



Faith Family

News

September 2023

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

The Wave of Total Ministry

By Pastor Adam

I know I've told you before about our family trips to a little beach in South Carolina. I grew up playing in those waves every summer. My dad's wisdom rings in my ear as I repeat it to my kids, "Never turn your back on the ocean!" A story recently surfaced about my mom not heeding his advice. She was backing into the ocean slowly, turned away from the waves in an effort to protect herself. While it left her totally clueless to what was coming, it gave her a good view of my dad's eyes as they grew in proportion to the giant wave approaching her. The next thing she knew, she was knocked over by this huge wave and, when she stood back up, my dad's eyes were even bigger... the wave had taken the top of her swimsuit!

There are times that tidal waves take us by surprise. Covid was one we experienced together, but there are also many personal waves that we suffer. There are times when tidal waves take us by surprise and leave us topless, desperately trying to put the pieces back together. **But there are also times that we get to make the wave.** Times when we pick the timing... we pick the impact... and we get to guide it to bring change for good. Total Ministry is just such a wave.

For about two years, our Council has been looking for a solution to our inoperative committees by learning from other congregations who have implemented new structures of ministry support.

For over two months, a steering team has been working incredibly hard to take what we have learned and craft it to meet the identity and needs of our community. The result? The wave that is Total Ministry!

Total Ministry is a ministry support structure, a replacement to our committees of the past. It will look different and sound different, but... like a wave... it's power goes beneath the surface. It's an opportunity for us to bring a new culture of ministry to Faith, a culture where there is freedom, comfort, and encouragement for all to identify and engage their passions and gifts to serve in ways that enrich both each of you and the ministry we share.

I'll stop there because there will be many opportunities for you to learn more about it this month. In worship, beginning September 10, we will be hearing about the theological and biblical grounds for this ministry. After worship, our steering team will be presenting the details and give opportunities for your questions. If you can't attend one of these sessions on Sunday, we'll be hosting them on Wednesday, September 13 at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., with the possibility of more to come. There will also be information posted in the gathering area and handed out that our team can share with you.

This is truly an exciting opportunity for us to send a wave through our congregation that will strengthen us and our ministry. Come, learn more, and heed my dad's advice to not turn your back on the power and potential that this has for us all.

Pastor Adam



Coming September 10th... 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.

September Sermons and Total Ministry

Total Ministry is more than an idea dreamed up by our steering team, it has biblical grounding and theological significance for us all. While we will be offering Deeper Discussions to learn more about the nuts and bolts, our sermons will walk us through the significant ways we are called to be engaged in ministry:

September 10 - “We are All In!” - Jesus calls us to be “all in” as we love God and our neighbors. What does this look like today? It’s not just all of our heart, mind, and soul, but all of us in it together.

September 17 - “We are One in Mission!” - Our mission is what defines and drives our ministry, but what is it? To what are we called? Come learn about our mission and the way that it makes us one.

September 24 - “We are Gifted to Serve!” - God has given us all gifts through the Spirit... spiritual gifts. Too often, they are left unopened and unused. Learn how to identify your spiritual gifts and about the joy and impact of using them.



Deeper Discussions

Come join us as we go deeper and learn more about the exciting wave of Total Ministry that is washing over our congregation. After worship on Sundays, September 10, 17, and 24, members of our steering team will be leading presentations in the sanctuary. You will learn more about the rationale and planning of the last two years that have gotten us to where we are today, as well as information on how this will call each of us to get involved as we follow God’s gifting and call in our lives. We will also be hosting these discussions on Wednesday, September 13 at 10:00 a.m. with muffins and coffee and at 6:00 p.m. with desserts. If there is interest, we will offer these on more Wednesdays as well. All are welcome and encouraged to attend one of these discussions. For the Sundays, just grab a snack and drink after worship and head back into the sanctuary. For the Wednesdays, please sign up to let us know you are coming.

Installation of our New Bishop

You are invited to attend the installation service of the Rev. Greg Busboom as Bishop of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod of the ELCA. The worship service will be held **Saturday, September 23, at 11:00am** at St. Agnes Catholic Church, 245 N. Amos Ave., Springfield. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will preside at the service. A reception will follow the service at St. John's Lutheran Church, 2477 W. Washington St., Springfield. Rostered ministers are invited to vest and process. The color of the day is red. In order to help the planning team prepare communion elements, bulletins, and seating arrangements, you are requested to RSVP at CSIS-ELCA.org/rsvp by **September 8**.



The 75th Anniversary of Faith Lutheran Church

“Rooted in Faith... Growing for the Future!”

In the Midwest, spring season is most often recognized as the time to plant the seeds that nourish us. But, fall season is also a time recommended for some plantings and growth. Flower bulbs and trees can yield wonderful results when planted at this time.

Faith Lutheran Church was one of those fall plantings that has yielded phenomenal growth. It was “planted” on November 28, 1948. There were 53 adult charter members who proceeded on a cold but sunny day to formalize this Church which now is celebrating a 75-year anniversary.

Obviously the roots/foundation took hold and through the years has nourished, protected, and shaded many people in the congregation and in our community. As with most trees and seedlings, nature profits from human contact. And we, at Faith Lutheran Church, can be grateful for the blessings of God and also for the many people who in the past and now, in the present, care for her.

For all things, there is a season. This fall 2023, and specifically on **November 12, 2023**, we will celebrate the foundation and growth of Faith Lutheran Church. This date provides us with a time to remember the Church’s beginnings, specific events in history, to glorify the “here and now”, and to look forward to our future with excitement and anticipation.

A steering committee has been created to organize some ideas for our celebration. Members are Pastor Adam Dichsen, Malinda Carlson, Marilyn Dichsen, Ken Finkle, Carol Freesen, Lillian Korous, Larry Kuster, Jean Welch, and Sharon Zuiderveld. Other members such as Karen Dean, Naomi Hahn, Martha Krohe, Patty Nelson, and Monica Proefrock have also stepped forward to help.

So, what are some of the thoughts as to our 75th celebration? We are just a little over 75 days from our special day, November 12, 2023. More information will be coming during the next few months, but here is a preview.

- Celebratory service followed by dinner featuring special music and guests
- Systematic sharing of our history
- Time capsule
- An interactive anniversary display capturing memories, pictures, handouts, and congregational sharing
- Updated Faith Family Directory and the creation of one in a digital format
- Video of membership interviews regarding Faith Lutheran
- An Anniversary Logo
- Service projects with participants pledging/volunteering 75 minutes of service
- Fundraiser based on variations of “75” for gifts to God, church membership and community

Throughout the next few months as planning continues, please be a part of it. Because YOU are Faith Lutheran Church. Please feel free to come forward with ideas and your willingness to participate and celebrate as the Holy Spirit moves you.

This 75th anniversary celebration provides us a time to come together with joy and gratitude. It is a time to be grateful for our solid roots and to continue to use our God-given gifts to further grow Faith Lutheran Church. We are grounded in Faith and Growing into a wonderful future. We are blessed.

Malinda Carlson
Steering Committee

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.

Choir Rehearsals to Begin!!!

As we look back over 75 years of our church's history, we can see the importance that music has played in this church in many forms. We have seen changes in the style of music we sing and the instruments we use all to the glory of God.

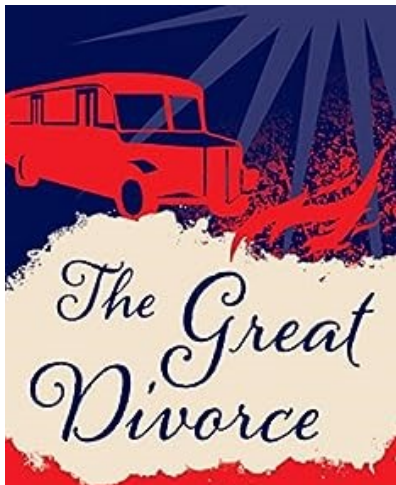
I would encourage all of you to consider the musical talents you have and join us as we continue to celebrate the Word of God through music.

Chancel Choir will begin rehearsals on Thursday, September 7th. We will begin at 5:30pm for 45 minutes in the sanctuary. Anyone interested in singing, we need you! We sing once or twice a month during church.

Exaltation Ringers will have rehearsals the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month after service at 10:45am in the sanctuary. These will begin Sunday, September 10th. We ring one Sunday each month. If you are interested in ringing, please let me know.

Jean Welch, *Music Director*
Faith Lutheran Church

Book Group Returns



A recent sermon reference to "The Great Divorce" by C.S. Lewis sparked some interest throughout the congregation. As we kick off the return of our book group, join us in reading this thought-provoking book about a man who visits heaven and hell and is given a whole new understanding... not of the life to come, but how to live life today. Books are \$10 each. We will schedule a discussion at the end of the month.

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Sunday School returns

September 10!

Calling all kids! Come and join us for Sunday School starting on September 10. After worship, fellowship, and snacks, we will gather for music and then head to our classes. We will have two classes this year, one for pre-K through Kindergarten and the other for early elementary. If you have questions or are interested in helping, contact Patty Nelson at 217-653-3105

Discipleship Group

It's time to put the "attitude" in the Beatitudes! Join us at **10am on Wednesday, September 20**, in the Faith Library to find out more about the way Jesus wants us to live our lives. Bring your favorite Bible with you or borrow one from the Faith library. Most importantly, bring yourself! 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, September 20th at 6:00pm** at Los Rancheros. We'd love for you to join us! Please RSVP to Monica at 217-737-0475 by Sunday, September 17th.

Men's Breakfast

Join us Saturday, September 2 for a breakfast adventure! Pastor Adam will be making his famous skillet scramble in the Dutch oven (famous in his family anyway). We will meet and eat in the gathering area this month. Come help at 8:00 and eat at 9:00.

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.

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!

Soup Luncheon - Carry-Out Style

Our Carry-Out Soup Luncheon was a success last year, and we will be offering that style again! Carry-out soups and desserts will be available on **Sunday, October 8, from 10:30am - 1:00pm. We could use your help!** On Sunday, September 3, we will have signup sheets available for a variety of ways you can volunteer from providing soups/desserts to helping in the building. We will also begin handing out tickets for you to purchase or sell to your family and friends. Let's work together to serve our community and share some delicious Lutheran Love! (Please bring in any cardboard trays or small boxes for us to use.)

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Join this exciting new ministry team! Sharon Zuiderveld and her sister, Mary Ellen Peterson, 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. Anyone interested in knitting or crocheting for the Prayer Shawl ministry may contact Sharon Zuiderveld. Beginners (and lefties) are welcome. Please let her know what day and time are best for you.

Her email is: sharonzuiderveld@hotmail.com and her cell is: 217-883-1258

Jacksonville Food Center

The number of food boxes served bimonthly by the Food Center has increased again, from 229 beginning in April up to 397 in July. 397 boxes fed 1,076 people at a cost of \$57,570.00. The weekly produce/bakery customers totaled 468 people at a cost of \$3,645.

There is important news to share. The Food Center will be changing sites. The move should be totally completed by October. The move will be to the former Production Press red brick entrance building at 307 E. Morgan. The address will be changed to 311. The new site is almost directly across the street from the old site. To reach it, one must just walk across State Street from the former Food Center site to the Centenary Church parking lot. Walk across the parking lot right to the new site on Morgan Street. It is a one-way street with plenty of angled parking spaces.

The old site was proving to be dangerous. Power was lost once on a filled freezer, but nothing was lost food wise as it was fixed quickly enough. The basement of the old site is filled with exposed electrical wires, and there is water in the basement. The number of electrical outlets at the current Center is inadequate for the number of freezers and refrigerators used.

The new site has lots of room for shelves, refrigerators, and freezers, outlets, and office space.

In July, the churches contributed \$1,371.86 in money and \$2,590 in food donations. In July, Faith Church donated \$370.00 in money and \$80.50 in food in early August. *Lillian Korous*

The Giving Boutique Is Coming

This fall Kathy Trenter and Karen Dean are planning a new project in anticipation of the giving season. This Giving Boutique will take place following worship on **Sunday, October 29**. It will feature handmade/designed crafts for decoration or gift giving. We already plan wreaths, trees, book stacks, shelf sitters, nativity stones, and tier trays.

The Giving Boutique comes with a twist! The emphasis will be on the Giving! The "purchase" of any item will actually be a donation to the group of YOUR choice: HUGS, Faith Lutheran Youth Group, Jacksonville Food Center, "Share the Light" Ministry, or Lutheran World

Relief. You will receive a gift card to present to a special recipient that a gift has been made in their honor. You may then keep the item for yourself, share it with that recipient, or even give it to another. The Giving goes on!!

If you would like to participate, we would love to include your crafts in the event. Please sign up on the list on the Coffee Sales counter. Not all that crafty?? No worries. The most important participants will be all those who take advantage of this event to remember special friends and family members in this creative way. More information will follow, but start crafting now to be part of the Giving!

Worship Assistants

Chancel Committee

Sep. 3 Kris Roth (outdoors)
Sep. 10 Martha Krohe
Sep. 17 Pat Glyshaw
Sep. 24 Kim Heise

Communion Assistants

Sep. 3 Ken Devlin (outdoors)
Sep. 10 Pam Devlin
Sep. 17 Hallie Mayner
Sep. 24 Kay Schnitker

Readers

Sep. 3 John Williams (outdoors)
Sep. 10 Angela Spray
Sep. 17 Angela Spray
Sep. 24 Liddy Stark

Coffee Hosts

Sep. 3 *Outdoor Picnic*
Sep. 10 Kay Schnitker
Sep. 17 Martha Krohe
Sep. 24 Terri Kimler

Greeters

Sep. 3 **need volunteer** (outdoors)
Sep. 10 Hallie Mayner
Sep. 17 Malinda C. & Lillian K.
Sep. 24 Barb Fishback

Ushers

Sep. 3 Liddy Stark (outdoors)
Sep. 10 Hallie Mayner
Sep. 17 Pat Glyshaw
Sep. 24 **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)

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.).

Sep. 3 By Gayla Smith in honor of her birthday
& By the Roth/Snodgrass family in honor of Bishop John's retirement
Sep. 10 **Open for donation**
& **Open for donation**
Sep. 17 **Open for donation**
& **Open for donation**
Sep. 24 By the Roth family in celebration of Laura's birthday on September 27
& **Open for donation**

Financial Assistants

Sep. 3 Malinda Carlson & Kelly Hartz
Sep. 10 Greg Kimler & Kelly Street
Sep. 17 Patty Nelson & Mike Oldenettel
Sep. 24 Ken Devlin & Monica Proefrock

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 September 24**, visit the tall counter 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.

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.

Newsletter Deadline

September 17