

FAITH at WORK

June 2025

Dear People of God at Faith Lutheran Church,

On Pentecost Sunday, June 8th, together with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, we will commit to beginning a blending process. A process is a series of actions and steps taken to achieve a set goal. Process is a journey. The Blending for Mission work we are entering into will lead to a point (December or January) in which both congregations will have votes that will be “yay” or “nay.” Yes to blend together to become one congregation, or no, and go separate ways.

This process will include listening to God, listening to each other, and listening to the world. During this time you will have opportunities to get to know each other, individually and corporately. It is very important that we take the time, resolutely, employing discernment, prayer and trust that the Holy Spirit is active in this process, this journey, this reality.

There are more than 16 congregations in the Oregon Synod that wish for a part time pastor. I can tell you honestly, there are very few pastors interested in part time ministry. That is considered survival mode. And even at part time, what these congregations can afford is not equal to half-time pay with benefits. This includes Faith Lutheran. Even with the preschool area rented out, we don't know if the Cornerstone building will have renters right away, later this summer.

With 20-25 people in worship on a given Sunday, Faith is not really holding on. Below you will find a graphic for the Congregation Life Cycle. Each circle represents the amount of energy that it will take to stabilize. Many of you know that there isn't the energy to turn things around. There is no blame pointed anywhere. This is the natural cycle of life for congregations, organizations, businesses, and people. Yet this time is giving you an opportunity.

(continued on page 2)

Pentecost Worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran—10:00am

Sunday, June 8

We will celebrate Pentecost at Good Shepherd with a Commitment Service to officially establish the Blending for Mission process. Worship that day begins at 10 am .

After worship we will share a meal—The main dish will be provided by Good Shepherd and we are being asked to bring salads or desserts to share. This will be a time for getting to know each other and to begin the process work at hand.

Faith Lutheran Church

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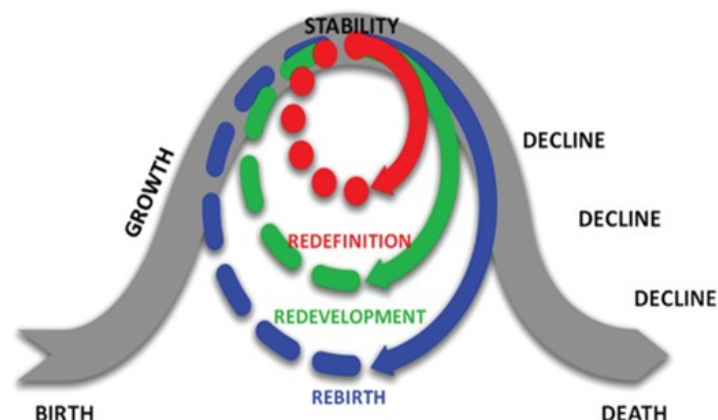


The beloved passage from Ecclesiastes 3 helps us realize this reality:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die;
 a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
 a time to kill, and a time to heal;
 a time to break down, and a time to build up;
 a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
 a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
 a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
 a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
 a time to seek, and a time to lose;
 a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
 a time to tear, and a time to sew;
 a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
 a time to love, and a time to hate;
 a time for war, and a time for peace.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE CYCLE



What if this is a time to plant? What if this is a time to gather stones together to build a new, vibrant congregation with Good Shepherd? What if this is a time to break down in order to build up? What if it is time to sew together something new? What if it is time to let go so that you can take hold? What time is the Holy Spirit saying it is at Faith Lutheran?

Time has two differing words in Greek: Chronos for chronological time; and Kairos, for God's time, for the opportune moment, for God's perfect time breaking into Chronos time. We are in Kairos time, when the Spirit invites us into God's perfect timing. That doesn't make things easier. It is a "carpe diem" moment—seize the day!

You still need to identify what to let go of and what to take hold of during this Chronos time and process. Be assured that the process is within God's Kairos timing. As the Spirit calls, take hold of the steadfast love of God. Look to the Lord who is our Rock and Redeemer. Consider what really matters in this Kairos moment. Remember the ways God has been faithful throughout Faith's 75 years of ministry.

When I have been wary of the next thing for me, I have been able (mostly) to remember God's faithfulness and to trust God's grace to carry me as I face change, opportunity, new life. Oh, I stumble at times. Maybe being an Interim Pastor is part of my continued learning to trust God and begin to see again the Kairos moments as they come. Exciting and a little scary.

Dear Faith Lutheran, you continue to be in my prayers during this time as I continue to walk with you in this process, to assist the Spirit's guidance and call to a future being revealed even now. This is a time to dream dreams and see visions of what the Spirit of God is up to with the two congregations.

Enter into God's Kairos time and believe that the future is filled with God's dreams and visions with you.

Pastor Dorthy+

Hello Brothers and Sisters of Faith,

Blending for Mission with Good Shepard is moving along. On June 8 we will have a Commitment Service with both congregations worshipping together at Good Shepard, their service begins at **10:00 AM**. Following service we will have a meal together, **members of Faith are asked to bring a salad or dessert**. We will be signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which is the formal agreement for the 2 churches to proceed with this process. It is very **important that our members attend** this day of worship and meeting, this is your chance to ask questions and show your support for this process. If you have any questions please reach out to me.

Our 75-year celebration in August is continuing planning with Jan Wetzel, Nancy George and Linda Gail Vogt working on setting it all up. It will be a 2-day celebration August 16 & 17, hopefully you received a "Save the Date" postcard in the mail. More information on activities will be coming as we get closer.

Council meetings will now be held the 2nd Monday of the month at **Noon** in the conference room. You are always welcome to join us. Bring your lunch!

Blessings,
Gordy Gamet, Council President

"Blending for Mission"

Swallowed, absorbed, integrated, blended. All of these words have crossed my mind as I've been participating in the 'Blending for Mission' process. And frankly, some of these words worry me. Good Shepherd has 3 times as many members as we do, of course it's going to feel like they are just swallowing up the members of Faith. When we get the two congregations together for worship it's always at Good Shepherd. Are they just slowly absorbing us into their congregation?

I pray about this all the time and try hard to hear what God is telling us to do, and trusting that he is leading us down the right path. And I know he is! I know that even though some of my thoughts are scary, I know we are going to *blend* as two congregations, coming together as *equals*, and following the mission that he is leading us towards.

These next few months are critical. Faith **MUST** stay engaged with the process, even when there are doubts. Everyone's voice must be heard, even if it's hard truths, or makes us feel sad.

On June 8th we will meet at Good Shepherd for worship and a joint Congregational meeting. This is where we will make a formal commitment to walk this road together. We will start the listening process with groups one-on-one, two-on-two, then four-on-four. Members from both congregations will start scheduling their listening sessions with internal partners (that's me and you) and with external partners, which will take place over the summer. These sessions will give you the chance to share your thoughts, hopes, and dreams.

The council and Pastor Dorthy are highly committed to this process and are happy to answer any questions you may have. I will do my best to keep our members informed as we move along.

With God's grace,
Mary Sabatka Gamet

The Poet in June

'Tis bliss to have the poet's heart
That loves the quietude of things,
Where nature smiles her bidden rocks,
And brings out sweet and cooling springs.

The June-green grass beneath my feet,
The dandelion's disk of gold,
The corn's slim spire just pushing out
From clean brown beds of kindly mold.

Bid welcome as I pass along
The harvest way across the lea;
While songs of birds are in my soul.
And eyes of flowers make love to me.

Down in the meadow's gliding stream
The children splash their snowy feet,
And all their laughter comes to me
Across the fields of growing wheat.

—M. P. A. Crozier



Faith Lutheran Church		2025
STAFF		
Interim Pastor	Pastor Dorthy Nielsen	
Office Manager	Carol Armstrong	
Organist/Pianist	Cheryl Blum	
Custodian	Hart's Janitorial	
CHURCH COUNCIL		
President	Gordy Gamet	
Vice President	Terry Virnig	
Secretary	Mary Sabatka Gamet	
Treasurer	Janice Lee Virnig	
Financial Secretary	Alice Weber	
Education/Youth	Vacant	
Evangelism & Mission	Dick Olsen	
Fellowship & Social	Peggy Preston	
Property Management	Terry Virnig (Acting)	
Stewardship & Resources	Vacant	
Worship & Music	George Hunt	
Mission Endowment	Carol Olufson	



Financials as of 5/27/25.

Undesignated Income: \$3,765.97

Budgeted Undesignated Income: \$5,416.66

Net Undesignated Income: (\$1,650.69)

Total Expenses: \$5,847.77

Total Net Income: \$6,000.52

Church Announcements and Events

5

Contact Pr. Cindy Robles for Emergency Pastoral Care

If you have a need for emergency pastoral care, please contact Pr. Cindy at 563-845-8221.

Men's Breakfast—8:30am

Tuesdays, Ongoing

Men's group meets for breakfast every Tuesday at 8:30am at either Sweetwaters Restaurant or Brick & Mortar Restaurant (alternating weeks). All men are welcome!

June 3 & 17 at Brick & Mortar

—

June 10 & 24 at Sweetwaters

Prayer Chain:



We are asking those who are part of the prayer chain to lift up the concerns of Faith Lutheran congregants on a weekly basis and to pray for other concerns as they are shared. This can be as simple as taking a few seconds to ask God to be with those listed, lifting each one up by name. Peggy Preston will be heading up the prayer chain. **If you are interested in being on the prayer chain, send her an email: pegprestonn@aol.com**

Quilting and TOPs

Wednesdays @ 9am



Wednesday mornings are a busy time at Faith Lutheran Church. We have quilters working to create comforting quilts that are donated to bring people warmth, privacy and shelter. If you are interested in joining them, there is always plenty to do.

TOPs (stands for The Old People, though age is not requirements for the group) are busy working to keep our church property maintained and our grounds clean. If you have able hands and a willing heart, the TOPs will always welcome some help.

Food Collection for F.I.S.H. of Albany



We are collecting non-perishable food items FISH of Albany. Donations can be placed in one of the baskets in the parking lot entryway.

***** Please check expiration date markings - FISH cannot accept foods past their marked expiration dates.***



Mary Martha Circle

This is a Bible Study for women. We meet on the **second Tuesday of each month @ 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall**. If you would like more information, please call: Karen Glenn at (541) 928-4729 or Shirley Karstens at (541) 967-8309.

Worship Leaders Team 2025

June	1	8	15	22	29
Assisting Ministers	N/A	N/A	Janice	Carol O.	N/A
Lector	Shirley				
Altar Prep	N/A	N/A	George	George	N/A
Ushers	Dick	N/A	Dick	Dick	N/A
Sound Technicians	Jon A.	N/A	Terry	Gordy	N/A



Seeking Volunteers!

Our friends at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church are seeking our help with their Wednesday Evening Free Meals ministry. They requested 2 to 4 persons who would be willing to help with cooking and/or serving meals for the community. Please call Jen Hibbs at 541-231-4441 for more information.



June 2025 Worship Schedule

June 1	10:30am	Worship
June 8	10:00am	Worship at Good Shepherd
June 15	10:30am	Worship
June 22	10:30am	Worship
June 29	10:00am	Worship at Good Shepherd



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming - George Hunt	2 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3 Men's Breakfast at Brick & Mortar 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	4 9:00am Quilters & TOPs 6:30pm - 8:00pm AEC	5 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	6 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	7 9:00am - 12:00pm Scouts (Library)
8 10:00am Worship & Commitment Ceremony at Good Shepherd Lutheran 3:00pm - 7:00pm AEC	9 12:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 8:30am Men's Breakfast at Sweetwaters 1:30pm Mary Martha Circle 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	11 9:00am Quilters & TOPs	12 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	13 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	14
15 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming - Pr. Dorthy Nielsen	16 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 Men's Breakfast at Brick & Mortar 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	18 9:00am Quilters & TOPs 6:30pm - 8:00pm AEC	19 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	20 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	21 9:00am Circle of Friends (Fellowship Hall)
22 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming - Pr. Nick Droge 11:15am Fellowship Meeting 3:00pm - 7:00pm AEC	23 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24 8:30am Men's Breakfast at Sweetwaters 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	25 9:00am Quilters & TOPs	26 1:00pm - 8:00pm W/C Class Rental-Fellowship Hall 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	27 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	28
29 10:00am Worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran	30 7:00pm Boy Scouts					

Prayer List

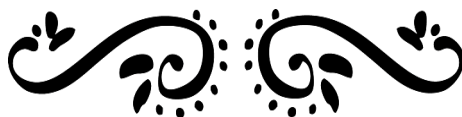
*PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE
NEEDING STRENGTH, GUIDANCE AND HEALING:*

Tim Berg	Olivia Hunter	David
Brenda Carroll	Nicholas Glass	Margaret Rowland
Sandy Hina	Chuck	Mitch Mueller
Linda Gail Voet	Carol Olufson	Melba Wright
Noah Holman	Vanessa Munro	Karen Glenn
Gigi Douglas	Jim Preston	Billy Tamblin
Stephanie Bauthman	Virginia	Monica Johnson
John Busher	Gabriel	
Julie Shaw	Frank Perry	

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND:

Sangsau Tran

OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS TO THOSE WHO MOURN THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES:



A Prayer for Every Day

Almighty God, you fill all things with your presence. In your great love, keep us near you this day. Grant that in all our ways and doings we may remember that you see us, and may always have grace to know and perceive what things you would have us do, and give us strength to do the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BIBLE WORD SEARCH PUZZLE - FATHER'S DAY



Psalms 103:13 As a **father** has **compassion** on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.

Proverbs 1:8 Hear, my **son**, your father's **instruction**, and forsake not your mother's teaching.

Prov 20:7 The righteous man walks in his **integrity**; His children are **blessed** after him.

Proverbs 23:22 **Listen** to your father, who gave you **life**, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

Proverbs 23:24 The father of a **righteous child** has great **joy**; a man who fathers a wise son **rejoices** in him.

2 Samuel 7:14-15 "I will be a father to him, and he'll be a son to me. When he does wrong, I'll **discipline** him in the usual ways, the pitfalls and obstacles of this mortal life. But I'll never remove my **gracious love** from him."

2 Corinthians 6:18 "And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the **Lord Almighty**."



Find the words in the verses and add the missing letters

F _ _ H E _ _ L I S _ _ _ D I _ _ _ _ N E
 C O _ P _ S S _ _ N _ _ _ _ T E O U S
 I N S _ _ U _ _ I O N C _ _ _ _
 I N _ _ _ _ I T Y _ _ Y L _ _ _ _ D
 B L _ _ _ E D R E _ _ _ _ E S A _ _ _ _ Y

Find the words. They're hidden in all directions.

T S T L G Y Q B C E B C D D F
 B I I O Z F Z W V A C D M E L
 S Y B R N A S C E L H I M A G
 V M T D I T I O J M I S B Q G
 T U B H C H N M O I L C K R
 R L L Y T E S P Y G D I A R A
 E I E B K R T A B H Y P J I C
 J S S F X L R S B T B L G I
 O T S L G O U S I U V D N H O
 I E E D U V C I U V D N H T U
 C N D S T E T O W N K E S E
 E K Y J H C I N A H P T D O E
 S G Q E D H O A G Z O T C U F
 C D N U I Q N C Y S O Q Y S I
 W M I N T E G R I T Y F A M C



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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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