



Faith Family

News

May 2023

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

Who you gonna call?

One morning I was out for an early bike ride and I felt something change. The bumps of the road all of the sudden became more pronounced. It could only mean one thing... my tire was going flat! Sure enough, about 100 yards later, I could pedal no further and had to pull off into the ditch. No worries, I always carry a spare...but alas, my little bike bag was empty. Too far to walk home, I had to call to get a ride. I knew no one would be awake yet back home. I wasn't far from the home of one in our congregation, but they wouldn't be headed this way for work for at least another hour. Who was I going to call?

I know you've been there, too. Maybe not a flat tire on your bike, but a flat tire in life. Each of us goes through times when the bumps in the road get rougher, the air runs out, and we are stranded in a ditch. A disagreement with a colleague. A strained relationship with a friend or family member. A sudden change in physical health or financial wellbeing. The ditches of life are full of people stranded and trying to figure out who they are going to call.

Maybe you remember Helen Driver. Helen was a charter member of the congregation and died in 2017. She would always ask me, "Do you know that I have God's phone number?" "Really?" I would respond... having been told this dozens of times. "I sure do... I just dial Jeremiah 33:3, 'Call to me and I will answer you' says the Lord." Helen knew who to call. Do we?

This question sits like a pit in my stomach as our community shares in the grief of yet another teenage suicide. So many of us - too many - find ourselves in

the ditches of life in need of someone to call. I won't claim to know what was going on in the mind of this young girl, but I do know that there are many others who are stranded and looking for someone to call. Maybe it is someone you know. Maybe it is you.

We have God's number. We all do. Just call on the Lord and God *will* answer, but as one of my kids told me years ago, "sometimes I need God with flesh on."

How true, yet we do. That's why we are called the *Body* of Christ. This month we celebrate the First Communion of Cataleah, Madeline, and Mackenzie. We are excited to welcome them to the Lord's Table to receive "God with flesh" in a new way. We celebrate the Rite of Confirmation for Adam, Josie, and Kellon. They are claiming their calling as they continue to discover their place in the Body. We celebrate Pentecost where God gives us the Holy Spirit, God's promised presence and advocate, that makes us into one Body for the sake of one another and for the world. When you find yourself in a ditch, you *DO* know God's number, and you know the numbers of lots of others as well, people who God gave us to be "God with flesh."

I encourage you...use these phone numbers. Call on God and call on our Faith Family and all who are a part of the Body of Christ. Reach out and let us know how we can walk with you. And make it known to others that you are someone they can call.

Fortunately, Karen was awake and could come and get me. The member down the road scolded me, telling me to call them anytime, no matter the hour. I know that I can dial up Jeremiah 33:3 and God will answer. Who you gonna call?

- 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.

Note of Appreciation

Dixie's memorial service was centered on the images of wings – a mother hen compassionately providing and protecting her chicks, as well as an eagle elegantly soaring in strength and power. We have witnessed and felt God's compassionate providing and protecting, and God's soaring strength and power because of YOU, the Body of Christ, here at Faith Lutheran Church.

Thank you to everyone for your prayers and many expressions of sympathy. Thank you to Jean Welch and the musicians who provided the uplifting musical support. Thank you to Kevin Krohe for the tech support, allowing those from afar and with health concerns of their own to be present. Thank you to the ladies who smiled and welcomed people at the guest registry during the visitation; thank you to the ushers, Pat Glyshaw and Larry Kuster. Thank you to Louis Dichsen for carrying "the light". Thank you to Kris Roth for the printed bulletins, and to Diane Craig for the clean and welcoming environment. Thank you to all the meal providers and servers; what a feast! And to Pastor Adam, our words of thanks seem inadequate for all you have done for us; God bless you.

To all the caring and concerned intergenerational individuals of Faith Lutheran Church who come together - again and again - to extend Christ's love, our deepest appreciation for all you have done for us, the family of Dixie Williams.

Sincerely, John, Scott and Suzzette, Chris and Melissa,
Luke and Lindsey Williams

Music Rehearsal Times

Our Exaltation Ringers and Chancel Choir will meet after worship during May before our summer break:

Chancel Choir will meet on May 7 and 21;
Exaltation Ringers will meet on May 14 and 28;
from 10:45-11:15am

I hope to see you on **Sunday mornings** for these rehearsals at 10:45am in the sanctuary!

Jean Welch, Director of Music

We Remember

Jane Heitbrink & Dixie Williams

Jane Heitbrink died on April 5; a funeral service was held at Faith on April 13, and she was buried at Diamond Grove Columbarium.

Dixie Williams died on April 7; a funeral service was held on April 14 at Faith and she was buried at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Meredosia. We give thanks to God for our partnership in ministry and for the hope we share in eternal life.



Thank You

Our Faith family provided a meal for the family of Dixie Williams last month. A very special thank you to Laura Sweatman, Kris Roegge, Verla Buckner, Kevin Krohe, Patty Nelson, Barb Davenport, Hallie Mayner, and Kathy Trenter for sharing your amazing food and your Lutheran hospitality to Dixie's family. God Bless you all. *Diane Craig*

To our Faith Family,

please know how grateful we are for all the many acts of kindness shown to us and to my Mom, Imogene Lovekamp, during her illness and at the time of her passing. Our family couldn't have been more blessed. Thank You! *Carol Squibb and the Lovekamp Families*

Thank You to everyone for the visits, cards, and get-well wishes after my fall and hip surgery; and a big Thank You to Barb Davenport and Patty Nelson for the cookies. You all are a blessing, *Martha Sturgeon*

Living Our Mission... Vibrant Worship

Worship is central to who we are and what we do together as the Body of Christ. Learn about wonderful opportunities for worship together, come join us, and bring a friend!

Outdoor Worship and Picnic May 7

A summer staple for our Faith Family has been our outdoor worship service. The fresh air, breeze blowing through the trees, and barking dogs provide a beautiful sanctuary. Last year we experimented with outdoor worship once each month with a picnic and games... it was a hit! Join us again this summer May 7, June 4, July 2, August 6, and September 3. To assure all can participate, there will be seating and communion stations on the grass, on the parking lot, and indoors (with worship visible through windows), as well as being live streamed. Following the service, we are providing a cookout picnic and time for games and activities for all. Our hope is that this will not only be a time of vibrant worship and blessing to our Faith Family, but also to others, so please invite a friend and join us for these wonderful times together!

First Communion May 14

Each Sunday, we are reminded in worship, *“The Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion are gifts of God's grace to claim and sustain us in our lives as disciples of Jesus. Baptism proclaims our identity, that we are beloved children of God, called to love God and our neighbors. Holy Communion reconnects us to the Body of Christ and nurtures our lives of faith with forgiveness and life.”* On Sunday, May 14, we welcome **Madeline Crossin, Mackenzie Hartz, and Cataleah Wagy** to the Lord's Table for their First Communion. Please join us for this special celebration and offer your support as we are connected together in the Body of Christ.

Confirmation and Pentecost May 28

We are grateful to God for a wonderful bunch of youth who have reengaged in Confirmation and youth sessions and helped pump some life into the program since the Covid pandemic. These youth and their families have been committed and supportive of their faith journey, and we have the opportunity to celebrate with them as three of our youth are confirmed - Adam Krohe, Kellon Oldenettel, and Josie Rajaguru. Plan to join us on this special Sunday for worship and refreshments afterwards. Our Almighty God surrounds us with the promised presence of the Holy Spirit... let's all gather to surround our youth with the love and support we provide through the Body of Christ!

New Members Welcomed in March

In March we welcomed these wonderful folks into our Faith Family and the ministry we share. Please introduce yourself to them, and join us in giving thanks to God for their partnership in the gospel.



Donna Bradley



Donna Chenoweth



Carol Freesen

Living Our Mission ... Faith Formation

It's a new year with new opportunities for Small Groups!
Check these out and consider how you might get involved.

Discipleship Group

Join us at 10am on Wednesday, May 17, in the Faith Library as we meet for great conversation and fellowship time. If you haven't attended before, now's a great time to give it a try! For more information, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at khartz@sompo-intl.com.



our minds and hearts the sacrifice of the cross and the death of Jesus... "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son..."

Women of Faith Fellowship Night

Join us on Wednesday, May 17th at 6:00 pm for dinner out at El Patron. Please RSVP to Monica by **Sunday, May 14th** if you plan to come.

Here's a picture of our flower pot project from April 19!



Faith and Film

Do you like the ways movies nurture and challenge our faith? Come check out this new small group as we gather for fellowship and lunch, then watch a movie and have discussion. Our next potluck and movie will be on **May 15 at 11:30am**. The movie will be *His Only Son*, a dramatization of the story of Abraham and Sarah. It specifically focuses on God's call to Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. It stirs deep emotions and conflicts of faith while calling to

Men's Breakfast

Join us on Saturday, **May 6** for some delicious food and fellowship with the guys! Come at 8:00 to help in the kitchen and at 9:00 for food and conversation.

Summer Youth Events

School is almost out for summer, and we have some wonderful opportunities for our youth!

- On June 12-16, Benen Dichsen and Adam and Mason Krohe will be attending Confirmation Camp in Rock Island. It is a week of worship, small groups, service, and fun! Pastor Adam is the dean of the camp for 2023 and 2024, and Marilyn Dichsen will attend as a Mentor Camper.
- Performing Arts Camp at Green Pastures is for youth grades 5-8 and will take place on June 9-10, 16-17, and 23-24. Pastor Adam and Marilyn will be helping lead the final weekend if you would like to join us!
- Fire in Our Hearts Camp at Green Pastures is for high school youth and will take place on June 26-30 and July 10-14.
- On July 17-22, Marilyn Dichsen will be attending Leadership Lab in Rock Island, a special camp for high school and college students to help them grow as leaders in the church. Registration is open for more!
- On July 23-24, we are making plans to take our youth camping and canoeing in Missouri.

Please support and encourage our youth in these and many other ways they are living out their faith.

Living Our Mission ... Showing Christ's Love

Our mission calls us to “show 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 you can join us!

Partners with Hugs and Pillars of Africa

This Sunday, April 30, is our Ugandan celebration! Join us for a lively worship service featuring music we learned from the Pillars of Africa community, a delicious meal of African fare (even a goat!), and a presentation about our experiences on the journey and partnership going forward. If you miss it, it will be live streamed and available on our YouTube channel. Part of our presentation will be an invitation to a variety of ways you can partner with us to support the Pillars of Africa ministry and help them to become more sustainable in the future. There are many options to support the children, schools, church, clinic, choir, and more, with sponsorships beginning as low as \$5/month and ranging up to legacy gifts that will help them own their church and school to provide stability and freedom from rent or the possibility of losing their buildings. If you would like to know more, talk to any on our team (Melissa and Kelly Street, Patty Nelson, Kevin Krohe, and Benen and Pastor Adam Dichsen). Pamphlets with more information and a list of the giving opportunities are available at the Mission and Ministry table

Jacksonville Food Center

Prices are up in all areas of spending. There are more people needing help in their everyday lives. With the pandemic help discontinued, less money and less food stamps are available. There are 66 more families needing twice-monthly food boxes than there were last year at this time.

The Center served 186 families with twice-monthly food boxes, filled according to family size, at a cost of \$16,215.00. 150 families were served with once-a-week extra bakery/produce at a cost of \$2,580.00. Meat cost for the bakery/produce customers was \$630.00.

In March, the churches contributed \$2,025.00 in money and \$3,061.75 in food donations.

In March, sadly, Faith Lutheran donated only \$50.00 to the Food Center.

Lillian Korous

Community Outreach Opportunity

PrairieLand United Way has kicked off a community food drive that will continue through May 26. Community members are being asked to donate food to help kids in need of food through the summer months when school is out. Though participants may donate any nonperishable foods, items most needed include:

juice	jelly
Gatorade	breakfast cereal
canned chicken	canned pasta & meat
fruit	macaroni & cheese cups
Jell-O or pudding cups	oatmeal
canned soups	peanut butter
Ramen noodles	

Faith members may put their donations in the Blue Box found in the Mission and Ministry area; the **deadline for donations is Sunday, May 21st**.

Doorbell Dinners — May 29-June 2

Help us deliver meals in the community. We are in need of drivers & deliverers to cover the needs of five routes — time commitment is 11:15-12:30 each day. For more information and to sign up, visit the signup counter by the Fair Trade coffee sales.

Sound Celebration Chorus in Concert

70 Years of Celebrating the Sound will be presented on Saturday, June 10, 2:00pm at the Hoogland Center for the Arts in Springfield (420 S. Sixth St.). Our own Jean Welch is a member of this talented group. Tickets are available for \$20 Adults; \$18 60+/12 & under at www.hcfta.org or call 217-523-2787.

Worship Assistants

Chancel Committee

May 7 **need volunteer**
May 14 Martha Krohe
May 21 Pat Glyshaw
May 28 Kim Heise

Communion Assistants

May 7 Ken Devlin
May 14 Hallie Mayner
May 21 Kay Schnitker
May 28 Pam Devlin

Readers

May 7 Kelly Hartz
May 14 Adam Krohe
May 21 Carol VanderKloot
May 28 **need volunteer**

Coffee Hosts

May 7 Outdoor Picnic
May 14 Judy D. & Vicki R.
May 21 Kay Schnitker
May 28 Donna Chenoweth &
Laura Sweatman

Greeters

May 7 Lillian Korous
May 14 Doris Robinson
May 21 Hallie Mayner
May 28 Liddy Stark

Ushers

May 7 Larry Kuster
May 14 **need volunteers**
May 21 Pat Glyshaw
May 28 Char & Paul Hubbard

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)

Plants are placed in the chancel that remain for an extended period of 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.).

May 7 **Open for donation**
& **Open for donation**

May 14 By Chad & Cindy Boehlke in celebration of their wedding anniversary
& **Open for donation**

May 21 By Kris & Bishop John Roth in celebration of their 41st wedding anniversary on May 23
& **Open for donation**

May 28 By Carol Rauen in loving memory of Jeanette Brix
& By Judy Dillard & Vicki Robson in memory of David & Chuck's birthdays

Financial Assistants

May 7 Ken Devlin & Kelly Street
May 14 Kelly Street & to be determined
May 21 Greg Kimler & Mike Oldenettel
May 28 Mindy Carlson & Mike Oldenettel

Newsletter Deadline

May 21

Plastic Caps & Lids

Do you know about all those caps we've been collecting? **We found a source to make them into a bench for us... maybe two!** Keep bringing your caps and lids to the Mission & Ministry Center/coat closet at Faith. We also need helpers willing to sort (and possibly wash) them and weigh them before we take them for drop-off.

Contribution Envelopes for 2023

are available in the gathering area on the tall counter at the Coffee Bar. If you don't see a box with your name on it, please mention this to Barb Davenport, Pam Devlin, or Kris Roth. We will happily provide you with a box. If you would like to register for our easy, **automatic online giving service**, contact the church office. There are no fees, and it saves you from remembering to write that weekly check!

Faith Telephone Directory

A new Faith Telephone Directory **is available** for all to take home (1 per household, please). These are located on the Coffee Sales counter by the Mission & Ministry Center.