



# Faith Family News

September 2025

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

## AN EMPTY ROOM IN OUR HOUSE...

By Pastor Adam

There's an empty room in our house. It still has clothes in the closet, a bed that is made, and most every other indication that someone lives there, but there's an emptiness about it. Marilyn moved into her Illinois College dorm room two weeks ago, and her absence has left more than an empty room. There is such joy in seeing her establish her "space," from arranging her dorm room to attending classes. She is so incredibly ready for this step in her life with the academic challenges and social independence... but, I must admit, the rest of us aren't quite as ready. We are celebrating all the gains she is experiencing, but sometimes the loss we feel overshadows the gain.

It makes me think of that word again, a word that comes up often in the Gospel of John, a word we talked about when we started a capital campaign in 2018 for the building addition and renovation, a word we are talking about again now as we commit to a three-year stewardship appeal to pay off the mortgage incurred from that project. Abide.

We talk about it often, but what does it mean? We might ask someone, "Where do you live?" But that's not abiding. It's not about a physical location. It has a deeper connotation, a relational aspect, an enduring quality. Our home is no longer the physical location where Marilyn sleeps, eats, studies, and hangs out with us, but there is a deeper connection, a relationship that continues, even when she is away.

September 14 will be our Stewardship Commitment Sunday. What are we committing? We are NOT

committing money. If stewardship were merely a fundraiser, that would be the case. But stewardship is not, and so we are not. Stewardship is the spiritual practice where we grow in our relationship with Jesus through the use of our time, talents, and finances. It's an opportunity to grow in the trust we have for God by loosening our grasp on other things in which we put our trust. It's not a commitment that comes from our bank accounts, but from our hearts. We aren't committing something we have, we are committing ourselves to the ministry we share and to the community we so love that is the Body of Christ that we share here in this place, but extends to all people and places. We commit ourselves to abiding, to relationships with one another and with the Lord God Almighty. We abide in the faith that is not our own, but God's gift to us. We abide in the faith that is nurtured in us by the Holy Spirit. We abide in the faith that, when times are hard and we question whether we have faith at all, God keeps it for us.

As you consider your stewardship commitment, remember that we are abiding in faith for our future. We are abiding in the Alpha and Omega that we've been hearing about in Revelation, the One who is and was and always will be... and this God Almighty abides in us with faithful and enduring constancy.

Yes, there's an empty room in our house now, but, there's a relationship that transcends physical presence. May we give thanks for the relationships we have in Christ, one to another and to our Creator. May we abide in faith for our future.

*Pastor Adam*

Flows. Grows. Shows



## CARDS/CUBS GAME

Calling all Cardinal & Cub fans for an afternoon of friendly rivalry at Faith. Join us in the Great Room on **Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm** to watch the last regular season match-up for these two teams. There will be snacks and drinks available. Plus we'll have some friendly games in between innings. Put on your red or blue (or both!) and come join the fun!



## 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.

## SEPTEMBER 14 IS "ABIDING IN FAITH FOR OUR FUTURE" COMMITMENT SUNDAY AND CELEBRATION MEAL

On Sunday, September 14, we will have our Stewardship Dedication Sunday as we receive pledges for both our annual stewardship appeal and our Abiding in Faith for the Future special three-year appeal to pay off our mortgage. After worship, all are invited to the Great Room for a breakfast provided by our men's breakfast crew while our Council tallies the pledges and announces the total. Please prayerfully consider how you can give to support our ministry together in these ways. Remember, stewardship is not about fundraising, but it is a spiritual practice where we grow in our relationship with Jesus through the use of our time, talents, and finances.

## BAPTISM

We celebrated the love of God through Holy Baptism for Henry James "Hank" Freeman on August 3, son of Nathan and Sarah Freeman, grandson of Richard and Tina Freeman. Hank's godparents are Katie and Matthew Freeman.

## TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Trunk-or-Treat event will be a part of a larger Fall Fest you can read more about on the next page. If you would like to participate with a trunk, booth, or host an activity, look for a signup sheet soon or talk to Monica Proefrock.

## "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.



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

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Flows. Grows. Shows



## **FINAL OUTDOOR SERVICE OF THE SUMMER**

September 7 will be our last chance to worship outdoors this summer, and the forecast looks beautiful. Bring a chair and join us on the lawn as we worship in God's creation at 9:30am. If you'd like to listen to the new songs beforehand, you can find them on Faith's YouTube channel or scan the QR code.



## **INDOOR TRADITIONAL WORSHIP**

Join us indoors on September 7 at 11:00am for our traditional worship service with liturgy from the Lutheran Book of Worship led on organ. The Worship Core Team and Church Council would like to continue these services periodically through the year and would like your feedback. After worship, the Council asks that you stay in the sanctuary for a few minutes to share what you enjoy about the service and discuss volunteer opportunities.

## **FALL FEST TRUNK-OR-TREAT, MEAL, AND POLKA SERVICE... A BARREL OF FUN!**

Roll out the barrel as we join for some fun, food, and worship on **Saturday, October 25**. It will be a day of worship, fellowship, and outreach for our Faith Family and the entire community. We start at 4:00 with some toe-tapping worship with a liturgy set to favorite polka tunes. Then, bring on the food! Bratwurst, sauerkraut, potato soup, all washed down with mugs of root beer, then with some German chocolate cake to top it off. The fun continues outside for our second annual Trunk-or-Treat with decorated trunks and activities. These events are for the entire community, and there are many ways to participate. Look for signup sheets to prepare food and serve, along with hosting a trunk, booth, or game for the Trunk-or-Treat. This takes the place of our Soup, Salad, and Dessert event this year, so let's come together, invite our neighbors, and have a barrel of fun!

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## **REVELATION... THE END OF THE END IS REALLY THE BEGINNING**

I never thought I'd say this but it's been a joy journeying through Revelation with you all! We've encountered winged creatures, emerald rainbows, monsters, and a dragon, but most of all, the Lamb of God. While September 7 will be the end of the end for this book, it is also a new beginning. Join me for a brown bag lunch in the Justice Room at noon as we discuss the end of the book and the new beginning God promises. - *Pastor Adam*

## **JOIN US AS WE "GO DEEPER"**

After worship scripture and sermon discussions will continue in the Justice Room with Pastor Adam. We will not meet on September 14 because of the Dedication Sunday breakfast.

## **SERMON SERIES: "COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS"**

This Fall, the Narrative Lectionary is leading us on a journey through the Old Testament to see God's invitation into relationship given to all people, and the ways in which God provides gifts of grace at every turn. Beginning September 14, we'll be "counting our blessings." On September 14, we'll hear the creation stories of Genesis and how God called it all good. On September 21, we'll hear about God blessing Abraham and Sarah with Isaac, a blessing that is almost taken away. On September 28, Isaac desires to give his blessing to his eldest son Esau, but Jacob steals it from him, and God's blessing takes a new fork in the road.



Flows. Grows. Shows



## Reaching In... Connecting through Discipleship

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

Come and connect with the men as we share our faith and enjoy good food on **Saturday, September 6!** 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.

### BIBLE BOOT CAMP

Bible Boot Camp kicks off with a cookout at the Martin's home on **Sunday, Sept. 14** as we learn about God's creation. We'll read the creation stories in Genesis, explore God's creation at their pond, have a hotdog cookout with homemade ice cream, and sing around the campfire. For the more adventurous, there are kayaks, a row boat, and fishing poles. Parents are welcome to attend and join us for the activities and meal. We will meet at Faith at 4:00 to carpool and be finished at 6:00. Our second Bible Boot Camp session will be Sunday, September 21 at Faith. Meet at 4:30 for lessons on Abraham, Isaac, and Moses. Supper will be provided at 5:30, and we will end at 6:00.



### DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

Join us for the Discipleship Group meeting at **10:00am on Wednesday, September 17**, in the Faith Library as we meet for Bible study, discussion, and fellowship. We have a lot of fun with lively discussions. Let's grow together in compassion, connection, and purpose.



### YOUTH EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

Our junior and senior high students are invited to the Martin's home for a cookout and outdoor fun on **Sunday, September 14**. We'll start with hotdogs, brats, and homemade ice cream at 5:30 and then have some fun boating, kayaking, fishing, and more, closing off with singing around the campfire as we watch the sunset. Meet at 5:00 at Faith for a ride or to carpool, and we'll be finished at 8:00.

### FAITH'S LITTLE FLOCK

(Ages 2-7) gathers during worship right after the Children's Sermon and returns to the sanctuary in time for Communion.

This September, Faith's Little Flock is excited to introduce a new curriculum aligned with the Lectionary and Pastor Adam's sermons. The children will explore stories of creation and resurrection, learn about Abraham and Isaac, and hear about Jacob's Dream. Through engaging activities, they will experience the stories by learning, living, and singing them. We also provide materials for parents to continue these lessons at home.

Faith's Little Flock warmly welcomes—and deeply appreciates—our adult and older youth volunteers. If you're interested in spending time with the children during part of the Sunday worship service or joining the teacher rotation for Faith's Little Flock, please reach out to Melissa Street or Pam Devlin. Blessings, *Melissa*

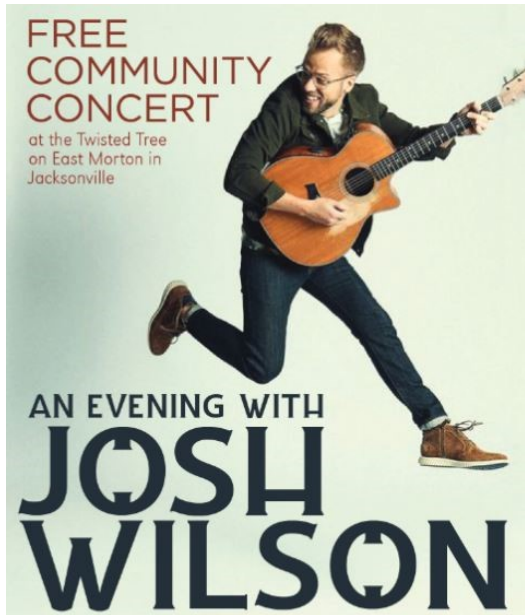


# *Reaching Out... Connecting through Outreach*

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## **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.



## **JACC FALL CONCERT**

The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches and Fellowship of Christian Athletes are hosting a free concert with Christian artist Josh Wilson on **Sunday, September 28**. The venue will be the outdoor stage at the Twisted Tree on east Morton and will move indoors if the weather is poor. Opening acts with Two By Two, The Benz Family, and The Howard Brothers begin at 4:30pm, and Josh takes the stage at 6:00.

## **JACC FALL ASSEMBLY ON HOMELESSNESS**

The JACC has a tradition of gathering the community together to discuss and address challenges we face together. This year, they are putting together a program to learn about homelessness in our community and share ways we can come together and help. If you have an interest to work on this project, please let Pastor Adam know.

## **JACKSONVILLE FOOD CENTER**

After a wonderful response in June, the interest in donating to the Food Center is waning, but food is needed to survive. Food Center donations for July totaled 2 pounds, and money donation was \$285. There were no food donations in August as of the 17<sup>th</sup>. Following is a description by Melissa, Food Center Director: "In July, the Food Center provided for 645 families, totaling 1,417 people. A food box is available to a family every 3 weeks. It contains shelf stable items to supplement a families grocery needs. Additionally, the Food Center provides fruit, vegetables, and other perishable items once a week to those in need."

If you are interested in volunteering at the Food Center or delivering food from Faith, they are open Monday to Friday, 311 Morgan St. Melissa writes that they are grateful for the way the Food Center meets the needs of our community. I hope Faith Lutheran Church can help meet those needs, too. *Lillian Korous & Pat Glyshaw*

## **NEW FOOD CENTER**

### **REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED**

After many years of service, Lillian Korous is stepping down as Faith's liaison to the Jacksonville Food Center. We are looking for a volunteer (or two) to take her place.

## **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 28**, 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.

# Worship Assistants

## Chancel Committee

Sep. 7 Pat Glyshaw  
 Sep. 14 Kris Roth  
 Sep. 21 Karen Sibert  
 Sep. 28 **volunteer needed**

## Communion Assts.

Sep. 7 Karen Sibert (9:30am)  
 Sep. 7 Kay Schnitker (11am)  
 Sep. 14 Pam Devlin  
 Sep. 21 Hallie Mayner  
 Sep. 28 Liddy Stark

## Readers

Sep. 7 Terri Kimler (9:30am)  
 Sep. 7 Terri Kimler (11am)  
 Sep. 14 John Williams  
 Sep. 21 Patty Nelson  
 Sep. 28 Liddy Stark

## Coffee Hosts

Sep. 7 Karen Sibert (9:30am)  
 Sep. 7 Kay Schnitker (11am)  
 Sep. 14 *Breakfast in Great Room*  
 Sep. 21 **volunteer needed**  
 Sep. 28 **volunteer needed**

## Greeters

Sep. 7 Lynette Hamilton (9:30am)  
 Sep. 7 **volunteer needed** (11am)  
 Sep. 14 Judy Dillard  
 Sep. 21 Lillian Korous  
 Sep. 28 Hallie Mayner

## Ushers

Sep. 7 **volunteer needed** (9:30am)  
 Sep. 7 **volunteer needed** (11am)  
 Sep. 14 Pat Glyshaw  
 Sep. 21 Judy Dillard  
 Sep. 28 **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).

## 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.).

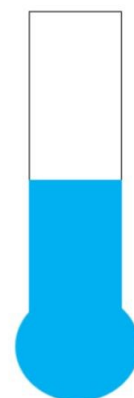
Sep. 7 By Gayla Smith in honor of her birthday  
 & **Open for donation**  
 Sep. 14 By Celeste Hill in honor of her birthday  
 on September 13  
 & **Open for donation**  
 Sep. 21 **Open for donation**  
 & **Open for donation**  
 Sep. 28 By the Roth family in celebration of  
 Laura's birthday on September 27  
 & **Open for donation**

## Financial Assistants

Sep. 7 Patty Nelson & Kay Schnitker  
 Sep. 14 Kelly Hartz & Monica Proefrock  
 Sep. 21 Greg Kimler & Kelly Street  
 Sep. 28 Ken Devlin & Kay Schnitker

## 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

**September 21**