



FAITH ALIVE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMC

From Pastor's Heart

On Sunday October 25, 2026, we will be celebrating the Reformation. As with last year's celebration we will once again have a Polka service. So therefore, since we will be celebrating Reformation, I thought that I would talk about the Reformation and what it all means.

On October 31, 1517, a young Roman Catholic priest and professor of theology at Wittenburg University named Martin Luther used a hammer to drive a few nails into a document that changed history. It was All Hallows Eve (October 31), the night before the major church festival of All Saint's Day (November 1), and crowds would be present in town for both the celebration and worship. Luther nailed his document to the castle door because it was used like a town bulletin board, which when we think about it was the social media of the day. Now by nailing the writing on the door, Martin was asking for it to be read and discussed openly, which means that he wanted to have a debate about what he had written.

Now this kind of public posting wasn't unusual. What was different, though, was that Martin was naming issues within the church that he felt needed to be talked about. In general, most of what he wrote had to do with the topic of forgiveness. Such as how the church delivered forgiveness to repentant sinners; how the non-Biblical idea of purgatory was used to burden

Christian consciences; and how the church was selling indulgences (receipts for "purchasing" forgiveness). Now, on top of everything, Martin "called out" the pope for not correcting these abuses within the church.

As we all should know, this document became known as Luther's "95 Theses." And, thanks to the invention of the moveable-type printing press in 1439/1440, within the matter of a few weeks these Theses were being read across Germany. The conversation Luther wanted was beginning, but in a more dramatic way than he had ever envisioned. Again, Luther's intention was to start a debate, based on the Word of God, to help the church return, in other words to be re-formed, to what the Bible said. But what began instead was nothing short of a revolution.

Now many of us have heard the phrase, "The Lord works in mysterious ways." Therefore, it is remarkable how God puts people in places and in times to do his work. Now for those that don't know, Martin's father wanted him to become a lawyer, but instead God caused things to happen where Luther entered the monastery instead of continuing his studies in law. We also need to understand that where Luther wanted to be just a simple monk, God blessed him with incredible intellect so that he eventually entered into academic/theological study. Which means that Luther would then seek out a Greek scholar to learn how to read the

New Testament in Greek, which was the language used to write the New Testament.

We also need to understand that Luther grew up being taught that God's sense of justice would be imparted on the sinner as wrath. Therefore, the sinner was then left to his or her own merits to try to appease God's wrath through giving money, a life dedicated to church work (part of the reason Luther became a monk), or a life of extra-ordinary faithfulness. But as he studied Ephesians, Galatians, and Romans, Luther began to realize that God's wrath was already imparted on his Son, Jesus Christ, who took the sinner's place at the cross. Which then resulted in Christ's righteousness being shown in forgiving people fully and freely because of God's mercy received through faith in Jesus and not because of people's holiness.

Because of this understanding Luther then began teaching and preaching grace alone, faith alone, Christ alone, Scripture alone and that forgiveness is a full and free gift of God. Which means that God alone does all of the work: sending his Son to die; raising Jesus to show us that He, the Heavenly Father, accepted His Son's sacrifice; giving us The Holy Spirit who creates faith in Jesus; and saving people by grace through faith in Jesus, who is our Lord and Savior. Again, we humans have no active part in the salvation work of God, other than being the recipients of his mercy and grace. The Church,

then, is called to announce and deliver this good news fully and freely to repentant sinners, and is not to be bartered, sold, or traded, but announced boldly and clearly that our sins are forgiven for Christ's sake. This is what makes the Christian Church unique among all other organizations, it gives away for free the very thing it offers. It gives away Jesus' Word, his gifts, and his promises.

This year marks the 509th anniversary of the Reformation. Again, we'll celebrate it on Sunday, October 25, 2026. We will give thanks to God for the

gift that he gave to the church in the man, Martin Luther, while maintaining the same focus Luther sought to reform. That is that we are saved by grace alone (Sola Gratia), through faith alone (Sola Fide), in Christ alone (Solus Christus), revealed in Scripture alone (Sola Scriptura) as we give all glory to God alone (Soli Deo Gloria). These five Latin phrases are referred to as the Five Solas of the Reformation and we as Lutheran Christians hold so near and dear to our hearts.

Now, as fall begins, we know that it will bring cooler weather, especially after the very warm

summer that we have had. So therefore, I ask that you make this a new season in your life as well. Return to worship. Return to Sunday school and/or Bible Study. Return to daily Bible reading, it would make Luther proud! Return to the Lord's House on Sundays for this is where God is and He is ready to deliver his good and perfect gifts to you. God blessings to each and every one of you.

See you in Church,

Pastor Alsen



Visit our website:
www.FaithLutheranGF.com
for our up-to-date Church Calendar.



October Special Offerings

First Sunday of the Month

Family Promise

Third Sunday of the Month

CASA-CAN



Reformation Sunday
Bring a friend(s) to church!
We're having special Polka
Music for the service.
Then we'll have our
German Dinner to follow
hosted by Congregational
Life Team.

Reformation Sunday, October 25

From My Student in Need

I wanted to personally thank you for your generous support of the My Student in Need projects. Your donation of \$1,152.43 will significantly improve the lives of those in need within our community. Your kindness and generosity are deeply appreciated and will help us

"Keep the Doors Open and the Good Going."

Your kindness truly makes a difference.

Warm regards,
Pattie Johnson

Men of Faith

Thank you so much! The card you sent was beautiful! And for the donation of \$1,000.

Thank you, Men of Faith!

Leesha Ford,
Board Chair, Toby's House Crisis Nursery

Dear Faith Lutheran Church,

On behalf of Alliance for Youth, I am writing to express our deepest gratitude for your incredibly generous donation (\$1,152.63). Your support is instrumental in our mission to empower and uplift vulnerable youth and families in our community, as we are truly thankful for your commitment to making a positive impact.

With Heartfelt Appreciation,

Kristy Pontet-Stroop
Executive Director, Alliance for Youth

Dear Faith Lutheran Church,

We are truly blessed by your partnership in mission. Your prayers and support are helping to ensure that all people know that God speaks their language and hears their prayers. We praise and thank God for how He moves through His people and for your passion for sharing His Word.

God's Peace,
Lutheran Bible Translators

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

and info sheets are set up in the narthex for you to pick up. Pray for the child who will receive your box as you fill it full of toys, school supplies and perhaps a photo of you/your family and a note of encouragement. Please include in your box, a check for \$10 for S&H made out to "Samaritan's Purse" with "Operation Christmas Child" on the memo line. These gifts are an expression of God's love and are shipped to countries around the world. YOU can help spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth!

Can we top last year's total of 94 completed boxes? Please return your filled boxes ON or BEFORE Sunday, November 22nd.

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project



**RETURN YOUR
BOXES ON
OR BEFORE
NOVEMBER 22!**



GREETINGS FROM THE KEYBOARD!

Happy October Faith family! Every time I think of October, my thoughts go to Halloween—then to scary music—then to Phantom of the Opera—then to Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa, AZ!

My oldest sister, Louann, asked us siblings to help take care of Mom because she had to go back to work. So the second oldest sister, Louise and I said we would. When I went down to help take care of my mother for a month (which was truly a blessing for me especially having had that special time together before she passed), I received a double blessing getting to really know Louise! God orchestrated this special time for me with her and Mom, for which I am extremely grateful!

Anyway, it was towards the latter part of my stay when Rick was coming down to get me to go home. Mom had been placed in a beautiful hospice house and the three of us girls cleaned out the house so it could get prepared to resell. Louann said she had a special surprise for me. We all went out to the Organ Stop Pizza but she didn't tell me what I would see and hear!

I was pretty sad by this point—leaving while knowing that this probably was the last time I would see Mom this side of Heaven, plus leaving my sisters whom I bonded with like never before! We ordered our pizza and walked into the dining area which was HUGE. We got to our table and I began looking around. There was a vast variety

of instruments, pipes, and other things all around the room. All of a sudden I heard a pipe organ and at the front of the room a huge organ began to rise up from the floor rotating slowly.

My mouth dropped as it came up producing all these beautiful majestic sounds that filled the room! I quit eating and just stared at this humongous instrument that a man was playing. There were “request slips” on the tables to take up to him to play. Of course I requested PHANTOM OF THE OPERA— which he said was the most requested song! Go figure! 🐱 🎹

As he played the music, I stayed close by just to watch him play. At the same time looking around the room at the vast assortment of instruments that he programmed the console to add in to it. When he took a break he came out to talk with us. He asked if I play piano and/or organ since I stayed up there to watch. I said yes and we had a wonderful conversation.

As he was getting ready to go up for the next set he asked me if I wanted to play a little! My sisters chuckled as I said with dropped jaw and wide eyes YES!

I sat on the bench with him and timidly began playing the postlude I love playing on “my pipe organ back home”. He was adjusting the different presets adding so much to the piece that I couldn't play anymore because I was looking at everything he had added —instruments as well as animated marionettes and such. I slid off the bench and he continued

playing because he knew the music I had played.

When he finished playing I thanked him with excitement I just can't explain. He gave me a hug and said to come back soon and we could play together again.

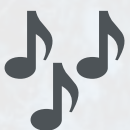
Walking back to my sisters I was crying for a vast number of reasons while thanking God for this overwhelming adventure that only He could orchestrate.

This was 32+ years ago and it remains in my heart and memory! Even in the midst of sorrow, God was with me and will ALWAYS BE! He is a loving God and walks with all who believe in Him. Whatever your life has been, is or will be—God is right there. I thank Him for giving me this music ability (remember HE plays the good stuff while I play the boo-boos!) to praise His glory in all things of life. You have your own God given ability as well, as you do it all to the glory of God.

I'm feeling SO filled with excitement from the Holy Spirit that I'm able to share these precious God given moments. Remember that you have them as well. I'm thankful for you all my Faith Family.

Musically in Christ,
Elaine

P.S. Go to ORGAN STOP PIZZA in Mesa, AZ WEBSITE to see the history and pictures of this majestic instrument and all of its assorted features. Enjoy!



October News from Education Team/Youth and Family

As the crisp autumn air settles in and the leaves turn to shades of gold and red, we are reminded of God's beautiful design in every season – including this one in our lives and ministry. October is a month of gratitude, growth, and gathering, and we're excited to share what's been happening and going to be coming up.

Rally Sunday, September 13th, was so much fun! The bounce house we rented from Let's Bounce was a huge hit with the kids! I highly recommend Let's Bounce if you're ever in need of inflatable play rentals. They were amazing to work with from start to finish!

TRUNK OR TREAT will take place on **Saturday, October 31st from 5 to 7 pm.**

We are looking for volunteers to help make this a special evening for our church family and community. There are several ways you can help serve.

TRUNKS: Please consider signing up to have your decorated, family-friendly "trunk" at the church and helping pass out treats to the kids. There is a contest to see which trunk is the best of show. The winner will get the honor of having the traveling trophy for the year. Set up for trunks will start at 4 pm.

Volunteers will be needed to help inside and outside.

SET-UP TEAM: We are looking for volunteers to help us get everything ready before the event is from **3 – 5 pm.**

EVENT VOLUNTEERS: Help with activities, welcome families, run candy to the trunks during the event, assist guests, and make sure everyone has a great time from **5 – 7 pm.**

CLEAN-UP TEAM: Help us

clean up and leave everything ready for the next day at the church from **7 – 8 pm.**

New this year, PRAYER WARRIORS are needed to serve at a prayer station during the event. They will be available to pray with anyone who requests prayer and help create a welcoming, encouraging space for all.

And, of course, **lots of donations of candy and Christian trinkets** are also needed. Please bring donations to the church.

Whether you can give an hour, decorate a trunk, serve before or during the event, donate candy or trinkets, or pray with others, we would love to have you be part of it.

Faith Friends Needed! Confirmation and Sunday School classes have begun on Sundays, and we are excited to welcome our new confirmands as they continue growing in their faith. We are looking for **volunteers to serve as Faith Friends** to our new confirmands. A Faith friend is someone who offers encouragement, support, and prayer to our young people secretly as they grow in their relationship with God and learn more about their faith. If you would like to volunteer or would like more information, please contact me. I would love to talk

about it with you. Thank you for helping us walk alongside our young people in faith!

Coming up in **November**, we will be hosting a **Family Movie Matinee** featuring **"David."** Bring the whole family and join us for an afternoon of fellowship, fun and a great movie together. **More details are coming soon.**

Volunteers are always needed to help with youth and family activities and programs. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, whether it be with Sunday School, Confirmation, High School Youth, or family events, please get in touch with me at (406) 590-1061 or the church office. We would love to have your help.

The Education Team meeting will be on Wednesday, October 14th, at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

A Word of Encouragement

Autumn reminds us that change can be beautiful. In the same way, God is always at work shaping our hearts and helping good fruit grow in us when we stay rooted in Him – whether we are in the classroom, at work, at home, or gathered with our church family.

God's blessings to you all,

Annette Hocker,
Youth and Family Coordinator



October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Special Member's Meeting Vote on Proposed Constitution and Bylaws Sunday, October 25th Following German Dinner						
4 8:30 am Bible Study 9:30 am Worship Offering: Family Promise 11 am 75th Planning 11 am Kids SS 11 am Youth Group	5	6 10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Bell Choir 5:30 pm Music/Worship 6:30 pm Choir Practice	7 10:30 am Bible Study 1:15 pm Grief Share 6 pm Men of Faith 6 pm Praise Team	1 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9 am Love Day Quilters	2 Noon Evangelism Team Meeting	3
11 8:30 am Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 11 am Pastor Appreciation 11 am Kids SS 11 am Youth Group 11:30 am Confirmation 3 pm Women's Bible Study	12	13 10 am Staff Meeting 11:30 am Soulo Sisters 5:30 pm Bell Choir 5:30 pm Personnel 6:30 pm Choir Practice	14 9 am Finance Meeting 10:30 am Bible Study 1:15 pm Grief Share 4 pm Property Team 6 pm Youth Ed Team 6 pm Praise Team	15 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 2 pm Biblical Citizenship Class	16	17 Noon Celebration of Life for Harry Grosvold
18 8:30 am Bible Study 9:30 am Worship Offering: CASA-CAN 11 am Constitution Info 11 am Kids SS 11:30 am Confirmation	19	20 10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Bell Choir 5:30 pm Council Meeting 6:30 pm Choir Practice	21 10:30 am Bible Study 1:15 pm Grief Share 6 pm Praise Team	22 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 2 pm Biblical Citizenship Class	23	24 Reformation Set Up
25 Reformation Sunday 8:30 am Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 11 am German Dinner 11:30 am Special Congregational Meeting	26 FISH	27 10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Choir Practice	28 10:30 am Bible Study 1:15 pm Grief Share 6 pm Praise Team	29 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 2 pm Biblical Citizenship Class	30 	31 5-7 pm Trunk or Treat



Love Day Quilters News

The days are getting shorter and cooler so we will soon be giving away a year's worth of the quilts we have assembled. We are dedicated to putting quilts together so we can give them to those in need, but there are fewer of us now so we invite the women of Faith to join us and-or invite their friends who might like to participate. We simply layer a backing, batting, and a premade quilt top; then tie them together with yarn and pin the edges together. Then we pass them to our machine stitchers to finish. We stop for treats and friendships blossom!

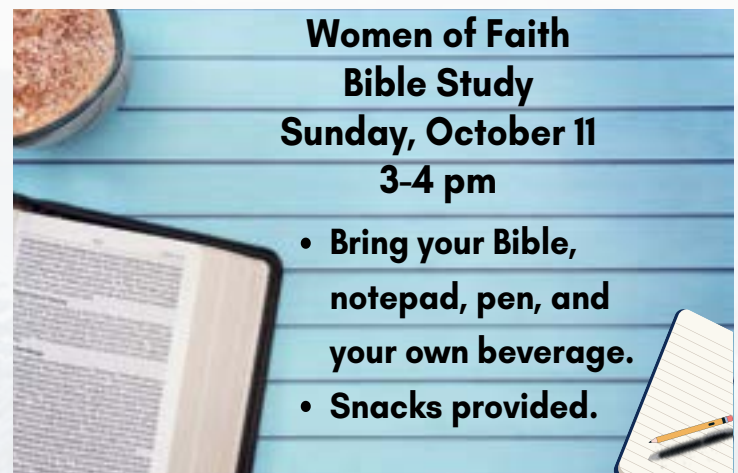
Thank you, Dixie, for the delicious strawberry shortcake last month. - Augie Records

Women of Faith Bible Study

meets the second Sunday of each month. Currently we are in the Epistle of 1 John. October 11th we will look at 1 John 3:4-23.

Come join the discussion.

Thank you to Pat Strand for bringing treats for the group.



SOULO SISTERS



October 13th at 11:30
at El Comedor
RSVP Please

Who Are the Soulo Sisters?

If you are widowed or single please join us for Soulo Sisters. We meet for lunch the second Tuesday of the month at various eateries. PLEASE JOIN US!

Please **RSVP** at the Connection Center. This will help in knowing what size of table is needed at the restaurant.

October Anniversaries

- 5: Layne & Deb Shanahan
6: Leroy & Susan Ahlers
7: Rex & Anne Derr
Greg & Karlene Schraner
10: Don & Sally Morss
20: Kris & Stacey Smelser
27: Bob & Judy Stubbs

October Birthdays

- 5: William Nebel
8: Charlene Schram
10: Steve Tilleraas
16: Marilyn Ivers
19: Lane Freiboth
David Herdina
Jean Mazur
22: Mike Abbott
Marlyn Fletcher
23: Sean Dunn
24: Galia Fundis
27: Mary Pfeifle

Note: If you're not listed on the birthday list, please call the office at 406-454-1309 or email us:

FaithLutheran.gtf@gmail.com.

We love wishing all our congregational members a very happy day!

So, please, make sure your name and correct date are on the list!



FISH News

Thank you FISH Volunteers

We would like to thank the following volunteers who worked at the FISH Food Program for the week of August 17-21: Mike and Jan Abbot, Sandy Clapshaw, Letah Dion, Deb Schwandt, Karen Nebel, Rex and Anne Derr, Barb Wuertz, Dave Cunningham, Gabe Cunningham, Sharon Wickens, Mary Pfeifle, Augie Records, and Lane and Sherry Freiboth. For the week, we served 1140 pounds of food to 16 families consisting of 25 adults and 10 children. We at Faith Lutheran are very blessed by your willingness to serve in this ministry.

Thank you all!

The next opportunity to serve at FISH will be October 26-30. Please contact Ron or Sandy if you want to be on the FISH Volunteer list.

Ron Pfeifle & Sandy Matthews,
Co-Chairs

FISH Chosen for Fundraiser

Town Pump has selected FISH to be part of the 25th Anniversary of "HELP THOSE IN NEED" Challenge. Town Pump will match all donations to reach \$30,000.00 that FISH receives between September 1st and November 30th. If mailed, please mail by November 14 or drop it off at FISH between 9 to 11 o'clock by November 30th. What a great way to double your gift & help FISH.

Mailing Address: FISH P.O. Box 662 Great Falls MT 59403

Thank you for your support in reaching our goal.



October Service Group

Thank you for serving
at Faith Lutheran
this month.

- Lon & Barb Holden
- Augie Records
- Deb Schwandt
- Steve & Christy Sem



Outreach Updates At Faith

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who turns by the strength that God supplies - in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."

- 1 Peter 4:10-11

GriefShare began again on September 16 at 1:15 p.m. in the library. The support group is led by John Gass. This session is in-person only. Those that have taken the classes in the past have been very thankful. If you're not able to attend the classes offered here at Faith you can visit the main site: grief-share.org and find other groups that may work better with your schedule. If you have any questions contact the church office.

Biblical Citizenship Class: will begin again on Thursdays starting October 15, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. Pastor Alsen Wenzel will be teaching this class. Sign ups have already begun. If you'd like to join them sign up at the Connection Center or contact me at outreach.faith.lcmc@gmail.com or (406)454-1309.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS: Planning is in the works for a Spiritual Gifts Workshop through the Momentum /ChurchDoctor Ministries. We'll host that here at the church. If you're interested in that please sign up so we know how many books to order. We haven't set a date yet.

CAREGIVERS: I'm also researching the "Tender Hearts Tired Hands" book and videos. Developed by Church Initiative, the ministry behind GriefShare, this caregiving resource offers

churches a compassionate, Christ-centered way to support the caregivers already sitting in our pews and in our community. It combines biblical encouragement with practical guidance for the real-life challenges caregivers face every day.

We'll have books/workbooks for you to look through at the Connection Center on Sunday. Once we have everyone's registrations, then the books will be ordered so you'll have your own copy.

Blessings on your October,

Colleen Palmer, Community Outreach Coordinator

IN NEED OF PRAYER?

If you're in need of prayer, please contact the church office. We can add you or your family members to our prayer chain and/or weekly prayer list.



**Classes will begin
Thursday, October 15 at
2:00 p.m.
Register online:
BiblicalCitizens.com
or at the Connection
Center on Sunday.
This is an 8-week course,
1-hour session each
week.**



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CHURCH STAFF

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Secretary/Office Manager:	Cindy Fowell
Bookkeeper:	Nicole LaMere
Custodian:	Kristina Cochran
IT Manager:	John Plank
Outreach Coordinator:	Colleen Palmer
Youth & Family Coordinator:	Annette Hocker
Music Director:	Jay Gregg

OFFICE HOURS:

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

Our monthly calendar is on our website!

Faithlutheran.gtf@gmail.com

www.faithlutherangf.com

Phone: (406) 454-1309

CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Fay Stokes	Tom Gruss
Rex Derr	Adam Dahlman
Crystal Dunn	Deb Schwandt
Carl Dunn	John Gass



THIS IS THE JOURNEY OF FAITH.

