

FAITH at WORK

July 2025

Dear People of God at Faith Lutheran Church,

Grace and peace in this summer season, in the name of our brother, Jesus.

After having been on vacation, I stayed a few days with my sister to help her. She broke her hand a few weeks ago, the dominant one, and she's had surgery and is in a cast. She's been needing a bit of help prepping for the arrival of some guests in August, but didn't ask for my help. I offered.

We have been sorting things, making piles for donation, and arranging things for ease and prep for the guests. The work got me thinking about the Church, about Faith and the need for sorting, keeping, and letting go of what is not needed at this time.

Then, as the Holy Spirit does, She sent me a little video from a new "colleague" by the name of Rev Joseph Yoo. He's a 40ish, Episcopalian priest in Houston TX and he has the most refreshing way of speaking. His "one minute" videos are so cogent for these days. Let me share this one...

"In my last video I talked about how generally the evangelical churches tend to protect theology and the progressive churches tend to protect structure and form. And there were many, many, many, many comments saying "oh, we should be protecting theology, that's what we should be doing." And so I wanted to talk about that and while we're here let's talk about what theology actually is.

Theology isn't some sacred vault, it's just how we talk about God. That it's our best attempt to name who God is, what God does, and how we make sense of faith in real life. And that changes, that evolves, always has, because people change, cultures shift, pain reshapes us, growth deepens us, life experiences helps us evolve.

Your theology has evolved as well, because many of you don't hold the same views and beliefs you did when you were 10 years old. And if you still believe the same thing since you were 10 you might be in a cult. The problem isn't theology, it's inflexibility. When we turn theology or structure into something un-touchable we are not protecting the faith. We are freezing it, and frozen theology turns into ideology, and ideology that can't be questioned that's when things get really dangerous. That's how you end up with cults, that's how you end up with Christian Nationalism, that's how you end up with pastors preaching things that are the antithesis to Jesus' teachings, because the system has become too sacred to challenge and/or question.

We were never called to be settlers, building fences and walls around what we already know. We were meant to be explorers, faithful enough to keep moving even when the path gets uncomfortable.

Faith Lutheran Church

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God doesn't need our protection. But if we're clinging to what's safe, let's be real honest here. We're not protecting God. We're protecting our comfort, we're avoiding growth."

Yes, Rev Joseph said all that in one minute...he talks fast! What he articulated for me was that as we evolve in our faith and relationship with God, that things shift and change. AND that is good, that is growth. So the transition time Faith is in now, and in conversation with Good Shepherd are all about our growth in faith, hope and love because of the Holy One who came to be among us, sharing the love of God with all. This is the one we follow.

Consider the early Church. Not one of those churches still exist in the same form as they originated. Neither has Faith nor Good Shepherd. So the listening season we are in together is an important part of discerning God's call to new life in Albany.

There are some things to put in the "Let go of" pile, there are some things to reclaim, and there are some old traditions to transform, and there's a whole lot of rethinking what it means to follow Jesus in this time.

Let us be open to the letting go, the transforming, the renewing, and the following of the one who matters most to us, our Savior Jesus Christ. All else finds its place further down the line of what's important.

On the way with you,

Pastor Dorthy+

From Church Council

Hello Brothers and Sisters of Faith,

Welcome to HOT July, hope everyone is staying cool. Our blending process is moving along and the external listening team has started meeting with the community about what our mission should be moving forward.

We will be having Good Shepard folks over to Faith on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month for Coffee Hour after our service is done. If you would like to bring a snack to go along with coffee feel free to do so.

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 your invitation in the mail and will return your RSVP. More information on activities will be coming as we get closer.

Council meetings are now on 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”

No updates at this time.



Annual School Supply Drive

Sales will begin soon in local stores so it's the perfect time to begin collecting items for the Annual School Supply Drive. Education is important for any community, but especially where poverty or disaster have limited the options for young people to reach their potential. School kits that contain essential supplies can help ensure they can continue learning despite the hardships they face.

The goal is for 75 kits to be donated through Lutheran World Relief.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR EACH SCHOOL KIT:

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8 x 10 ½"
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- One 2 ½ inch pink eraser
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- Five ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons

SCHOOL SUPPLIES WILL BE COLLECTED THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

July

A red sun rising at morning
 With flame on his burning crest;
 A red sun sinking at evening,
 In the molten glow of the west;
 The air grown languid and drooping,
 On wings too heavy to fly;
 The voice of a drowsy locust
 That croons to a drowsy sky;
 And cool waves crisping and darkling
 Across the hot sands of July!

Down on the beach with the seashells,
 Their brave brown cheeks aglow,
 I watch the play of the children,
 And follow them to and fro.
 O sweet red lips of my darlings!
 O light of the fearless eye!
 With ye comes rest for the spirit;
 And freshness and peace draw nigh
 Like cool waves crisping and darkling,
 Across the hot sands of July!

by Mary Elizabeth Blake



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 6/25/25.

Undesignated Income: \$3,180.97

Budgeted Undesignated Income: \$5,416.66

Net Undesignated Income: (\$2,235.69)

Total Expenses: \$5,258.34

Total Net Income: \$5,157.62

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!

July 1, 15 & 29 at Brick & Mortar

—

July 8 & 22 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

July	6	13	20	27
Assisting Ministers	Janice	Shirley	George	N/A
Altar Prep	Jon A.	Jon A.	George	N/A
Ushers	Dick	Dick	Dick	N/A
Sound Technicians	Terry	Gordy	John B.	N/A

A Prayer for Independence Day

Lord, on this Independence Day, we ask for Your courage and strength to uphold the values of freedom and justice. Give us boldness to stand for what is right, even in the face of adversity. Strengthen our resolve to defend the oppressed and speak up for the voiceless. May we never waver in our commitment to live out Your truth and love in our communities

Move us to care for the needy and reach out to those who are hurting. May we be channels of Your love and grace, sharing our resources and talents for the well-being of others. Help us to see opportunities to serve and to meet the needs of our neighbors with joy and humility. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.



July 2025 Worship Schedule

July 6	10:30am	Worship
July 13	10:30am	Worship
July 20	10:30am	Worship
July 27	10:00am	Worship at GSLC



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:30am - 9:30am Men's Breakfast at Brick & Mortar 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	2 No Quilters 9:00am TOPs	3 1:00pm - 3:00pm & 6:00pm - 8:00pm W/C Classes- Fellowship Hall 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	4 Church Office Closed 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	5
6 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming-Pr. Dorthy Nielsen	7 7:00pm Boy Scouts	8 8:30am Men's Breakfast at Sweetwaters 1:30pm Mary Martha Circle 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	9 No Quilters 9:00am TOPs	10 1:00pm - 3:00pm & 6:00pm - 8:00pm W/C Classes- Fellowship Hall 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	11 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	12
13 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming - Pr. Dorthy Nielsen 3:00pm - 7:00pm AEC	14 12:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	15 8:30am - 9:30am Men's Breakfast at Brick & Mortar 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	16 No Quilters 9:00am TOPs	17 1:00pm - 3:00pm & 6:00pm - 8:00pm W/C Classes- Fellowship Hall 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	18 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	19 9:00am Circle of Friends (Fellowship Hall)
20 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming - Pr. Dorthy Nielsen	21 7:00pm Boy Scouts	22 8:30am Men's Breakfast at Sweetwaters 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	23 No Quilters 9:00am TOPs	24 1:00pm - 3:00pm & 6:00pm - 8:00pm W/C Classes- Fellowship Hall 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	25 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	26 2:00pm - 6:00pm Explore Academy Silent Auction in Suite A & Parking Lot
27 10:00am at GSLC 3:00pm - 7:00pm AEC	28 7:00pm Boy Scouts	29 8:30am - 9:30am Men's Breakfast at Brick & Mortar 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	30 No Quilters 9:00am TOPs	31 1:00pm - 3:00pm & 6:00pm - 8:00pm W/C Classes- Fellowship Hall 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group		

Prayer List

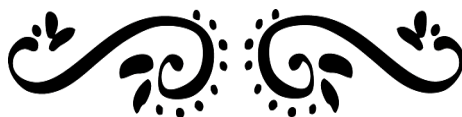
*PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE
NEEDING STRENGTH, GUIDANCE AND HEALING:*

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

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND:

Sangsau Tran

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



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.



TINY TEAMWORK

The focused teamwork of ants is astounding! How can we learn from them?

Directions: Answer the clues. Then write the words in order below to complete Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV.

- This 6-legged arthropod can carry 20 times its own weight. _____
- A sleepy, sloth-like and slow-moving person. _____
- Having deep understanding and sound judgment. _____
- A person in charge of military troops. _____
- A person in authority. _____
- The season when daylight hours are longest. _____
- A substance you eat for nutrition. _____
- When farmers reap the rewards of hard work. _____



Go to the _____, you _____;

consider its ways and be _____!

It has no _____, no overseer or _____,

yet it stores its provisions in _____

and gathers its _____ at _____.



Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV



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2025

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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