



# Faith Family News

July 2025

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

## BEYOND OUR WALLS

By Pastor Adam

This past month, Desmond turned 5. Think back to your fifth birthday, or the birthday of any kids you know. You'll probably think of parties with cartoon characters. Parties at parks or pizza places. Not Desmond. Where was his party? The laundromat. No, it wasn't a punishment... it was his dream come true! Desmond LOVES laundry and has been doing our family's wash for the last year. When he visits a friend's house, he immediately has to inquire as to the whereabouts of their laundry room. Front-loaders are passe. He gets all excited when he can find a top-loader, with an agitator! And it's his lucky day when our friends need help with a load or two.



So, yes, we spent Desmond's birthday at the laundromat, right after mowing the lawn and before driving through the carwash, two of his other passions. But while we were there, I realized something. I had never been in a Jacksonville laundromat before. We are fortunate to have a washer and dryer at home, and a 5yr-old who does ten loads a day. When I looked around, I began to notice a community in which I had never participated. There were some vending machines and tables where people could eat. A food truck outside offered surprisingly good Asian cooking. A "Little Library" was stocked with books for kids to read while passing time on the spin cycle. I had been driving by this place for years and had never taken time to observe the ecosystem within.

Last month I attended the Central/Southern IL Synod Assembly with Jean Welch, Marilyn, Mindy Carlson, and Patty Nelson. It's three days of worship, business, fellowship, and celebrating/discerning the Spirit's work in the church. Our guest speaker led us in fascinating conversations about "Faithful Innovations" and how we can bring the church beyond our walls. The first step is simply to look and listen. He encouraged us to do a neighborhood walk around our

church. To simply observe what we see and hear, taking time to recognize what we may have missed or forgotten from familiarity. There in the laundromat, my eyes were being opened to a whole different world with services and needs that I had never noticed. Could the laundromat be a place for ministry? Is this an opportunity for being church beyond our building? Might the Holy Spirit already be at work before I walked in?

The answer to all three of these questions is an emphatic, YES!!! However, it might not be the ministry to which God is calling us. Is God calling us to explore places for ministry in our community? Are there opportunities for us to be the church beyond our building? Might the Holy Spirit be at work in places all around us, inviting us to get on board? The answer to these questions is another emphatic, YES!!!

I encourage you (challenge you) to look and listen. Venture beyond the walls of our church, and the walls of your home. Share it with others and consider what we could do together. Is the Holy Spirit at work and calling us to ministry to our community beyond our church walls? Again... YES!!!

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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### **BAPTISMS OF ELLA & NAOMI SNODGRASS AND EMMA & JULIA HAXHINASTO**

We celebrated the love of God through Holy Baptism for Aubriella Joy Snodgrass and Naomi Grace Harlie Snodgrass on June 15<sup>th</sup>, daughters of Drew and Maria Snodgrass, granddaughters of Kris and Bishop Em. John Roth. Aubriella's godparents are Sam Roth and Sydney Day. Naomi's godparents are Tyler Carpenter and Melinda Snodgrass.

We also celebrated the love of God through Holy Baptism for Emma Louise Haxhinasto and Julia Lauren Haxhinasto on June 22, daughters of Gerti and Melissa Haxhinasto, nieces of Malinda Carlson. Ella and Julia's godparents are Malinda Carlson and Alban Haxhinasto.



### **RITE OF CONFIRMATION**

On June 8, we celebrated the Rite of Confirmation for Mason Krohe, Benen Dichsen, and Beckham Oldenettel. These three young men affirmed their baptismal promises, committing to walk in the faith on the journey their parents helped start when they brought their children to the waters of baptism. Thank you all for celebrating with these boys and continuing to support them in their faith.



### **CELEBRATING THE SAINTS**

In June, Zeke Beranek joined the church triumphant. Together we give thanks for our saints, visible and invisible members of the great cloud of witnesses.



### **DENNIS BACKSTROM AND ELAINE CHAPMAN ANNIVERSARY**

Dennis and Elaine have shared a "Save the Date" card with our Faith Family for an anniversary celebration in Dunlap, Illinois, on August 10.



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

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Flows. Grows. Shows



## **FIRST SUNDAY SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Our first, first-Sunday worship was a joy as we enjoyed the beauty of God's creation outdoors with a contemporary service at 9:30 a.m. and the comforts of air-conditioning with a full traditional service at 11:00 a.m. Not only are these services set in different sanctuaries, but the style of worship is distinctly different. The outdoor contemporary service is more casual with a less scripted liturgy. The music selection includes some of our familiar contemporary songs, as well as those you may hear on the radio. The indoor traditional service is more formal with a sung liturgy from the familiar Lutheran Book of Worship (green hymnal). The music selection includes familiar hymns led on the organ. Our first Sunday summer services will be held on **July 6, August 3, and September 7.**

## **JOIN OUR SONG LEADERS AT THE OUTDOOR SERVICE**

Marilyn Dichsen is leading the music on July 6, and she is looking for others to join her in singing. The songs for this Sunday can be found on a YouTube playlist on Faith's YouTube channel (scan the QR code). If you are interested, talk to Marilyn and join us for a rehearsal on Thursday night, July 3, at 7:00 p.m.



## **MUSICAL MUSINGS**

June 1 was our most recent Musical Musing where Naomi Hahn introduced us to the history behind "The God of Abraham Praise" (you can hear it online in the June 1 worship service on YouTube). Sharon Zuiderveld and Naomi welcome you to join them in offering more musical musings. Do you have a hymn or song you would recommend? Would you be willing to be a presenter? If so, let them know.

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## **SERMON SERIES: BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST**

In June, our worship themes and preaching have invited us into a different sort of building project as we consider how to build up the Body of Christ. On June 15, we poured a foundation, remembering that our firm foundation is none other than Jesus Christ. As Jesus said, "Anyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man who builds his house on rock. The rains fell, the floods rose, and the winds blew, but the house stood firm" (Matthew 7:24-25). On June 22, we raised the pillars, recognizing that the proper response to our firm foundation is loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. On June 29, we will extend that love to our neighbors as we add the beams and roof. On July 6, we add the stones and recognize that we are the living stones as we work, worship, and serve together to build up the Body of Christ.

## **SYNOD ASSEMBLY WRAP-UP**

This year's Synod Assembly took place in Bloomington on June 5-7. It was a great weekend with a wonderful festival worship service, synod business, Spirit-labs for breakout discussions and learning, an Oktoberfest complete with brat-toss competition, and much building up of the Body of Christ. The guest presenter, Rev. Dr. Dwight Zscheile introduced us to "Faithful Innovations," a ministry of engaging our community for the sake of transformation outside the church walls. From our congregation, Pastor Adam, Doris Robinson, Jean Welch, Marilyn Dichsen, Mindy Carlson, and Patty Nelson participated. If you would like to hear more, talk to any of them or visit the Central/Southern Illinois Synod website at [www.csis-elca.org](http://www.csis-elca.org). There you will find a recap of the assembly, a YouTube video of the festival worship, and much more.

Flows. Grows. Shows



## Performing Arts Camp

Benen, Louis, and Marilyn Dichsen and Adam Krohe attended Performing Arts Camp at Green Pastures.

## MORE CAMPS TO COME!

Our youth are attending more camps! Benen Dichsen and Mason Krohe are attending a Fellowship of Christian Athletes camp. Adam Krohe will be attending a youth gathering in New Orleans. Benen Dichsen and Adam Krohe will be participating in a youth mission trip in August.

## FIRE IN OUR HEARTS (FIOH)

**Fire in Our Hearts (FIOH)** - This week-long camp at Green Pastures is for youth entering grades 5-12 and will take place on July 7-11 and 21-25. To register, call Camp Host Lydia Darden at 217-584-1374.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Come and connect with the men as we share our faith and enjoy good food on Saturday, **July 5!** At 8:00, we hang out in the kitchen, helping to cook, drink coffee, and visit. At 9:00, we sit down for conversation and discussion on a specific topic.

# Reaching In... Connecting through Discipleship

## Confirmation Camp and Leadership Lab

This year Pastor Adam, Marilyn Dichsen, Mason Krohe, and Rigby Dichsen attended Confirmation Camp and Benen and Marilyn Dichsen attended Leadership Lab. These are AMAZING Lutheran camps for our youth and make such a difference in their lives. Your donations to our Youth Fund and support for Pastor Adam's absence help make these possible. Thank you!



## DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

### You're Invited: "Kindness in Action"

Join us for the Discipleship Group meeting at 10:00am on Wednesday, July 16, in the Faith Library. This month, we'll explore how everyday acts of kindness can reflect the heart of Christ. Let's grow together in compassion, connection, and purpose.

## FAITH'S LITTLE FLOCK

Faith's Little Flock will continue this summer during the 9:30 indoor services. Children will remain with their parents during the first Sunday of the month outdoor services. Class activity in July will continue Pastor Adam's Building theme, explore ways to see God in His creation this summer, and more!

Faith's Little Flock is for children ages 2-7. We also welcome Big Kid Helpers (ages 8 and up), and adults to help the little ones with the more difficult parts of the crafts, and to read the Bible story to the children. The children return to their parents during communion.

Contact Melissa Street or Pam Devlin if you would like to help or take a turn running the class. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far!

Bible-themed word-finds, crossword puzzles, and other activity sheets are available in the gathering area for the older children (and adults). We look forward to seeing the children this summer!

Blessings, *Melissa*

# *Reaching Out... Connecting through Outreach*

## **PEDAL FOR A PURPOSE AND MADAGASCAR: TWO SYNOD FUNDRAISERS**

At this year's synod assembly, churches across our Central/Southern Illinois Synod joined in supporting our campus ministries through Pedal for a Purpose, and our partnership with two companion synods in the Malagasy Lutheran Church of Madagascar. Pedal for a Purpose was a 67-mile bike ride from St. Andrew's Campus Ministry at the University of Illinois in Champaign to AGAPE Campus Ministry of Illinois State University in Bloomington. It was a rainy, windy day, but we made it! Not only did we learn about these wonderful ministries and eat with some of their students and leaders, but together we raised over \$5,000 to support the important work they do. Our support for our companion synods in Madagascar goes far beyond money, but through the offering collected at the festival worship service, we raised over \$14,000 for this partnership. Thank you for your support and, if you would like to learn more about these ministries and how to get involved, talk with Pastor Adam.



## **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 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.

## **JACKSONVILLE FOOD CENTER**

The recent request from the Food Center, included in recent Sunday bulletins and on Facebook and on the church screens, centered on the need for child-friendly foods for use in homes by children now that school lunches are not available. We will continue this request during the summer months. The special child-friendly items are only given to families with small children.

Note: The Postal Food Drive in May resulted in 2,022 lbs. of food.

Faith provided \$360 in money and \$37 in food by weight in May. June donation stats will be left to the next issue of our newsletter. Results so far are very good.

God's blessings to all who share their blessings.

*Lillian Korous & Pat Glyshaw*

## **JACKSONVILLE AREA CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES COMMUNITY DAY**

On August 10, the Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches (JACC) is hosting a community day at the park. There will be Ferris Wheel rides, hotdogs and drinks, live music, bounce houses, and more. If you would like to help in any way, from planning to serving to playing music, please let Pastor Adam know. This event is part of the Jacksonville 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a partnership with the Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen.

## **JACC FALL CONCERT**

Last year the JACC hosted a concert with artist Tasha Layton. This fall they are doing it again. The concert will be in September at the Twisted Tree Music Hall. We are looking for anyone interested in helping to plan the event. Please contact Pastor Adam for more information

## **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)



# Worship Assistants

## Chancel Committee

July 6 Pat Glyshaw  
 July 13 Kris Roth  
 July 20 Mary Jane Esslinger  
 July 27 Karen Sibert

## Communion Assts.

July 6 Liddy Stark (9:30am)  
 July 6 **volunteer needed** (11am)  
 July 13 Kay Schnitker  
 July 20 Hallie Mayner  
 July 27 Pam Devlin

## Readers

July 6 Patty Nelson (9:30am)  
 July 6 John Williams (11am)  
 July 13 Barb Davenport  
 July 20 Terri Kimler  
 July 27 Carol Kilver

## Coffee Hosts

July 6 Karen Sibert (9:30am)  
 July 6 Laura S. & Verla B. (11am)  
 July 13 **volunteer needed**  
 July 20 Kay Schnitker  
 July 27 **volunteer needed**

## Greeters

July 6 Lynette Hamilton (9:30am)  
 July 6 Lillian Korous (11am)  
 July 13 Hallie Mayner  
 July 20 **volunteer needed**  
 July 27 **volunteer needed**

## Ushers

July 6 **volunteer needed** (9:30am)  
 July 6 Pat Glyshaw (11am)  
 July 13 Barb Davenport  
 July 20 Pat Glyshaw  
 July 27 **volunteer needed**

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

July 6 Malinda Carlson & to be determined  
 July 13 Patty Nelson & Kay Schnitker  
 July 20 Greg Kimler & Monica Proefrock  
 July 27 Ken Devlin & Kelly Hartz

## 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.).

July 6 By Pastor Adam & Karen Dichsen in  
 celebration of their 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary  
 on July 10

& **Open for donation**

July 13 By the Kaufmann-Stevens families  
 in memory of Dr. Tom Stevens

& **Open for donation**

July 20 **Open for donation**  
 & **Open for donation**

July 27 **Open for donation**  
 & **Open for donation**

## Stewardship Snapshot

We are grateful to God for the generosity of our Faith Family as you share your time, talents, and finances for our ministry. To help you in the spiritual practice of financial stewardship, in July, we will be mailing out giving statements from the first six months of the year. Please review your statement and prayerfully consider how you can continue to financially support our ministry together. In August, we will be announcing our annual stewardship appeal along with a three year appeal to pay off the church mortgage.

*The 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 them.*

## Newsletter Deadline

**July 20**