



FAITH ALIVE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMC

From Pastor's Heart

As many of you are aware, for those of you who are pet owners, the "antics" of dogs sometimes prove helpful in illustrating lessons. For my article this month, I'm going to share a story from when we were in Texas regarding the adventures of our 2 dachshunds, but they're really not that adventurous, but I'll run with it!

So in Texas, our next-door neighbor had a dog as well, a little bit bigger than ours. In this case size doesn't matter, since they couldn't see each other through the wood fence that separated them. Now usually, things were not that bad when they were outside, just some friendly barking. Maybe saying to each other come see me, who knows. But then our dogs tried to dig their way into the neighbor's yard. Why I didn't really know. At this point their barking did get a lot louder as well. I didn't know if they were trying to get to each other to fight or just to be very friendly or maybe even to mate, who knew. Of course none of us knows what they're saying to each other, but it didn't really sound friendly!

So let me apply that story. To me, these patterns of "communication" are mirrored by a whole lot of what is going on with people today. For one, there's a whole lot of "barking" at each other in, let's say, a less than nice or polite way. People on different sides of a fence talking ill to or about the other. The other pattern of communication is the silent treatment. People refusing to talk to others who don't share the same worldview or agree with them. We can even say that silence

itself speaks volumes nowadays. These patterns of communication have contributed to the state of division in our nation, states, communities, families, amongst one-time friends, and even churches.

I can't help but think of two things Jesus says recorded by Matthew. One is in Matthew 5:23-24 (ESV): **"So if you (as a follower of Jesus) are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother (or sister) (that is a fellow Christian) has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother (or sister), and then come and offer your gift."** Now the specific application is about Christian brothers and sisters; but, as for the part about going and being reconciled with someone who has something against you, this is a good general principle to try to go and do, especially with family, friends, etc., whether they are of the faith or not. In short, as far as it depends on you, work for reconciliation and peace (without, of course, compromising the values and morals and teachings of your faith).

The second saying of Jesus comes from Matthew 18. Again, Jesus speaks to those within the Church. But the leading general principle is a good one to apply in every situation possible, whether they are fellow Christians or not. Jesus says in Matthew 18:15 (ESV): **"If your brother (or sister) sins against you, go and tell him (or her) their fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother."** This is telling you that if

someone has wronged you, again generally speaking, go to them and share with them how you have been wronged in order to (hopefully) facilitate reconciliation and peace (without, of course, compromising the values, morals, and teachings of your faith).

Two thoughts. First, notice Jesus doesn't leave open the door, at least for brothers and sisters in Christ, to remain silent and ignore one another when there is a conflict or issue. Silence won't cut it. Second, the communication involved is intentionally meant to bring reconciliation and peace, not division or further division. Getting up in the other person's face and "barking" angrily or hatefully won't do either. Since we are not dogs, we can unlatch the gates of the fences we erect, try to speak face-to-face with the person, and communicate calmly in ways that help hearing of one another.

Few, if any, of us may have the means or influence to exact significant change in our nation and our states. But, without compromising the values, morals, and teachings of our faith, of Scripture, we can and must work for positive and positive-outcome communication with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We can certainly model a better way of communicating in our communities. And we can engage family and friends in ways that communicate value of the other person, Christ-like love, and desire to be at peace, as far as it depends on us.

God bless, see you at Church.

Pastor Alsen

MISSION

In this article I would like to talk about **MISSION**. The reason for this is I will be doing a three-part sermon series on the “**Mission of the Holy Trinity**” starting on Trinity Sunday May 31. Now for generations, we Lutherans have had it drilled into our heads, as I have done with our confirmation students, that we are justified (that means just as if I’d never sinned) by grace, for Christ’s sake, through faith. All of this is apart from our good works, which does not gain for us faith. That is, because of Jesus’ death on the cross, for the forgiveness of our sins, and his rising from the grave, to show that the payment was paid in full, so that we might rise with him. For us this means: Jesus defeated sin, death, and the devil, so that by grace through faith we may have eternal life. And as Luther would say: This is most certainly true.

Now, there is another side of this coin. Because of this there is something that perhaps we have overlooked or forgotten. Because we are saved by grace, we need to be responding to that faith

with good works, that is we have a **PURPOSE IN OUR LIFE** or **MISSION**, in other words the work of our Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. So now, our mission is to love God, love our neighbors (which are both our friends and enemies) and ourselves. As Matthew 22:37-39 states: “[Jesus] said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Now at some Lutheran churches, and maybe they are at others as well, you might see a sign that reads: Now Entering the Mission Field. Jesus has described our mission as us going out into our communities, our cities, our nation, and to the ends of the earth, to make disciples by baptizing and teaching everyone what Jesus has taught and commanded us to obey (Matthew 28:18-20).

Therefore, our **MISSION** is to build relationships with believers and non-believers, so that people may come to know God the

Father through Jesus his Son and through us, the Body of Christ in the world. Now, you might be saying to yourself, “But, Pastor, we open our doors on Sunday morning and are very friendly to any visitors that might come.” So the thinking goes that by being friendly and being a human family is enough for us to do.

But are we overflowing with members? No! Then we must not be doing what Jesus taught us to do! Jesus did not teach us to be nice or even friendly on Sunday mornings, even though we are to do that, because those are too shallow. Instead, Jesus taught us to love one another as he loved us. He taught us to do unto others as we would want done to us. You see, love is not passive. Love is proactive. Therefore, our **MISSION** must be proactive. It is now time to start thinking about the future, especially the future of Faith Lutheran Church. Therefore, may the Lord bless us as we get to working on God’s mission for Faith!

Pastor Alsen

Eye Glasses Prepared to Travel



Two suitcases are full of glasses wrapped in colorful material for their trip to Africa. The glasses and material will be distributed by missionaries upon their arrival. Thank you Faith Lutheran Church for your generous donation of glasses.



Thank you to the many of you who reached out with cards, calls, hugs and words of comfort and love after the death of my mother, Laura Daniels, of Billings. After 95 years on this earth she is now with her Savior Jesus in heaven. The family that we have at Faith Lutheran is so caring and supportive.

Thank you!
God bless you all!
Amy Dorr

Dear Faith Lutheran Church Family,
Thank you for your faithful partnership in helping children heal and thrive. Your heart and care for vulnerable kids and families in Great Falls is a powerful relocation of Christ's love. Because of your support, more children in Great Falls are being seen, known, and placed in homes where they are safe and surrounded by care. We are so grateful for how you walk alongside us in this ministry.

Dan Minor, Child Bridge

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your gift (\$1,327.74) to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. We recently airlifted tons of relief supplies aboard our 767 cargo plane to Saipan and Tinian, in the wake of Typhoon Sinlak. We praise God that these supplies are helping meet the urgent needs of thousands of people on these remote Pacific islands that were devastated by the massive storm.

Franklin Graham, President

June Special Offerings
First Sunday of the Month
Care Team
Third Sunday of the Month
Meals on Wheels

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your gift of \$1,000, which we received on April 22nd. Your exceptional generosity is a powerful testimony of faith in action. "The words of the LORD are true, and all his works are dependable." Psalm 33:4 GNT

In places where access to Scripture has been limited or long delayed, God's Word is bringing clarity, strength, and comfort. Through every Bible you help share, believers grow deeper in faith and find hope that endures.

Thank you again for helping Scripture reach individuals and communities who have waited patiently for the chance to hold God's Word in their hands. Because of you, men, women, and children are encountering life-giving truth and lasting hope through the pure and powerful words of God!

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Jennifer Holloran
President and CEO American Bible Society

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



Amusing Music “Tidbits” From Elaine 😊

HAPPY JUNE!

Wow....can you believe that we're in June already! God surely has blessed us with another month of His loving grace and goodness!

Here's a little “footnote” on my Dad's funeral experience. He was a very private person and liked doing things by himself a lot. Well, I need to let you know that it was mid-November in North Dakota – snow and cold. After a brief service inside the Veteran's Memorial Chapel, we were heading to the gravesite. My Dad's casket was on a motorized pulley type cart that they drove over pieces of 2X4's to get to the site. Needless to say being a mucky, muddy, cold mess, Dad had his laugh once again because the cart kept getting stuck along the way. After about ten minutes of waiting outside in the cold, we all said our goodbye's again and headed back to our cars. By the time we started driving from the parking lot – he was already in the ground! We all laughed as we drove past the area as we headed to the motel.

Even in the midst of our sorrows, God provides comfort in many ways – ours was in the form of chuckles!

Now back to how God was

ever present through the music talent He bestowed upon me – via the organ/piano.

You've heard the old phrase “There's bats in the belfry”? Well, the previous building had something a little different! The beautiful pipe organ was in the balcony. My right foot was usually on the crescendo pedal (it opens and closes the shutters for volume) and my biggest fear was that something would go into the opening and then while I was playing, would crawl out onto my foot!

Praise God that didn't happen. But...I don't quite remember if this little baby bat had been flying around the ceiling in the sanctuary, but when I came down from the balcony, a couple of the ushers showed me these little claws holding onto the back of the pew in the narthex, looking up! You could tell it was frightened but didn't fly off. So one of the men put on gloves and gently grabbed it then let it fly outside the front door. The neighbor to the west of the parking lot had two huge evergreen trees and it flew right towards them.

Again – Praise God that never happened again, but my ‘concern’

remained so everytime right before I would sit down to play, I would hit my shoe at the opening, praying that nothing was in there.

I just know if something would have ever done that, I would have jumped off the balcony! I didn't worry about whether I got hurt or not – I was just gone! 😊

Instead of Jenga where you try and pull the wood out while not letting it fall...God challenges me by adding things to the many “wood blocks” – in the form of playing both hands, on several keyboards at one time, adding the feet to the pedals both notewise and volume, flipping pages while playing, etc”! God has a funny bone and is in control! This can definitely be applied to all of you with your lives.

Even though we may feel like we have too much – God is in control! He may even throw in a ‘humorous event’ to lighten the mood! I know He is so good to me and will never leave me! He's my Father!

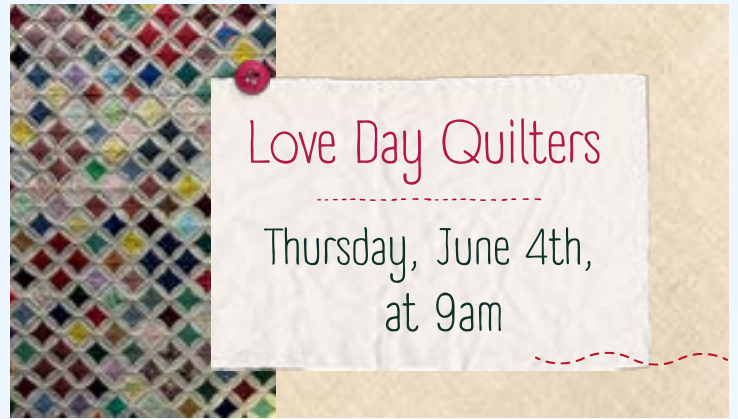
Enjoy your June and anticipate more ‘groans’ from the organist/pianist next month. Love you all.

Musically in Christ,

Elaine

**Women of Faith
Bible Study
Sunday, June 14th
3-4 pm**

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



Love Day Quilters News

Aren't you glad God created a world full of so many colors and a year of seasons that include summer beginning with June? I love this month! We have about six months to add to our stash of quilts. We enjoyed strudel coffee cake and fresh fruit during our break time in May. If you'd like to join our group, we'd love to have you. – Augie Records



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.



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 (408) 454-1309.



Submit your newsletter articles and upcoming events for July by June 15!

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



Confirmation Sunday

June 14, 2026

✝ *Chance Stone*

✝ *Reider Blevins*

✝ *Michael Arndt*

✝ *Gabriel Shabaan*



First Communion

June 7, 2026

✝ *Elodie Stubbs*

✝ *Arianna Hampton*

✝ *Haven Blevins*

Sources of Information and Announcements at Faith Lutheran:

- Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall
- Bulletin Board outside Kids Sunday School Classrooms
- Weekly Bulletins'
- Weekly Announcements
- Connection Center
- Church website - faithlutherangf.com - includes church calendar
- Church Facebook page and Instagram
- Weekly emails from church office
- Posters on the church doors

June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Music/Worship	5:30 pm Men of Faith	6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9 am Love Day Quilters 6 pm Biblical Citizenship	Noon Evangelism Team Meeting	10 am Celebration of Life for Stew Schwartz
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 am Worship – First Communion Offering: Care Team 11 am Confirmation 11 am Biblical Citizenship	FISH Volunteers	10 am Staff Meeting 11:30 am Soulo Sisters 6 pm Personnel	9 am Finance Meeting 4 pm Property Team 6 pm Youth Ed Team	6:30 am Men's Bible Study 6 pm Biblical Citizenship	Men of Faith Garage Sale →	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Confirmation Recognition 11 am Biblical Citizenship 3 pm Women of Faith Bible Study		10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Council		6:30 am Men's Bible Study Noon LCMC Pastors 6 pm Biblical Citizenship		Father's Day Set Up
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 am Worship Offering: Meals on Wheels 10:45 am Father's Day Luncheon	VBS 5:30 pm	10 am Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Constitutional		6:30 am Men's Bible Study		11 am Bridal Shower for Courtney Western
28	29	30				
9:30 am Worship		10 am Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Constitutional				

June Anniversaries

- 2: Warren & Tammie Mayes
- 4: Tom & Lone Gruss
- 12: Rick & Elaine Tews
- 22: Tim & Sandy Webb
- 23: Ron & Mary Pfeifle
- 24: David & Donna Herdina
- 25: Jim & Cathy Graham
Tony & Lisa Hering
- 30: Bob & Tara Rosipal

June Birthdays

- 2: Tammie Klinker Mayes
- 3: Julie Waag
- 6: Rex Derr
Jim Wickens
- 8: Rick Tews
- 9: Michael J. Arndt
- 10: Irene Ghekiere
- 11: Lon Holden
- 12: Marie Chenoweth
Connie Dahl
- 13: Fred Pfeiffer
- 16: Anne Derr
Bob Haensel
- 17: Henry Imus
- 18: Bob Stubbs
- 21: Lisa Hering
- 23: Dorothy Tilleraas
- 25: Susan Wenzel
- 26: Ron Pfeifle
- 28: Debbie Schmid

Music at Faith this Summer

Happy summer! As choir, bells, and praise teams wrap up for the summer, music will continue in the church!

Bells will meet sporadically over the summer to make music together for fun.

In lieu of choir, I will host various technique classes, where we will gather together and hone our skills of specific choral techniques. We will also use this time to listen to music together. No choral experience needed, these opportunities are simply open to anyone who wants to learn.

The subjects will be the following:
1) Balance, tone, and vowels.
2) Rhythm and buoyancy.
Dates TBD. I will post them on my door and will make an announcement in church.

Praise team is looking to provide some patriotic themed worship on Sunday, July 5th in honor of the 250th birthday of America. If you would like to sing for the service, please contact me at jaygregg2013@gmail.com.

Thank you :)

Jay Henry Gregg, Music Director

Unity in the Body of Christ

*"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."
- Ephesians 4:1-3 ESV*

I am truly grateful for the wonderful programs we have been able to provide for our congregation and the broader community. A heartfelt thank you to all of you who have taken on the responsibility of organizing and supporting these ministries. Our congregation continues to spread the love of Jesus Christ, and our dedicated volunteers and staff are doing an excellent job in keeping our Sunday services running smoothly. To the volunteers on the council, committees, studies, groups, events, and those maintaining our building and grounds – thank you!

GriefShare and the Revelation Bible Study concluded at the end of May and will resume in the fall.

The Sunday morning Bible Study at 8:30 am is also taking a summer break but will return in the fall. The two Biblical Citizenship classes on Sunday and Thursday will wrap up the week of June 14. Both GriefShare and Biblical Citizenship have waiting lists for the fall. If you are interested in participating, please let me know so I can add you to the list.

As the school year comes to a close, we can now embrace all the joys that summer brings. I encourage you to take the time to appreciate the beauty around you – from the lovely mornings to the stunning sunsets, and to cherish moments with family and friends during this season. May your bug bites be few, and your glasses of sweet tea be abundant.

Blessings on your summer,

Colleen Palmer,
Community Outreach Coordinator

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!

Youth and Family/Education Team

Summer is here—a season of sunshine, laughter, and longer days. It's a wonderful time to slow down and allow our faith to grow deeper roots. Just as flowers need sunlight and water, our hearts need the light of God's Word and the refreshment of His presence. Take prayer walks through your neighborhood or local park, thanking God for His creation and praying for the people and homes you pass. Set aside time each week for short family devotions. This month, let us welcome God's work in our hearts. As 2 Peter 3:18 reminds us, "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Vacation Bible School 2026 – Rainforest Falls: Exploring

the Nature of God is just a few weeks away! Please join us for an exciting week of faith and fun at Faith's VBS, happening **June 22–26 from 5:30–8:30 pm** each evening.

Kids will enjoy engaging activities, meaningful lessons, and dinner each night. VBS is open to children ages 3 (preschool) through those entering 6th grade. Please invite and encourage families you know to send their children—the more, the merrier!

Students entering 7th grade and older, along with adults, are invited to serve as crew leaders and assistants. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve, grow in faith, and make a difference in the lives of children. Please prayerfully consider being part of this special

week. If you are interested or would like more information, contact me—I would love to help you find a place to serve!

Volunteers are always welcome to support our youth and family ministries. If you are interested in helping with Sunday School, Confirmation, High School Youth, or family events, we would love to have you join us. Please contact me at (406) 590-1061 or reach out to the church office for more information.

The Education Team will meet on Wednesday, June 13, at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

God bless,

Annette Hocker,
Youth & Family Coordinator



JUNE SERVICE GROUP

As a way of serving each other, Faith Lutheran is refreshing our monthly Service Groups. The following are being asked to be available in the month of June. If a need arises for a funeral or wedding we will call you from the church office.

We are also asking the Service Groups to help with set up and clean up for Sunday Fellowships. The treats are provided by the church. You are welcome to bring in treats to share as well.

Thank you to each of you for giving your time and talents to help at Faith Lutheran.

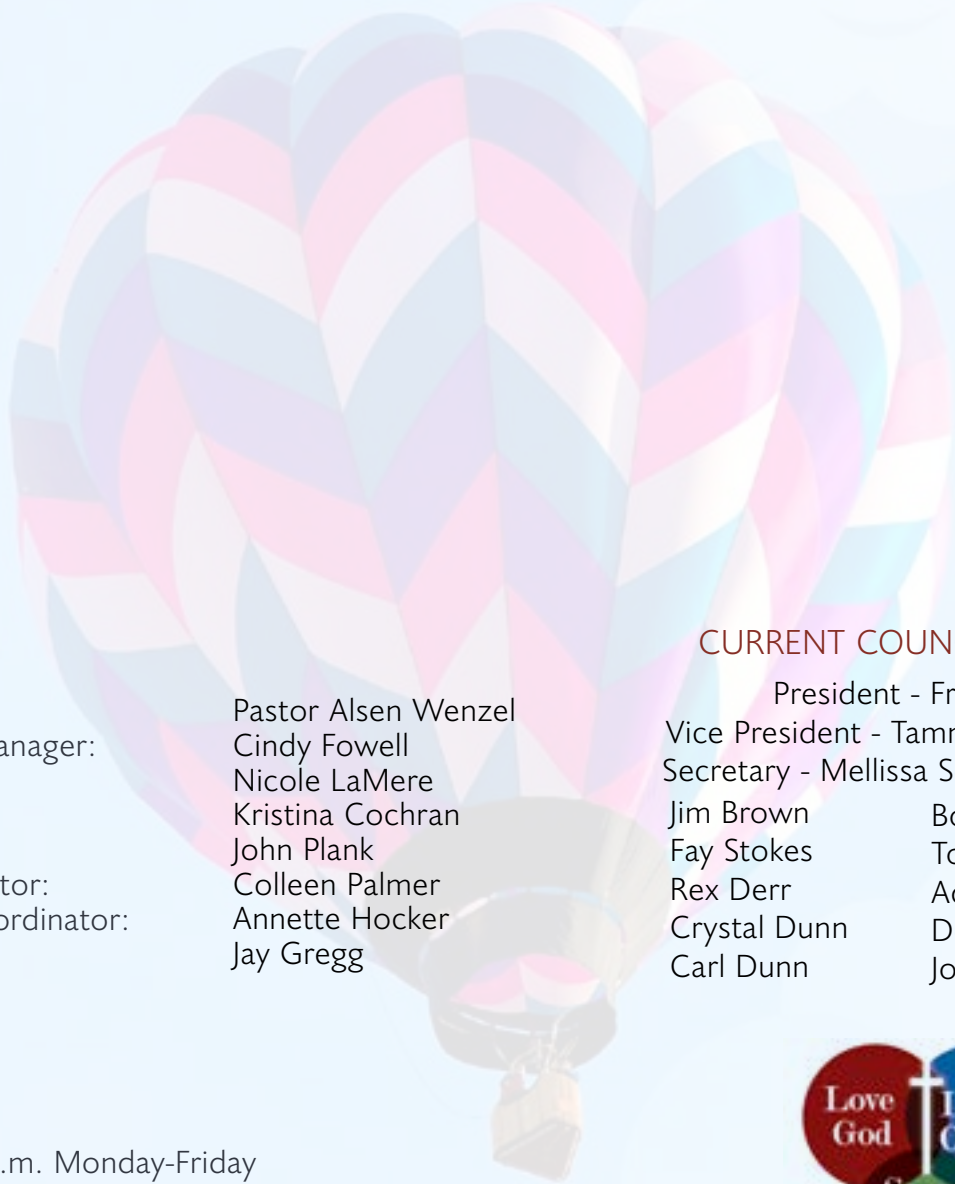
- Shelly Agrimson
- Becky Bortnem
- Rex and Ann Derr
- April Hall
- Tony and Lisa Hering
- Don and Sally Morss



1300 Ferguson Drive
Great Falls, MT 59404
Telephone: (406) 454-1309
Web: www.faithlutheranGF.com

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage **PAID**
Great Falls, Montana
Permit No. 477

Change Service Requested



CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor:	Pastor Alsen Wenzel
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

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.

