



# 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*

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THE NEWSLETTER OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 2026

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*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.*

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

August has a way of making the world look full. Corn stands tall. Gardens begin to overflow. Trees are still deep green, and even the roadside ditches seem crowded with life. Yet much of this growth happened quietly. We did not hear the corn rise or watch a tomato ripen minute by minute. Growth came slowly, almost unnoticed, until one day we looked again and saw what God had been doing.

The apostle Paul writes, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:6, ESV). Paul does not dismiss planting or watering. Both matter. Still, neither one can create life. The growth belongs to God.

This is also true in the life of faith. We come to worship and hear Scripture. We receive Christ's body and blood. We pray, serve, forgive, teach our children, encourage one another, and keep showing up. Some days, we may see clear signs of growth. Other days, faith can feel quiet, slow, or even stuck. Yet God is at work.

As a pastor, I need this reminder as much as anyone. Ministry can tempt us to measure everything by attendance, activity, or visible results. Christ calls us to faithfulness, then keeps the results in his own hands.

He works through his Word, sometimes comforting us immediately, sometimes planting a promise we will need months later. He works through Baptism, reminding us our identity rests in Christ, not in our latest success or failure. He works through the Lord's Supper, placing forgiveness into our hands and mouths. He works

*from the*  
**PASTOR**



through ordinary people who speak a needed word, offer a steady presence, or quietly carry someone else's burden.

We often want fast results. God is patient. We want visible progress. God often works beneath the surface. We want proof everything is moving in the right direction. God gives us a promise instead: Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will not abandon his people.

As August moves us toward the close of summer, take time to notice what has grown. Give thanks for what you can see. Trust God with what you cannot. Keep planting. Keep watering. Keep hearing the Word. Keep receiving his body and blood. The growth belongs to God, and he is faithful.

Your brother in the Gospel,  
*Pastor Scott*

***P.S.: Please invite one person to worship with you on Sunday. If you did, just think what would happen!***

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The excitement is building for our upcoming Fall Festival on Sunday, September 13th. This year we are making a few changes and putting a special focus on our beloved Country Store. While we will not be having a silent basket auction this year, we are looking forward to filling the Country Store with the many wonderful talents of our congregation. We invite everyone to contribute baked goods, cookies, bars, breads, canned goods, jams, pickles and other homemade treats. We are blessed with many talented bakers and cooks in our church and the Country Store has always been a favorite at the Festival. Homemade craft items are also appreciated.

We will again feature a live auction and are asking for a few donations of nice quality items as well as personal service certificates. Some of the popular auction items from the past have included homemade pies, babysitting services, yardwork, and even an afternoon of fishing. Creative ideas are encouraged! If you have items to donate for the auction, please contact Lynne Crandall.

Thank you for helping to make our Fall Festival a fun and successful event for our church and community. We look forward to a wonderful day of fellowship, laughter and sharing our God-given talents!

Stay tuned for more info!



# FALL FESTIVAL NEW EVENTS

**WANTED: Green thumb people and if you don't think you have a green thumb, we need you also.** This year at the Fall Festival we're having a plant sale. We need house plants, fruit bearing items like rhubarb, strawberry, & raspberry. Also plants and shrubs and garden tools if you have extras. Please bring to church on Saturday, 9-12 or Sunday before the FF starts. Sign up on the narthex table to monitor this table at the Fall Fest.

**MEDIA SALE:** Everyone has books they no longer need & DVD's they've watched so many times they can be shared with others. Donate your books for all ages, DVD's, magazines, audiobooks, etc. to the media table at the Fall Fest. Bring them either Saturday, 9-12 or Sunday before FF starts. Sign up on the narthex table to monitor this table at the Fall Fest.



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## BEFORE BRINGING ITEMS TO CHURCH

Faith Lutheran is blessed with many generous people who love the church and want to help care for the building, the worship space, and the fellowship areas. That generous spirit is a gift. Many items in our church have been donated, built, repaired, painted, polished, arranged, and lovingly maintained by members over the years. We give thanks for that.

At the same time, because this is a shared space used by the whole congregation, we ask everyone to please check before bringing furniture, artwork, decorations, seasonal displays, tables, chairs, or other items to the church. Before bringing or leaving anything in the building, please speak with the Decorating Committee, Pastor Scott, or the Council President.

This helps us in several ways. It allows us to make sure items fit the space, match the needs of the congregation, meet safety and accessibility concerns, and do not create extra work or confusion for others. It also helps us avoid mystery items appearing in the building without anyone knowing where they came from, who they belong to, or what should be done with them.

This is not meant to discourage generosity. Far from it. We are grateful when people want to give, serve, build, decorate, or improve the church. But even good gifts need a good process. A short conversation ahead of time can prevent hurt feelings, misunderstandings, duplicated efforts, or items being placed where they may not be needed.

So, before bringing something to church, please ask first. The Decorating Committee, Pastor Scott, or the Council President will be glad to talk it through with you.

Thank you for helping us care for Faith Lutheran in a thoughtful, orderly, and gracious way. Together, we can keep our church building welcoming, safe, useful, and centered on the worship and fellowship we share in Christ.

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# HELP WANTED

~ If you or someone you know would be interested in providing music during Sunday worship, please let Jana or Pastor Scott know. We would love to give Sandy an occasional break and would be grateful for anyone who plays guitar, piano, or keyboard and might be willing to help on Sundays. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve.

~ Do you feel a “tug” or a “pull” towards doing something in the church? Please consider being on Altar Guild. Let Pastor Scott know. Thanks!

~ It would be wonderful to have more help in the kitchen by bringing “treats”, serving, preparing, and cleaning up after fellowship. Please consider helping out, it is greatly needed, and it is a positive way to serve your neighbor! Please see Connie for more info. Thank you for considering.



# LUTHERAN PRAYERS YOU CAN USE AT HOME

## **A PRAYER FOR THE MORNING:**

Lord God, heavenly Father, you have brought me safely to the beginning of this day. Guard me from sin, fear, and every useless distraction. Give me a steady heart, willing hands, and words shaped by mercy. Keep me mindful of my Baptism and the promises you have joined to it. When my work seems small, teach me to trust you for the growth. When burdens rise, turn my eyes toward Jesus, who has carried my sin and conquered death. Use me today in service to my neighbor, and keep me in your grace; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

## **A PRAYER FOR THE EVENING:**

Lord God, heavenly Father, the day is ending, and I place it into your hands. Forgive the sins I have committed in thought, word, and deed. Where I have done good, receive it as the fruit of your grace, not as a cause for pride. Quiet my worries over unfinished work and unanswered questions. You remain faithful while I sleep. Shelter my family, my church, and all who suffer this night. Grant rest to the weary, courage to the fearful, and peace to the dying. Keep me in Christ, and raise me to a new day in your mercy. Amen.

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## LUTHERAN TIDBITS

### **WHAT IS THE CHURCH?**

When people hear the word church, they may picture a building, denomination, or a congregation. The Augsburg Confession gives a deeper answer: "The church is the congregation of saints, in which the gospel is purely taught and the sacraments are correctly administered" (Augsburg Confession VII.1).

The Church exists because Christ gathers sinners around the sacraments and proclamation of the Gospel. Through these means, the Holy Spirit creates and sustains faith.

This does not mean every member, pastor, or congregation is free from sin. The Augsburg Confession acknowledges hypocrites and evil persons may be mixed among the faithful in this life (Augsburg Confession VIII.1). The Church's holiness does not rest on the moral perfection of its members. It rests on Christ, who makes his people holy through forgiveness.

The Apology explains the Church is more than an outward organization. At its heart, the Church is the gathering of those who believe the Gospel and have received the Holy Spirit through faith (Apology VII/VIII.5). Yet faith is not left floating in the air. God attaches his promise to preaching and the sacraments, so troubled sinners know where Christ may be found.

This is comforting. The Church does not depend upon impressive programs, flawless leaders, or cultural influence. These may help, but they do not create the Church. Christ does. Wherever his Gospel is proclaimed and his sacraments are administered according to his command, he is gathering, forgiving, and keeping his people.

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# CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

## July 16, 2026

**Members Present:** Pastor Scott Block, Lynne Crandall, Kim Garberich, Emilie Greb, Pete Kissinger, Connie Wischnack, Patrick Zierden

**Member Absent:** Preston Van Schepen

President, Kim Garberich called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. Pastor Scott opened with prayer and a devotion from Luke 10:42. As a church council we serve and deal with practical matters of the church, which can make us weary. However, we cannot let church work pull us away from being served by Christ and spiritually fed which in turn allows us to serve others with more open and humble hearts.

**Pastor’s Report:**

- Pastor has been busy with pastoral care including a brief committal service, funeral preplanning and a baptism coming up on July 19<sup>th</sup>
- A commercial coffee pot was donated to the church.
- The carpets were cleaned on July 16<sup>th</sup> and should be dry before Sunday service.

**Building and Grounds:**

- We received the initial check from Brotherhood Mutual. However, we still have not received confirmation that they will send additional funds due to the unmatched siding and roof materials. Pete will reach out to our agent, Linda Moran, again to find out when they might send the additional funds.
- Pete said the carpet cleaning went well. They were able to get most of the wax out of the pews. Pete will make sure everything gets put back in time for Sunday.

- We will put a note in the newsletter once again reminding people about donating items to the church. Please clear all donations with Pastor Scott or the decorating committee.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- We had a large expense with payment for renewal of our insurance policy and are sitting well as far as our cash position.
- We are continuing to make the \$5000 per month payments on the mortgage.

Connie made a motion and Lynne seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report as read.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**TV Monitors:** Pastor Scott spoke with Kerry at AVE. He said they were "still waiting on monitors and a few other pieces." Unfortunately, they have kept pushing back the installation date and been somewhat non communicative. Pastor Scott will stay in touch with them.

**Fall Festival Update:** Jana completed a flier that we will print and put up at various businesses. Lynne said plans are going well. The pork chop dinner will be \$13 for one pork chop and \$15 for two pork chops and free hotdogs for the kids. We need donations of service certificates and quality items for the live auction. We also need bars for the pork chop dinner, books and DVD's for the media table and items for the country store. If anyone would be willing to help with the live auction or kids' games, please let Lynne know. Also, see the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

**Safety Plan:** We discussed ideas for updating the church safety plan.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Vacation Bible School:** VBS is on July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00pm. Kim said we are ready to go with kids signed up and volunteers signs up to help.

**LCMC Gathering:** This is happening in Des Moines from 10/4/2026-10/7/2026. We had previously decided to only send delegates every other year when it takes place in Minnesota. Some of the sessions may be live streamed afterwards.

**Commercial Insurance Quote:** We received a letter of solicitation from Church Mutual offering to give us a quote. We decided to hold off on obtaining quotes until the roof was finished.

Emilie made a motion and Lynne seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37pm. Pastor Scott closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be August 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted, Emilie Greb, secretary



- 5- Dave Lounsbury
- 5- Hadley Pesola
- 6- Viola Anderson
- 10- Bonnie Gibson
- 10- Brigette Schmitz
- 11- Hayley Henke
- 19- Paul Cox
- 20- Sharon & Kerry Johnson
- 20- Summer & Brad St. George
- 22- Brenda & Mike Olson
- 24- Dennis Hogie
- 25- Christina & Adam Keske
- 27- Mike Bregenzer
- 29- Mike Olson

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](mailto:faithlutheran@tds.net).

Thanks!

### ~August Blessing~

May God bless your August days with peace, gratitude, and trust.  
May Christ meet you in every joy and burden. May the Holy Spirit  
strengthen your faith through the Word. As summer begins to fade,  
may you notice God's gifts, serve your neighbor gladly,  
and rest in the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.