



# Faith Family

## News

July 2026

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

### God Provides

After the children's sermon on Sunday mornings, there's often a thunderous sound of running feet as a herd of children head to Faith's Little Flock. This has been our creative approach to Sunday School for the last couple of years as the traditional model was not working for our families or volunteers. Some Sundays, the flock is small, and others, it's bursting at the seams! This was the case last month when Karen Sibert noticed a gaggle of kids up front. The Holy Spirit had been nudging her for some time to step forward and help with the older kids. They have been "helpers" for the younger kids, but really would benefit from their own group. That Sunday, Karen approached the Blessings Room where Faith's Little Flock gathers, opened the door, and proclaimed, "Hey big kids, you're coming with me!" She marched them down the hall to the Harmony Room and "Faith's Older Flock" was born (that's what the kids decided they should be called!).

What a blessing! It's a blessing to have so many children in worship with us on Sunday mornings. It's a blessing when people see needs and opportunities to serve and step forward to do so. It's a blessing that we have God's Holy Spirit, our Advocate, dwelling within us, guiding our ministry, calling and nudging us, and enriching our lives together. As we will hear in our July Sermon series, God provides in many ways... and God provides through you!

Yes, God provides, and we are leaning into this trust as a congregation as we enter a time of transition and hiring for three staff positions. Kris Roth is retiring from her 37 years as secretary, Jean Welch is retiring from her 13 years as Music Director, and we are

restarting our search for a Children, Family, and Youth Coordinator as our last candidate did not accept our offer. It may be difficult to envision what life and worship around the church will be like without Kris and Jean, and it may seem daunting to embark on such ambitious hiring... and so maybe we all could use a little reminder that God provides.

Let me say that again... God provides! And I am confident that God will, indeed, provide. What God provides will not look like what we have had in the past, and it may not even look like what we want it to look like in the future, but God will provide. I'm confident that God will provide the staff that we need for the sake of the ministry that God has set before us... but God is also providing, right here, right now, through you! We will have needs and opportunities for help and volunteering in many ways in the months to come, from assisting in the office, offering special music, and nurturing our children, families, and youth. Might the Holy Spirit be nudging you just like it did for Karen? How might God be seeking to provide through you?

I wish you could have seen the smile on those kids' faces when Karen took them down the hall and started a class of their own. I wish you could have seen the smile on my face when I heard about it! We are the Body of Christ, a body made up of many members with many gifts and many callings. Will God provide what we need for our future ministry together? Look around you. God already has!

*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.

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### ***WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER IN THE CENTRAL-SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD OF THE ELCA***

#### **SYNOD ASSEMBLY WRAP-UP**

This year's Synod Assembly took place on Zoom on June 6. From our congregation, Pastor Adam, Monica Proefrock, Patty Nelson, and Jean Welch participated. If you would like to hear more, talk to any of them, or visit the Central/Southern Illinois Synod website at [www.csis-elca.org](http://www.csis-elca.org) where you will find a recap of the assembly.

#### **SYNOD DAYS... YOU'RE INVITED!**

With this year's synod assembly on Zoom, we missed the opportunity to connect with others around the synod. To make up for it, each conference is hosting a "Synod Day" where all are invited! Our conference is gathering at Our Lord's Lutheran Church in Maryville, IL on Saturday, August 29, from 10:00am - 3:00pm. Events include cross-generational worship, activities for children and families, a shared meal, Q&A with synod staff, and "Spirit Lab" workshops. If you would like to attend, we will cover the cost of your registration! Contact the church office by August 10 and we will get you registered and ready to go.

### **MUSIC DIRECTOR JEAN WELCH ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT**

We give thanks to God for the faithful and gifted ministry that Jean Welch has shared with us on our music staff since 2014. She has helped lead us in worship and accompanied choirs for adults, kids, chimes, bells, Faith Singers, and more. She offered great creativity during our "online only" days through the pandemic, got her steps in making the run from the organ to the piano across the sanctuary, and kept the Faith Singers on their toes with new, challenging, and spirit-filled music. Her last Sunday will be October 4, and we will plan a time of thanksgiving when we get closer. Until then, be sure to thank her for her service and enjoy the gifts she continues to contribute in our worship together.

### **CELEBRATING THE SAINTS**

Donna Bradley joined the church triumphant on May 29. Together, we give thanks for our saints, visible and invisible members of the great cloud of witnesses.



### **ALTAR FLOWERS FOR FAITH'S GARDENS**

We continue to purchase 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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Flows.Grows.Shows



## THANKS FOR THE MONTH OF PRAYER!

Last month, our sermon series looked at how we pray, following advice from Martin Luther to his barber, exploring psalms of thanksgiving and lament, revisiting the Lord's Prayer, and discovering how prayer changes us. Thank you for joining us on this venture, and may prayer be an ever growing part of your spiritual life!

## JULY SERMON SERIES: GOD PROVIDES

As our Worship Core Team was contemplating possible sermon series for the summer, a common thread emerged... overwhelm! It seems like each of us is dealing with our own overwhelm in our own ways with our busy schedules and demands that pull us every which direction. As we talked about the causes for our overwhelm, the remedy became clear... **God Provides!** For three Sundays in July, we will explore God's faithfulness in providing in the past as we are strengthened in our trust that God is faithfully providing today.

### JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 5 - Indoors

July 12 - Outdoors

July 19 - Indoors

July 26 - Outdoors

**July 12 - God Provides: Our Daily Bread** - We read from Exodus 16 about God providing manna in the wilderness and John 6 about Jesus feeding 5,000. Not only does God provide our daily bread, but God is our living bread!

**July 19 - God Provides: Community** - We read from Genesis 2 the story of God creating woman out of man. We are created for community, to be helpers for one another in life and ministry. Not only does God provide community for us in the Body of Christ, but God sends us our Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to abide with us forever.

**July 26 - God Provides: Forgiveness and Salvation** - We read from Leviticus 16 about the Jewish sacrificial system and scapegoat that atones for the sins of the Israelites. In John 1, John the baptizer accurately identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Our forgiveness and salvation comes through Christ's cross and empty tomb.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

### VBS SUNDAY AUGUST 16

Come hear what the kids have been learning all summer at their Vacation Bible School sessions as we join them in music, storytelling, and maybe even a visit from Sandi the Seagull! "At the Table" is a VBS program designed by ELCA World Hunger to help our kids understand the challenges other children face around the globe, and how we can help when we work together as the church. To join in this work, we will be taking a collection for ELCA World Hunger, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that works in over 60 countries, collaborating with congregations, international Lutheran churches, and various partners to address the root causes of hunger and poverty.

### YOUTH SUNDAY AUGUST 30

Come hear what our youth have been up to this summer. They've been on mission trips and camps from Gulf Shores, Alabama to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, and lots of places in between. While the scenery has been very different, one thing has remained constant... God's faithfulness. Our youth will tell stories of where they experienced God and served as God's hands and feet. We will take a collection to support future youth mission trips, camps, and our efforts to hire a Children, Family, and Youth Coordinator to help grow this important ministry.

Flows. Grows. Shows



## *Reaching In... Connecting through Discipleship*

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### **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.

#### **"AT THE TABLE" VBS**

Vacation Bible School continues in July and August with our Sunday afternoon schedule. Remaining Sundays are July 12 and 26 and August 9. Join us immediately following worship as families and volunteers are invited to a meal in the Great Room from 10:45-11:30. We then head to the sanctuary for our opening, then break into small groups for storytelling, crafts, games, and discussion. We wrap it up in the sanctuary again and are finished at 1:45.

This year's curriculum, "At the Table," is provided by ELCA World Hunger and engages children in the powerful art of storytelling. As many stories are told around tables, we hear stories of children from other countries around the world and how children like us are helping them in their hunger and poverty.

If you have a child, grandchild, friend, or neighbor who would like to join us, have them register using the QR code. And be sure to worship with us on Sunday, August 16 for our VBS celebration!



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### **WOMEN OF FAITH BLESSINGS LUNCHEON... WHAT A BLESSING!**

Our Women of Faith Blessings Luncheon was held on Saturday, June 20 and had a wonderful turnout. We heard presentations by Polly Pulley from Spirit of Faith and our own Marilyn Dichsen. Each shared how God's power has been revealed in different Biblical women of faith and their own challenging journeys. Marilyn then blessed us with some beautiful music. A collection was gathered for Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen and "Marilyn's Moonlight Seats," a charity that Marilyn has started to provide free seats to the St. Louis Muny Theater for cancer patients and their guests. Thank you all for your prayers and participation for this wonderful event! We will definitely do it again and are eager to see it grow in many ways.

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### **DON'T FORGET!!!**

**Men's Breakfast** - To avoid Independence Day on July 4, we will meet this month on **Saturday, July 11**. Cook at 8 and eat at 9 with some faithful discussions. In line with our sermon series, we will be sharing where we have seen God providing in our lives.

**Faith's Little Flock and Faith's Older Flock** - We now have two groups of children meeting during worship on the Sundays we are inside. Faith's Little Flock is for children ages 2-7 and Faith's Older Flock is for children grades 1-6.

**Digging Deeper Discussion** - Due to busy summer schedules, this group will be taking a Summer break and will resume in the Fall. Do join us when we resume... it's a wonderful way to share in our faith and build great friendships!

# Reaching Out... Connecting through Outreach

## GREENBRIAR FOOD PANTRY STORAGE HOUSED AT FAITH



The Sweatman name is well known around Jacksonville. Larry and Laura, members here at Faith, have two sons who provide wonderful ministry in our community. Todd is the Western Illinois Area Director for Fellowship of Christian Athletes, an organization that incorporates Bible study and discipleship in sports programs in our schools. Rob and his wife, Krystal, have discovered a powerful opportunity to help in our community as well. They are very active with the international students at Illinois College and became aware of a need for food and supplies for residents at the Greenbriar Apartment Homes by the fairgrounds in Jacksonville. The majority of the residents are immigrants, and many don't have the resources or confidence to shop for all the items they need. Rob and Krystal have worked with Greenbriar management to

set up a table to provide food and supplies, restock it weekly, and spend time visiting with the residents, building relationships and offering Christian outreach. In order to keep the table stocked, they needed a place to store items and approached Faith earlier this year. Currently, we have set aside a space in our basement for the storage of non-perishable food items. This month, Pastor Adam joined them on a trip to the Morton Food Bank to resupply and learn more about how they operate this ministry. This is just another small way that we are helping to make a big difference in our community!



## JACKSONVILLE FOOD CENTER

Our food donations in April and May were 22 pounds for a value of \$110. The value is calculated at \$5 per pound. We also had monetary contributions of \$250.00 in May.

In May the Food Center provided 539 food boxes to local families, which is down slightly from April. Donated fruit, vegetables, bread, milk, juice, and other perishable items are always available, but the amount is dependent on the donations received. Local stores also donate donuts and other prepared items that they are no longer able to sell due to the "sell-by date". These items are much appreciated by our clients.

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

## 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 28, July 12 and 26, & August 9). Remember to have them register online or on our sign-up sheet at the information table.

# Worship Assistants

Chancel Committee	Communion Assts.	Readers
July 5 Kris Roth	July 5 Karen Sibert	July 5 Angela Spray
July 12 <b>need volunteer</b> (outside)	July 12 Kay Schnitker (outside)	July 12 <b>need volunteer</b> (outside)
July 19 Pat Glyshaw	July 19 Pam Devlin	July 19 Angela Spray
July 26 <b>need volunteer</b> (outside)	July 26 <b>need volunteer</b> (outside)	July 26 <b>need volunteer</b> (outside)
Coffee Hosts	Greeters	Ushers
July 5 Karen Sibert	July 5 Lynette Hamilton	July 5 <b>need volunteer</b>
July 12 <b>need volunteer</b> (outside)	July 12 Lynette Hamilton (outside)	July 12 <b>need volunteer</b> (outside)
July 19 Kay Schnitker	July 19 <b>need volunteer</b>	July 19 Pat Glyshaw
July 26 <b>need volunteer</b> (outside)	July 26 <b>need volunteer</b> (outside)	July 26 <b>Patty Nelson</b> (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.).

- July 5 By Kris & Bishop Em. John Roth in celebration of Drew & Maria Snodgrass' 14<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 8  
& **Open for donation**
- July 12 By the Dichsen family in honor of Pastor Adam & Karen's 22<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary on July 10  
& **Open for donation**
- July 19 **Open for donation**  
& **Open for donation**
- July 26 **Open for donation**  
& **Open for donation**

## Financial Assistants

- July 5 Monica Proefrock & to be determined
- July 12 Kevin Krohe & John Williams
- July 19 Greg Kimler & Cory Street
- July 26 Mindy Carlson & Patty Nelson

## STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

**God provides...through you!**

This month we'll be hearing a lot about the various ways that God provides... giving daily bread, forgiveness and salvation, and even our community. An often overlooked way that God provides is right here, at Faith Lutheran Church, specifically... our finances. For over 75 years, God has provided all that has been necessary for our partnership in God's ministry together... but, unlike manna in the wilderness that appears with the morning dew, so much of what God provides comes through you!!! Our ministry relies on your generosity and stewardship, from your tithes and offerings to your volunteering and participation. Thank you, so very much, for the many ways you give! This month, take time to recognize all the ways that God has provided for you, and consider how you can pass that on through our ministry together.

- Pastor Adam

### Newsletter Deadline: July 19