



Faith Family

News

November 2022

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

Let Gratitude be your Attitude

By Pastor Adam

Every time November rolls around, a melancholy mood descends on me. I find great joy in the changing colors of the leaves and the cooling temperatures, but they inevitably bring me back to my dad who died on November 6, 2010. As I point out at every funeral at which I preside, death is a mix of grief and celebration. I continue to grieve the unique emptiness of my dad's absence and the missed opportunities of my children to know their PaPa. But I also celebrate with confidence the assurance of God's promise of eternal life.

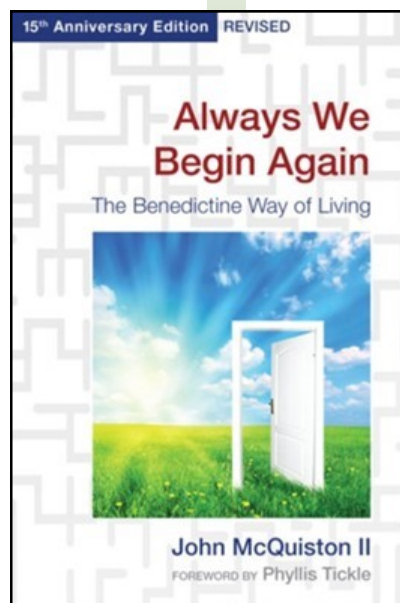
It's in the midst of this grief and celebration that every year I also reflect on one of the greatest gifts my dad gave me... gratitude. He was the kind of guy that always found the silver lining. He always found a reason to be thankful, even to his last breath. Perhaps it was because Thanksgiving fell on his birthday, November 23, every now and again. Not only did it mean that there would be candles in the pumpkin pie, but it may have altered his DNA a bit, giving him a gratitude gene.

When each of his grandkids was confirmed, he would give them a copy of a tiny book, "Always We Begin Again: The Benedictine Way of Living" by John McQuiston II. It's a contemporary take on the rule of St. Benedict, a monk of the 5th Century. He

is known as "the father of monasticism" and the Rule that he established became the norm for monastic living throughout Europe. What is the foundation of this simple yet incredibly influential way of living? Gratitude.

St. Benedict ordered his day around gratitude, actually scheduling times that he would pause, give thanks, and

worship. I've heard it said that you can't think yourself into a new way of acting, but you can act yourself into a new way of thinking. Think about the impact that cultivating a discipline of gratitude can have on your life. What would happen if the first words on your lips each morning were gratitude? What would happen if your phone buzzed every couple of hours to remind you to give thanks? Sure it wouldn't be so hard in the easy times, but what if it has been a rough day? What if you feel beat up by the world? What if gratitude is the farthest thing from your mind? Try it. I dare you. Be grateful.



Let gratitude be your attitude. I now it's cliché. There are times when I may have wanted to slap the person who told me that (maybe I'd better avoid you all for a few days!). Be grateful, but don't stop there. Be sure to give credit where credit is due. Be grateful *to God!* Give thanks to the One who is the source of every blessing. Give thanks to the One who is always faithful. Give thanks to the One who is the source of all life. When we are grateful, each day, each moment, is a new beginning. When we are grateful to God, always we begin again.

- 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.

“Thank You” from Pastor Adam and Karen after 10 Years at Faith

We want to thank everyone for the love and appreciation shown to us through the delicious reception, cards, and gifts. We are so blessed and grateful to God for the privilege of being a part of this wonderful Faith Family and cherish the partnership we have shared in the gospel over these past 10 years. May God continue to strengthen us all for service as we look to the future!

- Pastor Adam and Karen Dichsen



Fall Stewardship Appeal: *Building on the Firm Foundation of Christ*

On Sunday, November 6, we will kick off our annual stewardship appeal. You will be receiving letters in the mail and receiving information in worship outlining our goals for 2023 along with an invitation to generously support our shared ministry. Please prayerfully consider your financial gift and how you can help us achieve these goals. On November 20, we will receive our commitments and celebrate the work of God among and through us.

Faith Family Progressive Dinner November 12

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for the first Faith Family Progressive Dinner on Saturday, November 12th at 5:30 pm. Groups of 5-8 will meet at one house for appetizers, move to another house for dinner, and then all groups will meet together back at church for dessert together. This event is for adults, but childcare will be available at church for those who need it. It will be a great way to get to know new people at Faith or spend time with those you know well. Sign up by Sunday, the 6th at the coffee sales table outside of the sanctuary, and please indicate if you're willing to be an appetizer or dinner host.

Soup Luncheon Carry-Out Style Recap

Many, many thanks to all who helped prepare for and serve our Carry-Out Soup Luncheon on October 9! Not only was the food delicious, but it was a joy to see everyone working together on this again. We raised \$1,424, filled over 150 bellies, and shared the love of Christ every step of the way. One significant way this happened took place the next day. We made arrangements to take about 50 bowls of soup, corn bread, and desserts to the Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen on Monday afternoon. Due to the holiday, Polly Pulley had canceled their free meal, but many didn't get the notice and started showing up for food. Our soups arrived at just the right time, and they had plenty to serve and share. God is good! Stay tuned for an update on how the money we raised will be used to support our ministry. (Check the Great Room for containers that you brought soup in.)

Care Coordinator Corner

Homebound members Davalie Fisher and Helen Cumby enjoyed receiving soup and dessert during our successful Take-out Soup Luncheon this month. Confirmation students weren't shy about devouring sloppy joes, mac and cheese, and ice cream with toppings. Thank you to Barb Davenport for her contributions. Doorbell Dinners will be coming up the last week of October/first week of November. I will be taking over the coordination of volunteers to drive and deliver meals. Thanks to Karen Sibert who will still help out in a pinch. It was exciting to order new books for the church library, many related to the book discussions that have been ongoing this fall. I am thankful for all these opportunities to serve. *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.

November will be a month of special worship!

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, November 4.**



Youth Sunday November 13

Our youth remind us that they are capable and called to lead in a variety of ways. Come and support their efforts and hear about our 2023 goal to grow our youth ministry.



Commitment Sunday and Music Celebration November 20

Bring your intent cards with your financial pledge for the new year as we celebrate the generous support of our Faith Family towards our shared ministry. We will also be celebrating the importance of music to our lives of faith as we include a variety of musical selections and welcome the gifts of one another through their musical offerings.

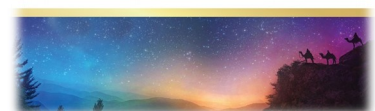
Advent starts on November 27 with a new sermon series

Through the season of Advent, we will be reading and reflecting on Amy Jill-Levine’s “Light of the World: A Beginner’s Guide to Advent.” We will explore the biblical texts surrounding the story of Jesus’ birth and trace the Christmas narrative of Advent expectation through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. Pick up a copy at Faith (\$10) to read with us, and stick around after worship for a DVD study with the author and discussion with Pastor Adam.



LIGHT *of*
the WORLD

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO ADVENT

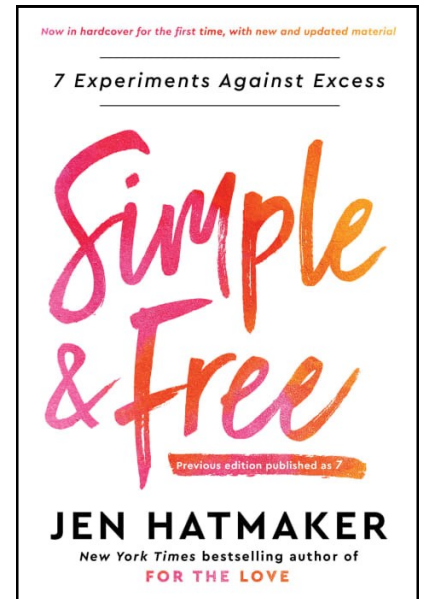


Living Our Mission ... Faith Formation

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.

New Pastor's Pick: "Simple and Free"

And now for something completely different! Join Pastor Adam in reading "Simple and Free," the story of a family's effort to combat overindulgence and the discovery of a truly meaningful life. During this season of Thanksgiving, and as we prepare for the Christmas season that can become so incredibly overwhelming, living simple and free may just give you the gift of a greatly increased connection with God. Join Pastor Adam on Wednesday, November 16 at noon or 6:00 p.m. for a discussion and invitation to our Advent book, "Light of the World" by Amy Jill-Levine.



Small Groups in November

- * Men's Breakfast 11/5; help cook at 8am and eat at 9am
- * Dwelling in the Word on Mondays at noon on Zoom
- * Faith Women's Group, Wednesday, 11/16 at 6pm; crafting, coloring, & conversation
- * Discipleship Group, Wednesday, 11/16 at 10am, Faith Library
- * Exaltation Ringers Thursdays at 6pm
- * Chancel Choir Thursdays at 6:45pm

Youth Carlinville Retreat

On the weekend of November 18-20, middle school and high school youth are invited to attend the synod Lutheran Youth Organization retreat at Lake Williamson in Carlinville. Please pray for our youth and chaperones who are attending.



BOOOO
from our
youth at their
Halloween/
Reformation
party!

Advent Allegro Lunchtime Concerts

We have a great lineup for this year's Advent Allegro concert series.

November 30: "The Extension Chords"
(with Jean Welch)

December 7: Tyler Carpenter on Marimba

December 14: Jacksonville High School Madrigals

December 21: Anna & Bethany Ferraro

The brief concerts will last approximately 30 minutes and begin at 12:15pm. Lunch of soup, chips, fruit, and dessert will be served beginning at 11:30am and after the concert for \$5.

We could use some help with serving the meal and providing cookies and soup. If you would like to pitch in, contact the church office (245-8919 or faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) or **sign up on the sheet on the counter by the coffee sales.**

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**.

Community Thanksgiving Service Choir

The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches invites all singers to participate in the Community Service of Thanksgiving Choir on Sunday, November 13. The choir will be under the direction of Terri Benz and will rehearse on Sunday, October 30 and November 6 at 2:00pm and on Saturday, November 12 at 11:00am. All rehearsals will be at Centenary United Methodist Church. Feel free to contact Terri with questions at 217-370-2472. The service on November 13 will be held at 2:00pm at Centenary UMC and will include a tribute to veterans and a Thanksgiving meditation.

Fair Trade Coffee Project

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange at Faith. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$6.50** regular; **\$7.50** decaf; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$5.50** hot chocolate—milk & dark; **\$5.50** coffee pods).

Coffee: Bright Day Brew, Breakfast Blend, Mind-Body-Soul, & Organic Decaf

Chocolate Bars: Orange (dark), Mint Crunch (dark), Caramel Crunch w/Sea Salt (dark), & Classic Milk

Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

Jacksonville Food Center

Demand and supply for food is suffering as the world problems funnel down. New families have been coming to the Food Center for help. Since February, 91 new families were added as needing help. 50 additional food boxes were prepared in one week.

Blessings have also been gathered. Upon the closing of Community Christian Church, \$10,000 was donated to the Jacksonville Food Center. \$1,400 was donated from five civic groups. Blue Cross-Blue Shield donated 150 pounds of food. At K’s Creek Golf Club, the 3rd Annual Hot Wings Charity Challenge will donate all money from the proceedings to the Food Center.

Statistics for September: The Food Center served 176 families (434 people) at a cost of \$22,560. 277 families (488 people) were served for extra bakery/produce at a cost of \$4,280. The cost of meat for bakery/produce customers was \$964.

The churches contributed \$2,029.03 in money and \$1,007.50 in food donations. Our Faith Lutheran Church donated \$220 in September. Besides much-needed money donations, foods such as dry pasta, mac and cheese, canned vegetables, canned soups, and cereal are also welcome.

Lillian Korous

Worship Assistants

Chancel Committee

Nov. 6 Kris Roth
Nov. 13 Pat Glyshaw
Nov. 20 Martha Krohe
Nov. 27 Kim Heise

Coffee Hosts

Nov. 6 Barb Davenport
Nov. 13 Terri Kimler
Nov. 20 Kay Schnitker
Nov. 27 Laura Sweatman

Communion Assistants

Nov. 6 **need volunteer**
Nov. 13 Marilyn Dichsen
Nov. 20 Hallie Mayner
Nov. 27 Liddy Stark

Greeters

Nov. 6 Hallie M. & Liddy S.
Nov. 13 Youth
Nov. 20 Barb Fishback
Nov. 27 Judy D. & Vicki R.

Readers

Nov. 6 Carol Kilver
Nov. 13 Adam Krohe
Nov. 20 Mike Oldenettel
Nov. 27 **need volunteer**

Ushers

Nov. 6 **need volunteer**
Nov. 13 Youth
Nov. 20 **need volunteer**
Nov. 27 **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.

Thank You

Our Faith family once again provided a meal for one of our beloved members in September. Larry Noble touched so many lives, not only in the church, but in the community as well. There were so many that helped with the meal, it would be too long to list. For showing your love and support for Larry's family, THANK YOU EVERYONE! God Bless, *Diane Craig*

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.).

Nov. 6 By the Dichsens on the 12th anniversary of Pastor Adam's father's death
Nov. 13 By Helen Cumby in loving memory of Bill's birthday
Nov. 20 By Carol Rauen in memory of Chuck Heacox
Nov. 27 **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 Faith

Financial Assistants

Nov. 6 Naomi Hahn & Karen Sibert
Nov. 13 Barb Davenport & Kelly Hartz
Nov. 20 Barb Davenport & Kelly Street
Nov. 27 Barb Davenport & Lisa Taylor

Newsletter Deadline

November 20



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.