



# Faith Family News

August 2025

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

## THE SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF STEWARDSHIP: ABIDING IN FAITH FOR OUR FUTURE

By Pastor Adam

There's a condition that runs in my family. My dad had it, my siblings have it, and I do too. We're savers. My dad instilled in me at a young age to save as much as I could. He even insisted that I open a Roth IRA when I was a 16-year-old summer lifeguard. I'll admit, I may have taken it too far. In high school, my sock drawer was full of cash that my parents gave me for school lunches, but I opted to save it and eat my friends' leftovers instead. My dad was very direct about the importance of saving... but also giving. I remember him sitting at his rolltop desk at home, every week writing checks to pay the bills, but first came an envelope from a box for our church. At first, it seemed to contradict what he taught me about saving. Why give instead of saving more? But he explained that all we have is a gift from God, and so giving was an expression of gratitude.

I didn't realize it at the time, but my dad was teaching me stewardship. Giving to our church was nothing like paying another bill. It was about a relationship. In Jesus, God abides with us and invites us to abide with Jesus. Stewardship is a spiritual practice that helps us abide as we grow in our relationship with Jesus. Like any relationship, it's easy and hard. It's easy when we are moved by gratitude for God's presence in our lives, and it's hard when we'd rather put other things first. But, more than any other relationship in our lives, it's worth it!

At Faith, we're inviting you into the easy and hard spiritual practice of stewardship. On August 10, we

are kicking off two stewardship appeals. Our Church Council has tasked an appeal team (Barb Davenport, Carol Kilver, John Williams, Katie Carls, Larry Kuster, Mindy Carlson, and me) to lead us in this endeavor, and this team has been hard at work over the last few months. First and foremost, they established the primary purpose of stewardship: **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.** This is our goal, for each of us to grow in relationship with Jesus. We are inviting you into this growing relationship of abiding with Jesus through two stewardship appeals.

1. The first is our annual appeal as we invite you to make a financial pledge to support our shared ministry for 2026.
2. The second is a three-year debt reduction appeal inviting you to help us eliminate our debt by paying off our mortgage and freeing up our resources for meaningful ministry in the future.

Details for these appeals will be shared on **Sunday, August 10** as we hand out packets after worship and invite all to the Great Room for some breakfast treats and an overview of the appeals. If you prefer to peruse the information on your own, you may take it home and ask questions at another time. **We will receive commitments in worship on September 14** and announce the pledge totals at a breakfast afterwards.

Finally, I know that stewardship is both easy and hard, so let's join in this spiritual practice together. Together, let's abide in Jesus as we give thanks to God through the use of our time, talents, and finances. Thank you for your continued generosity as together we abide in faith for our future!

*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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### **SAVE THE DATE: CUBS/CARDS BASEBALL GAME**

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm** and plan to join us for a viewing of the Cubs/Cards game in the Great Room at church! Look for more details to come!

### **FAITH POOL PARTY - RESCHEDULED!**

Join us on **Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30pm** at the Nichols Park Pool for a pool party! In addition to the splashing and splashing, we'll have lawn games available for those who want to join in the fun but don't want to swim. Feel free to bring snacks and nonalcoholic drinks, and invite friends to join you. We can have up to 80 swimmers. This event is brought to you by the newly formed Gathering in Faith Together (GIFT) Team. Look for more events for the whole congregation coming soon!

### **"FUN IN THE SON" CAR SHOW AND WORSHIP SERVICE TO BENEFIT MARILYN DICHSEN**

City Church is hosting a car show and outdoor worship service at City Park on Sunday, September 28. This year they wanted to support a local need and are designating all proceeds to go to Marilyn Dichsen's medical expenses. If you have a car you would like to register, snap the QR code to the right. Some from Faith will be heading over after worship. Free food and inflatables start at 11:15, and the award ceremony (including Marilyn's award of top car!) is at 2:00.



### **UPCOMING BAPTISM OF HENRY JAMES "HANK" FREEMAN**

What a blessing it has been to celebrate so many baptisms this summer! On August 3 at the 9:30am outdoor service, Hank Freeman will be baptized at the outdoor fountain. Hank is the son of Nathan & Sarah Freeman and grandson of Richard & Tina Freeman.

### **DENNIS BACKSTROM and ELAINE CHAPMAN ANNIVERSARY**

All are invited to celebrate with Dennis and Elaine on Sunday, August 10, from 2:00-5:00pm, 623 W. Savanna Ct., Dunlap, IL 61525. Please RSVP by **August 1** to [dobackesc@yahoo.com](mailto:dobackesc@yahoo.com) or 217-883-1732. No gifts, please.



### **FREE PIANO**

A friend from First Lutheran Church in Beardstown is offering a free Chickering piano to a good home. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

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

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## 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 9:30am and the comforts of air-conditioning with a full traditional service at 11:00am. 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 remaining first-Sunday summer services will be held on **August 3 and September 7**.

## JOIN OUR SONG LEADERS AT THE OUTDOOR SERVICE

Marilyn Dichsen is leading the music on August 3, 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 31, at 7:00pm**.



## 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: "THE BOOK OF REVELATION - A VISION OF HOPE"

When you think of the book of Revelation, are you filled with fear and trembling? Pastor Adam is when he thinks of preaching it! Our familiarity with the last book in the Bible is often limited to dramatic and violent stories such as the famous "Left Behind" series, but such rapture and dispensational theology actually have no place in scripture. Just what is the book of Revelation about then? Come and discover a vision of hope for John, its author, and for us today.

- \* August 3 - "Greetings and first vision" (Revelation 1)
- \* August 10 - "The elders and four living creatures" (Revelation 4)
- \* August 17 - "The seven seals" (Revelation 5)
- \* August 24 - "The multitude from every nation" (Revelation 7)
- \* August 31 - "The beast and the dragon" (Revelation 13)
- \* September 7 - "New heaven and Jerusalem" (Revelation 21-22)

## JOIN US AS WE "GO DEEPER"

Before summer, a curious and caring group met after worship in the Justice Room with Pastor Adam. Their goal was to go deeper into the day's readings, sermon, and "life" in general. They found wonderful connection with one another and fascinating insights through the Holy Spirit. Starting in August, this group will begin meeting again. There is already much interest in the Revelation sermon series. Come and "go deeper" with us as we explore this fascinating book. On August 3 and September 7, we will meet after the traditional service with lunch. On August 10, we will start after the stewardship appeal presentation. All other Sundays will be shortly after worship ends.



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## DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

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

Join us for the Discipleship Group meeting at **10:00am on Wednesday, August 20**, 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.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Come and connect with the men as we share our faith and enjoy good food on Saturday, **August 2!** 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

## FAITH'S LITTLE FLOCK

Faith's Little Flock activities for August include the following: August 3<sup>rd</sup> is an outdoor service, so children will remain with their parents. August 10<sup>th</sup>, we will do a Lighthouse craft and talk about how Jesus is the Light of the World. August 17<sup>th</sup>, we will learn about Nathaniel and discuss gifts and talents God gives us while we color and decorate a treasure box. August 24<sup>th</sup>, we will learn about some of the women in the Bible and construct a spinning wheel depicting 6 women of the Bible. Pam Devlin will have a fun lesson planned for August 31<sup>st</sup>, as Melissa will be gone that Sunday.

Snacks will include apple sections, graham crackers, and veggie chips. We have also started including children's videos that fit with the theme for the day.

Thank you to everyone who helps with Faith's Little Flock, and to the parents for trusting us with your little ones! We look forward to seeing everyone in August!

Blessings, *Melissa*



## FAITHFUL INNOVATIONS – CENTRAL/SOUTHERN IL SYNOD--ELCA

**Faithful Innovation** is an invitation to deepen connections. It is a way to simplify, refocus, and reorient ourselves and towards God's activity. It is not another program, to-do list, or thing to add on top of already busy schedules. Rather, it is a way of life, a journey of discovery that draws us back into core stories of the faith and deepens our capacity to be led by God.

So how does it work? Participation in ***Faithful Innovation*** requires a team of 3-5 congregation members, and their faith leader, to work with a trained coach from our synod for monthly gatherings. The faith leader does not lead the group but serves as an encourager along the way. **The guiding teams and coaches commit to three, in-person trainings on September 13, December 6, and March 14.**

While there is no cost to participate in the training, we do invite congregations to consider a donation of \$30 per participant to help cover the cost of 3 lunches and snacks. In between trainings, guiding teams will explore their communities, listen for where the Spirit may be calling them into action, and share stories about what is being learned.

Maybe you are curious, maybe you are ready to say "yes" to this exciting journey, or maybe you have more questions about this adventure. Wherever you are at, feel free to give me a call at 315-277-3703 or email me at [Jason.fisher@csis-elca.org](mailto:Jason.fisher@csis-elca.org) to ask more questions or to get your guiding team registered.

**Registration deadline for this round of trainings is Sunday August 10.** I'm looking forward to joining you on this faith journey as we listen and follow God together.

Yours in Christ Jesus, Deacon Jason Fisher, Central/Southern IL Synod

# *Reaching Out... Connecting through Outreach*

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## 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 from 4:00-6:00pm. There will be free 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 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a partnership with the Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen.

## Doorbell Dinners September 8-12

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.

## JACKSONVILLE FOOD CENTER

*"In the Wake of 'SNAP' Cuts, Feeding Hungry Falls More on Food Pantries."* This was a title headline for an article in the Jacksonville Journal Courier recently. Donations to other charities are needed too, and Faith follows through on donations, but food for the hungry is a high priority on a DAILY basis to survive. Food donations from Faith in June totaled \$364 by weight. June money donations totaled \$220. July donations were considerably less, as will be reported next month.

Because of the death of a dear member and officer of the Jacksonville Area Food Center board, the July board meeting was cancelled, and there are no June statistics available now.

*Lillian Korous & Pat Glyshaw*

## 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.

## 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 August 31**, 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.

## ESPRIT DE CORPS THEATER CAMP

In July and August, Faith is hosting a theater camp with Esprit de Corps for children going into grades 3-8. They are learning one of Ken Bradbury's plays, "We Can Change the World." From Faith, Marilyn Dichsen is the music leader and Louis Dichsen is participating. Join us for one of their free performances on **Friday and Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at Faith.**

Esprit de Corps is a vibrant performing arts academy in Jacksonville that provides a safe space for all to explore the world of artistic expression. They are located in the Historic MacMurray Hall and are led by Tim Smith, Heather Leonard, Joanne Gaston, Polly Pulley, Eric Turner, Susan Weller, and Michael Woods.



# Worship Assistants

## Chancel Committee

Aug. 3 Kris Roth  
 Aug. 10 Pat Glyshaw  
 Aug. 17 **need volunteer**  
 Aug. 24 **need volunteer**  
 Aug. 31 **need volunteer**

## Coffee Hosts

Aug. 3 Karen Sibert (9:30am)  
 Aug. 3 Kay Schnitker (11am)  
 Aug. 10 Kay S., Ken D., Kelly S.  
 Aug. 17 **need volunteer**  
 Aug. 24 **need volunteer**  
 Aug. 31 **need volunteer**

## Communion Assts.

Aug. 3 Karen Sibert (9:30am)  
 Aug. 3 Kay Schnitker (11am)  
 Aug. 10 Barb Davenport  
 Aug. 17 Hallie Mayner  
 Aug. 24 Pam Devlin  
 Aug. 31 Liddy Stark

## Greeters

Aug. 3 Liddy Stark (9:30am)  
 Aug. 3 Naomi Hahn (11am)  
 Aug. 10 **need volunteer**  
 Aug. 17 Kay Woodworth  
 Aug. 24 **need volunteer**  
 Aug. 31 Hallie Mayner

## Readers

Aug. 3 Liddy Stark (9:30am)  
 Aug. 3 Terri Kimler (11am)  
 Aug. 10 John Williams  
 Aug. 17 Sharon Woodworth  
 Aug. 24 Mike Fenner  
 Aug. 31 Barb Davenport

## Ushers

Aug. 3 Barb Davenport (9:30am)  
 Aug. 3 **to be determined** (11am)  
 Aug. 10 Pat Glyshaw  
 Aug. 17 Liddy Stark  
 Aug. 24 Hallie Mayner  
 Aug. 31 Barb Davenport

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.).

Aug. 3 By the Roth family in celebration of Sam's  
 birthday on August 3  
 & By the Dichsen family in honor of  
 Pastor Adam's birthday on August 6

Aug. 10 **Open for donation — both plants**

Aug. 17 By Greg & Terri Kimler in celebration  
 of their 46<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
 & By Monica Proefrock in honor of  
 Reiss' 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday on August 18

Aug. 24 **Open for donation — both plants**

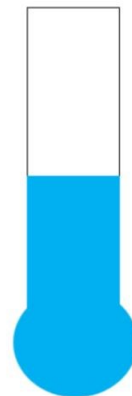
Aug. 31 **Open for donation — both plants**

## Financial Assistants

Aug. 3 Greg Kimler & Kay Schnitker  
 Aug. 10 Malinda Carlson & Monica Proefrock  
 Aug. 17 Kelly Hartz & to be determined  
 Aug. 24 Ken Devlin & Kay Schnitker  
 Aug. 31 Patty Nelson & to be determined

## Stewardship Snapshot

In response to feedback from our listening session, we are sharing quarterly giving snapshots throughout the year. The thermometer shows giving through June, excluding Building Fund and non-budgeted items.



Through June, we have received \$127,314 of our annual budget of \$264,796, or 48%.

In years past, we have typically received 53% of our budget by mid-year.

Thank you for your continued financial support for our ministry!

*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

**August 17**