

FAITH at WORK

September 2025

*"Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth,
and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I will wait all day long." Psalm 25:4-5*

To God's beloved at Faith,

May God's ways guide you in peace, hope and love as we continue to move into the new horizon the Spirit is leading.

Faith Lutheran has been in transition for 18 months. The reality is that Faith, along with the whole Church has been in transition for much longer. And, as I look over the long, wonderous history of the followers of Jesus, the reality is that transition has been the norm all along. Learning to pivot, adapt, change, evolve, etc, has been how the Spirit has been leading and guiding us.

Have you ever been on a road and seen what looked like a tree in the road, for a long time, and then when you came closer discovered the road turned a different way? Or you see the road ahead but don't realize that it is not the way to your destination, but heads somewhere else?

During these 18 months you have done good work to listen, discuss, consider, pray over, and wonder what could be next for Faith Lutheran. The Spirit has been leading, and we thought we knew the direction to head, and proceeded, only to discover on the way that the Spirit of the Holy One reveals another way forward to new horizons in ministry and faith. Why does this surprise us? I laugh because, I ask myself, "How many times have I thought the best way forward in my own life was to do this and that? And then discover the Lord has been leading me toward a different possibility.

One of those times was when I sensed God's call to ministry. I went to seminary as a grad student to get my Master's so that I could do more work as a lay person within the church. After taking one class a semester for three semesters, as I was working too, God cornered me at a friend's ordination. While waiting for the service to start I heard a quiet voice in my soul asking me over and over, "Just say yes, Dorthy." In my heart I kept saying "no." Then I heard, "Say yes, because I will take care of the rest. I will take care of you. Say yes to me." Well, with tears, and a stepping out in faith, I said "yes" to God's call. The path before me veered in a different direction. I have never regretted saying "yes" to God's call, though at times I have questioned what God is up. Really, God? What are you thinking? Hahaha!

So, what shall we do when God's path isn't heading in the direction we thought we needed to go? We pivot, adapt, change, evolve, etc. Look at the stories of the disciples Jesus called to follow him. They probably thought they would follow him around Galilee and the countryside, soaking up his teaching, witnessing his miracles, supporting his work. They left their work in fishing, taxation, political activism, and

Faith Lutheran Church

930 Queen Ave SW, Albany OR 97321

email: faithalbany@proaxis.com

website: www.faithalbany.org

Phone: (541) 928-7660



whatever else. Then after his death and resurrection, Jesus sends them out into the world to continue² his work of telling the good news of God's grace and mercy. They began to build onto the Kingdom of God, begun with Abraham and Sarah, to include all people, establishing faith communities all over the known world.

The work they began pivoted, adapted, changed, evolved, etc. as it needed to, in order to proclaim the wondrous good news of God in Christ Jesus. Why would it be any different for us now? Well, because we have our own ideas of what we think "church" should be that are not in sync with God's will and plans. The path gets windy and messy, and we need to be watching and waiting and walking until it is clear the path we are on is leading to a different path. The Spirit of God will continue to reveal to us the possibilities. Can we pivot, adapt, change, evolve, etc?

Psalm 25 is just what we need to realign our vision. We wait and watch for God's invitation. Right now, it looks like merger/blending is not the way before Faith and Good Shepherd communities. The path forward is pivoting, adapting, changing, evolving, etc toward sharing ministry for the sake of the good news. Can you do this? I think you can. Because we are seeking God's path, God's way, not our own.

Let us follow in God's paths, with humility, hope, and curiosity.

Pr Dorothy+

From Church Council

Hello Brothers and Sisters of Faith,

Wow where did the summer go, already heading into September.

The 75th Celebration was a wonderful event we had about 92 for the Saturday night dinner. It was great to see so many people there that had something to do with Faith over the years. Many people have told me they had a great time at the event and the Service on Sunday. Thank you to everyone who helped out in one way or another and to everyone who came and celebrated.

Update on blending, the Executive Councils had a joint meeting on Wednesday August 27 and had very good discussion on what would be the best direction at this time. We have come up with a plan that I think everyone will be happy with. It is known as a 2 Point church. What this is, is that we will each worship in our current church each Sunday with Pastor Cindy doing a service at each church. One or both of will have adjust our service time most likely. We would probably do a combined service in months with 5 Sundays. So we will continue as Faith Lutheran Church and we will contract with Pastor Cindy through Good Shepard to be our Pastor. We will have a Shared Mission for both churches in order to have a better presence in the community. We will develop co-op working committees to better serve both churches. We will have a review of the process every 12 months to see how we are doing. There will be more details as we move forward and I am hoping to have meeting after service on September 14 to see how the congregation thinks about this and answer questions. I know you all will have questions, but the essence of it is we will still be Faith Lutheran Church. Please let me know if you have questions (as I am sure you will) I will happy to answer what I can for you.

Mary and I have a lot of travel in September but I will be around for a couple of the Sundays.

Blessings,

Gordy Gamet

September Days

O month of fairer, rarer days
 Than Summer's best have been;
 When skies at noon are burnished blue,
 And winds at evening keen;
 When tangled, tardy-blooming things
 From wild waste places peer,
 And drooping golden grain-heads tell
 That harvest-time is near.

Though Autumn tints amid the green
 Are gleaming, here and there,
 And spicy Autumn odors float
 Like incense on the air,
 And sounds we mark as Autumn's own
 Her nearing steps betray,
 In gracious mood she seems to stand
 And bid the Summer stay.

Though 'neath the trees, with fallen leaves
 The sward be lightly strown,
 And nests deserted tell the tale
 Of summer bird-folk flown;
 Though white with frost the lowlands lie
 When lifts the morning haze,
 Still there's a charm in every hour
 Of sweet September days.

by Helen L. Smith



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 8/28/25.

Undesignated Income: \$4,153.26
 Budgeted Undesignated Income: \$5,416.66
 Net Undesignated Income: (\$1,263.40)
 Total Expenses: \$5,164.61
 Total Net Income: \$4,108.65

Church Announcements and Events

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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!

September 2, 16 & 30 at Sweetwaters — September 9 & 23 at Brick & Mortar

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.

Blending for Mission

As you've already read from the Council President's message FLC is looking to move to a 2-point church with Good Shepherd. Personally I think it sounds like a great idea! We can maintain our community and customs at Faith while also doing mission work with GSLC. It gives us more time to work together and get to know each other before we decide where we are headed. I'm remembering of all the mission work we used to do – Relay for Life, Vacation Bible School, Thanksgiving fundraising dinner, and it reminds me how loving and giving we are as a church. Some of these activities could possibly happen again with the participation with Good Shepherd.

What mission would YOU like to see come back to life? Or do you have something else you would like to see FLC get involved with? Maybe something with the nearby schools? How about a warming and cooling center? Our own community dinner? This kind of partnership can have a tremendous effect in our community and really, isn't that what Jesus is asking us to do?

Please share your thoughts with Pastor or anyone on the council.

Mary Sabatka Gamet



September 2025 Worship Schedule

September 7	10:30am	Worship
September 14	10:30am	Worship
September 21	10:30am	Worship
September 28	10:00am	Worship at GSLC

Worship Leaders Team 2025

September	7	14	21	28
Assisting Ministers	Janice	George	Shirley	N/A
Altar Prep	George	Jon A.	George	N/A
Ushers	Dick	Dick	Dick	N/A
Sound Technicians	Terry	Gordy	John B.	N/A

September

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Church Office Closed Labor Day 7:00pm Boy Scouts	2 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	3 9:00am Quilters & TOPs	4 Janitorial Service 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	5 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	6
7 ELCA "Gods Work, Our Hands" Sunday 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming with Pr. Dorothy Nielsen	8 7:00pm Boy Scouts	9 1:30pm Mary Martha Circle 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	10 9:00am Quilters & TOPs 12:00pm Council Meeting	11 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	12 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	13
14 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming with Pr. Dorothy Nielsen 11:30am Congregational Communication Meeting	15 7:00pm Boy Scouts	16 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	17 9:00am Quilters & TOPs	18 Janitorial Service 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	19 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	20 9:00am Circle of Friends (Fellowship Hall)
21 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming with Pr. Dorothy Nielsen 11:15am Fellowship Meeting	22 7:00pm Boy Scouts	23 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	24 9:00am Quilters & TOPs	25 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	26 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	27
28 10:00am - 11:00am Worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	29 7:00pm Boy Scouts	30 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring				

Annual School Supply Drive

A special thank you to all who participated in the Annual School Supply Drive. The goal for collecting enough supplies to fill 75 backpacks was met, and then some. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and will make a real difference. Thank you!

Prayer List

REMEMBER IN PRAYER those needing strength, guidance & healing.

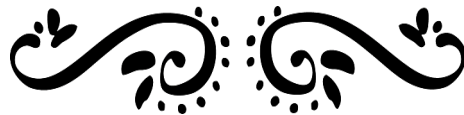
Tim Berg	Vanessa Munro	Keith Baarsch
Noah Holman	Jim Preston	Jeannette Thorpe
Gigi Douglas	Virginia	Peggy Preston
John Busher	Gabriel	Catherine Baarsch
Julie Shaw	Frank Perry	Nancy George
Olivia Hunter	David	Grace Chadwick
Nicholas Glass	Mitchell Mueller	
Chuck	Monica Johnson	

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND:

Sangsau Tran, Karen Glenn, Melba Wright, Margaret Rowland

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

Elaine Wogomon and family on the passing of her brother, Billy Tamblin















A Prayer for Every Day

Almighty and Everlasting God, grant me the fortitude to live by the example set by Jesus and to mark my life by a dependence on You. You restore my soul by the indwelling of Your Spirit. Let my actions and decisions reflect Your love onto everyone I meet. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

Use the list of names to identify each thankful Bible character.
Then use the symbol code to complete Psalm 79:13, NKJV.

NAMES: Elijah, Naaman, Mary & Martha, paralyzed man,
Jairus, Moses, Rahab, Hannah

 Led his people through the Red Sea.	 Jericho fell, but she and her family were saved.	 Her prayer was heard and she gave her son to God.
	 Ravens brought him food.	 Cured of his leprosy, he worshiped God.
 Their brother was raised from the dead.	 Lowered through a roof, Jesus healed him.	 Jesus brought his daughter back to life.
		

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WE W _ LL S _ W F _ Y _ ISE

_ LL GENE _ NS. Psalm 79:13, NKJV



**Faith Lutheran
Church**

**930 Queen Ave
SW
Albany Oregon
97321**

541-928-7660

faithalbany.org

**faithalbany@
proaxis.com**

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2025

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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930 Queen Ave SW
Albany, OR 97321