

The Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church
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October, 2024

Grace, mercy and peace be to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Recently I was helping someone clean their home after it had been flooded. I spent most of the day operating a shop vac getting rid of the standing water and debris that was left after the waters receded. It was pretty tedious work, but necessary for them to hopefully be able to salvage some of their belongings. After spending several hours vacuuming, I took a break. The person I was commented that I would have made a good carpet cleaner, he could tell because he used to run just such a business. He said that it was hard to find people who were willing to pay attention to detail, and just to care about doing a good job.

I have a master's degree and am an officer in the United States Air Force, so I could have felt that that comment was beneath me, but I took it as high praise coming from someone who was a professional at that job. I felt gratified that he made such a comment. Not because I want to become a carpet cleaner, but that I was fulfilling my calling before God at that very moment. So often we think of our calling as some grandiose plan for our lives. That our calling is something big, that will be impressive, like being a missionary, or a visionary. I've had visions of being a Professor at one of our Universities, or being the speaker of the Lutheran Hour, or even President of the entire Missouri Synod.

What I have begun to understand however is that our calling in life, or our vocation, is often not going to be recognized by anyone. Most of us will never have any fanfare related to our calling by God, but I think that is actually one of the best things I have learned. If the only people who have a calling from God where the amazing ones, then what do the rest of us do. We do what God has prepared beforehand for us to do. As Paul says in Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

We are all God's workmanship and therefore he has given us all work to do, good work that is part of everyday life for all of us everyday people. There is nothing mysterious about being a good steward of God's gifts. It is simply doing everything to the glory of God, even cleaning floors.

You see God has already prepared good works for us to do, this means we don't have to spend our time wondering if what we are doing is serving God. Everything that we do as long as we do it to give Him glory is a good work.

This means that the store manager treating the employees with respect is as pleasing to God as the Pastor preaching a sermon. Or changing a diaper, or building a house, or teaching a Bible class. All of this is the same in the eyes of the Lord.

CONTINUED



If you want to look for more ways that you can do good works, open your Catechism to the table of duties. This is a list of different vocations in life and what God has to say about them.

So for example it quotes scripture that tells children to obey their parents, but also tells the parents not to provoke their children to anger and raise them in the faith. Husbands love your wives and wives respect and submit to their husbands and both of them to submit to Christ. It tells the Government to protect its citizens and punish wrongdoers, and citizens to give what they owe, taxes, respect and honor.

We can all look at the jobs we do and the lives we lead and know that God has given them to us so that we might do good works in them, which benefit our neighbor and give glory to God.

Peace be with you. Amen

Rev. Patrick Pooch

Mike Van Velzer, music director, is asking for volunteers to sign up to be part of Faith Lutheran Vocal Choir for Holiday Singing.

He is expecting to meet with all interested singers on Sunday, October 13th to get ideas on the best way to move forward.

Please sign up below if you are interested in being part of this vocal choir.



Faith is going to need some volunteers this Advent season to provide soups for our three Advent Meals. If you have a favorite soup (to serve 15) you are willing to provide please sign up on the Blue table in the Narthex and indicate the best date for you, December 4, 11, or 18.



Handbell Choir practice under the direction of Lillian Boettcher will begin

Thursday, October 17th and continue each Thursday at 6:00 to 7:30 pm. through the holidays. Anyone interested in joining this holiday bell choir should email Lillian at pianolilly@hotmail.com, sign up in the Narthex or show up on October 17.

Adult Bible Class



Our Sunday Bible Class, led by Rev. Poock, meets at 9:15 am in the Great Hall . He always has a very interesting presentation. Come and have a cup of coffee with the group and get a better understanding of biblical times. The offerings received at this time go to benefit pastoral students at the Concordia Seminary.

Lifelight Bible Study is held the third Friday of every month in Sun City Center.
Please contact Roy Heflin at 941-721-4957



Children's Sunday School meets on Sundays under the direction of Lillian Boettcher at 9:15 am.

PLEASE NOTE:

Our Recycle trash is for plastic bottles and soda cans **ONLY**.

NO TRASH OR STYROFOAM CUPS,
thank you.



Our thanks for your generous gifts to our Food Barrel that sits in the Narthex. We collect your donations of non perishable food items and paper products for those less fortunate.



Please consider bringing at least one item each week to help give nourishment and bring a smile to someone in need.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

Present: President Glen Collier, Recording Secretary Jean Roehrs, Treasurer Barb Wikel, Elder Tony Bowen, and guests Larry Colton, representing Financial Secretary John Niemi, and Eloise Schwarz, Altar Guild. Absent: VP Greg Wissner, Trustee Dave Benson, and Pastor Poock.

The president called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. He read a devotion from *Gospel Devotions for Every Occasions*.

August Minutes were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report filed. The transfer of funds to the new bank is a work in progress. The LWML treasurer has been notified that she can set up an account at the bank with directions how to do this.

Financial Secretary: Larry distributed the report which included a comparison between 2023 and 2024. The president asked if this could be extended to include 2021 and 2022. Barb said this might be something Christa could generate along with the other financial reports.



VP: Absent.

President: No report.

Elders: There will be a Thanksgiving Dinner provided for members of the congregation with a free-will offering taken.

LWML: The first meeting of the new season will be Friday, Oct. 11. They continue to collect school supplies for Redlands Migrant Ministry and hygiene products for Project Heart.

Trustee's Report: Absent.

Altar Guild: Plans are to purchase a new chalice and replace some of the cups. New parameters for advent have been ordered. The youth have been asked to assist setting up Christmas decorations coordinated by the trustee. Poinsettia orders must be placed early in December.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Jean spoke about recent rain showers before the Wednesday services. People were sitting in church cold and wet. She asked if a covering could be provided above the west entry and over the sidewalk on the east. Tony said he had been wondering why we didn't have a portico or something to enable handicapped members to access the church during storms. All members expressed concern and asked to have Dave investigate this.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. followed by prayer.

Jean Roehrs

"It's Not the Jar - It's Jesus"

This was the theme of the LWML three day convention
September 13, 14, and 15 in Orlando Florida.

Over 250 women from 40 districts gathered in a sea of purple to network, vote for new officers, and choose the Mission grants for 2024-2026. Worship services, Bible study and Pastoral speakers to focus on "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness..."
2 Cor 12:9

Below is a picture of the Sarasota Zone ladies that attended



FAITH PRAYER MINISTRY

The psalmist writes *The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer* (Psalm 6:9 NIV). The Lord will hear our cries for mercy, also, and accept our prayers. Please make your prayer needs known to the church office or to the prayer chairman and your requests/needs will be made known to the Prayer

Partners who have joined the Faith Prayer Ministry. To be a member of this vital ministry send an email to jroehrs27@gmail.com and prayer requests will be sent to you via email. Thank You!



GriefShare Program Faith Lutheran Church

Many grieving people find that while they are beginning the task of healing, friends or family have already returned to their daily life routines. Too often people, including Christians, tend to suppress their grief. Instead, they need to allow themselves to learn to deal with their grief by attending our GriefShare programs on Mondays at 6:30 pm.

CONFIDENTIALITY is very much a part of this program.

Your bereavement experience may or may not be recent. We hope you can find comfort, encouragement and help in grieving with either or both of these two Grief Share sessions, knowing that you can lessen the emotional impact of what to expect and being prepared.

We are also having a special “Surviving the Holidays” on Sunday, November 10th at 2 pm and “Loss of a Spouse” on Sunday, December 8th at 2 pm. It’s difficult times, we know, but this is a way to help those grieving get through these very difficult times.

We invite anyone who has lost someone to come and share with us.

If you want to take part in this GriefShare program, please call the Church Office (941-776-1395) to let one of the secretaries know of your interest.





Operation Christmas Child Shoobox Ministry COMING SOON.... Sunday, Oct. 13

Who: Share Christmas with children in need overseas!

What do I do?: Take a decorated shoebox (or several) from the Narthex table and fill it with items for the children.

When: **October 13** is the kick off weekend! Boxes must be returned to the church by **November 17.**



Operation Christmas Child is one of the ministries of the Christian missionary organization SAMARITAN'S PURSE. Each November thousands of churches, groups & donors prepare and collect shoeboxes with toys, schools supplies, other small gifts & Bible story booklets. The boxes are sent to distribution sites and shipped overseas.
Thank you for your support!

For more information please contact:
Jenna Fluegge, jfluegge1@gmail.com

The fourth quarter Elder mission project is **Bridging Freedom**, a Tampa, Florida rehab for teens involved in Human trafficking.

"Their mission is to combat minor sex-trafficking by bringing restoration to those rescued and victim prevention to those we reach with our message. We built Florida's urgently needed therapeutic safe home campus community to provide long term, comprehensive care to these victims in a secure environment. We educate the community and work with partnering organizations to increase awareness about this horrendous issue."



Bridging Freedom is, and will continue to be, a community of God loving people dedicated to sectoring the broken spirits of sex trafficking victims. Our goal is to bring a holistic healing to victimized children through trauma therapy, therapeutic activities, relationship building, education, health management, and an opportunity to find healing through their own faith. A chapel is made available for solitude, soul searching, praise and worship. It is a place that offers an opportunity for the restoration of their faith in God by offering daily opportunities for prayer and interfaith religious observances. It is a place where prayer will be offered continually for all survivors.

Check out their website for more information: <https://www.bridgingfreedom.org/>

In looking ahead:

December is a five Sunday month, so there will only be ONE Divine Service at 10:30 on December 29th and NO Bible Study at 9:15. Understanding that families enjoy spending time together at this time of year, we are not doing a fellowship event. Also on Wednesday, January 1, there will not be a Divine Service nor any Bible Studies.



The Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML)



The LWML 2024-2025 year will kick off with refreshments at 9:30 in the Great Hall, and packing Hygiene Kits in the Sunday School room, then we'll have our Bible Study, brief meeting and a speaker from Redlands Christian Migrant Association. Following the guest speaker we will enjoy a light lunch provided by Judy Sattanno.

We are concluding our collection of school supplies for the Redland Migrant Children so we can get the items to the school . Please NOTE; we are also accepting slightly used adult clothing for the Redlands Migrant workers.

President Marilyn Howard will hand out our 2024-2025 LWML Schedule and Directory and review our upcoming activities. We have an exciting year planned and as always look forward to the time we spend together in fellowship.

In planning ahead, we are asking our church family to please help us provide: hygiene items for the next hygiene packing in February for Manatee Homeless.

PLEASE, if you can help us out, put needed items in the bin next to the LWML table .

If you would like to join us for our meetings and need transportation, please call Jean Roehrs at 941-567-8681

Our MITE BOXES, coins and bills, add up to great things for Christ. Please remember to donate your mites change in the large mite box in the Narthex.

Please NO foreign or half dollar coins.

All ladies are invited to join the LWML ladies each month for Bible Study & Fellowship. We begin with coffee and breakfast treats at 9:30 and Bible Study. The Meeting begins at 10 am. the second Friday of each month, October through May. Please consider adding us to your calendar



WILL BE

CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024

This Month's Privileged Servants



Altar Guild

Wednesdays, 5pm

October 2 NO SERVICE
 October 9 Eloise Schwarz
 October 16 Robin Parkin/Karen Hill
 October 23 Gwyn Pook
 October 30 Eloise Schwarz

Sundays, 8:00 am /Sunday 10:30 am

October 6 Meta Green / Cindy Nuetzel
 October 13 Martha Riedl / Alec Carpp & Erin Henderson
 October 20 Martha Riedl / Pat Barlow
 October 27 Sean Kons / TBD

Elders

Wednesdays, 5 pm

October 2 NO Divine Service
 October 9 Tony Bowen
 October 16 Tony Bowen
 October 23 Tony Bowen
 October 30 Tony Bowen

Assistant

Curt McCarty
 Dave Barber
 Jeff Sattanno
 Carl Schwarz

Sundays, 8:00 am

October 6 Tom Weiss
 October 13 Dennis Steinke
 October 20 Tom Weiss
 October 27 Dennis Steinke

Sundays, 10:30 am

Jack Conte
 Tom Barlow
 Jack Conte
 Tom Barlow

Assistant

Caleb Pook
 Alex Boettcher
 Caleb Pook
 Alex Boettcher

Offering Counters

October 7 John Niemi, Carol Schreiber, Tom Barlow
 October 14 John Niemi, Stu Lindberg, Judy Sattanno
 October 21 Marilyn Howard, Nancy Kendall, Marti Katterhenry
 October 28 Larry Colton, Nancy Kendall

Thank you to all of you, who are assisting in this important function of our Church.
 Note Counting normally takes place Monday, the next day following the offering.



Look Who's Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries!

Happy Birthday

- 1 Robert D'Amico
- 2 Larry Colton
- 3 Carol Dressel, Sheila Smith, Julie DuChane
- 4 Glen Collier, Janet Courtney, Susan Rawlinson
- 5 Hannah Hughes, Erin Henderson
- 7 Dorothy Kadelski, William Costello, Shawn Barto
- 9 Caroline Spirduso
- 10 Ken Scheer
- 11 Marilyn Howard, Harry Wiedenmeyer, Emily Lundgren
- 14 Irene Niver
- 18 Dana Ellerbrock, Margo Reid
- 23 Paulette Natzke
- 24 Karen Gibson, David Krewin, Gwyn Pooch
- 26 Joseph Kaczmarek
- 30 Jacqueline Aquino
- 31 Alice Bowen

Special birthday wishes to Irene Niver as she celebrates 95 years!

Anniversary Wishes to:

- 1 Jim & Sue Koehler (47 years)
- 3 Laurie & David Anderson (15 years)
- 8 Ronald & Donna Koenig (17 years)
- 14 Mark & Michelle Fluegge (45 years)
- 17 John & Margo Reid (32 years), AJ & Shawn Barto (43 years)
- 20 Carl & Eloise Schwarz (51 years)
- 21 Larry & Barb Wikel (18 years)
- 25 Rick & Jay Jean Bartelt (49 years)
- 29 Ronald & Jessica Franklin (30 years)

WOMEN OF FAITH

The beginning of October reminds us that our quilt display and crocheted items is about six weeks away. We expect to have as many as usual even as our volunteer group grows small. Please consider joining this group in 2025. We meet to tie and cut squares every 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 9–11:30 am. Great fellowship abounds!

Marjorie Weiss 941-757-7307



Faith Lutheran is inviting all Church Members and Friends to contribute for our Active Duty Military (the names are listed in the weekly news on line). This was a project begun by the Lannons several years ago. We send Gift Cards to our Military to brighten up their holidays.

This year volunteers, Janice Saari has volunteered to help us get all the military addresses and see to it that gift cards are mailed out to our Military friends. What a beautiful holiday thought for those who give, and a remembrance for those who receive.

You can find the contribution box on the blue table in the Narthex.



This month, Faith will recognize Reformation Day on Sunday, October 27, 2024, even though it is memorialized on Thursday, October 31st. Its history began on Halloween of 1517, when Martin Luther, a German monk, nailed his 95 Theses to the door of Wittenberg Church. These 95 Theses expressed his concerns over corruption found in the Catholic church. One of his primary concerns was the church selling "indulgences" to people in order to release them from having to serve penitence for their sins. An act which he considered to be people trying to buy their way into heaven. This act opened up a debate with religious scholars of the time that eventually lead to the Protestant Reformation.



In commemoration of Reformation Day, we are asking everyone to wear RED on Sunday, October 27, 2024

All Saints Day



They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from the God of their salvation. Psalm 24:5

Within the Lutheran religion and following Reformation Day, All Saints' Day is celebrated on November 1st. For the parishioners within the religion, "the day is observed by remembering and thanking God for all saints, both dead and living." It is a day to glorify Jesus Christ, who by his holy life and death has made the saints holy through Baptism and faith.

Faith will recognize **ALL SAINTS DAY** on November 3rd.

Saints that died this past year were:

- Lois Lannon, Karen Gibson, Robert Wyman,
- Larry Eichert, Patricia Hendricks,
- Erna Britt, Eunice Moore



Please if you or a family member is having a medical or other concern needing prayer, let the office know so we can add you to our prayer list. Too many times we hear of someone who has been in the hospital weeks after their surgeries or medical concerns. We know the power of prayer and want to keep you in our prayers. You or a family member should call the office at

941-776-1395 to keep us updated.



Fellowship News



We continue to host about 30 Faith members and friends on Sundays, following the 10:30 Divine Service with coffee, cookies, pastries and **lots of fellowship. It's a great time to meet new people.**

Sincere thanks for your free will offerings that help cover fellowship costs.

Fifth Sunday Breakfast Brunch was well attended and we enjoyed some delicious egg casseroles, biscuits and gravy, sausage, fruit and breakfast breads.



- Friday, October 10, 10:00 LWML ladies will pack hygiene kits for Manatee homeless, Bible Study, and meeting followed by a Redlands Migrant Christian School speaker and luncheon.
- Sunday, October 13, Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes begins.
- Thursday, October 17, 6:30 pm. First Handbell Choir practice.
- Sunday, October 20, 2025 Calendars go on sale.
- Sunday, October 27, 10:30 Divine Reformation Service, **PLEASE WEAR RED**
- Sunday, November 3, All Saints recognition Sunday.
- Sunday, November 10, 2 pm GriefShare event "Surviving the Holidays"
- Sunday, November 17, All Shoe boxes must be returned.
- Sunday, December 1, Beginning of Advent
- Wednesday, December 4, First Advent Meal hosted by LWML
- Sunday, December 8, 2 pm GriefShare event "Loss of a Spouse"
- Wednesday, December 11, Second Advent Meal hosted by Altar Guild and Elders
- Wednesday, December 18, Third Advent Meal hosted by Council and volunteers
- Tuesday, December 24, 5 and 7 pm. Candelight Services
- Wednesday, December 25, 10:30 am. Christmas Day Divine Service