



July Newsletter 2024

Faith Lutheran Church

308 2nd St. NW, PO Box 358
Dodge Center, MN 55927

**Summer Schedule one service at 9 am.
Fellowship will follow at 10 am**

Tuesday, July 2

Wise Guys	9:00 am
Exercise Class (2, 9, 16, 23, 30)	9:00 am
Quilting (2, 9, 16, 23, 30)	9:00 am

Thursday, July 4

Celebrate Independence Day
Office closed

Friday, July 5

AA (5, 12, 19, 26)	6:30 pm
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Sunday, July 7

Worship	9:00 am
Fellowship	10:00 am

Tuesday, July 9

Ruth Circle	1:30 pm
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Thursday, July 11

Exercise Class (11, 18, 25)	
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Sunday, June 14

Worship	9:00 am
Fellowship	10:00 am

Monday, July 15

Church Council	6:30 pm
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Tuesday, July 16

Wise Guys	9:00 am
Outreach	5:30 pm
Youth Ed. Team	6:30 pm

Thursday, July 18

Pantry of Faith food distribution	4:00 –7:00 pm
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Sunday, July 21

Worship	9:00 am
Fellowship	10:00 am

Monday, July 22

WAM Team	7:00 pm
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Sunday, July 28

Worship	9:00 am
Fellowship	10:00 am

Pastor on vacation July 4-14 and 29-Aug. 3



Pastor's Message

Pastor Jessica Bakken Busch

Dear Faith-filled Friends,

“Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place”

The words of this hymn have been on repeat in my mind these past few weeks as we have entered into the summer months of our church season. We have celebrated with our seniors graduating high school, welcomed Levi Livingood as our new director of music, had a joyful week of VBS filled with laughter and learning and concluded the month celebrating with Elizabeth Jean in her Holy Baptism and Blake, Adie, Ethan, and Lillie as they completed their sacrament class.

Yes, it has been a very Spirit-filled and sacred time here at Faith! How fitting that we started June with Pentecost and the story of the Holy Spirit and how she comes to meet all of us at unique times and places, recommending God’s cause of love, grace, mercy, compassion, and hope.

“In the midst of his children, the Lord said he would be. It doesn’t take very many, it can be just two or three.”

As we head deeper into the summer season, this is traditionally the time we all begin to take our family vacations or head to the cabin on the weekends. July and August tend to be a quieter time in our church family life. However, summer is also a wonderful time to reconnect with nature and how the Holy Spirit meets us in all places, to experience new encounters with the Holy Spirit’s presence in our lives. I personally look forward to the months of July and August because I know that these are the days that I encounter our God in the middle of natural wonders and beauty more than any other time of the year.

We know the Spirit is active here within our church family, there is evidence of that all around us. But this summer, as we spend sacred time with our family and friends in our summer plans and travels, keep your eyes open for how the Holy Spirit is showing up and meeting you in those places also. For even though, we may look at our Minnesota summers as our time to “get away.” The Spirit is always on the move wanting to engage with us and who can say where the Holy Spirit will find you next?

“There’s a holy hush around as God’s glory fills this place.”

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jes



Dear Faith Family-

For those that may not be aware, I am a High School/College English teacher. One of the reasons I love teaching literature is that every single person can connect to the same piece of text differently. There is not one of us that has the *EXACT* same experiences. We grew up with different parents, with/without siblings (some being the oldest, middle, or youngest of a family). We have unique childhood friends from our time and place, we grew into different kinds of adults with a vast array of responsibilities. We also have experienced companionship, loneliness, frustration, and joy in a multitude of ways. We exist in the same place at the same time yet see different things.

The last few years have been a time of much change for our family of Faith. We have experienced COVID globally and have been impacted by several changes in leadership in our church, not to mention we all navigate personal challenges, blessings, and transformations. Change is uncomfortable; we yearn for stability and wish things would feel “normal” again. This is difficult as we all have our unique perspectives regarding what “normal” really is.

Imagine a kaleidoscope: There is one hole to view the vast array of colors that can change with the slightest movement or shift as we look inside. Each one of us would have an entirely unique experience—yet we can appreciate the beautiful array of colors. The possibility of seeing the same exact thing as we peek through that whole is impossible. Our future is much the same. Everyone will experience the evolving culture of Faith differently, but it can still be a beautiful thing for each as well.

I am very hopeful about our future—we are resilient as we continue to practice grace, understanding, and patience as we work together to create a new “normal.” Like the view from the kaleidoscope, there are countless possibilities of this evolving normalcy. Uncertainty is uncomfortable and sometimes scary, but our core values of unconditional love, determination, and stamina will form our NEW culture at Faith.

Please reach out if you would like to contribute to committees. There is much value in each and everyone’s unique perspective. In September or October, there will be an opportunity to provide feedback for constitution revisions and budget considerations as we prepare for our 2024 annual meeting.

We appreciate any feedback, please contact me or another council member with questions, concerns, or good news to be shared.

Respectfully,

Karen Kleinwort

FLC Council President

councilpresidentfaith@gmail.com

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, May 19, 2024 6:30
pm Fellowship Hall

Attendees: Karen Kleinwort, Dillon Denter, Vicki Schweiger, Jaci Gosse, Lois Johnson, April Dean, Joi Bishop, Patty Starkson, & Pastor Jes Bakken Busch

Absent: Lisa Wolf

Monthly meeting called to order by President Karen Kleinwort. Council's Covenant of Conduct read by all

Devotions on making best use of our resources led by Pastor Jes.

The *Treasurer's Report* was supplied by Mindy Schaefer but she was not able to attend this meeting.

See attached financial reports; Mindy noted that expenses were higher than usual due to paying for March snow removal, payment for employment time owed to Nadine & for a substitute organist. Discussion of member's donations being marked for Dedicated Funds rather than the General Fund.

Mindy also noted that the Mission Investment Fund \$50,000 1-Yr Term Deposit will mature 6-2-2024. She estimates the balance will be \$52,542 at maturity. MIF is offering a 7-month Term at 5.05% APY. Mindy recommends the Council approve reinvesting the \$50,000 amount in the 5.05% APY 7-month Term. The \$2,542 income gained will go to the General Fund. **Motion to reinvest \$50,000 in MIF 5.05% APY 7-month Term by Jaci/April; Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by Lyn/Dillon. Discussion continued on expenses & income transactions for April 2024. Council shares concern of the decrease in giving to the General Fund but understands the giving to Dedicated Funds shows members have missions they want to support. Council will continue to monitor & watch for areas of financial operations that can be improved. **Motion Carried unanimously.**

Secretary's Report presented by Vicki Schweiger

Council meeting April 8, 2024 minutes reviewed; Discussion of including Pastor Jes as Council & not as Staff Member. Requested to use the term "Attendees" rather than "Council Members Present" & "Staff Present". Discussion of the Continuing Pastoral Education Unused Balance note that "*Council will review at next meeting.*" Secretary notes were reviewed that stated Mindy would check into how this would alter employment taxes & report back to Council. Will correct minutes to reflect "*Council to review at a future meeting.*" **Motion to approve 4-8-2024 Council Minutes with correction to "Attendees" & "Review CPE at future Council meeting", by Lyn/Jaci.**

Discussion of ways to share information with congregation members. Suggestions to have more details included in the meeting minutes, be sure the minutes in the record book have been approved by Council & include any reports that should be attached; to include the full Council minutes with financial reports to the newsletter; including a Council meeting summary to the newsletter; having the Council President create a church email account for members to directly communicate with Council. This will be discussed more as part of the Listening Sessions Report. Karen will be setting up an email account as soon as possible & will share that information with Carol to communicate to members. **Motion Carried unanimously.**

Pastor's Report presented by Pastor Jes

See attached submitted report of monthly activity. It was suggested the Faith Lutheran Church activities be listed before the professional or continuing education activities. Pastor Jes reviewed the usual schedule of home visits to members unable to attend service visits to Circle Drive Manor or the Fairview Care Center.

Ministry Team Reports:

Education, Patty 4-15-24 mtg - Majority of the meeting was reviewing plans for ROAR VBS from June 10th-13th, plans for supper, lessons, crafts & songs were discussed. Sunday School ended 4-28 for the year. Next meeting 5-20-24 @ 6:30 pm.

Outreach, Lisa - May Service Sunday flower pots were delivered & Triton staff was very happy with them. More volunteers are needed to pack the Faith Pantry bags each month. Pastor Jess to contact Kathy @ Synod office to research Global outreach opportunities to be discussed at a future meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for 5-20-24 @ 5:30 pm.

Personnel, Lois - Employee reviews were completed for 2 employees, the other will be done in May. The Open Music Director position will be discussed later in this meeting.

Properties, April - No meeting was held due to schedule conflicts but via email exchanges were made to discuss the need for spring cleanup inside & outside the church. Areas they have identified as needing to be done include landscaping, the shed, cupboards in the kitchen & other storage areas. A member has volunteered the paint for the Fellowship Hall bathrooms to be painted. Committee requested Council input on scheduling the event & any other items/areas to be added to list. Council agreed that a date & time should be set for all to attend & help rather than individual times. This will create an opportunity for fellowship for those that participate.

Stewardship, Dillon - No Report

Worship, Arts & Music (WAM), Lyn - Altar Guild met to plan duties; music team has been working on picking songs for service; planning to work on changing some interior decor or pictures to other items the church has; early planning for an outdoor service during the summer.

Old Business:

Committee Descriptions, Purpose, Function - Discussion tabled to a future meeting; committees should be discussing at monthly meetings.

New Business:

Donation from Sue Anderson, in memory of her father. No discussion needed; the family has decided on an alternate recipient.

Properties Feedback Request - Already discussed during Ministry Team Reports.

Director of Music & Worship Proposal - Karen presented the employment agreement worked on between Personnel Chair Jodi Steen, Pastor Jes & Levi Livingood. It is a 1-year agreement to be reviewed before year 2. The employment proposal includes Duties & Responsibilities as the Faith Lutheran Church Director of Music & Worship, 1st Year Goals & Salary. Discussion on the pay & hours to be worked. It was noted that weddings & funerals are not part of the agreement, as that is covered as part of the event cost to the family. Council members were agreeable to all items except the use of a paid substitute for the 1 Sunday per month that Levi has requested to not be present. It would be preferred to have him prerecord the music. **Motion to approve the employment agreement between Faith Lutheran Church and Levi Livingood for the position of Director of Music and Worship per the presented 1-year proposal, with the condition of recorded music instead of a substitute for the 1 Sunday per month he is not working, made by Joi/April. Motion carried unanimously.**

Listening Session Report Review:

Council members had received a copy of the Listening Report with this meeting's agenda. Discussion on the importance to share with the congregation what has been heard, what has been done already, what can be done soon & what to work on in the future. Because the report is long & detailed, Jaci offered to create a shorter summary of hot points to be sent to the congregation via email. The full unedited report will be available at the church for those that want to read what was provided to Council. It was agreed that an action plan needs to be created to address future items to work on & the Executive Team will create this with assistance provided by other Council members.

One point of the report that was discussed are the questions concerning Pastor's vacation time. Vacation time is part of the call contract approved by the Council but members may not be aware of the amount of time allowed. Just as with any other employment, there is also time off for continuing education opportunities, illness and unexpected family events. As an employer, Faith Lutheran cannot require her to explain to the congregation why she is not present on Sunday, but some Council members feel it would be helpful if she could say something about her absence.

Pastor Jes explained to the Council that the cost of the listening session project was paid by Thrivent dollars from the Thrivent members of the congregation. No monies were needed from Faith Lutheran Church's general fund or dedicated funds. Council is thankful for the funding of this project from these members.

Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 21st at 6 pm for the Executive Team & any others to review the summary report before it is emailed out to the congregation.

Next Council meeting was rescheduled to Monday, June 17th at 6:30 pm due to VBS.

Motion to Adjourn by Lois/Joi at 8:45 pm. Carried unanimously.

Meeting ended by sharing the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by Vicki Schweiger

Our 2024 high school graduates are pictured with the quilts that were made for them by the Faith Lutheran quilters.

Front row (left to right): Jean Wicks, Noah Kleinwort, Mallory Olson-Ramer, Litany Peterson, Sharon Scheik and Kim Johnson

Back row: Matthew Justice, Max Olson-Ramer, Sarah Jensen and Dani Hallaway



Worship Assistants & Fellowship

We are in need of worship assistants for June and July. Please email the church office faithdcmn@gmail.com or sign-up on the clip board at church or call the church office, (507-374-2174) if you can help.

Sunday, July 7

Communion Prep: Alisha Selthun and Romell Matejcek

Ushers:

Reader:

Soundboard:

Streaming:

Communion servers: VaLane Tyler, Isabella and Alisha Selthun

Fellowship: Mike and Sue Anderson

Sunday, July 14

Ushers: Rick and Lisa Wolf

Reader

Soundboard:

Streaming:

Fellowship:

Sunday, July 21

Ushers: Dave and Jeremy Wahlstrom

Reader: : Jeremy Wahlstrom

Soundboard:

Streaming:

Fellowship: Wade and Shelby Winslow

Sunday, July 28

Communion Prep: Alisha Selthun and Romell Matejcek

Ushers:

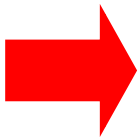
Reader: Renee Lehmann

Soundboard:

Streaming:

Communion servers:

Fellowship:



We need help with the soundboard and streaming. If you would be interested in learning how to do these important parts of our worship service, please contact:

Jason Kozisek	jasonkozisek@gmail.com
Brandon Wolf	wolfwoodOO@hotmail.com
Shaun Hall	shaun.hall.1981@gmail.com

We are in need of someone to paint the 2 bathrooms by the kitchen entrance. Please call the church office if you would be interested in this painting project.



General Fund GIVING and EXPENSES

\$11,658 May Giving	\$17,796 May Expenses
\$61,200 Year-to-Date Giving	\$89,870 Year-to-Date Expenses

Detailed monthly financial statements are located in the church library.

July Birthdays

1. Tony Bishop, Jessica Denter
2. Jeff Keesling, Pierce Petersohn
3. Connor Henderson
5. Braeden Moe, Ray Tyler
6. Molly Hinrichsen, Phil Pflaum
9. Vince Arnold, Hudson Hamm, Levi Livingood, Jacob Snyder
10. Elijah Schrom, Ethan Wolf
11. Elyse Bestor
12. Tim Donaldson, Aaron Knutson
15. Elizabeth Hukee
19. Ann Arnold, Malinda Quam, Morgan Rohwer
21. Don Henderson,
22. Aunika Matejcek
24. Leah Pflaum
25. Jude Gosse, Inger Pearson, Brandon Wolf
27. Kristy Faber, Nolan Shallbetter
28. Alissa Hallaway
28. Jean Weitzenkamp
30. Tegan Ridenour
31. Lauryn Nauman



Faith Lutheran does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

Note: Jessica Hukee wrote and presented this mini sermon for a part of her confirmation “Jesus Project”. Thank you for giving permission to print your sermon.

Mini Sermon

By: Jessica Hukee

Matthew 28:19-20 “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

This world is hurting. Us people who have a relationship with Jesus know true love. Since we know what true love is, we can spread true love. By living according to kingdom work you see true blessing and happiness in your life. Us Christians can change the world. (When you have the Holy Spirit within you and have the Son of God on your side, you can do anything!) God can work through you and you can make a true difference in the world. If you let Jesus lead you and let God work through you, it’s true, you really can do anything. The limits are endless. As Jesus has authority, we also have authority and are able to heal and bind. Jesus changes your thoughts and renews you when you turn to Him.

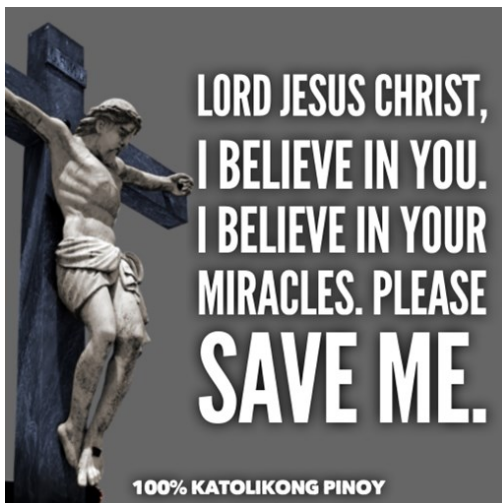
This change

- Helps you want to spread love
- Causes you to strive for a life of purpose rather than living just to eventually die
- Causes you to change your attitude towards things
- Helps you to live every day with productivity and purpose.
- Your intentions

I have first hand experienced these changes along with many blessings unsaid in the list.

Speaking of Jesus changing our thoughts, will a difference really ever be made if we all follow the crowd? If everyone is following the wrong thing and no one is different, it will be like that forever. Jesus calls us to be different. So we need to be the difference that we want to see in the world. Let me tell you, you *will* be rewarded or the opposite based on your works. I read the bible often and it is a message that I see consistently, meaning Jesus must’ve really wanted us to know that! The scripture says “All things are possible through Christ who strengthens us.” But fear and doubt can get in the way of that. It can get in the way of being the change. Are you going to let fear get in the way of God opening a door for you? I have two sentences. “I cast out fear in Jesus name.” and “Matthew 4:10” which says “Away from me Satan.” The name of Jesus holds true power. You can say it whenever in a time of fear or doubt. Doing so has helped me through a lot. So, yes, as Christians we have true power at our disposal, we just need to tap into it, and let Jesus help you. God has a better plan for you than you could ever imagine. So, follow Jesus today, you never know where He will take you, but you do know that He is always with you and there to help you.

PRAYER:





2024

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first and fourth Sunday of the month.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9a Wise Guys 9a Exercise Class 9a Quilting	3	4 Office Closed	5 6:30p AA	6
7 Communion 9a Worship 10a Fellowship	8	9 9a Exercise Class 9a Quilting 1:30p Ruth Circle	10	11 9a Exercise Class	12 6:30p AA	13
14 9a Worship 10a Fellowship	15 6:30p Church Council	16 9a Wise Guys 9a Exercise Class 9a Quilting 5:30p Outreach team 6:30p Youth/Ed team	17	18 9a Exercise Class 4-7p Pantry of Faith	19 6:30p AA	20
21 9a Worship 10a Fellowship	22 7p WAM team	23 9a Exercise Class 9a Quilting	24	25 9a Exercise Class	26 6:30p AA	27
28 Communion 9a Worship 10a Fellowship	29	30 9a Exercise Class 9a Quilting	31			

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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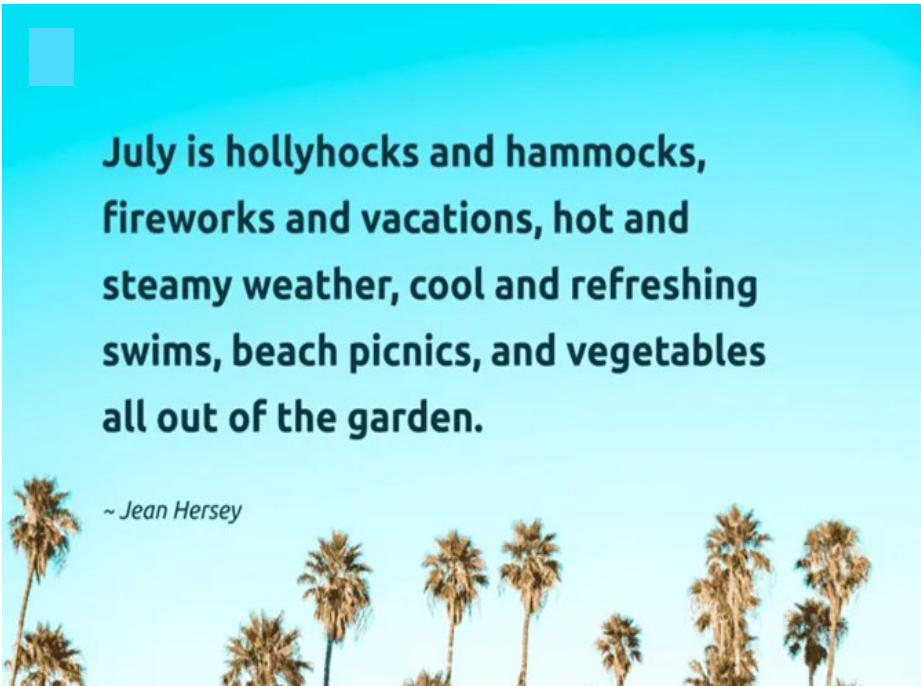
CUSTODIAN

Gary Johnson

Communicate with Faith

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Watch our services on line on the
Faith Lutheran Facebook page



**July is hollyhocks and hammocks,
fireworks and vacations, hot and
steamy weather, cool and refreshing
swims, beach picnics, and vegetables
all out of the garden.**

~ Jean Hersey

***Celebrating faith in Christ by worshiping together
and reaching out in love to all God's people.***