



# Faith Family

## News

June 2023

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

### Keeping Sabbath

- Pastor Adam

*<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>For six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.*

- Exodus 20:8-11

Sabbath. What is sabbath? It's a Jewish thing, right? That's just one of those "Old Testament" practices for the Jewish people, but not for us. They lived in slavery, owned by a master, locked into a system that dictated their worth by what they could produce. When God freed them, they needed to learn how free people live, with God as their master instead of Pharaoh. But that's not us. We've got it all figured out. Or do we?

One day in seven, God says, stop all work. Stop and remember that you are not to be defined by your output. One day in seven, everyone rests, and all distinctions that we make to define our value and measure and worth disappear. When we practice sabbath keeping, we are all simply and completely human beings, alongside one another, all beloved children of God.

This is the hardest of the 10 Commandments to absorb, so God tells us to do it regularly. We have to regularly step out of the mindset and activity of the world around us, the measuring, comparing, competing, striving, producing, and consuming. We have to regularly stop *doing* and practice just *being*.

We have to regularly succumb to the cycles of rest and renewal that God built into the fabric of existence. One day in seven, we are to purposefully remember that you are not God. Purposefully remember that you are neither better nor worse than anyone around you. Purposefully remember that you are connected in a mutual belonging to God and each other. This is what it means to be human. This is what it means to be free.

For the month of June, I invite you all... no... challenge you all to keep the sabbath. Take one day in seven to stop being busy. To stop being distracted. To stop ignoring the ground beneath your feet, the breath in your lungs, the people around you, the emotions inside you, and the God who holds you. Rest is not a reward to be earned, it is a starting point.

It won't be easy! And rest assured, I'm not asking you to do something that I'm not willing to do myself. My family and I are committing to this challenge right along side of you. (Is it revealing that we are talking about rest as a sacrifice and time of suffering?!) I'm sure we will make mistakes, go through withdrawals, and crave a bit of the busyness to which we have grown too accustomed. At the same time, I suspect we will also discover something grand, like opening a gift and receiving something we never knew we wanted, but desperately needed all along.

Each week, look to our Facebook page for suggestions on how to keep the sabbath. Tell your stories of sabbath experiences and the moments that have surprised you and fed your soul. How you keep the sabbath is up to you, but remember, God commands it. And if we don't keep the sabbath, are we really free?

# *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.

## **Bishop John's Retirement Party**

**Saturday, July 15, 5:00-7:30pm**

As you may know, Bishop John Roth will be retiring at the close of his term as bishop on August 31, 2023. You are invited to a Retirement Dinner in his honor on Saturday, July 15, 5:00-7:30pm at Erin's Pavilion, Southwind Park, in Springfield. Tickets are \$30 each, and **reservations can be made at [csis-elca.org/retirement](http://csis-elca.org/retirement) by July 1.** Additional donations toward the cost of the dinner are being accepted and can be included when you make your reservation. Any donations beyond the expenses of the dinner will support our companion synods in the Malagasy Lutheran Church in Madagascar.

## **We celebrate our graduates!**

Did you have a family member who graduated this year? We want to congratulate them and celebrate their accomplishment! Please tell us their name, the grade level they achieved, and their plans for the future by Sunday, June 21. Whether one is moving on from preschool or a PhD, we give thanks to God!

## **First Communion**

**Madeline Crossin, Mackenzie Hartz,  
and Cataleah Wagy**

We rejoice with Madeline, Mackenzie, and Cataleah as they received their first communion on May 14. Surrounded by their families and Faith Family, they professed their belief in Christ's true presence in the sacrament, their need for God's forgiveness, and their trust in God's grace to give them new life. They used the chalices they decorated, and we all enjoyed the bread they baked as part of their instruction. Please congratulate them and continue to encourage them as they walk with the Lord. If you or someone you know would like to know more about the celebration of sacraments here at Faith, let Pastor Adam know.



## **Anniversary Celebrations**

On May 21, Pastor Adam and family worshiped at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Beardstown to celebrate their 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was a wonderful opportunity to give thanks for God's faithfulness through the years and remember that, although we are different congregations, we are one in the Body of Christ spread out across the miles. And



guess what... 2023 is Faith's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary! We are assembling a new ministry team to help plan the festivities. If you are interested in helping, contact Mindy Carlson at 309-826-3142.

# *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!

## **Worship Wow!!!**

At our recent Council Retreat, we were marveling at what a joy worship has been for our Faith Family. Ken Devlin commented, "It seems like since Easter, we've hit a new level!" It appears many have shared in this joy as well. Since Easter, our worship attendance has taken a huge leap. Our April average was 152! Much of this is attributed to a lot of celebrations including our Uganda service, outdoor worship, First Communion, and more. And it's not just our in-person worship; many continue to worship with us online. In April, we averaged 88 online worshippers each Sunday! When Pastor Adam was in Beardstown for their 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service, he was surprised by how many people commented, "It's great to see you in person!" Many members at First Lutheran continue to worship with us online and are so grateful for the vibrant worship we offer. Thank you for all you do to make our worship wonderful! Let's keep it up and invite others to come and share the joy we have together.

## **Pentecost and Confirmation**

On Pentecost Sunday we will celebrate with Adam, Josie, and Kellon for their Rite of Confirmation. Together we will affirm our baptisms and recommit our lives to the work of Christ's church as we share the gospel and support one another. Like we have been doing at Baptisms, all are invited to sign letters of encouragement and support for our confirmands as we give thanks for the blessing they are to our Faith Family. Congratulations Adam, Josie, and Kellon!

## **Synod Assembly**

This year's Central/Southern Illinois Synod Assembly will be held June 1-3 at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria, IL. Our voting members are Ken Finkle, Ralph Welch, Pastor Adam, and Youth Rep Marilyn Dichsen. It is a time to tend to the matters of living together in Christ for the sake of the world, learning, and understanding how God calls us to be the church in the world. We worship together, receive greetings from ministry partners and ecumenical brothers and sisters, steward our financial resources to support and strengthen ministry, and are inspired and encouraged by one another. And this year, we will elect a new Bishop, as Bishop John Roth is retiring at the end of August.

**If you would like to participate in the festival worship service on Thursday evening at 8:00pm from St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, you can view the live stream on our Facebook page or the Synod YouTube Channel (Central Southern Illinois Synod).**

## **Outdoor Worship and Picnic**

**June 4**

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 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!

## **Music Update**

I wish everyone a safe and fun summer — the Choir and Exaltation Ringers will meet again in the fall. If anyone is interested in doing something musical during the summer, please contact me.

Join the Faith Singers as we help lead worship on Sunday mornings. Come early as we warm up and rehearse at 8:30. Jean Welch, *Director of Music*



# *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.

## **Summer Youth Events**

School is 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!
- The ELCA National Youth Gathering will be held in New Orleans in July of 2024. We will be holding an informational meeting on Sunday, June 25, at 5:30pm. Parents and youth are welcome to come learn more, and the youth can stay for pizza and games.
- 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.

Thank you for your generous support that helps make these and other youth activities possible. Please continue to encourage our youth in these and many other ways they are living out their faith.

## **Discipleship Group**

Join us at 10:00am on **Wednesday, June 21**, 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](mailto:khartz@sompo-intl.com).

## **Women of Faith Fellowship Night**

Join us on **Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>** at 6:00pm for dinner out at Kitchen 63 at K's Creek Golf Course. Please RSVP to Monica by **Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup>** if you plan to come.

## **Friends From Faith**

Last month, we debuted a new ministry team led by Naomi Hahn called "Friends from Faith." On the last Sunday of each month, everyone is welcome to send a greeting card. Visit the tall counter where you can select a card, sign a card, or deposit a card in the mailbox to send. Cards and stamps are provided for your use. If you have extra cards or stamps to spare, please bring them and donate them in the provided jar.

## **Monthly Movie on Pause**

The monthly Movie and Potluck will take a break during the summer months. Stay tuned as we hit the play button to resume in September!

## **Men's Breakfast**

Join us on Saturday, **June 3** 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.



## *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!



### **Congregational Giving to Benefit our Community**

At every annual meeting, we as a Faith Family give thanks to God for God’s many blessings and the financial generosity of this congregation. We also commit to sharing this generosity with our community. This year, we gave \$15,000 to the following organizations: Jacksonville Food Center, St. Vincent de Paul, New Directions Shelter, Prairie Council on Aging, Salvation Army, Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen, YMCA, Western Illinois Youth

#### **Jacksonville Food Center**

Melissa emailed me that things have been crazy busy at the Food Center. Crowds have been noisy and confusing, so with the warmer weather, customers are asked to line up outside the Food Center as they await their turn. Our Faith Family really upped their concern these past months. In April, we donated \$590.00 in money, and in May we donated 57 pounds of food products estimated at \$285.00. Thanks so much on behalf of those who need help.

*Lillian Korous*

#### **Donations needed**

“Matthew 25” is a thrift shop on 767 West Street in Jacksonville. It opened in 2013 with a mission to support local charities. Since then, 100% of the proceeds have gone back into the community. At this time, **they are in need of men’s jeans**. If you have some you would like to donate, you can take them to the thrift store or drop them off at the church and Diane Craig will take them to the shop.

Thank you so much!

#### **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](http://www.hcfta.org) or call 217-523-2787.

# Worship Assistants

## Chancel Committee

June 4 Kris Roth (outdoors)  
June 11 Pat Glyshaw  
June 18 **volunteer needed**  
June 25 **volunteer needed**

## Coffee Hosts

June 4 *Outdoor Picnic*  
June 11 Barb Davenport  
June 18 **volunteer needed**  
June 25 Kay Schnitker

## Communion Assistants

June 4 Char Hubbard (outdoors)  
June 11 Pam Devlin  
June 18 **volunteer needed**  
June 25 Kay Schnitker

## Greeters

June 4 Char & Paul Hubbard  
(outdoors)  
June 11 Judy D. & Vicki R.  
June 18 Barb Fishback  
June 25 Lillian Korous

## Readers

June 4 Kelly Hartz (outdoors)  
June 11 Barb Davenport  
June 18 Terri Kimler  
June 25 **volunteer needed**

## Ushers

June 4 **volunteer needed** (outdoors)  
June 11 Pat Glyshaw  
June 18 **volunteer needed**  
June 25 Larry Kuster

**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.).

June 4 By the Dichsen family in celebration of Marilyn's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 6  
& By Carol Rauen in memory of Pat and Rand Burnette  
June 11 By the Dichsen family in celebration of Desmond's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday on June 17  
& **Open for donation**  
June 18 **Open for donation**  
& **Open for donation**  
June 25 **Open for donation**  
& **Open for donation**

## Financial Assistants

June 4 Ken Devlin & Kelly Street  
June 11 Mindy Carlson & Kelly Hartz  
June 18 Mindy Carlson & Monica Proefrock  
June 25 Greg Kimler & Patty Nelson

## Newsletter Deadline

**June 18**

## 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 under the working cross next to 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.