



September, 2025

From the Pastor



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

Every once in a while, I have a conversation about the state our church body. Almost every church body in America is showing decline. This includes the LCMS. It is true that we are getting smaller like everyone else, but we are also bringing in new people. Over 30% of current members in our churches were not born Lutherans. There was a recent survey done on converts to the LCMS, either from other denominations or from a non-Christian background.

What the survey found was that a majority of people who become LCMS from other places come for a variety of reasons, but the primary ones are appreciation of our doctrinal consistency, a sense of community and a sense of grounding in history. Younger converts tend to be more conservative in their worship practices and interests. They are looking for liturgy and confessional consistency more often than any contemporary or Missional ideology.

Along the same lines I had heard a report concerning the ELCA and their numbers. In the report they estimate that Baptized membership would decline from 3.5 million in 2017 to 66.5 thousand by 2050. They are in a steep and steady 45-degree decline. The estimate seems to be accurate. Their data for 2023 indicates that in person attendance at weekly worship was roughly the same as ours, although their membership is slightly larger than ours. Trying to connect to the society by changing your beliefs is clearly not working.

While this is not ideal, there is some encouraging news. It seems like the younger generation is actively pursuing their faith in greater numbers than the LCMS's decline on the other hand is much slighter closer to 10 degrees. While this is not ideal, there is some encouraging news. It seems like the younger generation is actively pursuing their faith in greater numbers than the previous two generations. As is evidenced in our own congregation that growth is more often

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the young men. In fact, it was recently reported that church attendance is actually increasing in this age group.

No matter what happens to the LCMS the key is to remember that God is in control even now. Also the church never actually gets smaller. All that actually happens is that the Church Militant (church on earth), just becomes the Church Triumphant (the heavenly saints).

Peace be with you always. Amen.

Pastor Poock

PLEASE NOTE: PASTOR HAS A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:

pastor@faithlutheranfl.com



Ladies' Bible Study will start up again on Monday, September 8! We'll be meeting Mondays at 1 pm in the Sanctuary.

If you're interested in joining the upcoming study, please sign up on the blue table. Books for the study were ordered on August 28th. For more information, contact Gwyn Poock, 707-716-7582.

NEW THIS YEAR!

SOUL SPA

What is it? Monthly fun & fellowship for body AND soul! (For all ladies of Faith & their friends)

Spiritual health is as important as physical health. Our goals for this monthly get-together are joyful fellowship, some fun pampering activities, and focusing on renewal that only the Holy Spirit offers: nurturing our souls with grace, mercy, peace, and hope.

Take a look at the Soul Spa book on the blue table, and sign up if you're interested in pampering and fellowship all in one!

Questions? Call or text Gwyn, 707-716-7582



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

August 19, 2025

Present: President Glen Collier, Treasurer Barbara Wikel; Financial Secretary Larry Colton, Elder Tony Bowen Recording Secretary Julie DuChane, Altar Guild Eloise Schwarz, and Pastor Pooch. **Absent:** VP Greg Wissner

The President called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. A quorum was established.

Opening devotions: a gospel devotional concerning Luke and holding fast to the word. Compare what we're told to what the Bible says.

Recording Secretary: The minutes of July 8, 2025, were approved as printed. See attached minutes

Financial Secretary: Loose plate offerings are up slightly. Have ordered new church envelopes for 2026 - \$800 same as last year. Offerings \$5000 ahead of last year. This year we have \$51,000 in misc. as opposed to \$13000 last year.

Treasurer: Laura Matson will be taking over as Treasurer for the next term. Barbara will begin training her in October. Christa Fox, our bookkeeper, is doing a great job and provides a good 2nd set of eyes on the finances. Barbara has turned over more duties to her. A lot of the financial processes have been automated, including Gusto which has been handling our payroll for several years. We will move over more of the manual payment to Melio (which is a payment processing system Christa recommended), which will further automate most of our remaining payments.

Pastor: Finishing catechism this week, will have several new members, approx. 7-8. Two will not be at new member Sunday as they will be at college. Pastor will be speaking to their fraternity about Lutheran Identity.

Student is pleased with our teaching and membership process. Closed communion is attractive to the younger generation. 7 of the 15 attendees were under 30. On vacation 8/28 – 9/3. Pastor Kramp will be preaching on the 31st and doing Bible class. Lily will be on a mission trip missing 4 services, substitute organist has been found. Homebound visits continue, number fluctuates. Home school is back in session; Pastor is teaching one class.

United Church Directories came to talk about church directories. Our last one was 2019. This one will have an online app so we can update and keep it current. App has bank grade security. No cost to us to maintain electronic version. Photos will be October 17th & 18th.

New website will be up soon possibly mid-September.

VP: Absent

President: David Benson has resigned and transferred membership to another church.



COUNCIL MINUTES CONTINUED

Elders: No Thanksgiving meal this year since Tony will be out of town. If some other group would like to take over, Tony is happy to help. Should only take a few volunteers the day before and then clean up afterwards. Need to place order two weeks prior, check Cracker Barrel site for information.

LWML: First meeting in September, all ladies invited. Will be having brunch and putting together kits for the homeless Manatee school students.

Trustee: Vacant

Altar Guild: Cleaned all candles for the year with most members learning how. Chalice is being reglazed and is not back. Working on new banner selections for sanctuary. Pulled out choir robes in back store room, took to Goodwill and turned in the receipt. Let Eloise know if there's anything else that can be donated.

NEW BUSINESS

Additional classrooms and storage are on hold, will be taken up by new trustees. School is starting up and has added 9th grade. There are multiple teachers now and they need room to spread out. Need to use the entire space in Great Hall, have been told initially yes. Would like to use Nursery room for "quite time" room. Would like to use top space of fridge for culinary class. Would like to use a sink for paint brushes (maybe utility room, but okay w/using kitchen, will clean up sink). Have requested permission to put up basketball hoop for recess. Want to use class room between 1-3 on Wednesday for a staff meeting. Women of Faith are done by noon and Bible study doesn't start until 3:30. Glen, Tony and Pastor have said yes initially. Put to board for approval, approved. Janet Hargarten has accepted position as school/church liaison, she will bring any discussion between school and church. One line of communication for clarity. Larry made motion to accept changes, Barbara seconded it, approved by council.

Glen asked Julie DuChane to fill out Jean's tenure until end of year. Tony made motion to approve, council approved.

Tony Bowen will need to be replaced beginning of next year.

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m. followed by prayer.

Julie DuChane, Recording Secretary

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH IS LOOKING FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEE VOLUNTEERS.

Their duties according to the 2019 By Laws include:

Purchase, sell, mortgage, lease or otherwise convey and dispose of the property of the congregation, have custody and control of the corporate property and be responsible for the repair, maintenance and improvement thereof, and maintain adequate insurance, have authority to obtain and supervise custodial services for the properties, and transact all business assigned them by the Voter's Assembly.

If you are interested in volunteering in this position, please contact Pastor Pooch at 707-716-7598 or Glen Collier, Council President, at 214-632-8887



Remember Homeschooling is now in session on Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Please use the ramp door and buzzer if you need to see the secretaries or Pastor.

The Church is trying to limit the unlocking of the Narthex doors during the weekdays for safety reasons. So please use the ramp door and buzzer to gain entrance....or ladies' and men's groups, please assign someone to watch the doors for people attending your meetings so that the doors don't have to be unlocked.



Please wear your name badges!

If you are a Faith Lutheran Member and have not ordered (or if you have misplaced) your name badge, you can order one by letting Margaret know of your need. Badges are black and gold with magnetic backs for \$10.00 or pin backs for \$8.00.

If you are NOT a member of Faith, please sign your name on a name tag at the visitor's pedestal.

Faith ladies PLEASE check the **LWML** table for your invitation to the Friday, September 12th **LWML** Bible Study and Meeting. It is the first get-together of the new year and we want to invite and share with you the important doings of the **LWML** ladies at Faith. We will share with you what goes on the second Friday of each month, September through May, ask you to help us pack hygiene kits, and fellowship with a light luncheon provided by Judy Sattanno. Please sign up if you can join us so we have an idea on how much food to provide.

Who are the ladies of LWML?

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH AT 9:30 AM.

Opportunities for you to grow and become involved...

Pastor's Sunday Bible Classes



meet in the Great Hall at 9:15 am each Sunday. We are continuing with in-depth discussions of the weekly readings and/or books of the Bible. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee and a donut, and join in the discussions.

The offerings received at this time go to benefit pastoral students at the Concordia Seminary.

Wednesday Bible Studies at 3:30 pm. on I, II, III John are being studied at this time followed by The Divine Service at 5 pm.

Lifelight Bible Study is held the third Friday of every month at 7 pm. in Sun City Center

HAPPENINGS AT FAITH

WOMEN OF FAITH

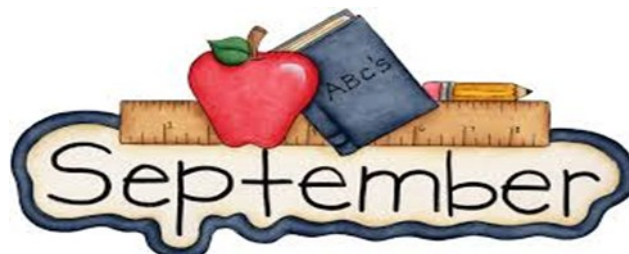
For some reason there were some excellent clearance sales on toys early in 2025 so most of our toys needed for Christmas at Redlands Christian



Migrant Association were already purchased before all these tariff price increases took effect. Praise the Lord!

Women of Faith provides 70 toys and blankets to the pre-school aged children of migrant workers from the free will offerings provided when we display the quilts every November. Praise the Lord! Come help : the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

Marjorie Weiss 941-757-7307





Our Food Barrel, in the Narthex, is for your generous gifts of non-perishables 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.

Prayer Warriors

Prayer requests are emailed to Prayer Warriors as they are received. If you would like to join in this ministry, please, email eloise6376@gmail.com and your name will be added to the mailings. Many recipients have told us how comforting it is to know that others are praying for them.



NEED A FRIEND? BE A FRIEND!

I was in prison and you came to me (Matt. 25:36b). And when did we see you sick or in prison (Matt. 25: 39) Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers you did it to me (Matt. 25:40

Have the events of the past few months made you feel like you are in a prison? Have you felt lonely, just wanting to hear a friendly voice and know someone cares? If you would like to receive a friendly phone call a few times a week, just to say "hi" "I care about you". "How are you doing?" then give your name and phone number to Ann Colton at 941-685-3858 and you will be teamed up with a new friend that can bring a little love and sunshine into your day.

Origins

In the 19th century, the concept of governing postage stamps emerged in tandem with the rise of organized postal services. That began with the world's first adhesive postage stamp – the Penny Black in Great Britain in 1840. This revolutionized communication by making this more accessible and standardized. YOUR mail may come with one of those adhesive stamps that just may make the difference for the Stamp Ministry in Fort Myers. Thank you Eloise
Eloise6376@gmail.com (414) 807-4373



Fall is Here!

IT'S TIME FOR A NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY!

Pastor Poock has determined it is time for our new pictorial church directory. Our dates for photography will be:
Friday, October 17 from 1 pm to 7:30 pm. and
Saturday, October 18 from 10 am to 4:30 pm.

We have volunteers to help with the sign-up process for our Families on the two days of picture taking, but will need a couple more volunteers to help with weekly sign ups. Julie will be available on Sunday, August 31st after the Breakfast Brunch in the Sunday School room to begin scheduled sign-ups. There will also be forms (at a future date) you can fill out to get registered.

Only one short trip to the church will assure that you (or your family) will be a part of our pictorial directory. The whole process takes 45 minutes to one hour. Each Faith Church Member family photographed receives a complimentary 8 X 10 portrait to be sent postage free to their home. Plus, they receive a complimentary directory.

PLEASE WATCH FOR UPCOMING INFORMATION REGARDING SCHEDULING AND THE WHAT TO KNOW FOR YOUR PHOTOS.



FAITH WOMEN IN MISSION

The **LWML** fall season will begin FRIDAY, September 12, 2025 at 10 a.m. It is a special meeting where we are inviting all ladies of the church to come and share in what **LWML** is all about. We will begin at 9:30 with coffee and goodies, then welcome all of our visitors, share in our Bible Study, hear of upcoming events for the year in our meeting, then pack Hygiene Kits for the Manatee homeless children. Finally we will end with a light luncheon provided by Judy Sattanno.

The activity booklet for the year will be available with dates for most activities planned which include packing seeds for Hope Seeds, packing Project Heart hygiene kits; packing Christmas shut-in bags along with a cookie exchange, and a Love Offering for Project Heart.

LWML continues to collect SCHOOL SUPPLIES for Redlands Christian Migrant students through the end of September. Please leave school supplies on the **LWML (purple)** table in the Narthex or in the bin to the right of the **LWML** table. They will be delivered to Redlands by Jeff & Judy Sattanno the beginning of October. Their school begins in October.



We will be packing Hygiene Kits for Manatee Homeless this month. Most needed at this time for the hygiene kits is toothpaste and bar soap. Please place your donations in the bin to the left of the **LWML** table in the Narthex. We truly appreciate and need all your donations.

October is just around the corner and the 10th (a FRIDAY) is our next regular meeting day. All Faith members and friends will be invited to join **LWML** for our regular Bible Study, meeting and good fellowship.

The LWML 2025 Retreat at St. Simons Island, GA will be held September 5th through September 7th. If you are interested in attending, you can find a registration form on the **LWML** table in the Narthex.

Remember to leave your mite boxes on the **LWML table or put your coins in the big MITE box. They are taken to a bank for counting and a check is sent to the FL-GA District to support mission grants. PLEASE, no foreign coins, half dollars or dirty coins.**

This Month's Privileged Servants



Altar Guild

Wednesdays, 5pm

September 3 NO SERVICE
 September 10 Robin Parkin
 September 17 Karen Hill
 September 24 Gwyn Pooch

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

September 7 Meta Green / Gwyn Pooch
 September 14 Martha Reidl / Alec & Erin Carpp
 September 21 Monica Carenza / Cindy Nuetzel
 September 28 Nancy Niemi / Sean Kons

Elders

Wednesdays, 5 pm

September 3 NO SERVICE
 September 10 Tony Bowen
 September 17 Tony Bowen
 September 24 Tony Bowen

Assistant

Carl Schwarz
 Curt McCarty
 Jeff Sattanno

Sundays, 8:00 am

September 7 Dennis Steinke
 September 14 Tom Weiss
 September 21 Tom Weiss
 September 28 Dennis Steinke

Sundays, 10:30 am

Jack Conte
 Caleb Pooch
 Jack Conte
 Caleb Pooch

Assistant

Alex Boettcher
 Alec Carpp
 Alex Boettcher
 Alec Carpp

Offering Counters

September 1 John Niemi, Larry Colton
 September 8 John Niemi, Judy Sattanno, Stu Lindberg
 September 15 Marilyn Howard, Nancy Kendall, Marti Katterhenry
 September 22 Larry Colton, Nancy Kendall
 September 29 Larry Colton, Nancy Kendall



September Birthdays

- 1 Reatha Snyder
- 2 Shawn McAnally, Paul Nordbrock
- 3 Carol Wissner, Janice Cascio
- 5 Curt McCarty, Penny Hart
- 7 Daniel Pope Sr.
- 8 Ann Colton
- 9 Karen Pollari
- 11 AJ Barto, David Barber
- 14 Millie Gardner
- 16 Lisa Ladwig
- 19 Amy Laser
- 22 Janet Hargarten, Larry Wikel, Ed Theres
- 24 Kate Pooch
- 25 Sharon Fredrick
- 27 Michelle Fluegge
- 29 Heather Teitelbaum

Special Wishes to:

Daniel Pope, Sr (99 yrs. young)
as he celebrates a
milestone birthday

September Anniversaries

- 9 Gary & Nancy Bonadurer (58 years)
- 12 Ron & Diane Durham (38 years)
- 14 Ed and Judy Schrader (51 years)
- 18 Janie & Louis Zanella (16 years)
- 19 David & Margi Krewin (33 years)
- 25 Uwe & Kristine Porth (42 yrs.)

FELLOWSHIP NEWS



A time of fellowship and coffee bites will continue following the 10:30 am Divine Service as we have some wonderful volunteers willing to bring in 3 dozen cookies or 2 dozen pastries. Two volunteers are called each week by Monica for their help in providing sweet treats (coffee bites). Monica and Margaret handle set-up and clean-up.



Fellowship Meal

Our Fifth **Sunday Breakfast** on August 31st was a welcome back to our Snowbirds and a look forward to a fall season of joy and love for all our church members. We're looking forward to some delicious egg casseroles, sausage/bacon, fruit, bagels, muffins and sweet breads.

I'm grateful to the many who have signed up to help with set up and clean up.

If you are unable to join us this month, we are sorry and hope you can return soon.

