



# Faith Family News

May 2025

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

## THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

By Pastor Adam

As I was preparing my sermon on Luke's story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus for the Sunday after Easter, I learned something interesting about Emmaus... no one knows where it is! Luke says it is about seven miles outside of Jerusalem, but none of the towns in that area bear that name. Apparently, this was news to you as well because many have come to me to hear more. Our Bible study after worship had a hay day considering why Luke would have included a fictional town in his telling of this story. "Perhaps we are all on the road to Emmaus?" one person suggested.

This is what Frederick Buchner suggests.

"Emmaus is the place we go in order to escape – a bar, a movie, wherever it is we throw up our hands and say, 'let the whole damned thing go hang. It makes no difference anyway.' ... Emmaus may be buying a new suit or a new car or smoking more cigarettes than you really want, or reading a second-rate novel or even writing one. Emmaus may be going to church on Sunday. Emmaus is whatever we do or wherever we go to make ourselves forget that the world holds nothing sacred: that even the wisest and bravest and loveliest decay and die; that even the noblest ideas that men have had – ideas about love and freedom and justice – have always in time been twisted out of shape by selfish men for selfish ends." (Frederick Buchner in *The Magnificent Defeat*)

Yes, perhaps we are all on the road to Emmaus. For the disciples, even on the day of the resurrection, they were in shock and overwhelmed from the grief of the

crucifixion. Even when reports of an empty tomb start coming in, it is easier to simply walk away. As Buchner suggests, they wanted to forget that the world holds nothing sacred. You may have heard me share this in my sermon, but I'll say it again. We all have times when we desperately want to numb ourselves from our troubles, to just leave the world and all its pain behind. We each have our own Emmaus, the place we go to hide from it all. But here's the kicker... ***Jesus meets us on the road to our Emmauses!***

In our hopelessness, in our despair, in our efforts to escape, Jesus comes to us. Jesus comes to us in the ordinary and unexpected experiences of our lives, but also, we know where to find him. When we gather at church for worship... when we sing together, pray together, fellowship together... when we break bread together, at the altar or at our own tables, Christ is present.

Let me just be frank here. ***Come!*** Come to the table! If you are wandering or wondering, ***come!*** If you are overwhelmed or underwhelmed, ***come!*** Come to the table and break bread with us, because Jesus promises to be here, too. Or perhaps you know someone else in these situations, looking for their own Emmaus. Go to them, invite them, bring them with you to the table.

Let me assure you again, you're not alone. We are all on the road to Emmaus. But even on the road, we are not alone. If you need a reminder, if you need to share, if you need someone to walk with you, come talk to me. I'll tell you about my road and want to know about yours as well. Then, let's all go to the table together. As Luke tells us, Jesus is revealed to us in the breaking of the bread.

*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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### CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

#### BEN BOEHLKE

Ben is the son of Chad and Cindy Boehlke. He is graduating from JHS.



*We pray for God's blessing on all of our graduates as they follow God's call in their lives. Please join us in congratulating and encouraging them along their journey.*

#### ELLA RAJAGURU

Ella is the daughter of Elam and Jeni Rajaguru. She is graduating from JHS and will be attending the University of Tennessee in Knoxville to study business with a focus on health administration. All are invited to celebrate with her on Saturday, May 17 at K's Creek from 11am-2pm.



#### MARILYN DICHSEN

Marilyn is the daughter of Pastor Adam and Karen Dichsen. She is graduating from her homeschool "Dichsen Academy" and her Classical Conversations senior class. She will be attending IC and will focus on Communications, Business, and Music. All are invited to celebrate with her on Sunday, June 1, at an open house at the Dichsen home from 3-7pm.



### CONFIRMATION AND PENTECOST JUNE 8

We are grateful to God for a wonderful bunch of youth and on June 8, we will celebrate the rite of Confirmation for Benen Dichsen, Mason Krohe, and Beckham Oldenettel. These young men have been extremely active in our congregation through our Faith Inkubators youth program, camps, skits, and worship. Plan to join us on this special Sunday for worship and refreshments afterwards. As we remember on Pentecost that our Almighty God surrounds us with the promised presence of the Holy Spirit... let's all gather to surround our youth with the love and support we provide through the Body of Christ!



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

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## **SUMMER WORSHIP - EXPANDING HORIZONS**

This summer we are offering opportunities to expand our worship horizons. At our congregational Listening Session in February, we heard you share desires for more traditional worship, contemporary worship, and outdoor worship. Our Worship Core Team and Council have put together a plan to do all three. On the first Sunday of each month (beginning June 1), we will have two worship services, an outdoor contemporary service at 9:30 a.m. and an indoor traditional service at 11:00 a.m. What will these services look like? I'm glad you asked...

### **OUTDOOR CONTEMPORARY - JUNE 1, 9:30 A.M.**

Contemporary worship is often identified by a style of music, but "contemporary" simply means that it pertains to the current time. This contemporary service will incorporate some current music heard on Christian radio as well as some from our files. Marilyn Dichsen will help select and lead the music, utilizing her love for worship music and desire to lead. We won't have our Faith Singer choir, but invite anyone to help lead the singing. We will share a list of songs and rehearsal schedule as we get closer. The rest of the service can best be described as "Lutheran casual" with a familiar Lutheran structure, but less scripted. Bring a chair or a blanket, and stick around for fellowship afterwards. This is a great opportunity to expand your worship horizons. Bring a friend and invite them to get to know our church.

### **INDOOR TRADITIONAL JUNE 1, 11:00 A.M.**

Good traditional worship is still "contemporary" as it speaks to us in our current time. Our Lutheran heritage is rich in theology and worship that connect with us today. This service will draw from the more traditional aspects of worship such as sung liturgy, familiar hymns, and all organ all the time. Our liturgy will come from the Lutheran Book of Worship (the green hymnal). For communion, we will gather around the altar by table with the option to kneel or stand. This is also a great opportunity to expand your worship horizons. Invite a friend to worship and rediscover our Lutheran heritage.



## **NEW ACOLYTE**

Our crew of acolytes has grown since Mackenzie took the lead on organizing this role when Louis went on sabbatical. We welcomed Hylan Degroot on Easter Sunday. He is thrilled to serve!

## **FIRST COMMUNION**

On April 27, we celebrated first communion for Aaliyah and Alexis Simpson, granddaughters of Jeff and Shelley McDaniel.

## **UPCOMING BAPTISMS**

Join us on June 15 for the baptisms of Ella and Naomi Snodgrass, daughters of Drew and Maria Snodgrass.



*Flows. Grows. Shows*



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

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### **SUMMER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

It has been a few years since Faith has offered Vacation Bible School, and we have many children who are asking for it to return. Our Discipleship Core Team would like to offer a VBS program that extends through the summer, choosing a day or two each month when we can gather for songs, lessons, games, and food. At this point, we are looking for helpers. If you would like to help in any of these areas, please contact Pam Devlin, Carol Freesen, Celeste Hill, or Pastor Adam. We need to know your interest and availability so we can have our dates set by the end of May. Stay tuned, and we look forward for some great times to come!

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

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 May!

### **BIBLE STUDY ON THE APOSTLE PAUL**

Following worship, join Pastor Adam for Bible study in the Justice Room. Through May and into June, we will be reading from Acts and Galatians. 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. Galatians is Paul's letter to the church he started in Galatia. Both are wonderful entry points to learning more about the work of the Holy Spirit in the Early church, the same Holy Spirit that is at work in us today. There is no preparation necessary. Simply come to discuss the readings for the day and sermon. If you would like to read further, you can read through the entire books of Acts and Galatians, pick up a copy of *Paul* by Walter Wangerin, Jr., or do some of your own study on this fascinating person in Biblical history.

### **WOMEN OF FAITH CRAFT NIGHT**

Join us on **Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm** for a Women of Faith craft night! We'll be making bookmarks/bracelets that will help us remember and celebrate the women who have made an impact on our lives. No special skills required. All supplies and food will be provided. Hope to see you there!

### **DISCIPLESHIP GROUP**

Join us in the Faith Library at **10:00am on Wednesday, May 21** for Bible study and great conversation. Have questions or need more info? Contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or email [khartz@sompo-intl.com](mailto:khartz@sompo-intl.com). Can't wait to see you there!

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

Come and connect with other men as we share our faith and enjoy some good food on Saturday, **May 3!** At 8:00, we hang out in the kitchen, helping to cook, drink coffee, and visit. At 9:00, we sit down for some conversation and discussion on a specific topic.

### **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 May 25**, 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.

# *Reaching Out... Connecting through Outreach*

## END OF YEAR GIVING



This year's end of year giving recipients include HUGS, Global Refuge, Bella Ease Family Advocacy Center, Crisis Center Foundation, Faith Scholarship, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Western Illinois Youth Camp, YMCA, Food Center, Hobby Horse House, Lutheran Social Services, Midwest Youth Services, New Directions, Prairie Council on Aging, Salvation Army, Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen, and the Faith mortgage principle.

## DOORBELL DINNERS - MAY 19-23

Help us deliver meals in the community. 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.

## JACKSONVILLE FOOD CENTER

The Food Center director Melissa Hall reports that the Food Center will no longer purchase toilet paper and will only give it out if toilet paper is available by donation. The decision was made to concentrate money to purchase food... the most needed items. Melissa continues to apply for grants, and she is sending letters to churches, businesses, and some individuals requesting financial support on a regular basis.

The Food Center served 436 families for food orders, a total of 892 people, at a cost of \$63,970 equally 26,187 pounds. They served 389 families for bakery, a total of 669 people at a cost of \$6,330, equally 3,890 pounds. The churches contributed \$3,362.53 in money and \$3,415.50 in food donations. Faith Church donated \$362 in money in March, as well as a check for \$1,500, and \$91.50 by weight in foods. Thank you for all you do, and a special thanks for the very generous check.

*Lillian Korous & Pat Glyshaw*

*Flows. Grows. Shows*



## PRAISE AND WORSHIP AND ICE CREAM AND COOKIES

This probably sounds like a weird combination, but we're going to enjoy both of these on **Sunday, May 18**. This is the first of many Jacksonville Conference of Churches' events that are being planned for this summer. A day filled with praise and gospel music, and much more with all who want to join us at Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen, 105 E Dunlap Street.

A preview and **rehearsal** of the music will be on **Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Soup Kitchen**. Music provided - just bring your voices!!! If you don't want to sing, please join us at the service at 1:00pm on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Since no good bowl of ice cream should be served without a cookie - we will be **baking cookies on Saturday, May 17 at The Soup Kitchen** - so we're looking for helpers with that. **Time to be determined.**

Music has the ability to connect us as one. Though we come from many different religions, backgrounds, and beliefs, we are all one in Christ!

## MUSIC AT FAITH

As always, we would love to have more people involved in the music ministry at Faith. Please contact Jean Welch 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)

**Newsletter Deadline: May 18**



# Worship Assistants

## Chancel Committee

May 4 Pat Glyshaw  
May 11 Kris Roth  
May 18 Martha Krohe  
May 25 Karen Sibert

## Communion Assts.

May 4 Kay Schnitker  
May 11 Hallie Mayner  
May 18 Liddy Stark  
May 25 Barb Davenport

## Readers

May 4 Mike Fenner  
May 11 Kelly Hartz  
May 18 Terri Kimler  
May 25 Barb Davenport

## Coffee Hosts

May 4 Karen Sibert  
May 11 **need volunteer**  
May 18 **need volunteer**  
May 25 Judy D. & Vicki R.

## Greeters

May 4 Lillian Korous  
May 11 Liddy Stark  
May 18 Hallie Mayner  
May 25 **need volunteer**

## Ushers

May 4 Angie & Mike Fenner  
May 11 Liddy Stark  
May 18 Larry Kuster  
May 25 Hallie Mayner

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).

## 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.).

May 4 By Jeff & Shelley McDaniel in celebration  
of Alexis' 9<sup>th</sup> birthday

& **Open for donation**

May 11 **Open for donation**  
& **Open for donation**

May 18 By Kris & Bishop Em. John Roth  
in celebration of their 43<sup>rd</sup> wedding  
anniversary on May 23

& **Open for donation**

May 25 By Vicki Robson & Judy Dillard in honor  
and memory of Dave Robson and  
Chuck Dillard's birthdays

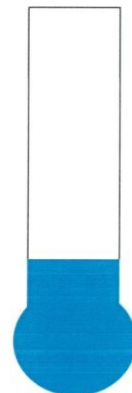
& **Open for donation**

## Financial Assistants

May 4 Mindy Carlson & Monica Proefrock  
May 11 Kelly Hartz & Patty Nelson  
May 18 Greg Kimler & Kay Schnitker  
May 25 Ken Devlin & Kelly Street

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

At our Annual Meeting and congregational Listening Session, some expressed a desire to clearly see a giving summary. The Church Council and treasurers have deliberated for some time how best to do this and have decided on this thermometer. It shows our donations received to date compared to the annual budgeted income (these figures do not include the Building Fund or non-budgeted items). At this point, we are one quarter of the way through 2025 and have received 22% of our budgeted offering. In years past, we normally receive 29% of our budgeted donations in the first quarter. This information is not meant to persuade anyone to give, but to encourage good stewardship. A primary goal of stewardship ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to us. We encourage you to practice good stewardship in all of these ways and welcome your partnership and support in our shared ministry.



Total Annual Budgeted Income  
\$264,796

\$58,471 Donations Received  
as of 3/31/25