



Faith Family

News

June 2026

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

EMPATHY IN THE PSALMS

By Pastor Adam

When Marilyn was first diagnosed with cancer, our family was reeling with emotion. I remember driving down the road, looking up at the clouds, and saying many unholy things to God. We talked about this with our kids, encouraging them to be honest in their prayers, expressing the questions, anger, and pain to God. One of our kids' friends caught wind of this and told them, "You can't be angry at God... that's a sin!" I disagree.

I'll share more on this in our upcoming sermon series on prayer, but for now I will simply say that God can handle our anger. God wants us to be vulnerable and honest with every emotion in our prayers. We see this in the psalms, expressions of the highest joys ("*Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise God's holy name*" Psalm 103) to the deepest despair ("*Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice*" Psalm 130). They don't hold anything back, and we don't need to either. Why? Because God shows empathy, too.

We read last month in Philippians 2 how Jesus emptied himself, became human, and humbled himself, even to the point of death on a cross. On the cross, God is with us in our suffering with empathy and love that can handle any and all of our emotions.

I want to thank Sharon for teaching us so much about empathy these last few months. It is a wonderful practice to cultivate and share with one another in our congregation and beyond. As you put it into practice, know that you can go to God as well. God hears you and is there for you always with unconditional love.

Pastor Adam

THE GIFT OF EMPATHY - PART 4

By Sharon Zuiderveld
Congregational Care Coordinator

While we have been learning about empathy, especially when we are dealing with difficulties in people's lives, another aspect of the power of empathetic listening is when people have joyous occasions to share. It can be so affirming to listen and share happiness when we hear of a new baby, a wedding, a graduation, a confirmation, or a baptism. To validate someone's feelings and express our understanding of their feelings back to them is a wonderful gift.

Here are a few ways to do this:

- Recognize happy moments
- Give people an opportunity to share
- Invite people to talk about their memories
- Share the joy

"Just as people might bottle up sad feelings, they may also keep their happy feelings inside." As I was growing up, any affirmation of happiness or joy was perceived as bragging or boasting. It took a long time for me to learn to openly "rejoice with those who rejoice." I think our world would benefit from expressions of joy. Might you build up another's joy this week? It's really not that hard.

Sharon Zuiderveld



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.

PENTECOST 2026... CELEBRATING THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT

On May 24, we had a Spirit-filled worship service as we celebrated the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Sydney Day, Eli Rajaguru, and Rigby Dichsen. For years, Sydney has seen God's hand in her life, providing strength, healing, and direction. She desired to receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism, committing to Pentecost living with the whole church. Eli and Rigby were baptized 14 years ago, but have completed their Confirmation instruction and desired to affirm their baptisms, claiming the promises their parents once made on their behalf as their own, and committing to Pentecost living with the whole church. It was a great day for us all to affirm the Spirit's work in us and the promises we make in baptism... to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Christ Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.



KRIS ROTH, PARISH SECRETARY FOR 37 YEARS, TO RETIRE

It is with much gratitude to God and with great appreciation for Kris Roth that our Church Council has decided it is the right time to re-vision the secretary position here at Faith. This has been a mutually agreed upon decision and will definitely take some time for transition. Kris has faithfully served in this position for 37 years, and we all will be a bit lost without her care and organization in the office. We will schedule a time for recognition at a later date. The Church Council has appointed a team that is updating a position description. They will be advertising the position this summer and interview candidates with a projected start date of October 1. We welcome your prayers through this process.

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

Flows. Grows. Shows



JUNE... A MONTH OF PRAYER

Through the month of June, here are some wonderful opportunities to explore and engage in prayer.

SERMON SERIES:

PRAYER... POWERFUL AND SIMPLE

Have you ever felt as if you were inadequate to pray? Maybe you weren't quite sure of what words to use or felt pressure to pray in front of others. From May 31-June 28, our sermon series on prayer sets out to help us discover how powerful, and how simple, prayer can be.

May 31 - *How do I pray?* Did you know that Martin Luther's barber asked him this very question? Luther responded with a very thorough letter outlining when, how, and what to pray for. On this first Sunday in the series, we'll reflect on this very question and learn from Luther and various Bible verses.

June 7 - *Psalms of Thanksgiving.* Giving thanks is a great way to begin prayer, and psalms of thanksgiving give us a great start. We'll look at a few of these psalms and use them as models for giving thanks to God.

June 14 - *Psalms of Lament.* There are times when our prayers rise out of anger and pain instead of joy and thanksgiving... and that is good. Expressing our heartache to God is healthy and helpful. We'll look at a few psalms of lament as they give voice to our suffering and open the door for prayer.

June 21 - *The Lord's Prayer.* No prayer is as widely known or as frequently prayed as the Lord's Prayer... but what are we praying? We'll take a closer look at "the prayer that Jesus taught us" to better understand its petitions and to see it as a model for our prayers.

June 28 - *Prayer Changes Us.* Mother Theresa once said that the power of prayer is that it changes us. How do the practice of prayer and the words we share have this impact on us? After a month of exploring prayer, we'll consider how we are changed by prayer.

JUNE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 7 - Indoors

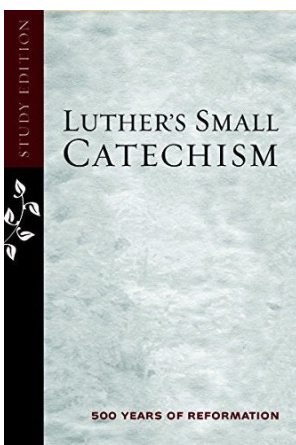
June 14 - Outdoors

June 21 - Indoors

June 28 - Outdoors

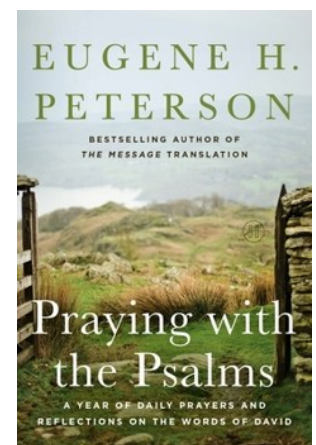
PRAYING THE CATECHISM

As you will hear on May 31, Luther encouraged utilizing the Small Catechism as a prayer partner. To assist, we are making copies of Luther's Small Catechism available to all. At the table below the Working Cross, you can find small pamphlets (suggested donation \$5) and larger study editions (suggested donation \$15). If you can't pay, you may take one for free. If you can pay extra, cover the cost for someone else.



PRAYING WITH THE PSALMS

On June 7 and 14, we'll be talking about prayers of thanksgiving and lament from the psalms. The psalms are beautiful examples of prayer that can help give us voice in our prayers. To assist, we are making copies of *Praying with the Psalms* available (suggested donation \$10). Written by Eugene Peterson (author of *The Message*), it provides a year of daily prayers and reflections on the psalms.



Flows. Grows. Shows



Reaching In... Connecting through Discipleship

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - "AT THE TABLE"

It's back! For the first time since 2019, we are having Vacation Bible School again... with a twist. See below for more information.

WHAT

"At the Table" is a curriculum provided by ELCA World Hunger that focuses on telling and hearing stories from the Bible and from children around the world. So many stories of Jesus happen at the table, so we'll be gathering at the table to hear these stories and share our own. We will have music, skits, storytelling, crafts, games, and more!

WHEN

To make it easier for families' schedules, we will gather after worship on five Sundays (June 14 and 28, July 12 and 26, and August 9). All are welcome to join us for a lunch from 10:45-11:30. We'll then begin our VBS events and close with music in the sanctuary at 1:45.

WHO

VBS is for children Pre-K through 8th grade and parents. We will divide the children into age groups, and parents are invited to join us in the Justice Room for a discussion as we share our own stories and get to know one another better.

HOW

Please **register by June 7** so we can plan our events accordingly. You may register using the provided QR code or by signing up at the information table by the coat closet.



HELP WANTED - Many thanks for those who have already offered to help! Here are some ways you can be a part of our VBS team for one or more sessions: small group guide/helper, storyteller, game helper, craft helper, food provider, and meal cleanup. Sign up for these at the information table. For more information, talk to Pastor Adam or Pam Devlin.

WOMEN OF FAITH

BLESSINGS LUNCHEON

The Outreach Core Team would like to invite the Women of Faith congregation to a luncheon. Presentations will be by Marilyn Dichsen and Polly Pulley followed by a light lunch. Please RSVP by **June 14** to the church office at faithlutheran62650@frontier.com or 217-245-8919, or sign up at the Coffee Sales counter. Invitations will also be available there to hand out to your friends. We hope you can attend.



DON'T FORGET!!!

Men's Breakfast - Saturday, June 6. Cook at 8 and eat at 9 with some faithful discussions.

Faith's Little Flock - During worship on the Sundays we are inside.

Digging Deeper Discussion - Reflect on the scripture and sermon after worship on Sundays we are inside.

Reaching Out... Connecting through Outreach

Flows. Grows. Shows



DOORBELL DINNERS - THANK YOU!

On May 25-29, our church was blessed to cover the Doorbell Dinner food deliveries. It is not only a blessing to those who receive the food, but to those who volunteer to deliver it, visit with the recipients, and share a healthy helping of God's love. This time, our sign-up sheet filled up almost instantly with volunteers. Thank you so much to all who helped! This ministry would not be possible without your time and support.

JACKSONVILLE FOOD CENTER

Our food donations in April were minimal, so those will be taken to the Food Center in June. Our monetary donations totaled \$290.00. All food and monetary donations are greatly appreciated and much needed.

In April the Food Center provided 545 food boxes to local families and 1,714 people received fruit, vegetables, and other perishable items which are donated by our local businesses.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Food Center, they are open Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 11:30am.

Blessings, *Pat Glyshaw and Barb Davenport*

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.

NEW INITIATIVE IN UGANDA - PILLARS BIBLE UNION

Our church has been partnering with Pillars of Africa Children's Ministry through the non-profit organization HUGS for the past seven years. We recently learned that Pillars is launching their new Pillars Bible Union (PBU) program. PBU is a Christ-centered outreach initiative to disciple children and youth, strengthen communities, and share the love of Jesus in practical ways. The launch begins June 6 with a community street cleaning and beautification project, bringing together local churches, law enforcement, government leaders, and volunteers in a visible act of service and unity.

The response has already been beyond anything they imagined. Twenty-six schools have requested participation in PBU to receive: Bibles for children and youth, leadership training and discipleship, the formation of Bible Union in their school, community outreach events and service projects, and ongoing encouragement and faith building opportunities.

The cost to provide these resources for one child is \$25. To learn more or make a donation, talk to Kelly or Melissa Street, Patty Nelson, or Kevin Krohe.

SUMMER CAMP OUTREACH

Camps are a great outreach and way to get kids connected to churches. One great opportunity is Performing Arts Camp (PAC) at Green Pastures. It is for grades 5-12 to explore the arts through music, drama, improv, dance, and more. Three camps are offered in June (12-13, 19-20, 26-27). Youth from Faith are attending all three, and Pastor Adam and Marilyn Dichsen will be counselors June 19-20. Consider sending one of your kids or someone you know.

VBS OUTREACH

Vacation Bible School is also a great way to reach out to others. Invite a neighbor, friend, or family member to join us for any or all of our sessions this summer (June 14 and 28, July 12 and 26, August 9). Remember to have them register online or on our sign-up sheet at the information table.

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

*We pray for God's blessing on all of our graduates as they follow God's call in their lives.
Please join us in congratulating and encouraging them along their journey.*



**DANIELLE KATHLEEN
DILLARD**

Danielle graduated from ISU with a BS in Communication Science and Disorders. She will be staying at ISU to work on her Masters and has a position with one of her professors. Danielle is the granddaughter of Judy Dillard.



LINCOLN VICKERS

Lincoln is the grandson of Kay and Sharon Woodworth. He will graduate with high honors from Crown Point High School, Crown Point, IN on June 2. He has been in band and orchestra playing several percussion instruments since 5th grade, as well as robotics, Latin, and many other activities. He has been accepted into Purdue University in the engineering department and hopes to study aerospace engineering and wishes to get a job with NASA.



EVAN WRIGHT

Evan is the grandson of Laura and Larry Sweatman and is graduating from Bastyr University Medical School in San Diego, CA with a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine.



**ISABELLE
WELLENREITER**

Isabelle is the granddaughter of Gilbert Wellenreiter and graduated from Winchester High School, magna cum laude. She plans to attend Illinois College in the Fall.



**BRAYDEN
WELLENREITER**

Brayden is the grandson of Gilbert Wellenreiter and graduated with honors from Lewis and Clark Community College with an Associate in Applied Science degree.



ISAAC WELLENREITER

Isaac is the grandson of Gilbert Wellenreiter and was promoted from 8th grade and will attend Winchester High School in the Fall.

Worship Assistants

Chancel Committee	Communion Assts.	Readers
June 7 Pat Glyshaw	June 7 Kay Schnitker	June 7 Kelly Hartz
June 14 Mary Jane E. <i>(outside)</i>	June 14 need volunteer <i>(outside)</i>	June 14 Carol Kilver <i>(outside)</i>
June 21 Kris Roth	June 21 Liddy Stark	June 21 Barb Davenport
June 28 need volunteer <i>(outside)</i>	June 28 need volunteer <i>(outside)</i>	June 28 Liddy Stark <i>(outside)</i>
Coffee Hosts	Greeters	Ushers
June 7 need volunteer	June 7 Barb Fishback	June 7 Pat Glyshaw
June 14 Kay Schnitker <i>(outside)</i>	June 14 Lynette Hamilton <i>(outside)</i>	June 14 need volunteer <i>(outside)</i>
June 21 need volunteer	June 21 Liddy Stark	June 21 Larry Kuster
June 28 need volunteer <i>(outside)</i>	June 28 need volunteer <i>(outside)</i>	June 28 need volunteer <i>(outside)</i>

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.).

- June 7 By the Dichsen family in honor of Marilyn's birthday on June 6
& **Open for donation**
- June 14 By the Dichsen family in honor of Desmond's birthday on June 17
& By Theresa Savoie in memory of the June 13 birthday of Mary Carolyn Savoie
- June 21 By the Dichsen family in gratitude to Dads
& **Open for donation**
- June 28 **Open for donation**
& **Open for donation**

Financial Assistants

- June 7 Monica Proefrock & Kay Schnitker
- June 14 Patty Nelson & Cory Street
- June 21 Kevin Krohe & John Williams
- June 28 Mindy Carlson & Greg Kimler

STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

An uncle of mine recently passed away unexpectedly, the last of my mom's generation. He had made no funeral plans, appointed no executor, and told no one about a will or any wishes. The nine of us cousins are now working frantically to find a will, make memorial plans, tend to his home and property, and put his finances in order. At a time when we are needing to grieve and be together, we have been overwhelmed with tasks.

Please know that I am here to visit with you about your end-of-life decisions. We have a funeral planning packet for you to share your wishes. We also have opportunities for you to leave a memorial or bequest to support our shared ministry at Faith for years to come. I'm also here simply to listen and pray with you through your decisions.

If you would like to visit, please let me know.

- Pastor Adam

Newsletter Deadline: June 21