



# Faith Family News

August 2026

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

## Worship as "Worth-Ship"

A youth pastor of mine from years ago once gave me an interesting way to think about worship. "You have to break it down into its root words... worth and ship." I said he was a youth pastor... not an English professor! "A ship carries things from one place to another. Worship is our practice of giving worth to what we value." Interesting... and maybe not quite linguistically accurate... but let's run with it.

If you read through the rest of our newsletter (and please do!), you'll see that we are putting a lot of emphasis on worship in August. As you know, Jean Welch, our Music Director, is retiring on October 4. Since she announced her retirement, people frequently come up and ask if we have any candidates to interview. When I tell them that we haven't even put together a job description, I typically get a puzzled look. "Why not?!" My response? It's not that we don't need a new Music Director... it's that we don't know what kind of Music Director we need.

When we think of how much our worship lives at Faith have changed over the years, we also must think about what our worship life will look like in the future. What kind of a Music Director do we need to help us get there? As we take time to figure that out, it will be important for us to get down to the fundamentals of worship. You can read more about the sermon series and listening sessions on the worship page of our newsletter, but let's go back to my youth pastor's description for a moment. Go ahead, find a nice comfortable place to sit where you can spend the next ten minutes in reflection.

First of all, what has worth in your life? What do you value? There are two foolproof ways to find out. First, look at your calendar. Where do you spend your time? What are the things you are willing to miss other activities for? What activities will you volunteer for while others are unimportant to you?

Second, look at your budget. What do you spend your money on? What are the things you don't bat an eye at purchasing when other things simply aren't worth it? What organizations do we eagerly support financially? These are the things we value. These are the things we deem worthy. This is where we place our worth.

Now, take some time to consider what worth you place on God. Be honest. No one else is listening... just God :) What worth do you place on God? How do you give God the worth God is due? That's where worship comes in... or "worth-ship."



As I said, we worship continuously through the decisions we make on where we spend our time and resources. What about Sunday mornings? These next few questions focus on our time together in our corporate worship as a congregation.

What is the purpose of worship in your life today?

When you think of worship, what images or memories come to mind from your own faith journey?

What parts of worship feel essential to you?

What worship elements (music, art, instruments, symbols) speak most deeply to you? Why?

How is the landscape of worship changing in your life, our community, and culture?

These are a few of the questions we'll be discussing together in our listening sessions.

Your reflection and responses will help our congregation as we discern our worship life in the future and what kind of Music Director we will be looking for to help us get there.

Finally, it's important to know that we are all in the same boat together... or more appropriately, the same worth-ship! With Jesus as our captain, he will keep our heading straight and calm any storm that arises along the way. Thank you for all of the ways you give of yourselves in worship. It is a joy and privilege to be on the worth-ship with you!

*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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### ***BIG THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN AUGUST!***

#### **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.

#### **BAPTISM OF JACK NELSON**

On Sunday, August 30, as we celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit in worship, we will witness the work of the Holy Spirit through the sacrament of Holy Baptism for Jack Nelson. Jack is the son of Patrick and Emily Neson, son and daughter-in-law of Ed and Kim Nelson.

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

Join us and others from across the synod at Our Lord's Lutheran Church in Maryville on Saturday, August 29, from 10:00-3:00. Synod Day is a time of worship, food, fellowship, and Spirit-led engagement to connect and learn about how we in the Central/Southern Illinois Synod are church together for the sake of the world. Some of our Men's Breakfast crew has been invited to share about this wonderful ministry here at Faith. If you would like to attend, contact the church office **by August 10** and we will cover your registration fee. There will be a crew carpooling, and there will certainly be an extra seat for you!





# *Reaching Up... Connecting with God through Worship*

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Flows.Grows.Shows



## SERMON SERIES: "WHAT ABOUT WORSHIP?"

Worship is a central part of our lives as Christians, but what is it all about? Too often, we think worship is about preference; the style of music, setting of liturgy, whether it's indoors or outdoors, and more. Instead of preference, what are the purposes of worship? Each Sunday we will focus on a particular aspect of worship as well as an image from our sanctuary as we contemplate the what's, how's, and why's of worship.

**August 9 - *The History of Worship and the Cross*** - we look at the history and practices of Christian worship from the first Easter to today. Worship is our response to what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. The image this Sunday will be the cross because worship starts with God revealed to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

**August 16 - *The Inclusivity of Worship and the Doors*** - perhaps you never thought about the importance of our sanctuary doors. The doors allow us to welcome all and gather as the Body of Christ. This Sunday our VBS kids will share some music and stories from the summer and remind us that worship is an opportunity to welcome people of all ages to connect and grow together.

**August 23 - *SCAVENGER HUNT!*** - our Bible Boot Camp kids had a blast with a sanctuary scavenger hunt last year. They learned so much, and we can too as we learn from our beautiful worship space. While this was scheduled to be an outdoor Sunday, we will worship INDOORS for the hunt.

**August 30 - *The Holy Spirit in Worship and the Dove*** - the Holy Spirit is active in our worship and ever present in our lives. We will learn about the Spirit's action in our sacraments and hear from our youth about the Spirit's action in their lives as they tell stories and share pictures of summer camps and trips.

**September 6 - *Changes in Worship and the Exit Doors*** - today we talk about a dirty word... change! Just as worship was contextual for the church of the first century and the Lutherans of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, it is for us as well. How does our worship grow out of our context with integrity? We are sent out to worship beyond our doors and venture into an unknown future together.

## AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 2 - Indoors

August 9 - Outdoors

August 16 - Indoors

August 23 - INDOORS

August 30—Indoors

## WORSHIP LISTENING SESSIONS... OUR ULTERIOR MOTIVE

Why all the focus on worship? We are at a pivotal moment as a congregation, and our Worship Core Team is seeking your feedback. With the retirement of Jean Welch, our Music Director, we will be seeking a new director to help nurture our worship and music life together. What kind of a Music Director will we need? Our congregation is very different than it was 13 years ago when we hired Jean. We need to come together in prayer in discernment to better vision where God is leading our worship life in the years to come.

To help in this work, we will be hosting Listening Sessions each Sunday after worship, from August 9 through September 6. Each session will involve discussion questions to help us share about the significance of worship in our lives and what we value in our worship life together. We will meet in the Justice Room for about 45 minutes. If you are unable to join us, there will be other opportunities for you to share your feedback, but the time together in person will be a rich blessing for our discernment.



Flows. Grows. Shows



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

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL “AT THE TABLE”



We've been having such a great time at this year's Vacation Bible School! It has definitely been an experiment with a new format for our first VBS in seven years, but the children (and adult helpers!) have been loving it. We've been learning about the stories of children like us around the world who live under very different and challenging circumstances, and how the stories of Jesus bring us together to love and care for our neighbors. Our final session is 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.

*Don't miss our  
VBS celebration  
with the children  
during worship  
on Sunday,  
August 16!*



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

**Men's Breakfast - Saturday, August 1.** Join us for a delicious morning of food, fellowship, discussion, and prayer. We cook at 8 and eat at 9. Bring a friend!

**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.

**Read the Bible in a Year** Bible study with Pam Devlin, Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Library. Many are reading along on our own. At the end of September we will have made it through the entire Old Testament. All participants are invited to join us for a party, and we are welcoming newcomers to join us in reading the New Testament through the rest of the year.



# *Reaching Out... Connecting through Outreach*

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## **VBS MINISTRY FOCUS... ELCA WORLD HUNGER**



Our Vacation Bible School this summer has focused on the work of the church together in caring for the needs of others around the world. At our VBS celebration service on August 16, we'll be taking a special offering 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.

## **STORYBOOK PROJECT RETURNS**

Sharon Zuiderveld is working with Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) for a restart of the Storybook Project in the Jacksonville Correctional Center. We are currently spreading the word through the community and churches as we seek volunteers. Please join us in this effort by spreading the word and considering if God might be calling you to this ministry!

## **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 Core Team. She will purchase a gift card from a local restaurant and deliver it to New Directions when they need it.

## **JACKSONVILLE FOOD CENTER**

We didn't have any food donations in June. However, if anyone has extra produce in their garden, the Food Center is a great place to donate it. The clients love fresh garden produce. We donated \$340 in cash.

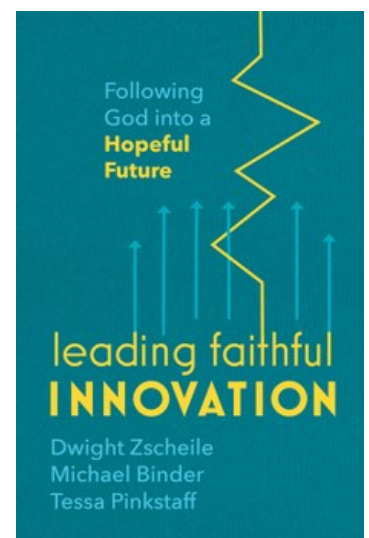
In June the Food Center provided 643 food boxes to local families, plus 63 boxes of food for larger families of more than 5 people. Clients can receive bakery items once a week when they aren't eligible for a food box. We are still providing a daily lunch to the unhoused, and the number we serve varies a lot from day to day.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Food Center, they are open Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 11:30am. Volunteers are especially needed in the summer when our student volunteers are unable to help.

Blessings, *Pat Glyshaw and Barb Davenport*

## **LISTENING IN OUR COMMUNITY... FAITHFUL INNOVATIONS**

Our Central/Southern Illinois Synod is encouraging congregations to prayerfully explore new ministry possibilities in their communities. How do you start? Listening. Congregations are asked to walk in the community surrounding their church building, places of work, and homes and simply observe. What are people doing? Where are people gathering? What places and people are overlooked and forgotten? In asking these questions, we might consider what God might be up to in our midst and how we might get involved.



# Worship Assistants

## Chancel Committee

Aug. 2 Kris Roth  
 Aug. 9 Karen Sibert (*outside*)  
 Aug. 16 Pat Glyshaw  
 Aug. 23 Mary Jane Esslinger (*INSIDE*)  
 Aug. 30 Karen Sibert

## Communion Assts.

Aug. 2 Liddy Stark  
 Aug. 9 Ken Devlin (*outside*)  
 Aug. 16 Pam Devlin  
 Aug. 23 Kay Schnitker (*INSIDE*)  
 Aug. 30 Liddy Stark

## Readers

Aug. 2 Terri Kimler  
 Aug. 9 John Williams (*outside*)  
 Aug. 16 Sharon Woodworth  
 Aug. 23 Angela Spray (*INSIDE*)  
 Aug. 30 Barb Davenport

## Coffee Hosts

Aug. 2 Barb D. & Terri K.  
 Aug. 9 Karen Sibert (*outside*)  
 Aug. 16 Laura S. & Verla B.  
 Aug. 23 **need volunteer** (*INSIDE*)  
 Aug. 30 Karen Sibert

## Greeters

Aug. 2 Barb Fishback  
 Aug. 9 **need volunteer** (*outside*)  
 Aug. 16 Vicki Robson  
 Aug. 23 Lynette Hamilton (*INSIDE*)  
 Aug. 30 **need volunteer**

## Ushers

Aug. 2 Pat Glyshaw  
 Aug. 9 **need volunteer** (*outside*)  
 Aug. 16 Judy Dillard & Vicki R.  
 Aug. 23 Barb Davenport (*INSIDE*)  
 Aug. 30 **need volunteer**

**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.).

- Aug. 2 By the Dichsen family in honor of  
 Pastor Adam's birthday on August 6  
 & By the Roth family in celebration of  
 Sam's birthday on August 3
- Aug. 9 By Kay & Sharon Woodworth in  
 Thanksgiving for blessings of healing  
 & **Open for donation**
- Aug. 16 By Monica Proefrock in honor of  
 Reiss' 4<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 18  
 & Baptismal birthday on August 4  
 & By Greg & Terri Kimler in celebration  
 of their 47<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary
- Aug. 23 **Open for donation**  
 & **Open for donation**
- Aug. 30 **Open for donation**  
 & **Open for donation**

## Financial Assistants

Aug. 2 Kevin Krohe & Cory Street  
 Aug. 9 Greg Kimler & Kay Schnitker  
 Aug. 16 Patty Nelson & Monica Proefrock  
 Aug. 23 Greg Kimler & John Williams  
 Aug. 30 Malinda Carlson & Kevin Krohe

## STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

### "It's the top of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning!"

Last month we provided mid-year giving statements as we are halfway through 2026 and halfway through our three-year *Abiding in Faith* appeal to pay off our mortgage debt.

We are a little behind in our regular giving for 2026. Through June, we have received \$121,641 of our budgeted \$129,600 income, **a deficit of \$7,959.**

For our *Abiding in Faith* appeal, we have reduced our mortgage from \$536,757 at the beginning of 2025 to \$311,439 last month. **That's a 42% reduction!**

As a coach for Benen's baseball team, I love celebrating the gifts of the players and encouraging them in helping the team. Thank you for sharing your gifts as we share in this beautiful ministry together!

- Pastor Adam

**Newsletter Deadline: August 16**