



Faith Family

News

October 2022

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

Still in the Woods

By Pastor Adam

About a year ago, I wrote a newsletter article about how we are not “out of the woods” when it came to the covid pandemic. It was prompted by a speaker at a zoom-conference I attended who emphasized how the world had changed and it would never go back to the way it was before. I remember sharing with you how I was fine with that... I like hanging out in the woods, both literally and figuratively. Together, in the woods, we as a Faith Family have navigated tremendous change. We have zeroed in on our priorities of worship, relationships, and caring for others. The way I see it, our ministry is stronger, more focused, and more connected than it was three years ago, and for this I am grateful.

So... I attended a conference last week with the same speaker. Guess what she said? “We aren’t out of the woods!” Seriously?! But so much has gone back to normal! President Biden declared the pandemic over! This conference was even in-person again for the first time in three years! What does she mean “still in the woods?!”

Well... she’s right. While the threat of a virus has greatly diminished, we are still finding our way. The woods today are not the same as they were last year, but they still bring unknowns and challenge. Let me share about our congregation’s woods as I see them.

Last week I was meeting with Sharon Zuiderveld, our newly-hired Care Coordinator. She was asking about what our Faith Formation Team is doing to reach out to our college students. “We don’t have a Faith Formation Team anymore,” I said. Then we were talking about our goals for 2023, and she asked when the Stewardship Committee would share them with the congregation. “We don’t have a Stewardship

Committee anymore,” I said. What happened?

In the chaos of 2020, our congregational leadership contracted around our staff and Council. This was necessary so that we could quickly pivot and respond to a rapidly changing world. It was the way we survived in the dense woods of a pandemic.

Today, while the woods have changed, we have not. Our congregational visioning and ministry support continues to fall on the shoulders of a small group of people, causing two tragedies. First, it isn’t sustainable for those shouldering the work. We are asking more of our staff and Council than is physically possible. Second, we are robbing others of opportunities to share in this life-giving and essential work. Sometimes I lay awake at night wondering about all of the possibilities for ministry that God is putting on the hearts of others that never get a chance because there simply aren’t enough hours in the day.

This needs to change... and it is. The Council and I are exploring other possibilities for our ministry support structure. Committees don’t seem to be the way to go, so what else might God have in store? We are visiting with other congregations, reading books, and seeking God’s guidance as we consider how we can thrive in the woods together. This won’t be an easy or fast change...remember, it took a pandemic to get us where we are today, but it is how we are faithfully striving to live our mission in an ever-changing world. There will be more to share from our Council next month, but until then, I ask for your prayer. Pray for the work of our Faith Family and for your own willingness to follow where God may be leading you in this process. We may not be out of the woods, but that’s okay. There is wonderful, hard, blessed work to be done here together.

- Pastor Adam

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.

Soup Luncheon Carry-Out Style – Sunday, October 9 **Sign Ups Available**

Our annual Soup Luncheon will return this year with a different format. Instead of a sit-down meal, we will be offering Carry-Out Soups (cold) and Desserts on **Sunday, October 9, from 10:30am - 1:00pm**. While some of the jobs needed for a sit-down meal will not be necessary, **we still need your help!**

Sign-up sheets are available (on the counter by the coffee sales) for making **Soups & Desserts** and working for the event. We ask that you bring your soups and desserts **by 10am on Saturday, October 8** for us to begin packaging them into serving containers (the building will be open at 8am). A **“Worker”** sign-up is available for helping to package on Saturday and helping to serve on Sunday (2 Sunday shifts are available).

Tickets are available for you to buy for yourself or to take to sell to friends (\$7 in advance/\$8 at the door). Advance ticket sales will help us determine how much food we need to provide.

Posters are available to take to help us advertise.

There are envelopes available if you'd like to provide a **Monetary Donation** for purchasing extra supplies. Put your envelope in the box provided, and please put your name on the sign-up list.

It has been three years since our last luncheon... even though this one will be different, let's work together to serve our community and share some delicious Lutheran Love!

Fall Stewardship Appeal

On Sunday, November 6, we will kick off our annual stewardship appeal and receive commitments on November 20. Please be on the lookout for a mailing with materials to come this month. Thank you for your continued generosity and support for our shared ministry!

Connecting to God Retreat — An Introduction to Spiritual Practices

On Saturday, October 29th, Pastor Glen VanderKloot will lead a half-day experiential retreat on Spiritual Practices at Faith, open to anyone middle school to 99. Pastor Glen will not only introduce and model these practices, but you will also try them out. You can bring a friend, as long as you register them.

The retreat will be from 10:00-2:00, and lunch will be served. If you have any questions, please call Pastor Glen at 217-816-6981 or email at pastor@faithlutheran.com. Pastor Glen recently received his Doctor of Ministry Degree in Spiritual Practices from the Claremont School of Theology.

Please pre-register so we can have adequate supplies and food for lunch. Sign up on the registration sheet on the counter by the coffee sales.

Remembering Lois McCarthy



Lois McCarthy died on September 14th. She and her husband “Mac” were charter members of Faith Lutheran Church, worshipping in the parsonage basement on Superior Street before the

church building was constructed. Please hold Lois' family in prayer as we give thanks to God for this saint.

Care Coordinator Corner

Last week, I visited one of our Homebound members, Helen Cumby. At the age of 95, she still lives in her own home, keeps everything sparkling, drives to the beauty shop, and receives calls from her family in Quincy every morning. With a TV and radio nearby, she stays tuned to Cardinal games. Cards and calls are welcome, especially since she does not have internet so cannot worship online with us. If you would like to call, send a card, or pay a visit, let me know. I'm sure she would appreciate it. *Sharon Zuiderveld*

Living Our Mission... Vibrant Worship

An expressed goal for 2022 is the continued fostering of vibrant worship. This specifically supports our mission as “we respond to God’s grace flowing through Christ.” In worship, God’s grace flows to us through sacraments, Word, and community, and we respond with joyful praise.

Sermon Series: Colors of the Covenant

Have you noticed the colors in the sanctuary? How could you miss them! A beautiful rainbow overlays the cross behind the altar, connecting God’s Old Testament covenants with the new covenant in Jesus Christ. In October we continue to journey through the rainbow, reflecting on how God’s promises bring new beginnings (BLUE), create identity (INDIGO), and call us to a new vision (VIOLET).



Reformation Sunday October 30

Join us on Reformation Sunday as we celebrate the grace of God that so convicted Martin Luther, reformed the church, and continues to transform our lives. If the Spirit moves you, wear red... the color of the Holy Spirit!



All Saints Sunday November 6

On All Saints Sunday we will 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, Nov. 4.

Choir & Bell Rehearsals

Exaltation Ringers are meeting from 6-6:30 pm on Thursday nights. **Chancel Choir** meets on Thursdays from 6:45-7:30 pm.

We would love to have you join us - if you're interested in either of these groups, please contact me at jrwelch53@msn.com or 217/652-7009. The choirs offer so much - not only do they add glorious praise to God during the worship services, but the fellowship between the members is also a gift.

Hope you will join us!! *Jean Welch*, Director of Music



Thanks to our children and the generous support of others for our God’s Work, Our Hands Bake Sale!

Living Our Mission ... Faith Formation

Our Fall Small Group ministry is underway! Here are some pictures of what happened this last month; put the dates for upcoming events on your calendars.



Sunday School is back! After worship, kids gather for music in the sanctuary, then head to their classes as adults gather for Dwelling in the Word.

While the Young Adults headed out for supper, kids had a movie night at church and watched “Prince of Egypt.”



Confirmation has started up again! We meet on various Sunday nights for supper, games, and learning.



Youth (and pastor) “remember their baptism,” seeing how long they can hold their breath underwater, experiencing the symbolic death and resurrection to new life.



Youth attend a Rend Collective concert in Quincy

Mackenzie and John Hartz try their fit as council members.



Small Groups in October

- * Men’s Breakfast 10/1; help cook at 8am and eat at 9am
- * Dwelling in the Word on Mondays at noon on Zoom
- * New Pastor’s Pick, “Making Sense of Martin Luther.” Discussion with Naomi Hahn on Wednesdays at noon and with Pastor Adam on 10/26
- * Faith Women’s Group, Wed., 10/19 at 6pm; fall craft night in the Great Room, & snacks
- * Discipleship Group, WED., 10/19 at 10am, Faith Library
- * Exaltation Ringers Thursdays at 6pm
- * Chancel Choir Thursdays at 6:45pm

Living Our Mission ... Showing Christ's Love

An expressed goal for 2022 is strengthening congregational care. This supports our mission “showing Christ’s love” as we share the love of Jesus with one another at Faith and our neighbors near and far. Here are some ways we are doing this and opportunities for you to join us!

Help us fill the Foster Care Closet

The majority of the children who come into foster care arrive with little to nothing. Together, we provide a sense of worth, excitement, and can ease the process of entering foster care. The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches is pairing with Central Christian Church to supply children entering foster care with much-needed items. Together, we can do great things! Needed items include:

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Walmart Gift Cards | Children’s toothpaste | Underwear (all sizes) |
| Deodorant | Children’s toothbrushes | Laundry baskets |
| Hair brushes | Children’s shampoo | Hampers |
| Socks (all sizes) | Children’s body wash | |

Please place your donations in the blue box (located in the coat closet) by **October 30, 2022**.

A Point to Ponder by Elaine Chapman

Perspectives on Time

On October 3rd my mom would have been 100 years old; last month my dad would have been 101 years old. Although they died 16 and 22 years ago, to me those years seem like yesterday. I think about what they experienced during their lives. They were both children during the Great Depression. Mom endured WWII while teaching elementary school, and Dad spent 1944-45 in Alsace-Lorraine. As adults, they witnessed the arrival of the atomic age, the first space exploration, and the assassination of President Kennedy. They raised my brother and me during the turbulent 1960’s (though in our little town there was not much turbulence ☺). The roles of women and men changed dramatically in their lifetimes - less than 100 years.

God’s time is on an entirely different scale. We recently visited the Grand Canyon and learned about billions of years of rock formation. Geologists taught us about the formation of tectonic plates and rock layers. I was amazed to learn that scientists have found no evidence of a 70+ million year span; it’s referred to as the “Great Uncomformity.” An uncomformity is a gap of missing time in the geological record. You can think of it as an empty layer in the rock formations. 70 million years! Learning about the history of our planet does tend to make you feel insignificant!

And yet, we are all children of God. Our awesome-beyond-our-imagination God loves each of us. Jesus died for each of us. As it’s stated in the old hymn, God’s eye is on the sparrow, and we know God watches me (and you!).

Jacksonville Food Center

I thought that a description of the Jacksonville Food Center and how it helps those in need in our community would be a good topic for this month’s newsletter article.

The Jacksonville Food Center is headed by Melissa Hall and assisted by Dave Roberts. It is located at 316 E. State St., directly across from the Centenary United Methodist Church parking lot. It is open from 9am to noon weekdays and closed weekends and holidays.

Melissa reports that they have been very busy. A box of food is given to those in need every two weeks, packed according to the size of the family unit needing help. There is also a daily display of bakery, produce, and sometime meats, that can be obtained by a family unit once a week. Income is not checked, but faces are recognized and trusted. Donations come from many sources. Foods are donated from Dot Foods, Aldi, and County Market, mainly from overstock, mistakes, or nearing expiration dates. Foods also are donated by individuals, churches, organizations, schools, and home gardeners. Money donations are used to fill in what is needed most. Money comes from churches, individuals, organizations, and schools and is the best for acquiring most-needed items. Melissa also spends time acquiring available grants.

In August, Faith church donated \$190 in money and \$57.50 in food items. Thank you for your service to those in need. *Lillian Korous*

Worship Assistants

Chancel Committee

Oct. 2 Kris Roth
Oct. 9 **need volunteer**
Oct. 16 Pat Glyshaw
Oct. 23 Martha Krohe
Oct. 30 Pat Glyshaw

Coffee Hosts

Oct. 2 **need volunteer**
Oct. 9 n/a Soup Carry Out
Oct. 16 Kay Schnitker
Oct. 23 Terri Kimler
Oct. 30 Judy D. & Vicki R.

Communion Assistants

Oct. 2 Ken Devlin
Oct. 9 Char Hubbard
Oct. 16 Kay Schnitker
Oct. 23 Ken Devlin
Oct. 30 Doris Robinson

Greeters

Oct. 2 Lillian Korous
Oct. 9 **need volunteer**
Oct. 16 Gayla, Debbie, & Ethel
Oct. 23 Barb Fishback
Oct. 30 **need volunteer**

Readers

Oct. 2 Monica Proefrock
Oct. 9 Carol VanderKloot
Oct. 16 **need volunteer**
Oct. 23 Terri Kimler
Oct. 30 Sharon Woodworth

Ushers

Oct. 2 Doris Robinson
Oct. 9 Char & Paul Hubbard
Oct. 16 **need volunteer**
Oct. 23 **need volunteer**
Oct. 30 **need volunteer**

If you would like to help with assisting for the 9:30am worship services, please contact the church office (faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) or **sign up in the gathering area** at the podium by the east doors.

Altar Plants

(\$15 donation appreciated)

Last year, we began replacing our altar flowers with plants that remain for an extended time.

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. 2 By Sharon Zuiderveld in honor of our Homebound members

Oct. 9 By Connie & Gary Braner in memory of Ila Mae Downs' birthday

Oct. 16 By the Roth family in celebration of Elliot's 3rd birthday on October 18
& By Pat Glyshaw in celebration of Brian & Jess' anniversary

Oct. 23 By the Roth family in celebration of Lily's 5th birthday on October 25

Oct. 30 **Open for donation**

Plastic Caps & Lids

The bench project is on hold at this time, but we continue to accept your caps and lids in the Mission & Ministry Center/coat closet at church.

Financial Assistants

Oct. 2 Kelly Hartz & Karen Sibert
Oct. 9 Barb Davenport & Ken Devlin
Oct. 16 Ken Devlin & Kelly Hartz
Oct. 23 Barb Davenport & Lisa Taylor
Oct. 30 Mike Oldenettel & Karen Sibert

Newsletter Deadline

October 16



Faith Lutheran on Facebook and Instagram

Are you on Facebook or Instagram? Be sure to follow us at Faith Lutheran Church—Jacksonville (FB) and @faith_lutheran_jaxil (Insta) for news, reminders, and encouragement! It's a great way for us to stay connected to each other and to what's happening in our community of Faith.