. Their stories will truly inspire you on what God has done in their lives. There's a sign up sheet for helping with setup, kitchen help and cleanup.



LUTHERAN PRAYERS YOU CAN USE AT HOME

A PRAYER FOR THE MORNING:

O Lord God, Maker and Redeemer, I rise this day in the gift of your mercy. Forgive my sin, for I stumble in thought, word, and deed, yet you remain faithful. Strengthen my heart to trust in your promises, and guide my steps in paths of righteousness. Let your Word dwell richly in me, that I may reflect your love to friend and stranger alike. Protect me in body and soul, and keep my eyes fixed on Christ, who has redeemed me. All honor and praise are yours this day and always. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE EVENING:

Almighty Father, the day draws to a close, and I lay my burdens before you. Forgive my failings, graciously covering all my guilt with the blood of Christ. Shelter me and those I love through the night, and quiet my mind in the comfort of your Word. Teach me to rest in your steadfast promises and awaken me renewed to serve in your name. Let your Spirit abide in me, shaping my heart and guiding my ways. All glory and thanks belong to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

LUTHERAN TIDBITS

THE MEANS OF GRACE:

One of the central teachings in The Book of Concord is the concept of the means of grace, how God delivers his gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation to us. The Formula of Concord explains that the means of grace are God's instruments: the Word of God, the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the preaching of the gospel. These are not merely symbols or reminders; they are God's powerful ways of giving what he promises.

Through the Word, whether read, sung, or preached, God speaks to us and creates faith in our hearts. Baptism is more than water and a name; it is God himself washing away sin, giving new life, and uniting us to Christ. The Lord's Supper is not only a memorial, but a true participation in Christ's body and blood, strengthening faith and giving forgiveness.

Understanding the means of grace helps us see that salvation is entirely God's work. We do not earn it, and we do not carry it ourselves. Instead, God meets us where we are, daily giving us the gifts that sustain our faith and life in Christ. The Book of Concord reminds us that these means are divinely appointed, trustworthy, and necessary for the Christian life, keeping us anchored in the gospel and confident in God's promises. (From the BOC, Augsburg Fortress)

FREELY, FREELY YOU HAVE RECEIVED FREELY, FREELY GIVE

by Council President Gloria Colbenson

I've attended Faith Church since I was four years old, involved in many various activities and committees. It has never ceased to amaze me the generosity of the people in this congregation. It seems like if word gets out we need funding for a project or something purchased, someone comes forward with the items or cash donation.

That's when the song "Freely, freely you have received, freely, freely give" gave me true meaning.

Members donated money for new carpet. A member volunteered to make beautiful new altar paraments. Recently members donated a large toaster and button making machine. We are ready to purchase a new organ from all donated funds. We have members that are carpenters, and if we need something constructed it soon appears. Every year we have generous donations for the Fall Festival. In July 2024 an anonymous asphalt company filled the cracks in our parking lot. We never heard from the company or received a bill. A gift we truly received. The list goes on about the generosity of Faith members.

We're doing the outreach God planned for us, as He gives us freely like grace, faith, the Holy Spirit and eternal life. He has bestowed a life freely given and from that, we all received and are truly blessed.

To everyone who has freely given either monetary gifts, helped with ongoing ministry or offer prayer support, I express my gratitude.

Let's all pray for each other that we freely feel the Lord is near and He strengthens us with His truth, we freely receive.

I would like to announce that at the last council meeting, our treasurer's report reflected the mortgage balance at \$149,000. We are now under the \$150,000 mark! Hallelujah and praise God! You have freely given and we have received.

Hey friends!

Your help is needed.

As Lutherans you know we love our treat and fellowship time after worship. But it would be helpful if some more people would be willing to help out with that. More treat makers, servers, and clean up people are needed. Please consider helping out so some others can have a break.

There's a signup sheet on the info table.

Thank you so much! Pastor Scott

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

August 21, 2025

Present: Pastor Scott Block Pete Kissinger, Emilie Greb, Preston Van Schepen, Lynne Crandall, Connie Wischnack, Gloria Colbenson, Pat Zierden

President, Gloria Colbenson, called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Pastor Scott opened with a devotion based on Matthew 5:14 regarding being called to be Jesus' light in the world and prayers.

Pastor's Report:

- We received a thank you note from Augustana District for a gift we gave them in January.
- Sunday school starts October 5th.
- Church directory photos will be on August 24th and September 7th.
- Sunday morning Bible study will begin on October 12th.
- The women's Bible study will begin on September 25th.
- The men's breakfast will begin on October 11th and be the first Saturday of the month after that.
- The backpack blessing will be this coming Sunday, August 24th.
- Pastor Scott asked that we pay Kim Garberich \$150 for pulpit supply from the altar budget. Preston made a motion and Lynne seconded to make this payment.
- Pastor Scott requested a third set of eyes to review spending. Gloria will ask Dave Dilley to do this. The use of the pastor's office credit card for incidentals and reimbursements was discussed. A motion was made by Pete and seconded by Lynne to increase the card limit from \$750 to \$1000 so that Pastor Scott and Jana can pay for reimbursements and smaller incidental expenses.

Treasurer's Report: Pat gave the treasurer's report. Connie made a motion and Pete seconded to approve the treasurer's report as read.

Building and Grounds:

- We received word back from the insurance company on the roof. They did not find damage to warrant any claim reimbursement. However, they did approve some small damage repair for \$2900 on the trim and sent a check for \$396, the balance after the deductible was applied.
- The furnace breaker has been tripped and Pete reset it twice. The contractor will replace the old breaker and see if this solves the problem.
- Pete will do some trimming, weeding, inspections for bees' nests, etc. prior to the fall festival.
- Pete will contact Matt Brecht to get a snowplow contract set up for this winter.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fall Festival: Lynne has the meal set. Tickets will be \$12 for one pork chop and \$15 for two. We will have a petting zoo, book mobile, live and silent auctions. We will also have the country store and sweet shop. Haley will do kids' games. Cake pans for the cake walk are available for pick up. Sign-ups are outside the sanctuary. We still need more items and service certificates for the live auction as well as baskets for the silent auction. Leroy will pick up tables from the Monticello Lions. Set-up of tables and tents will be on Saturday, September 6th at 8:00am.

Church Directory: Cindy Hoglund will take pictures. She will have 5x7 photos available for sale if requested.

Mission Statement and Logo: The committee plans to meet after the fall festival.

Website: Gloria met with Haley. She has put several things together and will still be able to help this fall.

Vacation Bible School: The kids and adults had fun and enjoyed the camping theme.

Pie and Ice Cream Social: The idea of doing this event on a Sunday after church instead of a Saturday night next year was discussed as more people are likely to attend.

NEW BUSINESS:

Button Machine: Kerry owns the button machine that has been used for VBS and other events. He is willing to donate this to the church.

Toaster: Bob Trombley and Linda Bergsten donated a six-slice toaster for the kitchen that we were going to purchase with the pie social money. The \$203 that we took in from the pie social and Brevik funeral was put into the kitchen/hospitality fund.

New Keyboard: Since the old keyboard is out of tune, Sandy asked to purchase a new keyboard from the organ fund. Lynne made a motion and Emilie seconded to approve up to \$6000 (amount currently in the organ fund) to purchase a new keyboard. Pastor Scott will work with Sandy and get her input on the purchase.

Teen Challenge: The teen challenge choir will be here on Sunday, October 12th. Food contributions for the potluck are needed. Sign-up sheets will be put up after the fall festival.

Sunday Treats: Pastor Scott will make an announcement that we are looking for ideas and need additional volunteers to bring Sunday treats.

Lynne made a motion and Connie seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm
Pastor closed with Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Emilie Greb Secretary



SEPTEMBER

birthdays & anniversaries

- 8- Dawn Enberg
- 12- Pat Block
- 12- Matt Brecht
- 13- Bob Burggraaff
- 13- Penny Spitzer
- 15- Mark Gilberts
- 15- Amy & Shane Hanson
- 17- Vicki & Larry Witschen
- 20- Kelly & Harlan Hamson
- 24- Adley Brecht
- 27- Rita & Patrick Zierden
- 28- Shawn Stavlo
- 30- Ruth Anderson

God bless you on your special day!

If you see a mistake or an omission, please contact the secretary so she can update the records:
763.878.2092 or faithlutheran@tds.net.

WARM WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS

Carol & Stan Heinitz



Cindy & Gordy Hoglund