



Faith Family

News

May 2026

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

BE PRESENT IN SUFFERING

By Pastor Adam

I'm reading a wonderful book, "God Meets Us in Our Suffering" by Rolf Jacobson, Karl Jacobson, and Michael Pancoast. Rolf, Karl, and Michael are all ELCA Lutheran pastors with cancer. This book is full of raw, painful, and hilarious anecdotes about where they found hope and encouragement on their journeys through cancer. In a chapter on "dos and don'ts" when approaching someone who is suffering, Rolf tells a story about his parents walking down the street (he was diagnosed with cancer at 14 and had both legs amputated). They saw a man they knew walking towards them, but he crossed the street and walked by on the other side. After passing them, he turned back and approached them. "I'm really sorry I did that," he said, "and I'm even more sorry about your son. I turned away because I didn't know what to say. I still don't know what to say."

Have you ever been in that situation? Sometimes we don't know what to say. Sometimes we even avoid someone altogether. Rolf encourages us to resist the urge to turn away from suffering and to walk into it with one another (empathy). You can simply say, "I don't know what to say, other than that I love you, and I'm sorry."

As Sharon explains, empathy involves listening. Sometimes we get anxious because we want to say the right thing, but sometimes, there is no right thing to say. Sometimes, there is nothing that needs to be said at all. Simply be present with someone in pain and listen. If you want to say something, you can follow Rolf's suggestions, "I don't know what to say, other than that I love you, and I'm sorry."

Pastor Adam

THE GIFT OF EMPATHY - PART 3

By Sharon Zuiderveld
Congregational Care Coordinator

Do you find it harder to listen and understand a family member's feelings than by listening to a casual acquaintance? One reason might be that we assume we already know their thoughts, feelings, and needs. Have you even tried to finish another's sentences? It's hard to listen when you want to interrupt.

But it might help, when dealing with children, parents, or siblings, to keep in mind these suggestions:

- Keep focused on the other person and how they are feeling.

- Avoid assumptions or jumping to conclusions rather than listening and trying to understand.

- Stay focused on the current situation; talking about the past might be necessary, but focus on the pain the person is dealing with right now.

- Try to see things from your loved one's perspective; this is often difficult when we assume we know the situation already.

- Talk less and listen more; when necessary, open a conversation/dialogue rather than talking more than we should.

- Resist the urge to fix the situation; empathy is more important than solutions.

Make empathy your priority; remember that you may not have responded lovingly in the past, but give yourself the grace to move forward.

In Part 4 we will conclude with a surprising form of empathy.

Sharon Zuiderveld

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.

WE HAVE A BUSY MAY!!!

PLANTING AND PICNIC MAY 3

Join us after worship this Sunday as we help add to the beauty of Faith's gardens by transplanting and planting new plants. There will be something to do for everyone, and we'll have some tools you can use. If you have a favorite shovel or pair of gloves, bring them along and let's get dirty! We will also enjoy a picnic in our newly planted gardens.

MOTHER'S DAY AND "PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL" MAY 10

FROM PASTOR ADAM

In Philippians 1, Paul writes, "I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." You may have heard about the break-in at Faith last month. What you may not have known is that the only item that was stolen was a cross necklace that my mom brought back from Jerusalem and gave to me at my ordination. There's a lot more to this story that I'll share on May 10, but I want to invite you to join me in remembering those who have been partners in the gospel. Who has encouraged your faith? Maybe it was your mom, another family member, a friend, or a stranger. You are invited to bring to worship a picture or item to remember this person. We will bring our pictures and items to the altar to give thanks to God for their partnership in the gospel with us. If you do not have something to bring, the Men's Breakfast group is providing small potted flowers you can place at the altar. You will be able to bring your picture, item, or flowers home with you after worship. Together, let's thank God and remember the partners in the gospel who have touched our lives.

CONFIRMATION AND PENTECOST MAY 24

When a child is baptized, parents make promises to raise them in the faith, the congregation promises to support and encourage them, and God promises to be with them always with the power of the Holy Spirit to nurture their faith. The Rite of Confirmation is the opportunity for youth to affirm the promises their parents made in Baptism as their own, for the congregation to celebrate and recommit their support for these youth, and to recognize God's Holy Spirit who continues to be at work in their lives. Join us on May 24, Pentecost Sunday, as we celebrate the Rite of Confirmation for Eli Rajaguru and Rigby Dichsen, then stay after worship for refreshments and to congratulate these youth on their commitment to their faith.

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

Is someone in your family graduating this spring? If so, we'd like to celebrate with them! Please tell us their name, school, degree, any future plans, and send us a photo.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR FAITH'S GARDENS

We are purchasing flowers each week for the altar that will then be planted in our church gardens. If you would like to donate a plant, the cost is \$15, and you can sign up at the podium in the Gathering Area.

Reaching Up... Connecting with God through Worship

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SUMMER WORSHIP - INDOORS AND OUT!

In response to listening to our congregation, our Worship Core Team and Council are departing from our two-service Sundays and scheduling more outdoor services this summer. We will be alternating between indoor and outdoor worship with one service each Sunday.

- * Are you worried about getting mixed up? *Don't worry! We have magnets with the summer schedule available at church. We will also send reminders each week on Facebook and a congregational email.*
- * Are you worried about uneven ground? *Don't worry! We have a section with solid seating on the parking lot.*
- * Are you worried about bugs and heat (or cold)? *Don't worry! We have seating in the Justice Room where you can worship in our first-class, climate-controlled, window-view seating.*
- * Are you worried about not knowing the music? *Don't worry! We are maintaining our blended format with familiar contemporary songs and traditional hymns.*
- * Are you trying to find something else to worry about? *Don't! Just come!*

Many of you have friends who are looking for a church. This summer would be a great time to invite them! Whether indoors or outdoors, all are invited to come and experience the grace of God in word, sacrament, music, community, and creation.

SPRING SERMON SERIES

We concluded our journey through John's gospel in April and are shifting to the life and ministry of Paul. We will be reading through portions of Acts up through Pentecost, then shift to Paul's letter to the Philippians. This short and powerful letter is the perfect opportunity to get to know Paul and his churches better. Read along and join us for "Digging Deeper" after our indoor services to learn more.

UPCOMING BAPTISM FOR SYDNEY DAY

Join us on May 24 for the baptism of Sydney Day. As Lutherans, many of us were baptized as children, remembering that we are saved by grace through faith, apart from any work of our own. We do not often have the opportunity to celebrate the baptism of an adult, and this is a wonderful opportunity to witness this step in Sydney's life and celebrate the work of God's Holy Spirit.



MAY

3—Outdoor Worship
Picnic & Planting Day
10—Indoor Worship
17—Outdoor Worship
24—Indoor Worship
31—Outdoor Worship

JUNE

7—Indoor Worship
14—Outdoor Worship
21—Indoor Worship
28—Outdoor Worship

JULY

5—Indoor Worship
12—Outdoor Worship
19—Indoor Worship
26—Outdoor Worship

AUGUST

2—Indoor Worship
9—Outdoor Worship
16—Indoor Worship
23—Outdoor Worship
30—Indoor Worship

SEPTEMBER

6—Outdoor Worship



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Reaching In... Connecting through Discipleship

DIGGING DEEPER

Join Naomi Hahn and friends in the Justice Room after worship to dig deeper into the readings and sermon of the day. While we try to stay on topic, the Holy Spirit sometimes has her way and we find ourselves delving into all sorts of topics of faith and life... just as fruitful as the scriptures and sermon. It's a wonderful way to connect with others and grow in our faith seeking understanding. **During the summer schedule, we will only be meeting after the indoor services.**

VBS

Have you seen all the kids around here?! Our Faith Family is growing and we want to provide some wonderful education and fellowship for our children, youth, and their families. This summer, we will be providing a Vacation Bible School program for children of all ages. Instead of a single week, we will be offering a variety of days through the summer in hopes to involve more children and volunteers. Our Discipleship Core Team is beginning the planning and is looking for help. Not only are we welcoming those interested in planning, but also volunteers to assist with games, dramas, crafts, music, and meals. Contact anyone on our Discipleship Core Team to offer your help: Pam Devlin, Carol Freesen, Celeste Hill, and Pastor Adam.

Faith's Little Flock

Ages (2-7) During May, Faith's Little Flock will follow Paul the Apostle as he shares about God in Athens, discover how the early believers formed a loving community in Phillippi, and learn what it means to live like Jesus in our everyday lives. Along the way, we will explore the amazing gift of the Holy Spirit — our helper, guide, and comforter.

Each week includes simple Bible lessons, crafts, and snacks that help the children understand these important stories in an age-appropriate way.

Special "Thank you" to our adult and big kid helpers.

We appreciate you!

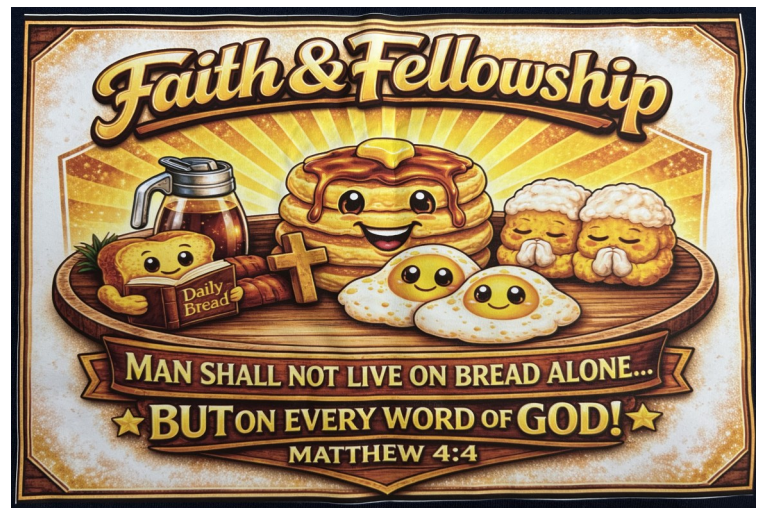
Blessings,
Melissa Street

MEN'S BREAKFAST - NOT BY BREAD ALONE!

What a delicious meal our Men's Breakfast ministry team provided on Easter Sunday! Many thanks to these guys for their hard work and commitment in the kitchen. Not only were we impressed by their culinary skills, but did you see their new shirts?! They are taking their ministry to the next level both through their attire and also by going beyond breakfast. This summer, they are going to begin a new format by including discussion on the Bible reading and topic for the following day in worship. To be clear, this is NOT Pastor Adam's attempt to get last minute sermon material, but an effort to help us serve up an extra helping of God's word and digest it more fully through the whole weekend. Please join us and bring a friend!

MEN'S BREAKFAST SCHEDULE CHANGE!!!

In May, we will not be meeting on May 2, but May 9, so that we can prepare a special Mother's Day project during breakfast.



Reaching Out... Connecting through Outreach

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HUGS MINISTRY EXPANDS TO NEW CHURCH IN COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS

On Sunday, April 26, members of the HUGS board from Faith Lutheran traveled to Columbia, Illinois to celebrate a new partnership with Christ Community Lutheran Church. They recently launched a new outreach program called “GLO - Global and Local Outreach” to include a single global mission effort and local ministry opportunity. They chose HUGS and our partnership with Pillars of Africa Children’s Ministry in Uganda for their global effort and have committed to tithing a portion of their offering, helping raise funds for special projects, promoting the sponsorship of the children, and are eagerly considering a mission trip to Uganda in the near future. We are thrilled to have their partnership in this ministry!

*If you would like to learn more about what God has done through HUGS in 2025,
a year-in-review is available on the table under the working cross.*

JACKSONVILLE FOOD CENTER

In March our Faith Family had monetary donations to the Food Center of \$550 and 7.6 pounds of food! In March the Food Center provided food boxes to 548 local families for a total of 1,180 people. Individuals stopped by to receive bakery items and fruits, vegetables, salads, and other perishable items, all of which are donated by our local grocery stores and businesses. A total of 1,905 people benefited from these much-needed items. Sack lunches are still provided to the unhoused on a daily basis.

At the most recent Food Center Board meeting, the director advised the board members of the Faith Endowment year-end donation of \$1,500. The members were very appreciative of our generosity.

Blessings, *Pat Glyshaw and Barb Davenport*

DOORBELL DINNERS - MAY 25-29

Help us deliver meals in the community. 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 sign-up counter by the Fair Trade coffee sales.

NEW DIRECTIONS

The New Directions homeless shelter continues to seek volunteers to provide meals for their residents. You may call ahead to confirm the headcount and drop off your meal between 5:30-6:00 pm.

You may also provide a contribution to Liddy Stark, member of the Outreach Team. She will purchase a gift card from a local restaurant and deliver it to New Directions when they need it.

YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS

Our youth are participating in a number of summer camps. Here are some of their top recommendations:

Marilyn Dichsen and Adam Krohe love **Leadership Lab**, a camp for high school sophomores through adults at Augustana College in Rock Island. Ask them why they enjoy it so much, and consider joining them for a future camp!

Benen and Louis Dichsen love **Performing Arts Camp (PAC)** at Green Pastures. It is for grades 5-12 to explore the arts through music, drama, improv, dance, and more. Louis plans to attend all three of the PAC camps this summer (June 12-13, 19-20, 26-27). Ask them why they enjoy it so much and consider joining them. There is always room for more at these camps! Pastor Adam and Marilyn Dichsen are serving as counselors this year.

Beckham and Kellon Oldenettel have long been involved with the **Western Illinois Youth Camp**. This summer, they have camps through all of June and July. Learn more and register at WIYC.NET.

Worship Assistants

Chancel Committee	Communion Assts.	Readers
May 3 Pat Glyshaw (outside)	May 3 Karen Sibert (outside)	May 3 Liddy Stark (outside)
May 10 Kris Roth	May 10 Pam Devlin	May 10 Angela Spray
May 17 Mary Jane E. (outside)	May 17 need volunteer (outside)	May 17 need volunteer (outside)
May 24 Karen Sibert	May 24 Kay Schnitker	May 24 Angela Spray
May 31 need volunteer (outside)	May 31 need volunteer (outside)	May 31 need volunteer (outside)
Coffee Hosts	Greeters	Ushers
May 3 need volunteer (outside)	May 3 Lynette Hamilton (outside)	May 3 Angie & Mike F. (outside)
May 10 Karen Sibert	May 10 Mindy Carlson	May 10 Pat Glyshaw
May 17 Verla & Laura (outside)	May 17 Barb Fishback (outside)	May 17 need volunteer (outside)
May 24 Barb Davenport	May 24 need volunteer	May 24 Barb Davenport
May 31 Judy D. + Vicki R. (outside)	May 31 need volunteer (outside)	May 31 need volunteer (outside)

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.).

- May 3 By the Roth family in celebration of
 Ella & Naomi's May birthdays
 & By Lynette Hamilton in honor of
 granddaughter, Katelyn Keller's
 graduation from SIUE College of
 Nursing
- May 10 By Amy Stevens-Kaufmann
 in thankfulness to God
 & By Susan Roegge: Happy Heavenly
 Birthday to an incredible Dad, and
 Happy Mother's Day to an incredible Mom
- May 17 By the Dichsen family
 in gratitude to Moms
 & **Open for donation**
- May 24 By Kris & Bishop Em. John Roth
 in celebration of their 44th anniversary
 & **Open for donation**
- May 31 **Open for donation**
 & **Open for donation**

Financial Assistants

- May 3 Greg Kimler & John Williams
- May 10 Mindy Carlson & Kevin Krohe
- May 17 Greg Kimler & Kay Schnitker
- May 24 Patty Nelson & Monica Proefrock
- May 31 Kevin Krohe & Cory Street

Quarterly Financial Update



Newsletter Deadline: May 17