



Faith Family

News

July 2024

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

What is a Lutheran?

By Pastor Adam

Coming off of sabbatical, this was a question on my children's minds as we worshipped at so many other churches. I figured it may be on the minds of others, so we spent the last five weeks dusting off our Lutheran theological heritage. Boy, what a fruitful time it was!

We dug into our understanding of grace, faith, scripture, Jesus, and the priesthood of all believers. I won't take time to recap it all here, but you are welcome to return to our worship services on our YouTube channel to refresh your memory or catch anything you missed. Unfortunately, our conversations in the Justice Room can't be replicated. We had wonderfully engaging conversations filled with questions, stories, and vulnerability.

Judging from comments I received, particularly impactful was our topic on the final Sunday, "A 21st Century Lutheran." My main point was that difference is inevitable, but division is a choice. There are so many differences among us today, but I dare say there are no more today than the last century or any before it. The difference is the way we choose division, asserting that we are "right" while others are "wrong." I believe, strongly, with confidence and hope coursing through my veins, that it is precisely because of our understanding of grace, faith, scripture, Jesus, and the priesthood of all believers that makes us as ELCA Lutherans especially called and capable to NOT choose division. Remember...

- **Grace** is initiated by God, apart from works, so God's grace is poured onto every person and

present in every person. Take time to recognize it, receive it, and give it in the midst of our differences.

- **Faith** is a relationship initiated by God and sustained by the Holy Spirit. While it is made visible among us as it bears fruits of the Spirit, our role is to walk with one another, cultivating the soil we share so that our roots can go deep and help us bear this fruit.
- **Scripture** is the cradle that holds Christ and is sacred in how God uses it to bring the gospel to us. Just as there are differences in other aspects of our lives, there are differences in how we interpret scripture. We can disagree well, have good debate, and remain faithful when we stand together on the gospel.
- **Jesus** is the living Word of God who loves us with life giving love, shows us how to love, and makes our love for God and neighbor possible through the cross.
- **The Priesthood of All Believers** reminds us that we are all living icons, created in the image of God and called in Holy Baptism to bear Christ to one another.

When we share these values and stand together on the gospel, even in the midst of differences, we choose to steer away from destructive divisions. Why? Because that's how we love our neighbors. That's how we love those with whom we differ. That's how we share the gospel and live out God's Great Commission to make disciples.

As the 21st century continues to unfold, there will undoubtedly continue to be differences and there will be circumstances that magnify them. Together, let's be 21st century Lutherans who stand on the gospel!

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.

Baptisms of Luka Johnathan Waddle and William Tucker Ring

Together we celebrate the love of God through Holy Baptism for Luka Johnathan Waddle on June 16, son of Hillary and Jacob Waddle, and for William Tucker Ring on June 23, son of Nichole and Tyler Ring. On July 28, we will celebrate the baptism of Kate Nelson, daughter of Patrick and Emily Nelson.



We celebrate our graduates!

We give thanks to God for the accomplishments of our graduates:

Emma Fenner: SIU School of Medicine Class of 2024; she is going to start her Urology residency on July 1 at the Univ. of Tennessee, Memphis.

Evelyn Street: graduated from Springfield Christian Preschool and will be going to Farmingdale Elementary for Kindergarten.

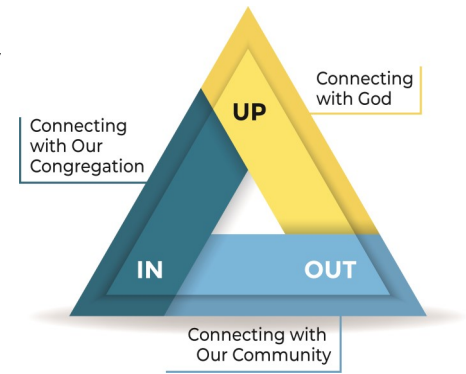


Synod Assembly “Many Gifts, One Mission”

Our synod's annual assembly took place June 6-8 in Decatur. The time was spent receiving greetings from ELCA and ecumenical leaders and ministries, conducting business such as approving a new budget, gathering for fabulous festival worship, breaking out into “Spirit Groups” to discern God's direction for us together, joining in Bible study around our theme, and connecting with one another as the body of Christ. Of note for our congregation, Pastor Adam received a certificate commemorating 15 years of ordination, Pastor Glen VanderKloot received a certificate commemorating 50 years of ordination, Bishop Emeritus John Roth was recognized for his service and retirement, Pastor Adam was nominated to serve on the ELCA churchwide council, and Marilyn Dichsen celebrated her 17th birthday in meetings as the Synod Council youth representative and the youth representative of our congregation. Others from Faith who attended were Glen and Carol VanderKloot and Ralph and Jean Welch. Please celebrate what God is doing in our synod, and reach out to our attendees to learn more.

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



Outdoor Worship on July 7

The cicadas robbed us of our outdoor service in June, so our first one will be on July 7. So close to Independence Day, it will be a musical Sunday with patriotic songs and giving thanks for God's blessing on all. Last year we offered seating on the parking lot and just inside the window of the Peace and Justice rooms to assure all can participate safely and comfortably. Following the service, we will move indoors for a potluck meal in the Great Room. Invite a friend and join us for these wonderful times together!

Indoor Potluck on July 7

Following outdoor worship on July 7, we will move indoors for a potluck meal in the Great Room. Bring a dish to share and enjoy this meal together. We are in need of volunteers to help set up and clean up. If you are able, please sign up by the Total Ministry Center.

Sermon Series

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Martin Luther once said, “Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.” Music is a vital part of our worship and faith life. For the next four weeks, we'll be hearing from a number of different people about the importance of music as we lift up our voices and sing:

- June 30 - Hear reflections from our Faith Family about the importance of song.
- July 7 - Sing patriotic hymns of praise and God's faithfulness during our outdoor worship.
- July 14 - Hear about the importance of song through movements of justice and change.
- July 28 - Hear from Pastor Tom Hillertz about the importance of song in his life.



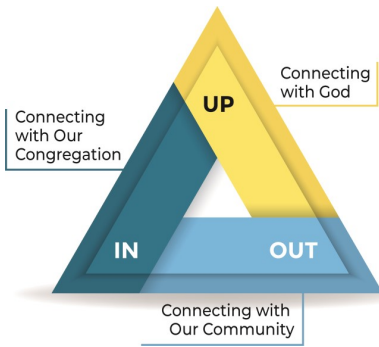
Share your favorite song!

This month, as we “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” we want to know your favorite worship song. Fill out a form at the cross by the coffee bar or email the church office. We will do our best to include your song in our worship during the summer.

Music is a great way to connect!

We are always looking for people to sing or play special music for a prelude or a stewardship offering. Please contact Jean Welch if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts.

jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)



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

Crossways Confirmation Camp “Seasons of Love”

On June 10-14, Pastor Adam and some of our youth headed to Rock Island, IL for our annual Confirmation Camp. Crossways is a collaboration with churches from Illinois and Missouri to bring our youth together for a week of Bible study, small group activities, service projects, worship, and a whole lotta fun! This year we focused on the second article of the Apostles’ Creed. We learned that the love of God is revealed through Jesus in all the seasons of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, and through the seasons of the church year. This year, our group included Benen, Mason, Rigby, Marilyn as a mentor camper, and Logan from Carthage as he tries to get more to come from his church. Many thanks to you for loving our youth, giving to our youth fund, and supporting these children of God as we live out our baptismal promises!



Never Give Up! Leadership Lab 2024

For the second summer, our youth have participated in a national Lutheran leadership camp for high school, college, and adults, held in Rock Island, IL called Leadership Lab. For a whole week, “labbers” worship, serve, and learn leadership skills to help them be leaders in their own congregations. This year, Adam Krohe and Marilyn Dichsen are attending. Ask them to tell you more about their experience. They are an inspiration to us all as we learn to lead in the church.

Women of Faith Fellowship Night

Join the women of Faith for dinner at Guse's Pub & Eatery (304 S. Main St.) on Wednesday, July 10th at 6:00pm. **Please RSVP to Monica at 217-737-0475 by Sunday, July 7th.** Plus, save the date for our next game night - August 14th - hosted by Pam Devlin.

Discipleship Group

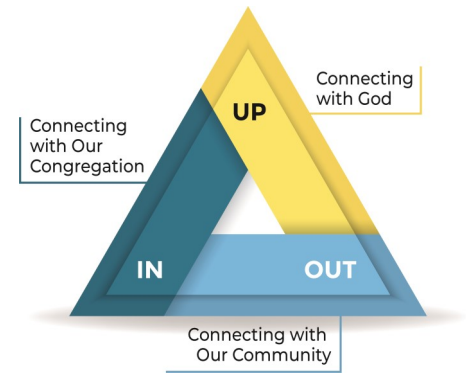
Join our monthly discussion **at 10:00am on Wednesday, July 17**, in the Faith Library. Spend time with others in prayer, study, and great conversation. For more information, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at khartz@sompo-intl.com.

Men’s Breakfast

Come and connect with other men as we share our faith and enjoy some good food on **Saturday, July 6**. At 8:00, we hang out in the kitchen, helping to cook, drink coffee, and visit. At 9:00, we sit down for the feast and to share some conversation and discussion on a specific topic. This is a great way to invite someone new to Faith!

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



Doorbell Dinner Thank You

June brought another opportunity for us to share the love of God through Doorbell Dinner delivery. Thank you to all who helped! Not only does this ministry feed with a healthy meal, but it feeds souls with Christian love and care.

Serving Our Young Families

Chances are you've seen it. Those cute little kids in worship. They've brought a smile to your face and warmed your heart as they are growing and learning in our community of faith. But do you know the sacrifice their parents are making? Chances are, their hearts aren't warmed quite the same way as yours. They are worried about their kids being too loud, too distracting, or that they are going to give Pastor Adam a nervous breakdown during the children's sermon. They've given up a morning of sleeping in, pajamas, and perhaps a bit more peace than comes through sitting in a church pew for an hour. Let's serve them! First off, thank them for being here! Those parents are in the trenches, living out their baptismal promises. Show them your appreciation. Second, get to know them. Call those kids by name and chat it up with them over a cookie. Offer to help carry a diaper bag or even to babysit some evening. Third, let's nurture their faith together. We are considering new ways to provide Christian education and discipleship to these children. Come be a part of the conversation. Talk to a Council member (Mindy Carlson, Ken Devlin, Kelly Hartz, Greg Kimler, Gaylon Martin, Patty Nelson, Monica Proefrock, and Kelly Street) if you would like to know more.

A Desire to Serve

One of the outcomes of the Lenten midweek gatherings this year was an awareness of an overwhelming desire for hands-on service. We have lots of ideas, but need volunteers to help plan and execute them. If this lines up with your desires, interests, and abilities, please let us know! Contact the church office, and we will put you in touch with your Outreach Core Team.

Jacksonville Food Center

The Food Center continues to supply increasing amounts of food to families needing help. During summer break, schools are not providing breakfasts or lunches. More at-home meals require more food to be available there, and the Food Center is the link to that.

In May, the Food Center served 495 families, a total of 1,099 people at a cost of \$69,125.00 (30,140 pounds). The cost is estimated based on food's weight: 1-pound equals \$5. The same is estimated for food donations. Family food boxes are now limited to every three weeks, rather than the former time of biweekly. Families may come in once weekly for bakery/produce/meat; 178 families (375 people) were served bakery at a cost of \$3,015, and meat at a cost of \$1,424.

Donations: the churches donated \$9,157.66 in money and \$4,169 in food donations. Food drives from 9 local organizations supplied \$20,979 in foods. In May, Faith Lutheran donated \$215 in money and \$77.50 in food.

Lillian Korous

Worship Assistants

Chancel Committee

July 7 Kim Heise (*outdoors*)
July 14 **need volunteer**
July 21 Kris Roth
July 28 Martha Krohe

Communion Assts.

July 7 **need volunteer** (*outdoors*)
July 14 Barb Davenport
July 21 Kay Schnitker
July 28 Pam Devlin

Readers

July 7 **need volunteer** (*outdoors*)
July 14 John Williams
July 21 **need volunteer**
July 28 Liddy Stark

Coffee Hosts

July 7 *indoor picnic*
July 14 Martha Krohe
July 21 **need volunteer**
July 28 Liddy Stark

Greeters

July 7 Lynette Hamilton
(*outdoors*)
July 14 Hallie Mayner
July 21 Vicki Robson
July 28 Lillian Korous

Ushers

July 7 **need volunteer** (*outdoors*)
July 14 Pat Glyshaw
July 21 Hallie Mayner
July 28 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.).

- July 7 By Pastor Adam & Karen in celebration of their 20th wedding anniversary July 10
& **Open for donation**
- July 14 In celebration of Hallie Mayner and Liddy Stark's birthdays
& **Open for donation**
- July 21 By Amy Stevens-Kaufmann
& By Cole & Megan Street in celebration of their 6th wedding anniversary July 21
- July 28 **Open for donation**
& **Open for donation**

Financial Assistants

- July 7 to be determined
July 14 to be determined
July 21 to be determined
July 28 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 July 28**, visit the tall white 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.

Plastic Caps & Lids

We stopped collecting caps in December, and the Jacksonville Public Library is no longer taking them. Please let us know if you hear of a place where they can be taken.

GFL Recycling says that you can leave caps on clean, recyclable #1 and #2 plastic bottles when you add them to your recycling bin.

Newsletter Deadline

July 21