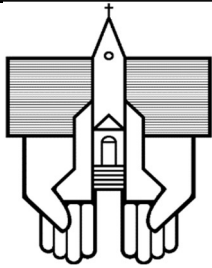


SEPTEMBER

2021



Reach Out

Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church

Handle With Care

Dear People of Faith,

*"I was glad when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the LORD!'"*

(Psalm 122)

When I was a child growing up at Trinity Lutheran Church, our Sunday school had a collection of songs we would sing during opening programs or as grace before snacks. One that I remember so well was based on Psalm 122—specifically, the verse quoted above. It was a joyful song about going to worship. Imagine a bunch of high-pitched, eager children's voices singing, *"I was glad, I was glad, I was glad, when my friend said, 'Now let's all go the church...'"* It was lilting and beautiful. And, it was profoundly true.

Dear people of Faith, this song is ringing in my ears as we edge close to September, with a new year of faith formation about to begin and (dare I say it?) Christmas drawing ever nearer. While this will not be a carbon copy of the Fall of 2019, neither will it be like 2020. I am SO glad that we continue to take steps toward fuller gathering. It is exciting and, also, a little nerve-racking.

As we approach a new year of Sunday school and Coffee in the Corner, I am reminded of my feelings as a small child attending the first day of Sunday school. Since my congregation drew people from many different towns, I had not seen my church friends for several months. As a kid, I found transitions challenging, and I can still feel the combination of trepidation and excitement driving the last days of August. But I need not have feared. The kind adult leaders had planned well to help everyone connect quickly with comfort and care. They used a simple device known as...wait for it...the NAME TAG. Those pieces of oak-tag strung with yarn and decorated with stickers provided a simple way of making sure that no one was forgotten. We were able to get reacquainted and catch up on each others' summer exploits without a snag. This took away our fear of embarrassment if we forgot a classmate's name or were uncomfortable asking the name of someone new. It helped us reform our vibrant community and eased the way in for new friends.

Here at Faith, we want to continue our "re-gathering" with care and gladness. During the month of September, we are asking everyone to make and wear a name tag when coming in for worship and education on Sunday mornings. Our hope is that this will help us connect with visitors and reconnect with one another as the fog continues to lift from our recall-impaired "COVID brains," and we greet folks we may not have seen in quite some time. Also,

(Continued on next page)

Handle With Care *(continued from previous page)*

to include all in our regathering at every step to come, we ask folks worshipping online to share your names in the comments, giving us all gladness in our togetherness.

Along with our siblings in faith communities around the world, we continue a journey of discovering what our life together will look like as (we pray!) the pandemic slowly recedes. There will be glad gatherings. There will be adjustments as knowledge of best safety practices continues to grow. Some folks' health may require them to worship online for some time, and some who come in person may choose to maintain more physical distance than others. Time (and the variants) may only tell how long we will need to remain masked in order to sing indoors, or how other safety measures may change. Through it all, may we handle ourselves and one another with care, concerning ourselves not just with our own personal wellbeing but with the comfort and health of others. As Paul wrote, *"For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become servants to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandments, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"*

In Christ,
Pastor Jill



Ever see a familiar face at Faith and just can't remember their name? It happens to all of us! As Pastor Jill mentioned in her article, during the month of September, we will have "Name Tag Sunday," where we will ask everyone in attendance to wear a name tag which will be available at the Usher's Table.

We want to make sure that Faith folks who are home-bound or otherwise unable to attend worship are included in the meal. We ask you to inform the church office of your desire to have Communion brought to you, as well as the number of people in your household who would like to receive. We will strive to bring Holy Communion to you as frequently as we can, ideally not less than once per month. Please reach out to Pastor Jill (pastorcollict@verizon.net) with any questions or concerns about this or any other pastoral matter. Also, if you know of someone who might need home communion or other outreach, let Pastor Jill know.





Congratulations and God's blessings to Jeremy and Colleen Sporn on the birth of their daughter, Mackenzie Dee, on August 8, weighing 9 lb. 12 oz. and measuring 21". Tyler and Conner are very excited to have a little sister!



On August 29, Madison Campbell received her First Holy Communion. We rejoice as she joins the baptized of all places and eras in eating the Bread of Life and drinking the Cup of Salvation. May Christ abide in her, and she in Christ.



September 12 is Rally Day! Join us at 10:30 AM as we gather so children and parents can meet our teachers and Sunday School staff, sing some songs, and begin the Sunday School year.

Our current plan is that we will meet in person on Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM, following CDC guidelines. We will continue to monitor reports from the Somerset County Department of Health and will keep parents updated if anything changes.

Confirmation Orientation for students and their parents will be at 10:30 AM on Sunday, September 19, in person. Classes will continue to be held on Sunday mornings after worship, in person (pandemic conditions permitting). Look for an email with more details about this year's program and about Confirmation Sunday on October 31—Reformation Day.



Adult Forum will resume on Sunday, September 26, at 10:30 AM. We will begin the year with a series called, "Making Sense of Scripture."



The Worship & Music Committee would like to thank the worship assistants and volunteers who faithfully prepare and lead worship. We are especially grateful for your time and talents as we continue to offer worship outdoors, in the sanctuary, and livestream on Facebook.



ALTAR GUILD

We are looking for volunteers to serve on Altar Guild. This involves preparing the altar for Holy Communion and cleaning up after worship. Please contact the church office if you are interested in helping out or would like more information.



Coming Soon!

The Bell Choir will rehearse on Sundays at 5:00 PM in the rear narthex and use safety practices such as wearing a mask and physical distancing. The schedule and dates will be determined by interest and availability. If you are interested in ringing handbells, please contact Becky at becky@majewski.com.



Thursday, September 9 7:30 PM

Join Becky in the sanctuary for "Hymns of Hope" where you may sing along with, listen to or meditate on hymns from our ELW.

GivePlus app users – "Stay Tuned"

The GivePlus mobile app will be changing at the end of September to Vanco Mobile. Vanco is the company that handles all of our electronic giving tools. The information we have so far predicts the transition to be easy for people using the app and those behind the scenes. Login information will be transferred over to the new system and it should be available for us to use by the beginning of September. More information to come!



News from Re-Entry!

Thank you for completing the recent Re-Entry Survey. We wanted to communicate a few items we learned from the survey.

- The vast majority of those that responded are vaccinated (90%+)
- Most members are comfortable attending indoor and outdoor services
- We have a few members who are only comfortable with indoor services and other members who are only comfortable with outdoor services



While there is comfort that most members are vaccinated, the Re-Entry committee continues to recommend that masks be required for indoor service which is in line with current CDC recommendations. We meet monthly to assess our current procedures and update as appropriate. We welcome those interested in joining our meetings which are noted on Faith's calendar.



Our annual Crop Walk will be held on Sunday October 17 at Harlingen Reformed Church with registration starting at 1:30 PM and the walk at 2 PM. Up to ten churches from South Somerset County are expected to participate to raise money for Church World Service national and international programs. One quarter of the funds collected will go to local agencies to combat hunger, the Food Bank of Somerset County and SHiP. We are also

collecting tuna fish cans or other nonperishable food items for the food bank. Please volunteer to walk and solicit contributions for this fine cause. Since no Crop Walk supplies are available this year, please use your own forms and envelopes. Please give generously, preferably online (see link below). You may also contribute to a walker or place your offering in the collection plate in an envelope marked Crop Walk. Please make checks payable to Church World Service or to Crop Walk.

CROP WALK ONLINE DONATIONS

(Less handling and avoids check cashing delay)

Click on the link below which will take you to Faith's page, where you can fill out the form to donate:

[CROP Hunger Walk - Faith Lutheran Church](#)



If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, please see the Flower Chart available at both indoor and outdoor worship services or you can contact the church office to reserve a date. The cost is \$20 per arrangement and you may place your payment in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. If you pay by check, please write "altar flowers" on the memo line.

If paying with cash, please write your name and "altar flowers" on the outside of your envelope. ***If taking the flowers home after worship, please return the vase to the church after use.***

Hospital Stays/Prayer List Updates

Please notify the church office with any additions, deletions or changes to our prayer concerns or when you or someone you love is hospitalized (also when you or your loved one is released from the hospital).

Need or want to talk with the Pastor?

Please call the church office at (908) 369-3201 or you may email Pastor Jill at pastorcollict@verizon.net.



Please keep in your prayers...

+ Megan Barlow	+ Martin Boer	+ Lorraine Capobianco
+ Betty Hannum	+ Rudy Harding	+ Tara Joswick
+ Christine Kennette	+ Pastor Zimmemann	+ Frank Schmitz
+ Jonathan Stein	+ Carol Suiter	+ Andrew Wishnow



*Our sympathies and prayers are offered
for the family and friends of:*

John Ambrose (Jean Lapotasky's brother-in-law)
Jack Gennari (Barbara Turck's uncle)
Shardae Rodriguez (Carol Jones' stepniece)



9/1	Matthew Yanuzzelli	9/21	Rudy Harding Skyla Metcalfe
9/3	Vinay Ravinder Dale Tyson	9/22	Megan Advani Jackson Karsay
9/5	Erynn Murray	9/23	Victoria Christopulos Matthew Majewski
9/8	Joseph Cseh Paul Wargo	9/24	Betty Hannum
9/9	Kyle Wargo	9/26	Kaylin Devchand
9/13	Emily Majewski Matthew Silady	9/27	Peter Christopulos Dorothy Evans
9/14	Pinky Nielsen	9/28	Mason Bunting Jan Ryba Barbara Turck Reina Tyson
9/17	Mike Pfau Tom Westhusin	9/29	Annmarie Dankers Betty Pfau Colleen Sporn
9/20	Brianna Reimann		



**Faith Lutheran Church
Operating Fund
Statement of Revenues and Expenses
For the two months ending July 31, 2021**

	Approved <u>Budget</u>	Year to Date <u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Revenue			
Envelopes	\$ 239,049	38,692	40,481
Other ¹	<u>37,145</u>	<u>1,507</u>	<u>578</u>
Total Revenue	<u>276,194</u>	<u>40,199</u>	<u>41,059</u>
Expenses			
Total Mutual Ministry	209,898	37,937	36,686
Total Worship & Music	4,460	618	1,202
Total Property Maintenance	54,827	10,410	9,976
Total Christian Education	3,050	350	180
Total Youth	1,200	83	83
Total Evangelism	1,985	172	70
Total Social Ministry	25,410	4,235	4,222
Total Finance	41,989	6,910	6,910
Total Stewardship	200	--	--
Capital Improvement Fund	5,000	--	--
Equipment Fund	<u> --</u>	<u> --</u>	<u> --</u>
Total Expenses	<u>348,019</u>	<u>60,715</u>	<u>59,329</u>
Income (Loss) Before Budget Gap	(71,825)	(20,516)	(18,270)
Budget Gap	71,825	20,516	--
Income (Loss)	\$ <u> 0</u>	<u> 0</u>	<u>(18,270)</u>

¹PPP/ERC of \$24,673 included

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>All worship services will be live-streamed on Faith's Facebook page</i></p> <p>Green = Held via Faith's Zoom account Blue = Facebook Purple = Other Zoom</p>			<p>1 7:15 Youth Committee Meeting</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 ShiP's Galley 9:00 Silver Foxes</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 15th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Worship (Outdoor) Blessing of Backpacks 10:15 Fellowship</p>	<p>6 Church Office Closed 6:00 Jr. Raiders</p>	<p>7 10:30 Staff Meeting 7:15 Christian Ed Committee Meeting</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 7:00 Girl Scout Troop 60126 7:30 Hymns of Hope</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 16th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Worship (Outdoor) Sibilia Baptism Installation of Sunday School Staff 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Rally Day</p>	<p>13 10:30 Staff Meeting 6:00 Jr. Raiders 7:15 Re-Entry Committee Meeting</p>	<p>14 7:00 Property Committee Meeting 7:15 Evangelism Committee Meeting</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 6:30 Finance Committee Meeting</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 17th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Worship (Indoor) 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Confirmation Class Orientation Sunday School</p>	<p>20 10:30 Staff Meeting 6:00 Jr. Raiders 7:15 Worship & Music Committee Meeting</p>	<p>21 7:15 Congregation Council Meeting</p>	<p>22 <i>Articles for October Reach Out Due</i></p>	<p>23 7:00 Girl Scout Troop 60126</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 18th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Worship (Outdoor) Carri Baptism Installation of Council 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Adult Forum Confirmation Class Sunday School</p>	<p>27 10:30 Staff Meeting 6:00 Jr. Raiders 7:30 Long Range Planning Committee Meeting</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>		