

Faith Family News

August 2023

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

Come and Connect

By Pastor Adam

This has been a different summer for my family. Typically, we head off to South Carolina, Colorado, or a new destination for a road trip vacation to see family and explore God's beautiful creation. Not this year... it has been the summer of camps!

In June, Benen attended Confirmation Camp at Augustana College with others from Faith, and Marilyn was a mentor camper. It was an opportunity to gather with 50 other youth from around the synod to dig deeper into Luther's Catechism, for service to neighbors, and a whole lot of fun with new friends. Then they both attended Performing Arts Camp in Meredosia. PAC is an intensely packed two days of small groups, art, music, drama, and more that gives Christian encouragement and support to step out and praise God in wonderful ways. July brought even more! Marilyn attended Leadership Lab, a week-long camp for High Schoolers in Rock Island. While spending lots of time in worship and Bible study, they also learned practical leadership skills on how to lead small groups in their congregations. Benen discovered that two of his favorite things could be combined... faith and baseball! He attended his first Fellowship of Christian Athletes camp at Illinois College where he grew in faith through his huddle group and spent hours each day improving his baseball skills. Rigby joined some friends on a mission trip to Belleville where they served at "Restoration Ranch" and had fun roller skating and exploring the City Museum in St. Louis. To cap it all off, Benen, Rigby, and Louis joined up with the Esprit de Corp performing arts group here in Jacksonville to put on a production of "Shelebrate," a collection of poetry from Shel Silverstein. The show was written by Ken Bradbury

and directed by Christine Smith. Our boys had never done anything like this before, and they loved it! We are now looking forward to more opportunities to participate in shows in the near future.

As you can see, we didn't have time for our typical road trips... but what a blessing this summer has been! Our kids have **connected with friends**... old and new, making plans to hang out with friends here in town and keeping in touch with those across the country. They have **connected with God** in all sorts of ways... through music, acting, scripture, and serving. And they can't wait for more!

All of this has me thinking... could these experiences be good for us all? I don't see many adult camps around, but our church and others offer whole hosts of discipleship, fellowship, and service opportunities. Our discipleship group, women of faith, and men's breakfast have continued through the summer. We plan to start up our movie group, book group, music groups, and Sunday School classes in the fall. New ministry teams are popping up... from crocheting to writing letters, maybe even golf! Might you give one a try? I hope so!

As summer is coming to a close, take time to commit to connecting. Come and participate in our ministry to connect with friends... old and new. Come and participate in our ministry to connect with God. Come and participate in our ministry to grow... it's not just for our kids! Find something new, find someone new, and give it a try.

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.

Ethel VanHyning Funeral

On Friday, July 21, we were grateful for the opportunity to gather for the funeral of Ethel VanHyning. Ethel worked and lived with the Elm City community and worshiped with us off and on for several years. Her smile and hugs touched many hearts. Our sanctuary was filled again with her favorite song, "Jesus Loves Me," and filled with many friends from Elm City. Thank you for those who joined us for worship and lifted up Ethel's family in prayer. It is so important that we are the church, not only gathered on Sunday mornings, but gathered to walk with one another through grief and committed to prayer.





Coming in September... TOTAL MINISTRY!

What is Total Ministry? Stay tuned to find out. We will hand out more information on September 10 and spend three weeks hearing about this new way of living our ministry together.

Thank You from Lloyd Kleinlein

I want to thank everyone for their prayers and support during my recent cancer treatments. It was so wonderful to announce to you all in worship last month that the doctors have determined me cancer free. Prayer definitely works! I am so grateful and love my church family so much!

- Lloyd Kleinlein

Farewell and God Speed

When good friends move, we are always grateful for their new opportunities, but also so sad to say goodbye. This summer, two wonderful families are moving. Paul and Char Hubbard are moving to Decatur to be near family. The Ion family (Levi, Sheila, Brooke, and Maeve) are moving to Davenport for new jobs and to be near family. Praise God for the time we spent together in mission, and may God bless them in their future!



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!



Sacrament of Holy Baptism

God's mighty waters of grace flowed in July as we celebrated the baptism of **Ronan James Street**, son of Cole and Megan Street. His godparents are Kelsey and Nic Lee.

Holy Baptism is a sacrament in the Lutheran church, boldly proclaiming our identity as children of God and calling us into community to live and love as the Body of Christ.

Outdoor Worship and Picnic August 6

Our outdoor worship services continue on August 6 and September 3. Last month, rain forced our worship to a shaded portion of the parking lot and our picnic to the air-conditioned Great Room. We heard from everyone that it was a pleasant change! We will do the same this month. There will also be a worship station set up inside at the Justice Room windows and livestreamed. Invite a friend and join us for these wonderful times together!

End of Sermon Series "What is a Good Life?"

For the last three weeks, we have been reading the Bible's "wisdom literature" from Song of Solomon and Proverbs. On August 6, we conclude with Ecclesiastes as Pastor Adam ties up our reflection on the "good life" and assures us that all is not meaningless.

New Sermon Series "What's in your Bucket Letter?"

You've heard of a "bucket list"... all the things one wants to do before "kicking the bucket." What about a letter? What would you write to your loved ones if you knew you were dying? What would you want them to remember? What would you ask them to do? What is most important to you that it merits the time and effort to tell? This is what we will be discussing in our sermon series on 2 Peter from August 13-27. In this short book, the author (penned as Simon Peter) believes he will die soon, so writes this letter to tell his congregation what is so important to him. Come and hear what is important to Peter... I suspect it will be important for us too!

Picnic Ministry – Sign Up to help with Outdoor Picnics

Our Picnic Ministry Team is looking for some volunteers to help with preparing for the outdoor picnics this summer. You can help by signing up on the sheets by the Coffee Sales next to the Mission & Ministry Center/coat closet:

Dates: Sundays, August 6 and September 3

Setup: 6 volunteers each Sunday for tables and chairs at 8:30 am.

Side Dishes: 8 volunteers each Sunday – see the sign-up sheet for specifics.

Desserts: 3 volunteers each Sunday

Clean Up: 6 volunteers each Sunday to put away tables and chairs and clean in the kitchen

For August 6, we could still use:

- help with Set Up & Clean Up
- 1 more Seven-Layer Salad
- 2 people to bring Fruit

For more information, talk with Kevin and Martha Krohe on our Picnic Ministry Team.

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.

Mission and Vision

Our Congregational Council recently reviewed our congregation's mission and vision. These statements are more than mere words. They help articulate why we exist and what keeps us aligned. Our mission is simple and easy to memorize so that it helps guide us in all we do. Can you commit it to memory?

"To be a Christ-centered community that shares the love and joy of Jesus with one another and our neighbors."

Our vision is more detailed, steering our congregation in the ways we are going and telling us what we hope to accomplish. Notice how the three bolded verbs connect to our logo. The blue water is the flowing grace of God. The green, living cross is the growing of our ministry through discipleship. The yellow sunburst is the showing of God's love to others.

We believe the gift of God's grace does **FLOW** freely to everyone and are devoted to providing vibrant opportunities to praise God and connect people to this grace through worship.

We intend to **GROW** our ministry through nurturing disciples and encouraging all to use their spiritual gifts.

We commit to serving in this collaborative way to experience and **SHOW** Christ's love to one another and the world.

National Youth Gathering 2024

The ELCA National Youth Gathering takes place on July 16-20, 2024 as thousands of youth from across the country gather in New Orleans. If you have high school age youth who are interested, contact Monica Proefrock or Pastor Adam.

Friends From Faith

This summer, 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. On July 30 & August 27, visit the tall table just outside the sanctuary 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.

Men's Breakfast

Join us on Saturday, **August 5** for some delicious food and fellowship with the guys! Come at 8am to help in the kitchen and at 9am for food and conversation.

Discipleship Group

This month, come prepared to share YOUR favorite Bible verse with the group. Why is it your favorite? What makes it special to you in your faith journey? Join us at 10am on Wednesday, August 16, in the Faith Library to learn and share. For more information, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at khartz@sompo-intl.com.

Women of Faith Fellowship Night

The Women of Faith fellowship group is meeting for dinner on Wednesday, August 16th at 6:00pm at Proud Richard's (600 E. State St.). We'd love for you to join us! Please RSVP to Monica at 217-737-0475 by Sunday, August 13th.

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!

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!

Jacksonville Food Center

Statistics are still high regarding families seeking help in June. The number of families needing biweekly food boxes increased from 229 in April to 374 in May, to 382 in June. The June cost for food boxes was \$58,250.00. The weekly produce/bakery customers totaled 215 families, a total of 525 people, at a cost of \$3,785. There was no meat cost for bakery/produce customers because there were no deer or other meats available.

Donations: the churches contributed \$1,349.00 in money and \$2,159.00 in food donations.

Food Drives in June: Centenary VBS — 246.2 lbs; \$1,231

ISD Parent/Infant Conference — 489.4 lbs; \$2,447

ISVI Summer Camp — 193.3 lbs; \$966.50

Faith Church donated \$285.00 to the Food Center in June.

Lillian Korous

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Join this exciting new ministry team! Sharon Zuiderveld and her sister, Mary Ellen, are looking for crocheters and knitters (or those who want to learn) to help make prayer shawls. The shawls will then be given to friends as reminders that they are covered by our prayers and the love and grace of God.

Coming Up September 11-15: Doorbell Dinners

Help us deliver meals in the community. For more information and to sign up, visit the signup counter by the Fair Trade coffee.

Soup Luncheon Carry-Out Style

We would like to have our annual Soup Luncheon like we did last year — carry-out meals of a soup and dessert on **Sunday, October 8** after church until 1:00pm. Please plan to purchase lunch to take home that day and consider offering to help with the preparation. This event will also be open to the public.

Donations to Madagascar Lutheran Church in honor of Bishop John

For years, the Central/Southern Illinois Synod of the ELCA has partnered with two companion synods in Madagascar. In 2014, a delegation from our synod, including Bishop John and Kris Roth, visited Madagascar to learn more about them and partner in ministry. In honor of Bishop John's almost 24 years as our pastor here at Faith Lutheran Church and his 12 years of service as our synod bishop, we will be collecting donations to make a gift in his honor to support our ongoing partnership with the Malagasy Lutheran Church. If you would like to make a contribution, please designate it as "Madagascar." We have been fortunate recipients of Bishop John's faithful service over the last 36 years and are grateful to God for so many blessings!

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.

Jean Welch, Director of Music

Worship Assistants

Chancel Committee	Communion Assistants	Readers
Aug. 6 Kim Heise (outdoors)	Aug. 6 Hallie Mayner (outdoors)	Aug. 6 Terri Kimler (outdoors)
Aug. 13 Pat Glyshaw	Aug. 13 Barb Davenport	Aug. 13 Kelly Hartz
Aug. 20 Kris Roth	Aug. 20 Pam Devlin	Aug. 20 Barb Davenport
Aug. 27 Martha Krohe	Aug. 27 Ken Devlin	Aug. 27 Carol VanderKloot
Coffee Hosts	Greeters	Ushers
Aug. 6 Outdoor Picnic	Aug. 6 Hallie Mayner (outdoors)	Aug. 6 Larry Kuster (outdoors)
Aug. 6 <i>Outdoor Picnic</i> Aug. 13 need volunteer	Aug. 6 Hallie Mayner (outdoors) Aug. 13 Lillian Korous	Aug. 6 Larry Kuster (outdoors) Aug. 13 Pat Glyshaw & Hallie M.
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Aug. 13 need volunteer	Aug. 13 Lillian Korous	Aug. 13 Pat Glyshaw & Hallie M.

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.).

- Aug. 6 By Carol Rauen in memory of Chuck Heacox
 - & By the Dichsen family in celebration of Pastor Adam's birthday today
- Aug. 13 Open for donation
 - & Open for donation
- Aug. 20 **Open for donation**
 - & Open for donation
- Aug. 27 By the Roth family in honor of Bishop John's retirement on August 31
 - & Open for donation

Newsletter Deadline August 20

Financial Assistants

- Aug. 6 Greg Kimler & Mike Oldenettel
- Aug. 13 Patty Nelson & Monica Proefrock
- Aug. 20 Malinda Carlson & Kelly Hartz
- Aug. 27 Ken Devlin & Malinda Carlson

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 Office. 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!