



Faith Family News

October 2025

*In response to God's grace flowing
through Christ, we grow in faith
and show Christ's love.*

A TITANIC TIME

By Pastor Adam

On April 14, 1912, a massive ocean liner was making its voyage through the frigid waters of the North Atlantic Sea. Just four days prior, this “unsinkable” ship started its maiden voyage from Southampton, England to New York City. It never arrived. The ship’s captain knew they were passing through iceberg laden waters, and he had placed two men as lookout in the crow’s nest, high atop the ship’s foremast. At around 11:40pm, to the starboard side, they saw a dark mass that blocked the stars. It was a massive iceberg. It was too late. Hidden beneath the surface of the water, ice from the base of the iceberg cut through the hull, flooding multiple water-tight compartments. The “unsinkable” *Titanic* sank to the bottom of the sea just four hours later, bringing over 1,500 of the crew and passengers with it.

I thought of this tragedy last month while attending our synod’s Fall Theological Conference at Pere Marquette, a time for clergy to gather for education and renewal. The theme of the conference was “Remembering the body of Christ: Theological and Pastoral Formation in a Polarized World.” Our guest presenter, Rev. Sunitha Mortha, a third generation Lutheran from India, shared about the clash of cultures she experienced when she moved to Minneapolis. She projected on the screen two icebergs representing two cultures. Above the water are the external aspects of the culture experienced by the five senses: cooking, dress, music, and literature. But remember, 90% of an iceberg lies beneath the surface. This mass of internal culture contains hidden values and influences: notions of modesty, justice, beauty, and governing.

These icebergs represent us. We see one another’s behaviors and practices, but fail to consider the values and stories beneath the surface. We see someone who votes differently, worships differently, or thinks differently and conclude, “If they only knew what I know, they would know that I’m right and not do that.” Not so. There is great complexity buoyed by that 90% beneath the surface, and when we ignore it, we collide and are in danger of sinking.

Rev. Mortha shared this as a lesson of inclusion in the church, that the Body of Christ is like an arranged marriage in India. We don’t get to pick who is in our family, but we love them and work to get along. The corollary is obvious for the rest of our lives. I had the opportunity to visit with many colleagues while eating, hiking, and playing frisbee golf, and the conversation always came back to frustration and futility about the political divide we are experiencing in our country and congregations. Surprisingly (perhaps not) the most volatile situations occurred on social media where congregation members engaged in battle and, in one instance, called for the removal of their pastor.

These are dangerous times. The differences are complicated. The people at odds with one another, along with their values and culture, are complicated. I can urge us all to love one another, and some would call for my ouster as well. This challenge doesn’t come from me, it comes from the gospel. The gospel of Jesus Christ proclaims that there is neither Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female, (any others we could add?)... we are one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28). We are loved into the Body of Christ, not because of who we are, but because of who God is. It’s time that we acknowledge the complexities, listen to one another, and love one another.

Pastor Adam

Flows. Grows. Shows



Faith Family Updates

What's new around Faith? Maybe you haven't been here in awhile or you just haven't noticed, but our ministry is constantly changing.

OVER \$363,000 IN PLEDGES TO OUR ABIDING IN FAITH FOR OUR FUTURE APPEAL RECEIVED... THANK YOU!

On September 14, we gathered for worship and our dedication celebration for our two Abiding in Faith for Our Future stewardship appeals. Our annual appeal is an opportunity to pledge financial support to our ongoing ministry by giving to our General Fund (supporting our ministry budget), Building Fund and Maintenance (supporting property improvements), Synod/ELCA support (helping the shared ministry of our synod and denomination), and local needs (helping people in our community). Our Debt Reduction Appeal is an opportunity to pledge financial support to help pay off our mortgage over the next three years. What a great response we had! We had set a goal of \$400,000 over three years to pay off our mortgage and received pledges for over \$363,000! Thank you so very much for your generosity and commitment to God's wonderful work in our Faith Family. It's clear that September 14 was more than a time to dedicate our pledges, but also to dedicate ourselves to God and God's ministry. The goal of stewardship ministry is to practice the spiritual discipline of stewardship as we grow in our relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to us. Thank you for your generous stewardship!

FALL FEST TRUNK-OR-TREAT, MEAL, AND POLKA SERVICE... A BARREL OF FUN!

Roll out the barrel as we join for some fun, food, and worship on **Saturday, October 25**. It will be a day of worship, fellowship, and outreach for our Faith Family and the entire community. We start at 3:30 with some toe-tapping worship in the sanctuary with a liturgy set to favorite polka tunes, complete with oompa band and accordion. Then, bring on the food! Bratwurst, sauerkraut, potato salad, all washed down with mugs of root beer, then with some German chocolate cupcakes to top it off. The fun continues outside for our second annual Trunk-or-Treat with decorated trunks and activities. These events are for the entire community, and there are many ways to participate. **Look for signup sheets** to prepare food and serve, along with hosting a trunk, booth, or game for the Trunk-or-Treat. This takes the place of our Soup, Salad, and Dessert event this year, so let's come together, invite our neighbors, and have a barrel of fun!

CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir will sing "Your Grace Still Amazes Me" for Reformation Sunday, October 26. Rehearsals will be after church on October 12th and 19th. The YouTube link to the song is: <https://youtu.be/8nt6r2-5TZQ?si=U61Wm6hlRICvDdWI>
Let Jean know if you have any questions.

Thank you!



CONGRATULATIONS TO VICKI ROBSON, GRAND PRIZE

On September 28, City Church hosted a car show and fundraiser for Marilyn Dichsen. It was a great day for Vicki Robson as well, as she took home the grand prize for her classic red 1968 Camaro. Marilyn handed out the awards and even gave her own "Marilyn's Choice" trophy.

Reaching Up... Connecting with God through Worship

FIRST SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Our summer worship schedule was a hit, and we will continue having 9:30am contemporary and 11:00am traditional worship on the first Sunday of each month.



UGANDA CELEBRATION

9:30AM OCTOBER 5

Join us as we celebrate the partnership we have with HUGS (Hearts United in God's Service) and their ministry with the Pillars of Africa Children's Ministry in Uganda. We will hear an update on their ministry, see some videos of the children, and worship with a bit of Ugandan flare.

SERMONS IN OCTOBER... "GOD CALLING"

Throughout the Fall, the Narrative Lectionary takes us on a journey through the Old Testament, tracking the larger story of God's redemption. In October, our readings focus on God's call and provision in our lives. On October 5, God appears to Moses in a burning bush, calling him to step out in faith.

- ♦ October 5, God appears to Moses in a burning bush, calling him to step out in faith.
- ♦ October 12, God provides manna to the Israelites, teaching us that God provides when God calls.
- ♦ October 19, God calls Samuel and challenges us to listen in our own lives.
- ♦ October 26, God calls David, reminding us that our call doesn't rely on our outward appearance or abilities.

Reformation Sunday October 26

Let's roll out the red carpet (or paraments) as we celebrate Reformation Sunday! It will be a special morning with an opportunity (or two) to belt out "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" and a musical offering from our Chancel Choir. Wear red, the color of the Holy Spirit, as we trust that God's reforming work and refining fire continue to be at work in us and throughout Christ's church.

All Saints Sunday November 2

On November 2, we will be celebrating All Saints Sunday, an opportunity to remember all the saints of God, specifically recalling members and loved ones of members of our congregation who have died or were baptized in the last year. If you would like the name of your loved one shared, please submit it to the church office **by Friday, October 31.**

Youth Led Worship November 9

We are blessed with faithful and gifted youth in our congregation and celebrate that they are not the church of the future... they are the church today! We welcome our youth to lead our worship, from musicians to readers to preachers. Our lectionary reading is the story of God appearing to Elijah in the unexpected stillness on the mountain. Adam Krohe will preach, sharing with us how he experiences God in another unexpected way, honeybees.

Flows. Grows. Shows



Reaching In... Connecting through Discipleship

MEN'S

BREAKFAST

Come and connect with the men as we share our faith and enjoy good food on **Saturday, October 4!** At 8:00, we hang out in the kitchen, helping to cook, drink coffee, and visit. At 9:00, we sit down for conversation and discussion on a specific topic.

BIBLE BOOT CAMP

We had a great outing to the Martin's home to learn about God's creation IN God's creation. Families sang songs about hippopotamuses, survived an epic nature hike with our own naturalist Paul Scheerer, and enjoyed a delicious cookout with homemade ice cream. Thank you to Galen and Marty for this wonderful day! Bible Boot Camp will not meet during October, but do join us at our Fall Fest on October 25 for food and fun, including a bounce house, games, and trunk-or-treat. **Bible Boot Camp will resume on November 2, 16, and 30, 4:30-6:00pm, with a Christmas party on December 14.**



(Ages 2-7) gathers during worship right after the Children's Sermon and returns to the sanctuary in time for Communion.

In October, Faith's Little Flock is excited to welcome three new volunteers to the teaching rotation! Together, we will explore stories about Moses and the Burning Bush, Manna and Quail, and learn about Samuel and David. Through engaging activities, the children will experience the stories by learning, living, and singing them. We will also provide materials for parents to continue these lessons at home.

Faith's Little Flock warmly welcomes—and deeply appreciates—our adult and older youth volunteers. If you're interested in spending time with the children during part of the Sunday worship service or joining the teacher rotation for Faith's Little Flock, please reach out to Melissa Street or Pam Devlin. Blessings, *Melissa*

DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

Join us for the Discipleship Group meeting at **10:00am on Wednesday, October 15**, in the Faith Library as we meet for Bible study, discussion, and fellowship. We have a lot of fun with lively discussions. Let's grow together in compassion, connection, and purpose.



UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Our Youth are invited to join us on October 25 as we carve jack-o'-lanterns and learn about letting our light shine. We will meet at 6:30pm after the trunk-or-treat. Then, on All Saints Sunday, November 2, we will have a special "Soup with the Saints" meal at 6:00pm. Youth will be inviting "saints" who have been role models of faith to join in conversations about faith and following God.

FAITH'S LITTLE FLOCK



Reaching Out... Connecting through Outreach

Doorbell Dinners October 27-31

Help us deliver meals in the community through our community-wide Doorbell Dinners ministry. We are in need of drivers & deliverers to cover the needs of five routes — time commitment is 11:15-12:30 each day. For more information and to sign up, visit the signup counter by the Fair Trade coffee sales. Questions? Talk to Sharon Zuiderveld.



JACKSONVILLE FOOD CENTER

The Jacksonville Food Center continues its kind actions of providing foods to families needing help to supplement their grocery needs (every 3 weeks for shelf stable items and every week for fresh foods).

Faith Church has not provided nonperishable foods to the Food Center (only 2 pounds in July) and no food donations in August and September, the latter to date September 21.

August money donations from Faith Church totaled \$520.

Lillian Korous & Pat Glyshaw

FRIENDS FROM FAITH

A ministry team led by Naomi Hahn: on the last Sunday of each month — everyone is welcome to send a greeting card. **On October 26**, visit the tall white table just outside the sanctuary where you can select a card, sign a card, or deposit a card in the mailbox to send. Cards and stamps are provided for your use. If you have extra cards or stamps to spare, please bring them and donate them in the provided jar.

NEW DIRECTIONS MEAL TRAIN

The New Directions homeless shelter is looking for volunteers to provide meals for their residents. There are typically 5-12 residents each night, but they ask that you call ahead to confirm the headcount for the day. Meals can be dropped off between 5:30-6:00pm, and you are welcome to stay and eat. For more information, visit "New Directions Jacksonville, IL" on Facebook.

JACC FALL ASSEMBLY ON HOMELESSNESS

The number of people experiencing homelessness in Jacksonville has been on the rise in recent years, and many of us are more in danger of becoming unhoused than we may think. The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches will be hosting a panel discussion of community leaders and our unhoused neighbors to help us better appreciate the experience of homelessness, hear what organizations are doing in our community, and learn how we can help. Details are still coming together, but we know the event will be held at Grace United Methodist Church on the evening of either November 12 or 13. With November as National Homeless Awareness Month, stay tuned for more ways we will work together to care for our neighbors.

NEW FOOD CENTER REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED

After many years of service, Lillian Korous is stepping down as Faith's liaison to the Jacksonville Food Center. We are looking for a volunteer (or two) to take her place.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOCAL NEEDS DONATIONS

When you designate a portion of your offering to go to local needs, much of that money goes to support two organizations. St. Vincent de Paul, run by Our Saviour Catholic Church, responds quickly to people in our community who need immediate financial assistance. Unmet Needs is an ecumenical partnership between Jacksonville Churches and the Salvation Army. They coordinate assistance from other agencies and fill in the gap with financial donations from our community.

*Thank you for your support and help
for our neighbors in need!*

Worship Assistants

Chancel Committee

Oct. 5 Pat Glyshaw
Oct. 12 Kris Roth
Oct. 19 Martha Krohe
Oct. 26 Kim Heise

Communion Assts.

Oct. 5 **volunteer needed** (9:30am)
Oct. 5 **volunteer needed** (11am)
Oct. 12 **volunteer needed**
Oct. 19 Liddy Stark
Oct. 26 **volunteer needed**

Readers

Oct. 5 Liddy Stark (9:30am)
Oct. 5 **volunteer needed** (11am)
Oct. 12 John Williams
Oct. 19 Sharon Woodworth
Oct. 26 **volunteer needed**

Coffee Hosts

Oct. 5 Karen Sibert (9:30am)
Oct. 5 Kim Heise (11am)
Oct. 12 Judy D. & Vicki R.
Oct. 19 Barb Davenport
Oct. 26 Kay Schnitker

Greeters

Oct. 5 **volunteer needed** (9:30am)
Oct. 5 **volunteer needed** (11am)
Oct. 12 **volunteer needed**
Oct. 19 Kay Woodworth
Oct. 26 **volunteer needed**

Ushers

Oct. 5 Pat Glyshaw (9:30am)
Oct. 5 **volunteer needed** (11am)
Oct. 12 **volunteer needed**
Oct. 19 Barb Davenport
Oct. 26 **volunteer needed**

If you would like to help with assisting for the 9:30am worship services, please **sign up in the gathering area** at the podium by the east doors or contact the church office (faithlutheran62650@frontier.com).

Altar Plants

(\$15 donation appreciated)

If you would like to donate,
please call or email the church office (245-8919
or faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) or **sign up in the
gathering area at the podium by the east doors;**
please make checks payable to
Faith Lutheran Church (1385 W. Walnut St.).

Oct. 5 **Open for donation
& Open for donation**

Oct. 12 **Open for donation
& Open for donation**

Oct. 19 By the Roth family in celebration of
Elliot's 6th birthday on October 18 and
Lily's 8th birthday on October 25
& By Lynette Hamilton in celebration of
Brenda & Kip Stevenson's Anniv. 10/28

Oct. 26 By the Dichsen family in honor of
Karen's birthday on October 30
& By Gayla Smith in honor of her
Baptismal birthday

Financial Assistants

Oct. 5 Kelly Hartz & Kelly Street
Oct. 12 Mindy Carlson & Ken Devlin
Oct. 19 Greg Kimler & Kay Schnitker
Oct. 26 Kelly Hartz & Patty Nelson

Stewardship Snapshot...

Mortgage Interest

With the wonderful response to our three-year Abiding in Faith for Our Future campaign to pay off our mortgage, some have been asking about our interest payments. We pay monthly mortgage payments of \$4,503.25. With our September 24 payment, \$1,370.47 went toward interest. Donations for our appeal cover our monthly payments, then go directly to the loan principle, significantly lowering that interest payment over time. If you have made a pledge for 2026, consider giving it in January to lower that interest payment even more. Thank you for your generous practice of stewardship!

The goal of stewardship ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them.

Newsletter Deadline

October 19