



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 2026

*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: Grace and peace to you.

September has a way of changing the rhythm of life. Summer begins to loosen its grip. School starts again and calendars fill up. Church activities resume. Harvest is coming and the days quietly grow shorter.

There is something comforting about returning to familiar routines. There can also be something exhausting about it.

September can quickly become a month of schedules, obligations, meetings, practices, appointments, and lists. We can go from the slower pace of summer to wondering how the calendar became so full almost overnight.

Maybe this change of season gives us a good opportunity to pay attention to the rhythms of our lives.

Some routines are necessary and life-giving. Others may be habits we have carried for years without thinking about them. We become so busy moving from one thing to another we forget to notice the people around us, enjoy the day God has given us, or spend a few quiet moments in prayer.

Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." I find something wonderfully steady in those words. So much around us changes, always! Seasons change. Families change. Congregations change. Our bodies change. Plans change. Sometimes life changes in ways we never expected or wanted. Yet Jesus remains faithful.



Perhaps September isn't only about getting back into the routine. Maybe it can also be a time to think about what belongs in our routine. Time for worship and prayer. Time with people we love. Time to notice a neighbor. Time to rest. Time to enjoy the changing colors, the cooler evenings, or a quiet cup of coffee before the day gets moving.

None of us will create the perfect schedule, and within a few weeks something will disrupt whatever schedule we created anyway. Life has a sense of humor about such things. But underneath all the changing rhythms of our days is something wonderfully constant. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

As another season begins, perhaps that is enough to help us enter it with a little less hurry and a little more peace.

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!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

- Sunday morning Bible study begins Sept. 20th at 9 AM.
- Women's Bible Study begins Sept. 24th with coffee & visiting at 9:30 AM and study begins at 10 AM. All women are invited so invite your friends!
- Men's Breakfast resumes meeting the first Saturday of the month on Oct. 3rd at 8:30 AM.
- Rally Sunday is Oct. 11th – Sunday school begins at 11 AM.

September Blessing

May God bless you in this changing season with steady faith, peaceful hearts, and eyes open to the gifts of each day. May Jesus walk with you through busy schedules, new routines, and unexpected moments. May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for the work before you, refresh you when you are weary, and keep you rooted in the promises of God. May September be filled with grace, purpose, and peace. Amen.

FALL FESTIVAL DONATION IDEAS

COUNTRY STORE: baked goods, crafts, produce, craft supplies, handmade cards, pies, candy , canned goods, variety of breads, sewn crafts, embroidered dish towels, crocheted and knitted items, quilts, fleece blankets, homemade dishcloths

GARDEN CENTER: flower pots, yard equipment, raspberry bushes, strawberry & rhubarb plants, fresh flowers, houseplants, annual flowers, plants, tomato cages, garden gloves (new), grapevine wreaths, yard ornaments, garden hand tools

MEDIA CENTER: books for ALL ages, DVD's, audio books, CD's, blank journals, current magazines, stationary, greeting cards, bookmarks, board games, computer games, NO COMPUTER EQUIPMENT PLEASE

KIDS ACTIVITIES: game prizes for ages 2-12

LIVE AUCTION: personal service certificates (examples): babysitting, pie a month, Christmas cookie tray, home repairs, mystery day for two, four hours of lawn/yard service, house cleaning, Christmas in-home decorating, window washing, host a meal for 2 or 4 or 6, homemade cookies for 6 months, snow removal/sidewalk shoveling; new or gently used higher priced items. See Lynne Crandall for ideas



Bring items to church next Sunday or Fall Festival weekend.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We will have a congregational meeting after worship on September 20th to discuss and vote on soffit and fascia repairs on the original part of the church building.

ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE

Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge is coming to Faith on Sunday, October 11th. 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 signup sheet for helping with setup, kitchen help and cleanup.

ROOTED

a ladybug gathering

Join us Saturday, October 10th from 9 AM – 1 PM, for ROOTED – a morning of real stories, faith, creativity, laughter, and connection. Together we'll make a little room to remember who we are, whose we are, and what we're still becoming. Come ready to create, connect, be encouraged, and leave with a little more courage to sparkle exactly as God made you to. This event is being hosted at Silver Creek Community Church in Silver Creek. Sign up on the information table in the narthex.

LUTHERAN PRAYERS YOU CAN USE AT HOME

A PRAYER FOR THE MORNING:

Almighty Father, I thank you for the gift of this new day. Keep me steadfast in your Word and guard me from sin, pride, and needless worry. Forgive me for the sake of Jesus Christ, who has borne my sin and given me his righteousness. Order my thoughts, words, and work according to your will. Give me strength to serve the neighbors you place before me with patience and love. When I am weak, remind me my hope rests not in myself but in your mercy. Preserve me in faith until this day is done; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE EVENING:

Almighty Father, I give you thanks for carrying me through this day. Forgive the sins I have committed in thought, word, and deed, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Where I have failed my neighbor, grant repentance and restore what I have damaged. Where I have done good, keep me from pride, for every good gift comes from you. Into your hands I place my work, my worries, my loved ones, and my life. Guard me through the night, give rest to the weary, comfort the troubled, and awaken me to serve you again in faith and freedom. Amen.

LUTHERAN TIDBITS

Luther and the Sign of the Cross

Some Lutherans are surprised to learn Martin Luther encouraged Christians to make the sign of the cross. In both the Morning and Evening Prayers of the Small Catechism, Luther instructed Christians upon rising and before going to bed to bless themselves with the holy cross. For Luther, this was not superstition. The cross points us back to our baptism and reminds us whose we are. We begin and end the day under the name placed upon us in Baptism: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Your Ordinary Work Is a Calling

The Lutheran understanding of vocation means God does not call only pastors and missionaries. Parents, farmers, teachers, mechanics, business owners, students, retirees, neighbors, and countless others have vocations too. God often cares for people through the ordinary work of other people. Changing a diaper, preparing a meal, repairing a machine, visiting a lonely neighbor, or doing an honest day's work may not look particularly "spiritual," but God loves and serves the neighbor through such ordinary callings.

Holy Cross Day, September 14

September 14 has long been observed by Christians as Holy Cross Day. Lutherans have retained the day in the church calendar, not to honor a piece of wood or turn the cross into a lucky object, but to proclaim what happened there. The cross tells the truth about our sin and, even more wonderfully, tells us what God has done about it. As Paul writes in Galatians 6:14, our boasting is in "the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." The instrument of death has become the sign of Christ's victory for sinners.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

August 20, 2026

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

President, Kim Garberich called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Pastor Scott led with devotions and prayer.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Scott did a service for women who had lost children.
- Vacation Bible school went well and the kids had a great time.
- The graveside service for Kay Sime is coming up on the 25th at 11:00am with lunch after at the church served by the women's Bible study group.
- He will talk to Anna about doing a blessing of the backpacks.

- He will be speaking at Quiet Oak's Hospice fundraising event on Thursday, September 24th.
- He bought a new office chair.

Building and Grounds:

- Pete put up a POW/MIA flag.
- The roof is completed. The insurance company paid for the non-matching shingles and will do the same for the siding.

Treasurer's Report: We are continuing to pay \$5000 per month on the mortgage. We now have \$86,000 left to pay on the mortgage. Connie made a motion and Lynne seconded to approve the treasurer's report as read.

OLD BUSINESS:

TV Monitors/PowerPoint: The TV screens are up. We will be ready to have the Power Point up and running on September 13th.

Fall Festival: Lynn has already received some items for the auction but could use a few more items and personal service certificates. We still need people to put up signs.

Safety Plan: Pete has a draft and needs to meet with Craig to finalize the plan.

NEW BUSINESS:

Deck staining: The deck needs some work including power washing and staining. We would need to organize volunteers to do the work. The deck does not get used that often. Pat will also check to see if there is an Eagle Scout who might be willing to take it on as a project.

Soffit and Fascia: Pete received a quote from the contractors who did the work on the roof for repair of the soffit and fascia on the old part of the church. We will post notice in the bulletin and the newsletter of a special meeting on September 20th for congregational discussion and approval to move forward with the repair.

Silver Creek Community Church Gathering: Gloria is working with them on a women's gathering on Saturday October 10th. There will be crafts and a speaker.

Pat made a motion and Connie seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm. Pastor Scott closed with the Lord's prayer.
The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 17th.

Respectfully submitted, Emilie Greb, secretary



8- Dawn Enberg
 12- Pat Block
 12- Matt Brecht
 13- Bob Burggraff
 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.



Backpacks are packed,
hearts are ready,
let's cover our students in prayer!

Bring your backpack on Sunday,
Sept 13th, for a blessing!

*Walk in kindness, shine with
courage, go with God.
Ephesians 4:32*



Dirt cups

A sweet reminder that God is always growing something new, no matter the season. As summer winds down and a new school year begins, remember He is at work in your life, helping you grow in faith, kindness and courage. With His help, you can grow in wisdom, build friendships and shine His love wherever you go.

What you need:

- 2 cups milk
- 1 (4-serving) box chocolate instant pudding mix
- 1 (8 oz.) tub whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed
- 8 (9 oz.) clear plastic cups
- Gummy worms or frogs (optional)



What you do:

1. In a large bowl, whisk together milk and pudding mix for 2 minutes. Let stand for 5 minutes until thickened.
2. Gently fold in the whipped topping.
3. Add a layer of crushed cookies to the bottom of each cup.
4. Spoon pudding mixture on top, filling the cups about $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
5. Sprinkle more crushed cookies on top to look like "dirt."
6. Add gummy worms or frogs for fun.
7. Chill until ready to serve, or enjoy right away.

See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not
perceive it? — Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)

