



FAITH ALIVE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMC

From Pastor's Heart

Last month we celebrated the 250th Birthday of the United States of America. In doing some research for our celebration last month I found these prayers and quotes from our founding fathers that I would like to share with you.

George Washington: "O eternal and everlasting God, Increase my faith in the sweet promises of the gospel; give me repentance from dead works; pardon my wanderings, and direct my thoughts unto thyself, the God of my salvation; teach me how to live in thy fear, labor in thy service, and ever to run in the ways of thy commandments; make me always watchful over my heart, that neither the terrors of conscience, the loathing of holy duties, the love of sin, nor an unwillingness to depart this life, may cast me into a spiritual slumber, but daily frame me more and more into the likeness of thy son Jesus Christ, that living in thy fear, and dying in thy favor, I may in thy appointed time attain the resurrection of the just unto eternal life bless my family, friends, and kindred."

Benjamin Franklin: "I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured,

Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that "except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it." I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better, than the Builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and byword down to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing governments by human wisdom and leave it to chance, war and conquest. I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service." (Source: Benjamin Franklin, The Writings of Benjamin Franklin, Jared Sparks, editor (Boston: Tappan, Whittemore and Mason, 1840), Vol. X, p. 297, April 17, 1787.)

Thomas Jefferson: "Almighty God, Who has given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honorable ministry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence,

discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people, the multitude brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endow with Thy spirit of wisdom those whom in Thy name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to Thy law, we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the earth. In time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (-Washington D.C., March 4, 1801)

We read in 2 Chronicles 7:14 (ESV): "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

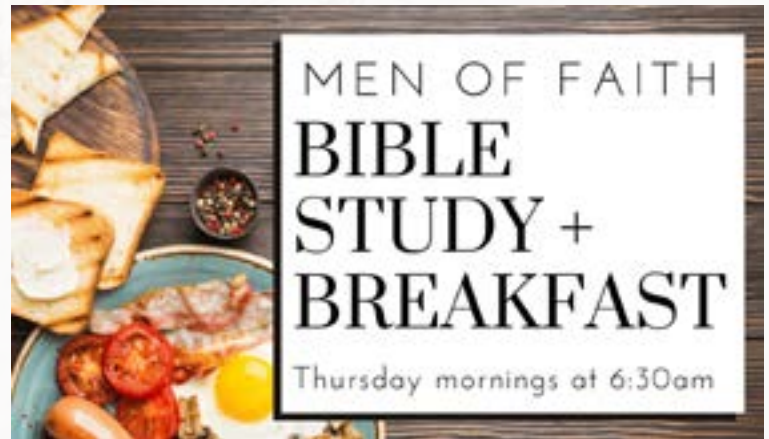
Now why did I quote these? My friends, we need to see and understand, that it is always right and timely to be a people who humble ourselves before God, and that we acknowledge our desire to serve our own wants, and who are determined to go our own way, and therefore set aside the Word of God. Therefore, it is always good and right to

always confess our need for mercy. As we learned in our Biblical Citizenship class, it is always a godly thing to pray for God to establish our nation, and for God to give us the principles that will honor Him. So my friends we need to understand that voting is a privilege that God has given us in this nation. If we want a nation that reflects the Bible, then, it makes sense to

vote the Bible and to be Biblical Citizens, hence the Biblical Citizenship class. Now no matter what the outcome might be when we vote, we will need to keep praying between the elections and continue the work and be a part of the solution to America's challenges. Now, if we don't want to wake up and be surprised at where the United States is going, let's keep awake

and do the work that a godly nation requires. I'm "preaching" to myself. Do you need to hear it as well? Now, if you didn't take that class no worries we will be offering it again in September. See you in Church!

In Christ,
Pastor Alsen



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



To My Faith Family,

It's hard to put into words the way that Dave and I feel regarding your concern, care, friendship... Your prayers were heard as God recently brought me through a successful surgery. He is good and so are you.

Thank you,
Donna Herdina

thank
you

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Back Pack Sunday, August 23 Morning Worship						
2 9:30 am Worship Offering: Lutheran Military Vets	3	4 10 am Staff Meeting 1 pm Momentum Call 5:30 pm Music/Worship 6 pm Momentum Kickoff	5 5:30 pm Men of Faith	6 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9 am Love Day Quilters	7 8 am Security Training	8
9 9:30 am Worship 3 pm Women of Faith Bible Study	10	11 10 am Staff Meeting 11:30 am Soulo Sisters 6 pm Personnel	12 9 am Finance Meeting 4 pm Property Team 6 pm Youth Ed Team	13 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 10 am LCMC Pastors	14	15
16 9:30 am Worship Offering: FISH	17 FISH Volunteers	18 10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Council Meeting	19	20 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	21 →	22
23 9:30 am Worship	24 9:30 am Worship	25 10 am Staff Meeting	26	27 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	28	29
	30	31				



Faces of RainForest Falls



GREETINGS FROM THE KEYBOARD!

Can you believe we are into August already! Let's begin with a question. Why couldn't the organist/pianist get in to practice? Her "Keys" were locked inside! ☺ I can hear your groans!

This Faith Alive article has a lot of music history—musically and personally!

Learning piano, I learned how to use (usually just two but sometimes three) pedals. The left pedal works to soften the sound by pressing soft pads onto the strings so the hammers that strike the strings aren't as loud. The right pedal is the sustaining pedal that we use to help sounds blend into each other so it doesn't sound so abrupt. Now on the chance that you have a middle pedal—that is pressed when you want a sustaining lower sound while the upper sounds are more individual clear sounds.

Remembering back to when I first learned to play the organ, I looked at it with two keyboards on different levels. Plus for my feet and instantly thought "how am I supposed to play this?" This was when I was roughly 12!

My pastor at that time, also played the organ, was the person who 'tried' to teach me the coordination needed to play one hand on the upper level and one hand on the lower level, plus adding my feet to basically play the bass tones. I definitely prayed to God to grant the coordination needed to play and lead the congregation to praise God with the liturgy and hymns without messing up the service too terribly!

Now how many of you know that there are special shoes to help the organist feel the interval distance needed to play the correct pedal note? I couldn't stand wearing the small heeled shoes because to me—I couldn't feel the pedals correctly. Needless to say, after trying several styles of shoes I ended up just wearing socks—to the horror of my organist friends!

I remember several times that people would sit up by the organ to watch and wonder how I am able to coordinate three different things and movements at the same time. I tell them—to this day—"I'm just the vehicle—it's all

God in control!"

I do miss having an organ to 'fumble' on but realize it's not feasible due to lack of new organists learning to play. It's getting to be a definite lost art which is sad to think about—knowing there are beautiful and wonderful organs out there sitting idle. This includes both pipe organs and a vast variety of digital organs.

I thank God for blessing me with this wonderful, beautiful talent so I can continue to share His praise...both with my boo-boos and His awesomeness, till He calls me home.

God bless you my Faith family and keep chuckling and groaning with me! Love you all!

Musically in Christ,

Elaine

P.S. You know what my nickname was in high school typing class? Hot fingers—because of my piano skills! If I remember correctly, I typed 120 words a minute. That was before my arthritis!



**ADULT BIBLE STUDY
WILL RESUME IN
THE FALL
SUNDAYS AT 8:30AM**



**Hey Kids! Sunday School
Resumes September 20th.
Right After The
Morning Worship Service**

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!

SOULO SISTERS



August 11th at 11:30
at Rib and Chop

Love Day Quilters

Thursday, August 6th,
at 9am

Love Day Quilters News

Summer has arrived so enjoy the long and toasty days until the seasons change and snow arrives (remember we've had it in August occasionally). Thank you, Carol, for the delicious, creamy July treat topped with strawberries and blueberries, etc. Join us – we provide training, friendship and treats! - Augie Records

Women of Faith Bible Study

meets the second Sunday of each month. Currently we are in the Epistle of 1 John. August 9th we will look at 1 John 2:12-27.

Come join the discussion.

Thank you to Karyl Viste (June) and Donna Reum (July) for bringing treats for the group. And thank you to Riley Hauser for the pretty bracelets she made for the group.

Women of Faith

Bible Study

Sunday, August 9th

3-4 pm

- Bring your Bible, notepad, pen, and your own beverage.
- Snacks provided.



Submit your newsletter articles and upcoming events for September by August 15!

faithlutheran.gtf@gmail.com or drop them off at the front desk.



HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU, A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE COMMUNION AND AREN'T ABLE TO ATTEND CHURCH. WE HAVE CHURCH MEMBERS WHO ARE HAPPY TO BRING YOU COMMUNION AND PRAY WITH YOU. CALL (406) 454-1309.



August Anniversaries

- 2: Keith & Becky Bortnem
- 3: John & Jean Mazur
- 5: Rod & Marilyn Thorne
- 6: Bill & Karen Nebel
- 8: Lane & Sherry Freiboth
- 13: Tom & Diann Stevens
- 15: Robert & Kari Larance
- 16: Greg & Debra Schwandt
- 18: Michael & Annette Hocker
- 20: Kevin & Debbie Schmid
- 28: Jerry & Pearl Miller
- 30: Jeff & Grace Stoores

August Birthdays

- 1: Rudy Tankink
- 4: Debbie Shanahan
- 5: Reider Blevins
- 6: Helen Burow
- 9: Sharon Wickens
- 10: Marge Maloney
- 12: Bruce Clark
- 15: Sandy Webb
- 17: Dale Thomas
- 19: Marilyn Thorne
- 22: Jami Johnson
Greg Schraner
- 23: Loretta Riley
- 25: Michael Bresnahan
- 30: Dave Cunningham
- 31: Crystal Dunn

PASTOR EMERITUS

When a pastor has dedicated their life to serving a congregation, it may be fitting to award them a special status upon their retirement – Pastor Emeritus (ih-mer-i-tuhs).

It's a way of recognizing the life-long service, tenure, and seniority of a pastor. In many cases, it's also a way of showing appreciation and honor to a spiritual leader who has made a significant impact on the congregation.

The tradition of honoring pastors with emeritus status has roots in the early days of the Christian church.

The exact role and responsibilities of a Pastor Emeritus can include providing spiritual guidance, mentoring, and pastoral care to both the current pastor and the congregation.

The church Council wishes to confer the title of Pastor Emeritus to Pastor Ken Waag at our service on August 2.

Pastor Waag served as Faith Lutheran's Senior Pastor for over 28 years. Although he has been retired for more than 4 years, he has continued serving our Lord whenever he has been called upon - leading worship, presiding at funerals, serving as temporary pastor at Chester and most recently, filling in for Pastor Wenzel while he was on vacation. We know he will continue to be an asset to our church in the future.

We'll honor Pastor Ken and his family in a ceremony during our worship service on August 2, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us in recognizing this wonderful brother in faith!



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!

MOMENTUM

a network for church revitalization

JOIN US ON AUGUST 4, 2026

for a live ZOOM session with Tracee Swank from Church Doctors/Momentum. We'll begin with dinner at 6 p.m. followed by the presentation at 7 p.m. RSVP so we can prepare enough food. Questions can be submitted via chat during the presentation. The event will also be recorded for those unable to attend in person. Let's transform lives and advance God's Kingdom!

More information can be found in the July newsletter or by contacting Colleen Palmer, Community Outreach Coordinator



PICTORIAL DIRECTORY ARRIVING SOON!

LAST PERSON OUT, LOCK THE DOOR!

*“As Each Has Received A Gift,
Use It To Serve One Another,
As Good Stewards Of God’s
Varied Grace.”*
—1 Peter 4:10 ESV

I'm still putting together the pictorial directory. Getting closer to wrapping it up! I'll be printing some proofs for everyone to review and suggest any needed changes. If you're not included in the directory but want to be, please send me a photo. If I accidentally missed you, I'm sorry—please let me know so I can fix it.

We're also updating everyone's details in our Planning Center and PowerChurch systems. If your contact info has changed, please inform us. You can reach Cindy Fowell in the office Monday through Friday or email her at

faithlutheran.gtf@gmail.com. I'll also include everyone's contact info in the directory as we have before. If you'd rather not have your info published, please tell us. You'll be able to approve that on the proof when you check your details for accuracy.

SECURE THE BUILDING: If you're the last person leaving the building after Sunday service, a funeral, or a meeting, please check every exterior door. Make sure each one is locked and fully closed. We have 18 exterior doors (Yes, that's quite a few!). The church building shifts twice a year, which sometimes causes doors to stick. There have been times when doors were locked and checked, but then someone exits through the narthex or coffee bar doors and those doors don't fully close. So, if everyone

who leaves could ensure the door closes and locks behind them, that would be wonderful.

After that, you can lock the main door near the nursery and activate the alarm. If you can't do that, just exit and ring the doorbell. Most staff have an app on their phones to lock and set the alarm remotely. The same applies if you need to enter the church—just ring the doorbell. FYI: Bob Palmer had TC Glass come in July to adjust the doors again. If you or your group want a refresher on the doors and alarm, let us know. Bob Palmer would be glad to walk you through it at (406) 899-5586.

Enjoy your summer!

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.

August Service Group

**Thank you for serving
at Faith Lutheran
this month.**

- **Kaylee Harris**
- **Marge Maloney**
- **Karen Nebel**
- **Vic and Kami Stone**





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Web: www.faithlutheranGF.com

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CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor:
Secretary/Office Manager:
Bookkeeper:
Custodian:
IT Manager:
Outreach Coordinator:
Youth & Family Coordinator:
Music Director:

Pastor Alsen Wenzel
Cindy Fowell
Nicole LaMere
Kristina Cochran
John Plank
Colleen Palmer
Annette Hocker
Jay Gregg

CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

President - Fred Burow
Vice President - Tammie Klinker-Mayes
Secretary - Mellissa Severson-Hampton
Jim Brown Bob Stubbs
Fay Stokes Tom Gruss
Rex Derr Adam Dahlman
Crystal Dunn Deb Schwandt
Carl Dunn John Gass

OFFICE HOURS:

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

Our monthly calendar is on our website!

Phone: (406) 454-1309

Faithlutheran.gtf@gmail.com

www.faithlutherangf.com



THIS IS THE JOURNEY OF FAITH.

