



Faith Family News

October 2026

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

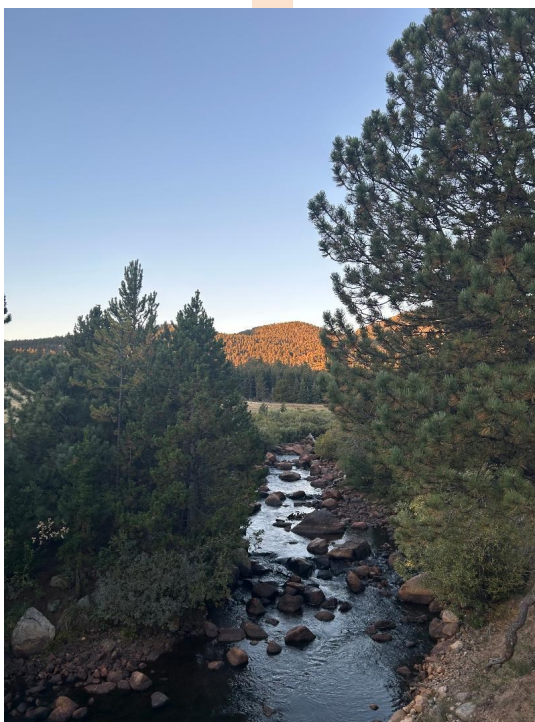
The Sabbath Stream

Two weeks ago, I was sitting by a babbling brook in Rocky Mountain National Park. It was the second day of my annual sabbath keeping week that I have committed to keep each year, and that our congregation and my family have graciously afforded me. After my sabbatical in 2024, I realized how vital it is for me – and for us all – to keep sabbath regularly. God created us with a rhythm for rest and renewal, and it is good for us to seek it daily, weekly, monthly, and annually. This week was my annual time to go away to a place where God speaks to me so clearly... and to listen.

That's where the water came in. I sat by this stream and just took time to notice... the rising sun, the mountain breeze, and the water. This water had been journeying from the snow packed peaks the winter before, had been nestled in an alpine lake up above the timberline, and now had come to me. After passing me, it would join other streams and rivers, eventually flowing into the mighty Mississippi, and on to the Gulf. In that water, the eternal presence of God came sharply into focus.

As a congregation, we have spent weeks reflecting on the significance of worship, how we worship, why we worship, and aware of changes in worship. Every Sunday, our worship is a doorway to the holy as we

glimpse the glory of God. Like the water of that stream, our worship has history in the generations that have come before us. And like the water of that stream, our worship has a future with the generations to come after us. Through it all, the constant is God... the eternal presence and unfailing faithfulness of God.



As I looked at that water, I was filled with respect and appreciation for where it had been in the past... and for where worship has been in the past. We share a rich Lutheran legacy of worship that flows to us and through us in our worship today. And as I looked at that water, I was filled with anticipation and hope for where it will go... and for where worship will go in the future. That rich legacy will continue to flow through us as it takes on new forms and expressions. Again, through it all, the constant is God. When we worship, in all forms and expressions, God is constant as the Holy Spirit fills us and flows through us, lifting our hearts to

praise the One who takes our captive selves and sets us free, raising us to new life.

Now... where is your sabbath stream? Take time for rest and renewal, stepping away from the busyness of work and demands, and notice the eternal presence and unfailing faithfulness of God. God is speaking to you... take time to listen.

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

Join us **this Sunday, September 27**, as we celebrate the work and ministry of **Kris Roth**, our Parish Secretary of 37 years. After worship, all are invited to join us in the Great Room for coffee, cake, and a program of appreciation. Then, on **Sunday, October 4**, we celebrate the work and ministry of **Jean Welch**, our Music Director of 13 years. After worship, all are invited to join us in the gathering area for refreshment and fellowship.

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.

Words cannot express our gratitude to God for these wonderful friends and their contributions to our Faith Family. Come and share your appreciation and love for the blessing they have been to us all.



FALL FEST IS ALMOST HERE!

The 3rd Annual Fall Fest at Faith Lutheran is happening on **Sunday, October 18**, from 4:00–6:00 PM. Families, friends, and neighbors are encouraged to come enjoy a Trunk or Treat, bounce house, free food, music, games, and more.

Volunteers are needed to help host trunks, support activities, bake cookies, and assist with general event setup and hospitality. Anyone interested in lending a hand is invited to sign up at the Coffee Sales counter.

This is a wonderful chance to celebrate the season and create a fun, welcoming experience for the community.

BAPTISM OF JACK NELSON

On Sunday, August 30, we celebrated 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.



THANK YOU TO BISHOP EMERITUS JOHN ROTH

On several occasions throughout the summer, Pastor Adam was away and Bishop Emeritus John Roth volunteered to preach and preside. We are grateful to God for his continued ministry with us and in our community and for his many gifts in shepherding the people of God.

Reaching Up... Connecting with God through Worship

Flows. Grows. Shows



WE'VE BEEN LISTENING... THANKS FOR SHARING!

Over the last two months, we held listening sessions after worship to explore together why we worship, and you provided a treasure trove of feedback! We were reminded of how central music is to our worship experience. Although the preferred style of music is different for every person, music truly is a “doorway to the holy” that each of us enters through in worship. Worship is also about our participation and service as many shared how meaningful it is to volunteer, assist, and be asked to help in our ministry together. We appreciated learning the meaning and significance of our Lutheran Liturgy and even the items in our sanctuary, and realized it’s good to learn it again. We even discovered a new term to which many proudly associate, the OWLs of the congregation (Older, Wise Lutherans). Our Worship Core Team is meeting this month to review feedback, identify key takeaways for our future worship, and discern what gifts we will be looking for in a new Music Director. Thank you again for your feedback and, as always, for the joy of worshipping together!

PREACHING IN OCTOBER...PEOPLE OF THE COVENANT

We continue to journey through the Old Testament stories surrounding our theme of covenants. In September, we saw God’s mercy and faithfulness in God’s covenants with Moses and Abraham. This month, that faithfulness grows and is manifest in mighty ways, from caring for Joseph in prison to parting the waters of the Red Sea.

October 4 - Joseph in Prison - While Joseph finds himself in a tight spot between Potiphar’s wife and prison bars, the God of the Covenant is with him.

October 11 - Rescue at the Sea - When the people of Israel find themselves in a tight spot, between an Egyptian army and the Red Sea, God makes a way.

October 18 - Covenant and Commandments - The Ten Commandments aren’t simply a list of laws, but an invitation to live as people of the Covenant.

October 25 - Joshua Renews the Covenant - As people of the covenant, our lives are in constant need of reformation and renewal. Joshua led us all in a call and commitment to serve the Lord.

Reformation Sunday

October 25

Let’s roll out the red carpet (or paraments) as we celebrate Reformation Sunday! It will be a special morning to belt out “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” and celebrate God’s reforming Spirit at work in the past, in our lives today, and in the days to come. In honor of the Holy Spirit, don your red apparel as we trust that God’s reforming work and refining fire continue to be at work in us and throughout Christ’s church.

All Saints Sunday

November 1

On November 1, we will be celebrating All Saints Sunday, an opportunity to remember all the saints of God, specifically recalling members and loved ones of members of our congregation who have died or were baptized in the last year. If you would like the name of your loved one shared, please submit it to the church office **by Friday, October 30** as we will read their names aloud. And while the Story of David and Bathsheba may seem out of place for such a solemn day, we remember that we all are at the same time saints and sinners.

Flows. Grows. Shows



Reaching In... Connecting through Discipleship

“THIS IS IT! THIS IS MY SABBATH TIME!”

Our Digging Deeper group convened again in September to a powerful discovery. The sermon that day was about Pastor Adam’s recent week of renewal he took in Colorado. He shared how God created each of us with a need for rest and renewal through sabbath keeping, and encouraged us all to make a plan for sabbath keeping in our lives. In our discussion, Kay Schnitker exclaimed, “This is it! This is my sabbath time!” She recognized how important it had been to step away from her busy work and connect with friends to discuss God’s Word and share life together. How about you? Where are you intentionally making time for sabbath rest and renewal? Consider making time for Digging Deeper. While we will not be meeting on September 27 or October 4 due to our retirement celebrations, we will start up again on October 11. We meet after worship in the Justice Room for about an hour to discuss the readings of the day, sermon, and whatever else the Holy Spirit may place on our hearts.

FIND YOUR SABBATH WITH US IN GOD’S WORD

We have another opportunity to help you find and keep your sabbath on a daily Basis. Our “Bible in a Year” group follows a daily reading guide, then meets together on Wednesdays at 10:00 in the Faith Library. On September 30, we will have completed the Old Testament and will begin the New Testament on October 1. If you are interested in joining us or starting a daily Bible reading sabbath practice, now is the time! Reach out to Pam Devlin (pdevlin56@gmail.com) for the daily reading list and for instructions on how to download and use the optional app. For those who have been reading through the Old Testament for the last nine months, join us at our weekly meeting on September 30 as we have an “I Survived the Old Testament” party.



DAILY SABBATH KEEPING, “THE WORD IN SEASON”

Pick up one of these wonderful daily devotions for you to keep daily sabbath time on your own. Each day provides scripture, reflection, prayer, and more readings. It’s a perfect way to start your day!

DON’T FORGET!!!

Men’s Breakfast - Saturday, October 3. 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.

Reaching Out... Connecting through Outreach

Flows. Grows. Shows



DOORBELL DINNERS OCTOBER 26-30

It's back! Yes, we delivered Doorbell Dinners last month as well, but it's our turn again! It's the start of a new "season" for deliveries and we have been scheduled right off the bat. Last month we had a great turnout of helpers. Why do people like helping so much? Take it from Desmond Dichsen. At age 6, he is one of our youngest volunteers: "I like the lady who hands out M&Ms every time we deliver her meal and when the Devlin's take me to Dairy Queen afterwards!" Who knew sharing God's love could be so delicious?! Sign up soon for a chance to volunteer this month, and consider inviting a friend to join you... maybe even take them out for ice cream afterwards.

The time commitment is 11:15-12:30 each day. If you want to learn more, 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.

FREE TASHA LAYTON COMMUNITY CONCERT

Come Join us at the Twisted Tree for a great Christian Concert with Tasha Layton. This concert is made possible by donations from Faith Lutheran and many other churches across the community. It is a wonderful opportunity for us all to come together, leaving any and all differences we have behind, and worship as brothers and sisters in Christ.

JACKSONVILLE FOOD CENTER

Faith graciously donated 22.1 pounds of food in August and \$340 in cash — much needed and much appreciated by the Food Center and their clients. In August, 644 families received food boxes. They are now separately tracking families of 5 or more, and 72 extra boxes were provided to larger families. That equals 716 pounds of food provided to 1,503 people. The fresh garden produce is coming in, and we are also receiving apples. The apples are a great treat for the unhoused. All donations are greatly appreciated, and cases of water are always needed.

I want to personally thank Pat Glyshaw for help with the Food Center. Pat helped Lillian Korous for many years and has been a great help to me. I wish the best for Pat in St. Louis, but she will be missed at Faith.

Blessings, *Barb Davenport*



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

Oct. 4 Kris Roth
Oct. 11 Mary Jane Esslinger
Oct. 18 Martha Krohe
Oct. 25 **need volunteer**

Communion Assts.

Oct. 4 Liddy Stark
Oct. 11 Kay Schnitker
Oct. 18 Barb Davenport
Oct. 25 Pam Devlin

Readers

Oct. 4 Monica Proefrock
Oct. 11 Liddy Stark
Oct. 18 Mike Fenner
Oct. 25 Terri Kimler

Coffee Hosts

Oct. 4 *Reception Committee*
Oct. 11 Karen Sibert
Oct. 18 Laura S. & Verla B.
Oct. 25 Terri K. & Mindy C.

Greeters

Oct. 4 Liddy Stark
Oct. 11 Vicki Robson
Oct. 18 **need volunteer**
Oct. 25 Lynette Hamilton

Ushers

Oct. 4 Larry Kuster
Oct. 11 Judy Dillard
Oct. 18 Mike Fenner
Oct. 25 Patty Nelson

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)

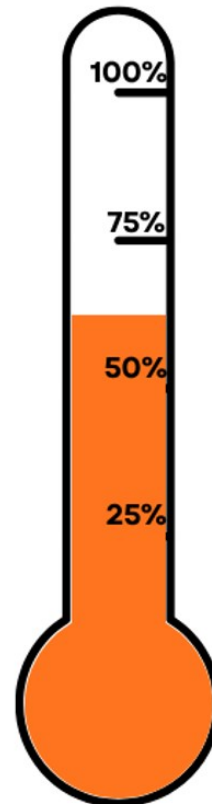
If you would like to donate,
please call or email the church office (245-8919
or faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) or
sign up in the gathering area at the podium
by the east doors;
please make checks payable to
Faith Lutheran Church (1385 W. Walnut St.).

- Oct. 4 **Open for donation**
& **Open for donation**
- Oct. 11 By Liddy Stark in honor of Leslie
Rowe's birthday in heaven October 15
& By Angela Spray in honor of her
husband, Joshua Spray's birthday
- Oct. 18 By the Roth family in celebration of
Elliot Snodgrass' 7th birthday today
& By Liddy Stark in honor of Kimberly
Rowe-Stark's birthday
- Oct. 25 By the Dichsen family in honor of
Karen Dichsen's birthday October 30
& By the Roth family in celebration of
Lily Snodgrass' 9th birthday today

Financial Assistants

Oct. 4 Mindy Carlson & Monica Proefrock
Oct. 11 Greg Kimler & John Williams
Oct. 18 Kevin Krohe & Kay Schnitker
Oct. 25 Patty Nelson & Cory Street

STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT



At the end of August, we have received \$152,302 in donations to our current fund while budgeting to receive \$176,467, a difference of \$24,165. The current fund is the portion of the budget that supports the day-to-day ministry of our congregation, from children's ministry and worship support to utilities and staff compensation. Our Congregational Council has been discussing how best to address this deficit through the remainder of the year and as we budget for the year to come.

Newsletter Deadline:
October 18