



Faith Family

News

November 2023

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

“Give Thanks”

By Pastor Adam

Desmond is a bit confused. Whenever we give him something or help him, he looks up at us with big blue eyes and says, “You’re welcome!” “No,” we say, “you are supposed to say, “Thank you,”” to which he promptly responds, “You’re welcome!” He’ll get it... eventually.

The words we use to express our gratitude are learned and practiced... but the experience of gratitude flows naturally from the depths of our very being. I remember coming home from college for Christmas, so grateful to be “home” and gather with family. I remember Karen and I sitting on our couch in Chicago after our wedding, honeymoon-road trip, and

move to seminary, so overwhelmed by gratitude for the many people who celebrated with and supported us. I remember looking at a little baby in my hands, amazed at the miracle of it all... I don’t remember which child... they all looked the same. ☺

These are big moments of gratitude, but there are so many others that come and go, often unnoticed. Sunshine and blue sky, a much-needed rain, time in worship together, a text from a friend, a hearty meal, flannel sheets, a safe and secure home... the list goes on and on. And this is where we can learn from Desmond. The experience of gratitude comes naturally, but we learn to give thanks.

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

– 1 Thessalonians 5:18

I encourage you... challenge you... to give thanks. No matter the weather... give thanks. No matter the meal... give thanks. No matter the news... give thanks. Set your alarm to go off every day, every hour! Make it a practice. Make it a habit. The more you give thanks, the more you will be tuned in to your many blessings and the gratitude welling up within you. Not only that, but you will also be more compelled to help those who don’t have the same blessings you do.

So, I know it’s November and Thanksgiving is just around the corner... I know it sounds cliché... but give thanks.

I thank God for each and every one of you and the blessings we share in our Faith Family. May you also see the many blessings in your life... and give thanks.

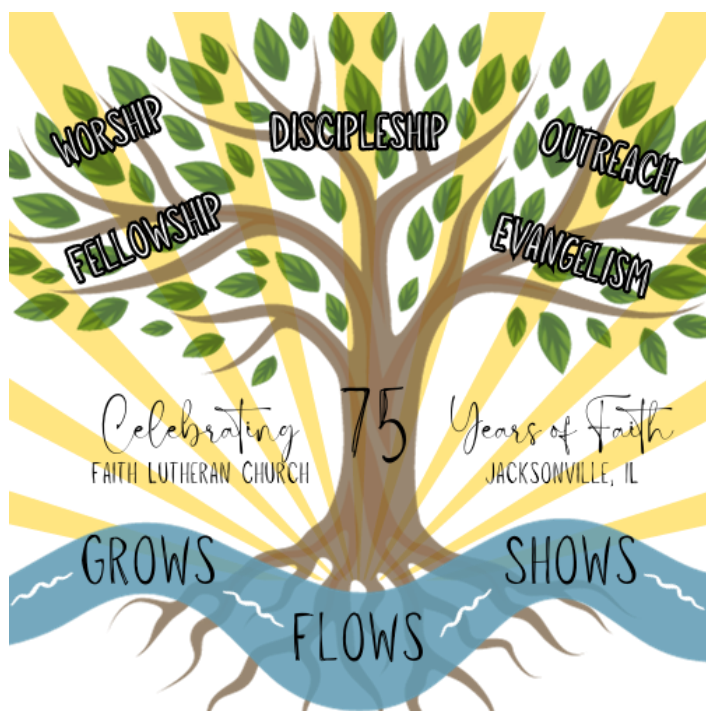
In Gratitude to God,
Pastor Adam

And remember, if you want to start a new ministry team, use this QR code to fill out a proposal.



The 75th Anniversary of Faith Lutheran Church

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



On November 12 we are celebrating a significant milestone here at Faith... 75 years of ministry! We will have a wonderful worship service, but there are so many ways to celebrate with us.

What does Faith Lutheran mean to you?

Fill out a card and tell us what Faith Lutheran means to you. Responses will be summarized and shared at a later date. Children are welcome to share as well, filling out leaves that will decorate our tree.

75th Anniversary Choirs

Music has played an important part in the life of this congregation through the years. In celebration of this event, we would like to invite you to sing with the Choirs that day. This is an invitation to those who may be coming back to visit also. **Rehearsals** are scheduled for **Sat., Nov. 11th: children 12:30; adults 1:30 pm in the sanctuary**. A sign-up sheet is available in the gathering area w/sheet music, or contact Jean Welch at 217.652.7009 (text) or email jrwelch53@msn.com; she can set you up with the music and a recording prior to the rehearsal.

Making History

Our history team has had a blast combing through past documents. They plan to print a more extensive booklet in the future. They welcome your pictures from 1988-2020. Please email them to Chad Boehlke (chadboehlke@yahoo.com).

Time Capsule

Let's leave some memories for the next generation. Bring a picture of your family and/or an event at church that you would like included. The capsule will be sealed and reopened in 25 years in 2048!

Celebration Dinner

And of course, it's not a celebration without food! Immediately following worship on November 12 there will be appetizers and fellowship in the gathering area. We will hold a meal in the Great Room at 11:30 a.m. Tickets for the meal are \$15 for adults; children 12 and under are free. **Please register as soon as possible.**

Pledge your Service

Our congregational service project was canceled due to rain, but there are many other ways you can serve. Consider trying something new this Christmas... serve at our Advent Allegro lunches, ring the bell for The Salvation Army, or discover a new ministry team at Faith. Your gift of 75 minutes can make a difference, and you may find a new ministry!

Fundraiser

Help contribute to our anniversary fundraiser by making a donation (7.50? \$75? \$750?? \$7,500?). This special offering will be divided three ways according to our Total Ministry triangle and used to enhance worship (up), support our discipleship (in), and care for our community (out).

Commemorative Coloring Book

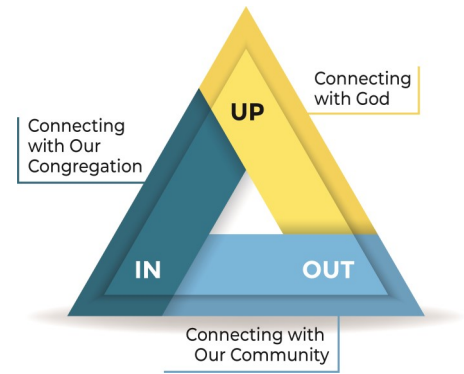
Pick up a piece of fun for all ages with our anniversary coloring book! All of the coloring pages are originals inspired by our Faith Family.

Updated Photo Directory

We need your picture! Have Marilyn take a photo after worship on November 12 or email one to the office.

Reaching Up... Connecting with God through Worship

Total ministry is a balanced ministry as we reach up, in, and out... connecting with God, our congregation, and our community



Fall Sermon Series - “A Family Tree of Faith”

Last month, our sermon series focused on our “Family Tree of Faith.” Genesis reminded us that we are rooted in relationship with our mighty God of all creation. The birth of Isaac to Abraham and Sarah showed the strong trunk of God’s faithfulness. Jacob and Esau were examples of the ways we can get twisted. The life and call of Moses revealed branches of freedom where God protects and provides. Elijah calling the Israelites back from worshipping Baal showed us how easily we are prone to split. The tree continues throughout November with the following themes:

November 5 (All Saints Sunday) – “Leaves of Life: Ruth” – new life springs forth through the compassion shown by Ruth.

November 12 (75th Anniversary) – “Abiding in the Vine” – Jesus calls us to abide in his love and share it with others. After a rich history of 75 years, we are committed to continuing in this call for years to come.

November 19 – “Fruit of forgiveness: Hosea” – Through the prophet Hosea, God forgives the people through tender compassion. Forgiveness is a sweet fruit that contains seeds for new life.

November 26 (Christ the King) – “A New Shoot” – we conclude our series of looking back on our family tree of faith by joining Isaiah in looking forward in hope for the new shoot, the messiah who will lead and redeem them.

We Remember Edna Ray Street

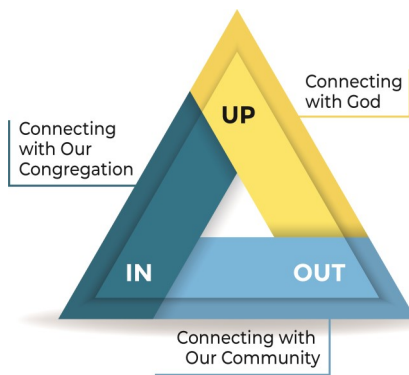


Edna Ray Street died on October 3; a funeral service was held on October 6 at Faith, and she was buried at Pleasant Plains Cemetery. We give thanks to God for our partnership in ministry and for the hope we share in eternal life.

All Saints Sunday

On November 5, we will be celebrating All Saints Sunday. It is an opportunity to 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 3.**





Reaching In... Connecting with our Congregation through Discipleship and Fellowship

Total ministry is a balanced ministry as we reach up, in, and out... connecting with God, our congregation, and our community

Sunday School

Calling all kids! Come and join us for Sunday School. After worship, fellowship, and snacks, we 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. The Youth meet in the basement with Drew Snodgrass.

Discipleship Group

How well do you know the women of the Bible? Join us at **10:00am on November 15** in the Faith Library to test your knowledge. If you have any questions about our group or are curious about how we spend our time together, please call Kelly Hartz at 217-502-1979 or email khartz@sompo-intl.com.

Music is a great way to connect!

Exaltation Ringer rehearsals are on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month after worship at 10:45am in the sanctuary.

Contact Jean Welch for more information.
jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

Potluck & Movie

Potluck and a Movie will be on **Monday, November 20 at 11:30am** and will feature the film "Same Kind of Different as Me" based on our Book Club book.

Sharon Zuiderveld

Women of Faith Fellowship Night

In November we're doing another Gal's Game Night but with sub sandwiches this time! Join us in the Great Room at Faith on **Wednesday, November 15th at 6:00 pm** for some friendly competition and yummy sandwiches. Bring your favorite board or card game and we'll choose ones that evening to play. Please RSVP to Monica at 217-737-0475 by Sunday, November 12th so we can provide enough food.

Men's Breakfast

Come and connect with other men as we share our faith and enjoy some good food **on Saturday, November 4**. Come help at 8:00 and eat at 9:00.

Book Group - "Blood Brothers" by Elias Chacour

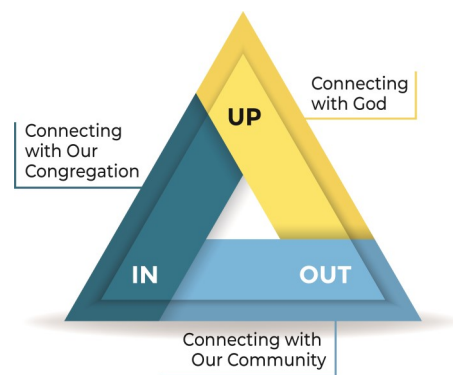
As a child, Elias Chacour lived in a small Palestinian village in Galilee. When tens of thousands of Palestinians were killed and nearly one million forced into refugee camps in 1948, Elias began a long struggle with how to respond. In Blood Brothers, he blends his riveting life story with historical research to reveal a little-known side of the Arab-Israeli conflict, exploring whether bitter enemies can ever be reconciled. This book offers hope and insight to help each of us learn to live at peace in a world of tension and terror. **A discussion will be held after worship on December 3.**

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: sharonzuiderveld@hotmail.com or 217-883-1258

Reaching Out... Connecting with our Community through Outreach

Total ministry is a balanced ministry as we reach up, in, and out... connecting with God, our congregation, and our community



Soup Luncheon Carry-Out Style

Our Carry-Out Soup Lunch was a huge success!! THANK YOU to all who signed up to help work and/or provide food and monetary donations, Thanks also to all of you who bought a meal to take home and enjoy. We raised \$2,000+, filled over 150 bellies, and shared the love of Christ every step of the way. The left-over soup, cornbread, and desserts were picked up by the New Directions Shelter, and they were very happy for the donation. (Check the Great Room for containers that you brought soup or dessert in.)

Giving Boutique

The opening day of our Giving Boutique raised nearly \$1,900! There will be many items still available for the next few weeks. Come and give!

Ideas Wanted!

Help prepare a great list of books for us to read in 2024. Which authors, titles, and subjects are you interested in exploring next year? Please email your suggestions to Kelly Hartz at khartz@sompo-intl.com.



If you're passionate about a book and would also love to lead the group discussion, please let us know! We're looking for books AND leaders.

New Advent Ministry Teams

Three ministry teams are looking for your help in December. Stay tuned for...

- ◆ "Reverse Advent" - Collect non-perishable food through the advent season to be distributed in the new year. Contact Hallie Mayner.
- ◆ Salvation Army Giving Tree - Take a name from our tree to give a Christmas gift to someone in need. Contact Kay Schnitker.
- ◆ HUGS Giving Tree - Help provide a Christmas meal and gifts to the children in Uganda. Contact Patty Nelson

Jacksonville Food Center

In September, the number of bi-weekly food boxes has increased again, a statistic that has repeated since April. Last Thursday, I dropped off a small bag of food and a large amount of egg cartons, an item always very much needed. It was 10:30am and the place was packed. I noticed the sign at the entrance: "Donations Stop at 11:30am." That was the time I usually deliver something, so the crowd was a revelation to me. The new site at 311 E. Morgan is much roomier.

Good news from the Journal Courier: Hy-Vee donated more than \$50,000 of food to the Jacksonville Food Center on October 9 as it cleared the old County Market interior for renovation.

In September, we served 446 families for food boxes, a total of 1,046 people at a cost of \$60,510. We served 194 families for bakery, a total of 423 people at a cost of \$3,310. The churches contributed \$3,636 in money and \$964.00 in food. Our Faith Lutheran church donated \$220 in September.

Lillian Korous

Advent Allegro Lunchtime Concerts

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

December 6: "The Extension Chords"
(with Jean Welch)

December 13: Jacksonville High School Madrigals

December 20: Matthew Nall on piano

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.**

Worship Assistants

Chancel Committee

Nov. 5 Pat Glyshaw
Nov. 12 Kim Heise
Nov. 19 Kris Roth
Nov. 26 to be determined

Communion Assistants

Nov. 5 Hallie Mayner
Nov. 12 **need volunteer**
Nov. 19 **need volunteer**
Nov. 26 **need volunteer**

Readers

Nov. 5 Liddy Stark
Nov. 12 Sharon Woodworth
Nov. 19 **need volunteer**
Nov. 26 **need volunteer**

Coffee Hosts

Nov. 5 Terri Kimler
Nov. 12 *75th Anniversary Team*
Nov. 19 Kay Schnitker
Nov. 26 Verla B. & Laura S.

Greeters

Nov. 5 Lillian Korous
Nov. 12 *75th Anniversary Team*
Nov. 19 Judy D. & Vicki R.
Nov. 26 **need volunteer**

Ushers

Nov. 5 Hallie Mayner
Nov. 12 Pat Glyshaw
Nov. 19 Hallie Mayner
Nov. 26 **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.).

Nov. 5 **Open for donation**
& **Open for donation**
Nov. 12 By Helen Cumby in loving memory of Bill's birthday
& **Open for donation**
Nov. 19 By Carol Rauen in honor of Annette Kilver's birthday on Nov. 22
& **Open for donation**
Nov. 26 **Open for donation**
& **Open for donation**

Financial Assistants

Nov. 5 Kelly Hartz & Monica Proefrock
Nov. 12 Greg Kimler & Patty Nelson
Nov. 19 Mindy Carlson & Kelly Hartz
Nov. 26 Mike Oldenettel & to be determined

Friends From Faith

A ministry team led by Naomi Hahn: on the last Sunday of each month, everyone is welcome to send a greeting card. **On November 26**, 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!** We will stop collecting caps and lids as of December 10 in 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

November 19