



# Faith Family News

April 2025

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

## THE CHOSEN

By Pastor Adam

Have any of you seen or heard of the popular series, "The Chosen"? If not, you may need to check your pulse! It has taken television by storm as a historical drama unlike any other, based on the life of Jesus as seen through the eyes of those who knew him... the chosen. It's loaded with endearing moments as we get to know each of the disciples, boiling controversy between Jesus and the religious leaders, and an incredibly human side of Jesus filled with humor, emotion, and many of his sermons, miracles, and parables. The director, Dallas Jenkins, admits that the series is 95% fiction, but he strives for every interaction to share the gospel and point to God.

Our family adopted a Lenten practice of watching the episodes, and it has been such a blessing. We huddle in the basement with our popcorn and are transported to the Holy Land as we walk with Jesus and his disciples. We've found that it piques our curiosity about "what it would have been like to be with Jesus," sparks conversation about his teachings, develops great empathy for the disciples and their struggles to understand and follow, and helps us see Jesus with us today.



A memorable line comes from season two when Mary Magdalene reflects on the impact Jesus had on her, drawing her out of her life of prostitution. She says, "I was one way and now I am completely different, and the thing that happened in between was Him." How true. For Mary. For us all.

The power of the gospel can often get lost in our lives.

We've succeeded in creating endless ways to amuse ourselves, distract ourselves, and occupy our time. The 24hr news cycle, doom-scrolling on our devices, or the click-bait on social media take precedent over our spiritual practices. Jesus' teaching about God's heart for the lowly is overshadowed by our desires to protect our retirement funds and protect ourselves from the neighbors we don't know. Have we forgotten how Jesus came to change us? To change the world? Jesus brings us from sin to repentance, from hatred to mercy, from death to life.

As Holy Week and Easter approach, consider how you can reclaim the place of the gospel in your life. Join with all the church in worship as we journey together through these holy days. Engage the story as you read your Bible and even encounter Jesus on the screen. Give thanks for the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, the one who takes us from one way to completely different.

*Pastor Adam*

*Flows. Grows. Shows*



## ***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.

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### **LIVING LAST SUPPER - SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2:00 P.M.**

It has been eight years since we hosted the Living Last Supper and we invite you to join us at the table. You will hear from all twelve of the disciples as they share their memories and admiration for Jesus. Each will also struggle with the question of whether they would betray their Lord. This year, we also include stories from the women who followed Jesus. At the conclusion of the sharing, all are invited to break bread with Jesus and the disciples and share in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Bring a friend to join us for this moving worship experience.

### **LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP MEALS - APRIL 2 AND 9**

Our midweek worship services have been poignant and powerful as we gather for prayer and singing. The music consists of meditative Taizè songs as well as familiar hymns, we join in prayer and silent reflection, and all are invited forward for anointing with oil for healing. You have two more opportunities to join us this Lent, on April 2 and 9 at 7:00 p.m.

### **LENTEN MIDWEEK MISSION MEALS - APRIL 2 AND 9**

Our new mission meals this year have been a hit! Each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., different volunteers provide the meal and determine a charity to receive a free-will donation. Thank you to the Church Council who supported the Foster Care Closet, our Uganda Team who supported HUGS, and our youth who supported Midwest Youth Services. Future meals will support Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen and PAWS.

### **EASTER BREAKFAST**

Our Easter Breakfast is expanding this year to provide meals both before and after worship. We realize that many have plans to gather with family and friends on this day and an earlier breakfast may work better for your schedule. The meal will be provided by our men's breakfast crew with serving from 8:00-9:15 before worship and resuming after worship. A free-will donation will be taken for the ministry at Faith.

### **EASTER FLOWERS**

The Easter flowers on the altar this year were deliberately selected to beautify our church yard. Thank you to those who have made donations through the year for altar flowers. If anyone has an interest in helping maintain our gardens, please talk with Patty Nelson.

### **BAPTISMS**

Join us on April 6 as we celebrate the baptism of Benson Lee, son of Kelsey and Nic Lee. The baptisms of Ella and Naomi Snodgrass, daughters of Drew and Maria Snodgrass, will be rescheduled.

# *Reaching Up... Connecting with God through Worship*

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Flows. Grows. Shows



## **Holy Week at Faith**

What is Holy Week and what makes it holy? A definition of “holy” is “set apart for a purpose.” That’s what this week is... set apart, different from all others, for a purpose. What is the purpose? Together, as the Body of Christ around the world, hear again the story of our salvation. There are praises on Palm Sunday, a mercy and betrayal on Maundy Thursday, through the betrayal and denial of Maundy Thursday, grief and glory on Good Friday, and new life through the resurrection on Easter Sunday. Make this week different from all the rest as you join us in worship every step of the way... it is, after all, holy.

### **Palm Sunday - April 13**

On Palm Sunday, we enter Holy Week with our traditional palm procession. Gather in the entryway before worship to hear of the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem from Luke 19:28-40. Then, with palms in hand, we will celebrate and sing hosannas to Jesus, the king, who comes in the name of the Lord.

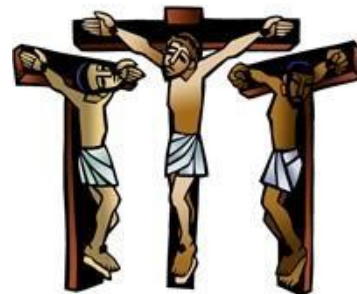


### **Maundy Thursday - April 17**

Holy Week continues with Holy Communion at our traditional Maundy Thursday worship at 7:00 p.m. The events of the night confront power and humility in a variety of ways. Before the meal, Jesus washes the disciples’ feet and gives them a command to love others. At the table, the disciples argue about who is the greatest, only to hear that the greatest must be least and the leader must be the servant.

### **Good Friday - April 18**

Join us on Friday at 7:00 p.m. for our traditional Tenebrae service. “Tenebrae” means darkness or shadows in Latin. As we read Luke’s account of Jesus’ crucifixion, the shadows grow long and darkness claims the sanctuary and our hearts. We place nails in the cross to remember Jesus’ death for us. The Christ Candle departs to signify Jesus sealed in the tomb, but returns to give us hope in despair and light in the darkness.



### **Easter Sunday - April 20**

Join us at the empty tomb as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and our grief is swept up in hope. As the sanctuary is filled with beautiful flowers and alleluias, we gather at the altar for the feast of the Lamb of God.

### **Road to Emmaus and First Communion - April 27**

The Gospel of Luke is the only gospel to include this beautiful story of disciples on the road to Emmaus. When Jesus joins them on the road, they don’t recognize him until they break bread together. On this day, we are delighted to celebrate the First Communion of Aaliyah and Alexis Simpson. Come and break bread together as we all receive communion and as our eyes are opened to see Jesus in our midst.





*Flows. Grows. Shows*



## ***Reaching In... Connecting through Discipleship***

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### **FAITH'S LITTLE FLOCK**

This month, we will follow the Lenten worship themes. Faith's Little Flock is for children ages 2-7. We also welcome Big Kid Helpers (ages 8 and up) to help the little ones with the more difficult parts of the crafts, and our older adults to read the scripture story to the children. Contact Melissa Street if you would like to take a turn reading the story to the children. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far!

The children all return to the sanctuary for the communion blessing. Word-finds, crossword puzzles, and other activity sheets are available in the gathering area for the older children (and adults) to help reinforce the message of the day. We look forward to seeing all of the children in April!

### **BIBLE BOOT CAMP with our Elementary Children**

We will meet on two Sundays in April. On April 6 we will bake communion bread for our Living Last Supper and First Communion celebration. On April 13, we learn about Holy Week with music and activities. Join us at 4:30, stay for supper at 5:30.

### **FAITH INKUBATORS with our youth**

Our final two sessions of the year will be on April 6 and 13 as we learn about Paul's letters and John's Revelation. Come at 5:30 for supper and stick around for our lesson and activities until 7:30.

### **DISCIPLESHIP GROUP**

Join us for the Discipleship Group meeting at **10am on Wednesday, April 16**, in the Faith Library. This month, we're diving into the generational differences among women in the Bible and how their unique perspectives influenced their take on God's will.



### **WOMEN OF FAITH**

Women of Faith is on hiatus during the season of Lent. Make plans to join us again in May for a special Mother's Day event. More details coming soon!

### **BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF LUKE**

Following worship, join Pastor Adam for a Bible study in the Justice Room. This month we will finish our study on Luke and prepare for Luke's sequel, Acts, in May. The book of Acts was also written by Luke and tells the story of the Holy Spirit and the early Church through Paul and the other apostles. No preparation necessary... just come to ask questions, listen, and share. There will be no class on April 13 or 20.

### **FIRST COMMUNION APRIL 27**

Join us on April 27 as we celebrate First Communion for Aaliyah and Alexis Simpson, Jeff and Shelley McDaniel's granddaughters. They recently made their own chalices on a potters wheel at Gold Leaf Art Studio and will join with others at Bible Boot Camp to make communion bread.

# *Reaching Out... Connecting through Outreach*

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## **GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE**

The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches is hosting an interactive Good Friday service at noon at Grace United Methodist Church on April 18. The service follows a liturgy for the wrapping of the cross and will involve Pastor Adam and other clergy across town for readings, reflections, and music. All will be invited to participate in the wrapping of the cross as we remember the death of Jesus and the Glory of God that brings forgiveness and new life.

## **MUSIC AND CHOIR OPPORTUNITIES AT FAITH**

We have heard your desire for our choir to get back together. Our Music Director, Jean Welch, will be organizing a choir to sing at our Living Last Supper service and on Easter morning. We need you to join us with your voices as we praise God for all he has done for us.

The date for the Living Last Supper is Palm Sunday, April 13 at 2:00pm. There will be a couple of songs for the choir to sing during this service. **Rehearsals for this service and Easter will be April 9<sup>th</sup> (after the 7pm Lenten Service) and on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.**

Please contact Jean if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts at our worship services – all are welcome! [jrwelch53@msn.com](mailto:jrwelch53@msn.com) or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

## **JACKSONVILLE FOOD CENTER**

The Food Center continues to be very busy. The Center has applied for more help from the City Council, asking for monthly assistance rather than a yearly donation. Prices for all food have increased, and many people in Jacksonville need help. Below are the statistics for February.

The Food Center served 453 families, a total of 955 people, at a cost of \$66,410. The weekly produce and bakers tables served 293 families, a total of 497 people at a cost of \$4,725.

Our Faith Church did very well with our donations for Souper Bowl: 169.2 pounds were donated at a cost of \$845. Money donated was \$310. This was part of the total churches donations of \$5,885.81 in money and \$2,320.50 in food donations.

Thank you for your help, and remember that many people are needy and needing. *Lillian Korous & Pat Glyshaw*

*Flows. Grows. Shows*



## **JACC YOUTH GAME DAY**

Youth from Faith joined others from across town for a game day at Beyond Tabletop Game Lounge.



## **FAITH MOVIE NIGHT**

Join us at the Illinois Theater on April 27 at 6:00 p.m. for a free showing of Disney's "Mufasa." Youth from across the community are invited to join us.

## **Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches Collection for the Personal Needs Pantry**

The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches (JACC) is collecting items for the Personal Needs Pantry of First Baptist Church through April. A list of the needed items can be found in the Total Ministry area, and donations can be put in the Blue Box. Together we can do great things, and thank you in advance for your help!

*Pat Glyshaw*

**Household Cleaning**  
Laundry Detergent  
Household Cleaners  
Dish Detergent

**Paper Products**  
Toilet Paper  
Paper Towels  
Facial Tissues

**Baby Items**  
Shampoo  
Lotion, Powder  
Diapers

**Oral Care**  
Toothpaste  
Toothbrushes  
Denture Cleaner

**Personal Hygiene**  
Shampoo  
Bar or Hand Soap  
Lotion & Deodorant

Shaving Cream/Razors  
Bandages/Peroxide  
Feminine Products  
Combs and/or Brushes

# Worship Assistants

## Chancel Committee

April 6 Kim Heise  
 April 13 Martha Krohe (Palm Sun.)  
 April 17 Pat Glyshaw (M. Thurs.)  
 April 18 Martha Krohe (G. Fri.)  
 April 20 Kris Roth  
 April 27 Mary Jane Esslinger

## Coffee Hosts

April 6 **need volunteer**  
 April 13 Kay Schnitker  
 April 20 *Easter Breakfast*  
 April 27 Terri Kimler

## Communion Assts.

April 6 Kay Schnitker  
 April 13 Hallie Mayner (Palm Sun.)  
 April 17 Kay Schnitker (M. Thurs.)  
 April 20 Barb Davenport  
 April 27 Glen VanderKloot

## Greeters

April 6 Mindy Carlson  
 April 13 Lillian Korous (Palm Sun.)  
 April 17 **need volunteer** (M. Thurs.)  
 April 18 **need volunteer** (G. Fri.)  
 April 20 Lynette Hamilton  
 April 27 **need volunteer**

## Readers

April 6 Marilyn Dichsen  
 April 13 Sharon W. (Palm Sun.)  
 April 17 Patty Nelson (M. Thurs.)  
 April 18 Marilyn Dichsen (G. Fri.)  
 April 20 John Williams  
 April 27 Carol VanderKloot

## Ushers

April 6 Pat Glyshaw  
 April 13 **need volunteer** (Palm Sun.)  
 April 17 Judy D/Vicki R (M. Thurs.)  
 April 18 Larry Kuster (G. Fri.)  
 April 20 **need volunteer**  
 April 27 Patty Nelson

If you would like to help with assisting for the 9:30am worship services, please **sign up in the gathering area** at the podium by the east doors or contact the church office (faithlutheran62650@frontier.com).

## Financial Assistants

April 6 Mindy Carlson & Ken Devlin  
 April 13 Greg Kimler & Kelly Street  
 April 20 Patty Nelson & Kelly Street  
 April 27 Patty Nelson & Kay Schnitker

## 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.).

April 6 By the Dichsen family in celebration of  
 Rigby's 13<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 10  
 & By Vicki Robson & Judy Dillard in  
 honor of Kelly Robson

April 13 **Open for donation**  
 & **Open for donation**

April 20 By the Roth family in celebration of  
 Maria Snodgrass' birthday on April 16  
 & **Open for donation**

April 27 **Open for donation**  
 & **Open for donation**

## Offering Envelopes for 2025

Offering envelopes are available in the office at church. If you do not see a box with your name on it, please let us know.

## 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 April 27**, 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.

**Newsletter Deadline: April 20**