



Faith Family

News

September 2024

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

The Potluck of Discipleship

By Pastor Adam

For the last five Sundays we've talked discipleship. With the book, "Practicing the Way" by John Mark Comer as a conversation partner, we looked at what it means to do more than sit at Jesus' feet, but to be an apprentice of Jesus that strives to be with him, become like him, and do as he did. On our final Sunday, I invited everyone into practicing what Comer refers to as a "Rule of Life." Basically, it's a set of practices that we live each day to help us be disciples of Jesus as we be with him, become like him, and do as he did. The cherry on top is that we don't do this alone, but together, in community, by identifying a friend to walk this journey together, sharing our joys and struggles, and holding one another accountable.

Throughout the series, a question kept coming up... "Is this Lutheran?" As we dug deeper, we found that people were uncomfortable with all of the "should" statements of what one "should" do to be with Jesus, become like him, and do what he did. If you felt this as well, you are not alone! Not only was this discussed at length in our after worship conversations, but I could also see some fidgeting in the pews as I preached 😊. Let me try to answer that question, because it may be yours as well, "Is it Lutheran?"

First, John Mark Comer isn't Lutheran, so the way he writes and the ways he suggests we live don't necessarily fall into the rhythm we've been steeped in since birth. As Lutherans, we are rock solid that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. For more on that, revisit our sermon series from last Spring.

Second, and I encourage you to stretch a bit here, What is Lutheran? We have our theological foundations, yes, but we also have an identity that is expressed by the way we practice our faith. For example, Jello salad. Some would say it is as Lutheran as the Augsburg Confessions! Why? Not because the recipe is found in the Bible or the Book of Concord, but because it is deeply embedded in our history of living our faith together, from celebratory potlucks to compassionate funeral luncheons.

So, what is Lutheran? We just read an author that insists there are things we "should" do as disciples and, by the way, I didn't see any Jello salad at our last potluck... are we falling away from the faith?!

I don't believe so. "Love God and love neighbor." This is Jesus' answer in the gospels when asked about the greatest commandment. They are Jesus' top two "shoulds." Why "should" we do these? In response to what God has first done for us in Christ (good Lutheran answer). How do we do these? There's no Lutheran answer for this. The options range from Jello salad to crab rangoon.

Like a potluck, each of us is gifted and called by the Spirit in different ways, with different tastes, appetites, and abilities. Each of us "should" love God and love neighbor, each in our own way. This involves living as disciples, as apprentices of Jesus, who spend time with him, become like him, and do what he did. It also involves trying new things. I learned from the gospel according to Dr. Seuss to give green eggs and ham a try. What should we do? Love God. Love neighbor. And in response to what God has done for us, give God thanks and praise as we daily live lives of discipleship.

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.

New with our Youth!

Fellowship Events

Last month, Adam Krohe (high school sophomore) shared about plans for some youth social events in the fall. On our calendar, we have a cookout/kayaking night at the Martin's in September (just youth families) and bowling on Sunday afternoon, September 29 (open to the congregation). Other ideas include an escape room, laser tag, mini golf, lock-in, and movie night. We are looking for others to help host these events as wonderful ways to support and get to know our youth! If you are interested, please contact our Youth Ministry Team of Adam Krohe, Marilyn Dichsen, and Barb Davenport.

Youth Sunday School

Last month, Marilyn Dichsen (high school senior) shared about our Youth Sunday School plans. They are looking for volunteers to meet with them after worship on Sunday mornings. Don't worry, no teaching is necessary! Some Sundays we will follow a discussion guide that reflects on the readings and sermon of the day. Some Sundays we will be interviewing guests from our congregation as we get to know them and their faith journey. Some Sundays we want to do service projects, either at church or at someone's home. If you are interested in joining us for any of these on a Sunday morning, please contact our Youth Ministry Team of Adam Krohe, Marilyn Dichsen, and Barb Davenport.

Baptisms

The summer of baptisms has continued as we have celebrated the gift of God's grace and committed our support for these beautiful children and their families.

Stewardship Spotlight

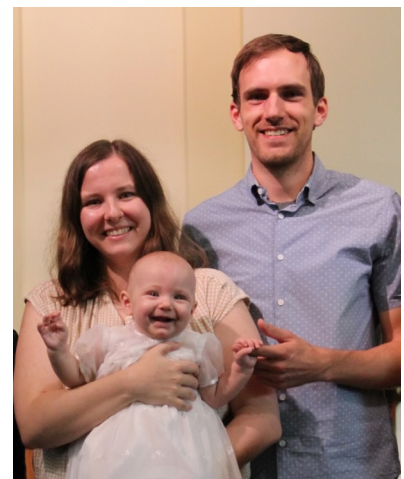
In August, our Council mailed a letter updating the congregation on the status of our Building Fund which covers our mortgage payments and significant repairs. Over the last two years, giving to this category has not kept pace with the expense, and we invited people to make a special gift. Many have done so, and we are grateful to God for the response! We will share an update in next month's newsletter and make announcements in worship along the way.



Reiss Tobias Easton
Proefrock on August 4,
son of Monica Proefrock



Kate Amelia Nelson on July 28,
daughter of Emily and Patrick
Nelson



Hazel Melanie Sibert on August 25,
daughter of David & Carly Sibert



Discipleship Focus:

“Be with Jesus” through Worship

As we focus on discipleship, we learn that discipleship begins by being with Jesus. We can do this in many ways, but together we join for worship.

“Faith’s Little Flock”

Last month, Melissa Street shared about a new format we are trying for Sunday School this year. Beginning on Sunday, September 8, we will be inviting children ages 2-6 to join a volunteer in a classroom during a portion of worship. The children will be walked to the Sunday school room after the children’s sermon, and then parents are asked to pick them up for communion. This will give some education and fun for the kids and allow parents the option for more focus in worship. We realize this is a significant change from the past. We value having our children in worship, and they are always welcome. Over the last few years, with so few volunteers, it has become increasingly difficult to offer Sunday school after worship and staff a nursery. This new format is an opportunity to meet some of the needs of both. We are thankful to already have three volunteers who have stepped forward and would like to find a few more. If you are interested, please talk to Melissa Street or Mariah Street.

Outdoor Worship on September 1

Our next outdoor worship service of the summer will be on September 1. 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 the Justice Room windows, as well as being live streamed). Following the service, we will move indoors for a potluck meal in the Great Room. Come early if you’d like to help set up chairs. Invite a friend and join us for this wonderful time together!

Fall Sermon Series –

“God Keeps God’s Promises”

As we pick up again with the Narrative Lectionary, we will follow the story of God’s people through the Old Testament. Again and again, generation after generation, God makes promises with God’s people. Again and again, God’s people turn away from God, but our God keeps God’s promises! Here are the themes for September:

September 8 – “Adam and Eve: a Promise of Reconciliation”

September 15 – “Abram: A Prodigal Promise from our Prodigal God”

September 22 – “Joseph: The Promise of Persistence”

September 29 – “The Exodus: a Passover Promise”

Using resources from *Spill the Beans*, a worship resource from Scotland, we will be incorporating dialogues, prayers, and artwork made by our children.

Indoor Potluck on Sept. 1

Following outdoor worship on Sept. 1 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.

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)

HUGS Worship and Presentation

Join us on Sunday, September 8 as we include some Ugandan elements of worship and hear from Melissa Street and Patty Nelson who traveled there in July. There will be a presentation after worship in the sanctuary to hear more about their trip and updates on the ministry.

Flows. Grows. Shows



Discipleship Focus: “Become like Jesus” through Discipleship

As we focus on discipleship, we learn the importance of becoming like Jesus. Here are some ways we do this together.

Faith Inkubators with our Youth

Faith's Confirmation Ministry is starting up again, but it's not just for confirmation students! For the last few years some upper elementary and high school students have joined us for some youth time of food, learning, and fellowship. This year we will have six sessions in all as we take a closer look at the Old Testament. We meet at 5:30pm with a meal (overlapping with our Bible Boot Camp kids), then jump into our session from 6:00-7:30. If you have a middle school or high school student interested in joining us, let them know, and friends are welcome! Our sessions will be on Sundays, **September 15, September 29, October 13, October 20, November 10, and December 15** for a fun Christmas session.

Bible Boot Camp with our Elementary Children

In an effort to offer more opportunities for fun and learning with our elementary school aged children, we are offering an exciting new program called “Bible Boot Camp.” We will be meeting in the Great Room on various Sundays from 4:30-5:30pm. Each session kicks off in the Great Room with some active singing, so come ready to jump and move! Next, we will dive into a Bible story, retelling it together and engaging in some activities to bring it to life. Finally, we'll close with prayer as we bring our praises and desires to God. Then, stick around for supper! Our middle school and high school youth will be meeting later that evening for their Faith Inkubators session and will be joining us for supper from 5:30-6:00. Here are some details to note:

- Kids are welcome and encouraged to invite friends!
- Parents, you are welcome to stay for the lesson and meal, but are not required to do so.
- We would like to have an idea on how many to expect at the session and meal, so please sign up or contact the office by the Friday before if you plan to attend. But don't let that stop you or a friend from coming!

The dates of our session will be the following Sundays: **September 15, September 29, October 13, October 20, November 10, and December 15** for a fun Christmas session.

Please join us for these wonderful opportunities for our kids! If you have questions or would like to get involved in any way, please contact Pastor Adam.

Men's Breakfast

Come and connect with other men as we share our faith and enjoy some good food on **Saturday, Sept. 7**. 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!

Discipleship Group

Join our monthly discussion at **10:00am on Wed., Sep. 18**, in the Faith Library. Enjoy good food, great discussion, and a lovely, vibrant community of believers. For more information, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at khartz@sompo-intl.com.

Women of Faith

Due to illness last month, the Women of Faith game night was rescheduled for September. Join us on **Wednesday, September 11th at 6:00pm at Pam Devlin's house**. Bring a snack to share and your favorite card or board game. We'd love to have you join us! Contact Monica Proefrock with questions: 217-737-0475.

Women of Faith:

Did you know that we are all members of WELCA? That's the Women of the ELCA. The next statewide conference will be held in Springfield at St. John's in mid October. This is a great opportunity to meet new friends from churches throughout our Synod. Watch the bulletin for more details. — *Sharon Zuiderveld*



Discipleship Focus:

“Do as Jesus Did” through Service

As we focus on discipleship, follow Jesus in our actions through service to others.

Doorbell Dinners

September 9-13

Help us deliver meals in the community through our community-wide Doorbell Dinners ministry. We are in need of drivers & deliverers to cover the needs of five routes — time commitment is 11:15-12:30 each day. For more information and to sign up, visit the signup counter by the Fair Trade coffee sales.

Soup Luncheon

Carry-Out Style

Our Carry-Out Soup Lunch was a success last year, and we will be offering that style again! Carry-out soups and desserts will be available on **Sunday, October 13, from 10:30am - 1:00pm. We could use your help!** On Sunday, September 8, 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.)

God's Work... Our Hands

September 8

In honor of our 75th Anniversary Celebration at Faith Lutheran Church, please consider doing God's work – with your hands, on Sunday, September 8, 2024. Our goal for this event (which we canceled last year because of cold and stormy weather) will be to “clean up and beautify” our community with 75 minutes (approximately) of service.

Lori Oldenettel will provide us with equipment to do this activity. We will leave from the church after service that day with location destinations and items to do our work. After completion of our project, we will return to Faith for fellowship, pizza, and soda.

Please dress appropriately and comfortably for the day. If you want to bring your own gloves and bags, that is fine, too.

Everyone is welcome. It will be a fun time, and it will feel good to *practice the way* as an apprentice of Jesus. **It will be God's work with our hands!**

Tasha Layton Concert September 22

Faith Lutheran is joining forces with other community churches to host a Christian concert on the square on September 22 with one of today's top female Christian artists, Tasha Layton. The **Opening Act is at 4:30pm; Tasha Takes the Stage at 6:15pm.** It is a free concert and an outreach to the entire community. Grab a lawn chair and some friends and join us for this wonderful community concert!

Jacksonville Food Center

The Jacksonville Food Center remains busy as summer continues, and school-aged children are eating breakfasts and lunches at home. In July, 509 food boxes were distributed to 1,405 families at a cost of \$12,770.00. Other charities are donating food to families also, so the need in Jacksonville is great.

In July, Faith Lutheran members donated \$700 to our Food Center!! In August, food items weighing 101.7 pounds were donated by Faith folks. The estimated cost by weight is \$508.50. Lots of empty egg cartons were donated and delivered, also. The egg cartons are needed because eggs are delivered to the Center in bulk.

Helping families in need is following what our Father in heaven wishes. Amen.

Lillian Korous

Worship Assistants

Chancel Committee

Sep. 1 Kris Roth (*outdoors*)
Sep. 8 Pat Glyshaw
Sep. 15 Martha Krohe
Sep. 22 Kim Heise
Sep. 29 **need volunteer**

Communion Assts.

Sep. 1 Youth (*outdoors*)
Sep. 8 Kay Schnitker
Sep. 15 Pam Devlin
Sep. 22 Hallie Mayner
Sep. 29 Glen VanderKloot

Readers

Sep. 1 Barb Davenport (*outdoors*)
Sep. 8 Carol VanderKloot
Sep. 15 Kelly Hartz
Sep. 22 Rigby Dichsen
Sep. 29 Marilyn Dichsen

Coffee Hosts

Sep. 1 *Indoor Potluck*
Sep. 8 Kay Schnitker
Sep. 15 Verla Buckner & Laura S.
Sep. 22 **need volunteer**
Sep. 29 **need volunteer**

Greeters

Sep. 1 Hallie Mayner (*outdoors*)
Sep. 8 **need volunteer**
Sep. 15 Lillian Korous
Sep. 22 Hallie Mayner
Sep. 29 Hallie Mayner

Ushers

Sep. 1 Hallie Mayner (*outdoors*)
Sep. 8 Pat Glyshaw
Sep. 15 **need volunteer**
Sep. 22 Hallie Mayner
Sep. 29 **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)

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. 1 **Open for donation**
& **Open for donation**
Sep. 8 By Gayla Smith in honor of her birthday
& **Open for donation**
Sep. 15 **Open for donation**
& **Open for donation**
Sep. 22 **Open for donation**
& **Open for donation**
Sep. 29 By the Roth family in celebration of Laura's birthday on September 27
& **Open for donation**

Financial Assistants

Sep. 1 Kelly Hartz & Kelly Street
Sep. 8 Greg Kimler & Monica Proefrock
Sep. 15 Gaylon Martin & Patty Nelson
Sep. 22 Ken Devlin & Kelly Street
Sep. 29 Malinda Carlson & Greg Kimler

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 September 29**, 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 last year, 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

September 15