



Faith Family News

September 2026

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

The Gift of Covenants

If you haven't heard, we are in the middle of a "little" project at our house. We are renovating our school room, the room you enter by the back door. Karen has learned that my "little" projects always take longer than planned. I won't share when I thought this one would be completed... but just know that we tore out the walls back in May and we're almost ready to paint. All along the way, Desmond has been my right-hand-man. Every day, he would ask if we can do projects in the school room, and most days, I would have to say, "Not today. Maybe tomorrow." At my response, his mouth would droop and his shoulders sag as he moped off into another room. After days of this, I could tell I was losing him, so I made a promise. "Desmond, this Saturday, we are going to do projects all day!"

"All day?!" he exclaimed. "No stopping? From when we wake up to when we go to bed?"

"That's right," I said.

The next challenge was getting to Saturday! Every day he would ask how many sleeps it was until Saturday.

Saturday finally came and he was up with the sun, getting everything set up and ready to go. He helped with all the measuring and all the saws and all the

painting and all the nailing... it was a great day!

What is a covenant? A covenant is a promise, but so much more than that. A covenant is a promise that creates, defines, and nurtures a relationship. I could tell that my many empty promises of "maybe tomorrow" weren't cutting it for Desmond. He needed to know that I meant it, that he could trust me, and then see that promise fulfilled. That's why our "projects all day" day was such a blessing.

Beginning on September 20, the Narrative Lectionary will be cycling up again. Each fall, it starts with taking us through the narrative story of the Bible, beginning in the Old Testament. This year, we will hear about

God's covenants with God's people, and how they are so much more than promises. These promises created, defined, and nurtured God's relationship with God's people. As the fall progresses, we'll hear about how challenging this relationship became as God's people stumbled in their sin and needed to renew the covenant again and again. In Advent, we will hear about the hope of the fulfillment of God's promise, hope in a peace where swords are beaten into plowshares through the coming of Emmanuel... God with us.

Join us in worship through this narrative journey. God used these covenants to create, define, and nurture a relationship with God's people... and God continues to do it today with you and with me.

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.

RETIREMENT RECEPTIONS FOR KRIS ROTH & JEAN WELCH

In the next month, our congregation is giving thanks for the partnership in ministry we have shared with two of our beloved staff members - Kris Roth as our Secretary and Jean Welch as our Music Director. All are invited to gather in gratitude and celebration as they enter retirement. Two receptions will be held to offer heartfelt opportunities to share memories, express appreciation, and bless Kris and Jean as they step into this new chapter.

A reception honoring Kris Roth will be held following worship on Sunday, September 27, in the Great Room.

A reception for Jean Welch will take place following worship on Sunday, October 4, also in the Great Room.

All are welcome to attend.

If you would like to contribute to a retirement gift from the congregation, please indicate "Kris retirement" or "Jean retirement" on your check or envelope so your gift can be directed appropriately. Your generosity will help celebrate their years of faithful service and the many ways they have enriched the life of our Faith family. Thank you Kris and Jean! You have been such a blessing to us and we give thanks to God for the ministry we have shared together!



BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

Last month, we offered a blessing and a cross backpack tag for our children as they headed back to school. There were lots of little ones present... they were just hidden in front of the big kids!

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.

VBS

CELEBRATION

Thank you to all who helped with our VBS, "At the Table," this year! We had a great time and are eager to continue to work with families on how to best support and encourage their participation at Faith.



HELP MAKE FAITH'S FALL FEST FANTASTIC

Fall Fest is right around the corner, and you're invited to help shape one of Faith's most fun and festive events of the year. **Join the planning team in the Peace Room right after worship on Sunday, September 20**, to brainstorm activities, map out details, and bring creative ideas to life.

Whether you love organizing, decorating, dreaming up games, or simply enjoy being part of a joyful community event, your energy and imagination will make a big difference. Come be part of the team that makes Fall Fest happen — it's a great way to connect, contribute, and have fun along the way. If you can't be at the meeting but would like to help, reach out to Monica Proefrock at monica.proefrock@gmail.com.

Reaching Up... Connecting with God through Worship

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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.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September 6—Outdoors

PREACHING IN SEPTEMBER...

WHAT ABOUT WORSHIP?

The next two Sundays will wrap up our sermon series on worship. In August, we looked at the history of Christian Worship, what it means to have "open doors of welcome" for all, and capped it off with a sanctuary scavenger hunt to learn the significance of Lutheran liturgy and the various items and artwork in our sanctuary. Coming up...

August 30 - The Holy Spirit of God's Movement and the Dove - We will learn about God moving in baptism, in the lives of our youth, and in each of us.

September 6 - Changes in Worship and the Exit Doors - We hear about change and our call to be the church together for the sake of the world in a changing context.

PEOPLE OF THE COVENANT

Beginning September 20, we dive back into the narrative lectionary and will be hearing about the covenants of the Old Testament. We too, thousands of years later, are people of the covenant and are called to live in these same promises of God.

September 20 - Flood and Promise - The story of Noah and the flood can be terrifying and troubling, but is full of promise. Hear about God's covenant in the rainbow, a remarkable promise of relationship with all creation.

September 27 - Call of Abraham - God's call to Abraham is clear... "go!" God calls Abraham to go and promises to lead him every step of the way. As people of the covenant, this is God's call and promise for us as well.

WORSHIP LISTENING SESSIONS... OUR ULTERIOR MOTIVE

Thank you to all who have participated in our listening sessions last month! We are seeking feedback on the importance of worship in your lives as we discern our priorities for worship as a congregation. If you would still like to give your input, you can scan the following QR codes for an online form or pick up a hard copy from the office.

Week 1

History and Cross



Week 2

Open Doors of Welcome



Week 3

Sanctuary Scavenger Hunt



Flows. Grows. Shows



Reaching In... Connecting through Discipleship

LET'S EXPLORE THE COMPLEXITIES OF LIFE!

Not so sure about that? Think again and join us! Beginning on September 13, our Digging Deeper group discussions return. Each Sunday, we will reflect on the readings and sermon of the day. The readings come from the

Narrative Lectionary, a series of texts full of stories of hope and disappointment, suffering and redemption. In all of these circumstances, we find God at work among the complexities of human life, bringing life and salvation.

CONFIRMATION

"HEAD TO THE HEART"

We are gearing up to welcome our middle schoolers for another year of Confirmation instruction. Each year, we use the "Head to the Heart" curriculum, teaching each heart about the good news of God's grace, and making sure that this knowledge travels from the head to the heart as these youth live in a life-giving relationship with God. We welcome 6th-8th graders and adult helpers, too. This year, we will be meeting on Wednesday evenings. Please let Pastor Adam know if you are interested in participating.

READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Our "Bible in a Year" group will be completing the Old Testament on Wednesday, September 30. If you have been reading with us or on your own, join us for our meeting that day as we have an "I Survived the Old Testament" party. We'll meet at our usual time and place, 10:00am in the church library, and have some party treats along with our discussion. As we begin reading the New Testament on October 1, this would be a perfect opportunity to start! Not only is it simply a three-month commitment, but the daily readings will include more familiar stories. If you would like to start reading, contact Pam Devlin for the daily reading list and app if you would like to use it. pdevlin56@gmail.com

BIBLE BOOT CAMP

These events are filled with Bible stories, music, and activities for our elementary school aged children. Last year, we met on Sunday evenings, but this year's schedule is proving to be more challenging. We are working to find the best time for this group to meet and will be in touch with our families as we move forward.

CARLINVILLE YOUTH RETREAT

On November 20-22, youth from across Illinois are gathering for the annual retreat at Lake Williamson Retreat Center in Carlinville. Some of our youth go every year and it is a BLAST! **Registration is due October 1.** Please let Pastor Adam know if you are interested in attending as a participant or adult chaperone.



DON'T FORGET!!!

Men's Breakfast - Saturday, September 5. 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. Faith's Little Flock is for children ages 2-7, and Faith's Older Flock is for children grades 1-6.

VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND CHECKS

In upholding our congregation's Abuse Prevention Plan, we will be conducting background checks on our volunteers who work with children and youth. If you are one of these volunteers, we will reach out to you soon.

Reaching Out... Connecting through Outreach

DOORBELL DINNERS SEPTEMBER 7-11

Come see what you are missing!

If you've ever talked to one of our Doorbell Dinner volunteers, you know what a rewarding ministry it can be. If you haven't... you should! On Sunday, September 6, you'll hear from some of our volunteers during worship as they tell about what it means to provide food for body and soul. If you are able to help, we are in need of drivers & deliverers to cover the needs of five routes. The time commitment is 11:15-12:30 each day. If you want to learn more, listen to our volunteers and talk to Sharon Zuiderveld to tell her that you'd simply like to ride along and observe. We are confident you will want to do it again and again! To sign up, visit the signup counter by the Fair Trade coffee sales.



HELP STOP HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY

**SUNDAY
SACK LUNCHES
TO GO**

Bring donations
by Sept. 20

Items Needed:

- Fruit cups
- Granola bars
- Nutrigrain bars
- JIF To-Go
- Packs of cookies & crackers
- Tuna & chicken salad kits
- Pudding cups
- Meat sticks

The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches is partnering with Go Church to collect food items for their 'Sunday Sack Lunches to Go' program in the Jacksonville Area.

Collected supplies will be donated to Go Church to include in their food distribution program. Monetary donations are appreciated with checks payable to 'Go Church.'

Items will be collected **through September 20** and can be left in the blue collection box in the Mission & Ministry Center (coat closet) at Faith.

Questions? Contact coordinator
Pat Glyshaw at pat.glyshaw@gmail.com

JACKSONVILLE FOOD CENTER

There were no food donations in July, but we had \$440 in cash donations, which is wonderful. If you have extra produce from your garden, the Food Center clients will certainly appreciate it.

In July the Food Center provided 607 food boxes to local families, plus 66 boxes of food for larger families of more than 5 people. Our local stores are very generous in donating items to the Food Center.

The student volunteers are returning to the Food Center now that school is back in session. However, volunteers are always welcome and needed, and the Center is open Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 11:30am. It is truly rewarding and humbling to help.

Blessings, *Pat Glyshaw and Barb Davenport*

THANK YOU PAT GLYSHAW!

Pat will be moving at the end of September. For years, she has been a faithful volunteer in our outreach ministries, especially through the Jacksonville Food Center and Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches. Pat, we thank you for your ministry with us and pray God's blessing as you are led on new ventures! We also are looking for others to serve in Pat's footsteps in these and other areas of outreach. Contact the church office if you are interested.

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!

Worship Assistants

Chancel Committee	Communion Assts.	Readers
Sept. 6 need volunteer (<i>outside</i>)	Sept. 6 Liddy Stark (<i>outside</i>)	Sept. 6 need volunteer (<i>outside</i>)
Sept. 13 Mary Jane Esslinger	Sept. 13 Pam Devlin	Sept. 13 Mike Fenner
Sept. 20 need volunteer	Sept. 20 Ken Devlin	Sept. 20 Liddy Stark
Sept. 27 Pat Glyshaw	Sept. 27 Barb Davenport	Sept. 27 Barb Davenport
Coffee Hosts	Greeters	Ushers
Sept. 6 Karen Sibert (<i>outside</i>)	Sept. 6 Liddy Stark (<i>outside</i>)	Sept. 6 John Williams (<i>outside</i>)
Sept. 13 Judy D. & Vicki R.	Sept. 13 Lynette Hamilton	Sept. 13 Mike Fenner
Sept. 20 need volunteer	Sept. 20 Vicki Robson	Sept. 20 Judy Dillard
Sept. 27 <i>Reception Committee</i>	Sept. 27 Barb Fishback	Sept. 27 Pat Glyshaw

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.).

Sept. 6 By Gayla Smith in honor of her
birthday

& **Open for donation**

Sept. 13 By Celeste Hill in honor of her
birthday

& By the Oldenettel family in
celebration of Kellon's 18th birthday

Sept. 20 **Open for donation**
& **Open for donation**

Sept. 27 By the Roth family in celebration of
Laura's birthday today
& **Open for donation**

Financial Assistants

Sept. 6 Monica Proefrock & Cory Street
Sept. 13 Greg Kimler & John Williams
Sept. 20 Mindy Carlson & Patty Nelson
Sept. 27 Kevin Krohe & Kay Schnitker

STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

During our Sanctuary Scavenger Hunt, we heard that Stewardship time is about more than passing a plate, it's about gathering the material goods for the mission of the church. I've seen this done in churches around the world where the material goods include chickens, rice, blankets, and even building supplies. Supporting the mission of the church is about so much more than money... and so is your stewardship. This fall, notice the farmers gathering the harvest. Notice the school buses and children heading off to school. Notice your activity and ask God how God can use you for God's mission. Then, on Sunday morning, we welcome your financial support for the mission of the church, but put more than money in the offering plate. Offer yourself – your gifts, abilities, passions, and time – for the mission of the church.

- Pastor Adam

Newsletter Deadline:
September 20