

**The Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church**  
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**October, 2025**

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.

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



CONTINUED

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.

*Rev. Patrick Pooch*



## Calling all Men!

Pastor will be leading a men's group starting on Sunday, October 12 at 5:00 pm. This is a time to study the Bible, discuss the issues of this world and how we respond to them while enjoying fellowship over Beer & Brats. All men of all ages are invited to join us. Please sign up in the Narthex or call or email the office: 941-776-1395, [office@faithlutheranfl.com](mailto:office@faithlutheranfl.com)

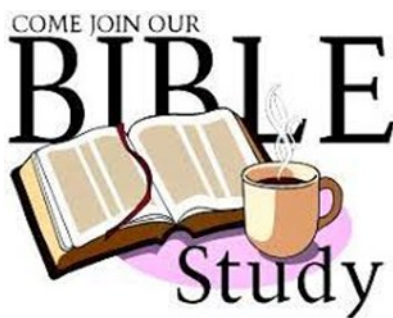


## PLEASE NOTE:

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

**NO TRASH OR STYROFOAM CUPS,**  
thank you.





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

Pastor also has a 3:30 Bible Study Genesis and moving into Exodus every Wednesday.

Following his Divine Service at 5:00 - 6:00 pm, he is studying the Book of Concord with anyone interested.

Lifelight Bible Study is held the third Friday of every month in Sun City Center.  
Please contact Susan Heflin at 954-675-6900



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 9, 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, VP Greg Wissner, Trustee David DuChane

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

Opening devotions: Who is our neighbor? Gods command does not allow you to choose your neighbor. Anyone you encounter in your vocation is your neighbor. Jesus is not picky, if he was, would he have picked you for salvation? Lutherans look at good works differently, by our vocation. We serve the people we come in contact with through our vocation, in our daily lives. Reformed churches believe Jesus only died for the elect and you won't know if you are part of the elect until you die.

**Recording Secretary:** on vacation next week

**Financial Secretary:** Need some more counting people. Only 3 are familiar with data input on computer.



**Treasurer:** The financial statements were sent out via email. Offerings are up for the year. The Melio payment system is not working with the connection to South State Bank. Barbara will work with South State Bank to see if the issue can be resolved. Otherwise, we will be looking into alternative payment systems. Barbara is working on the Treasury guide to document treasury processes, accounts and reports. Budget items for 2026 are requested. We will forecast the base 2026 budget from our 2025 spend, but any known 2026 expenses are requested. The annual Congregational meeting is coming up

**Pastor:** Finishing up military activity for this year. Will be gone every Friday and Sept, also 9<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> then done until April 2026. Vacation went well, spent time with family. Sept 22, 23 & 24 will be at pastor's conference, will be back for all services.

Catechism had 15 people, 7 under age of 30. A couple want to go through it again. Interested in Book of Concord. Invited to UF in Gainesville to Christian Fraternity to speak. Pastor has been asked for input on paper he's writing for University. Two inquiries for catechism class in the fall. In the fall we will be starting a 6:30 Book of Concord class. October 12 will start Beer, Brats & Bible a gathering focusing on getting the older men together with the younger men for fellowship and learning. Planning on continuing once monthly.

A group of young men will meet with Pastor weekly for lunch and learning.

School teaching going well this year.

**VP:** Nothing to report

President: Janitors have resigned for health issues. Will need to find replacements. Pastor may know of someone in congregation. Julie will put out notice in Mailchimp this week. Barbara to look into pay and approx. hours for this job.

**Elders:** Jack Conte has resigned as an Elder. A few people are praying on becoming Elders. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Mission project is Hope Children's Home in Tampa, taking in abused, abandoned children, caring for them and also teaching them.

**LWML:** Welcome back meeting on Friday with a luncheon at 12:00 pm in the Great Hall. Bible Devotion and hygiene kit packing. Marilyn is president again this year.

**Trustee:** A/C leak issue in classroom is still being worked on. Need a bid on what is proposed by A/C co.

**Altar Guild:** has lost quite a few people, will advertise for new people for the group. Eloise has been filling in. Keys are still an issue as not everyone has a key. 4 people need keys. Eloise will write up a call for volunteers for Mailchimp. Banners will not be made, working with Pastor on getting new ones. Newer ones will be larger than we have closet space for, will need to be hung or rolled into tubes. Wash clothes and hand towels are very depleted, Eloise purchased new ones. Got two new Lenten banners. Will need to work with Trustees to hang banners. Getting blue, white and red for Reformation.

### NEW BUSINESS

David DuChane has been asked to step in as part of the Trustee committee for the rest of the year. Two or three others also interested in being on Trustee board. Will try for an initial meeting this week. Need to be able to manage things over the phone, knowing who to call. Motion to make David Trustee through end of year by Tony, Larry seconded, motion passed.

Need to look at the by-laws to see what applies.

Budget is based off what we did last year. If there's something that didn't get done last year but needs to be done next year, make sure it gets added.

Addition to our building. School is a great source of new members and families. We need to accommodate them and give them a home. Hopefully growing the church, not letting it die. Plan for the future, don't wait for it to happen then react. We need to lay the ground work now.

Files on computer are being accessed by too many people. Would like to set up some firewalls so that not everyone can get in to all files. Access by need.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m. followed by prayer.  
Julie DuChane, Recording Secretary



### Advertisement for Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church

*Our quiet group of ladies/couples work diligently behind the scene to assure the Lord's Supper is available for all who come to His Altar. They joyfully fulfill their roles once or twice a month. Volunteering to experience a spiritual ministry of caring for God's House, they also assist with baptisms, funerals, and caring for the flowers that grace His Altar.*

*We have openings for new members dedicated to this honorable work. For details, contact the Church office or Eloise Schwarz for more information today.*

*Thank you*





**WILL BE**

**CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025**



**Altar Flowers and Vases**

If you paid for the flowers on the altar and want to take them home, we have (5) spare vases *to borrow* in the kitchen instead of using the Florists vases. They can be found in the cabinet above the microwave. Please return them clean when you are done with them, so others may use them as well. Thank you. Elois

### **FAITH PRAYER WARRIORS**

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 Warriors who have joined the Faith Prayer Ministry. To be a member of this vital ministry send an email to [eloise6376@gmail.com](mailto:eloise6376@gmail.com) and prayer requests will be sent to you via email.

**Thank You!**



**Our 2026 beautiful “God’s Creation” wall calendars are here and available for you to purchase for only \$5.00. They make great gifts and proceeds go to support our Fellowship activities. Please, place your cash or check, made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “calendar” on the memo line in the box provided.**

**CHURCH DIRECTORY** appointments are being scheduled now, either on-line or you can sign up on your next visit to the church. Time slots have filled up quickly for **Friday, October 17** and **Saturday, October 18**. If you have already signed up, you should have received an email confirming your appointment.

If you don’t have an email address, you will be contacted by phone the beginning of October. If you wish to schedule your appointment online, go to [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com), click on the box to the right that says “photography appointment scheduling login”, enter **FL 1029** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Then follow the prompts to schedule your family’s appointment time.

We will hopefully be looking at scheduling more appointments in January for our Northern Snowbird friends.

Directory Photos will be taken here in the Great Hall on scheduled Friday and Saturday October dates and times.





# Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry **COMING SOON....** **Sunday, Oct. 12**

**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 12** is the kick off weekend! Boxes must be returned to the church by **November TBA.**



**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](mailto:jfluegge1@gmail.com)



We are in the beginning stages of planning to have a **THANKSGIVING MEAL**, on November 27th at the church for Faith members and friends who live alone and couples who do not have any immediate family nearby. We are planning on a 12:30 serving, but invite you to come earlier to choose your seating and fellowship. Once again we are counting on Cracker Barrel to prepare our meal, and church volunteers will serve it and do the clean up. Please sign up on the blue table in the Narthex if you are planning on attending. We will need a count for placing our order.



In looking ahead:

November is a five Sunday month, so there will only be ONE Divine Service at 10:30 on November 30th and Bible Study at 9:15, and no fellowship meal because of just having the Thanksgiving Meal and understanding that Wednesday, December 3rd starts Advent.



## The Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML)



September 12, 2025

### Meeting Minutes

25 Ladies were in attendance. This was the first meeting of the new year and it was so exciting to see so many new faces!

Marilyn called the meeting to order.

Eloise opened with prayer.

Marilyn had everyone introduce themselves. She then gave a devotion on Procrastination from a book by Chuck Swindoll. Key to beating procrastination is do it "Now". She had us write down 2 items on our "To Do" list that we need to work on and suggested we call/connect with someone we haven't connected with in a while.

Arlene shared that we have \$917.17 in our treasury.

Marilyn reviewed the upcoming year which is detailed in the books she created and handed out.

A big THANK YOU to Marilyn for putting this together, as this takes a lot of work and to Dorothy for assisting her. We have quite a few activities planned for this new year.

Carli presented an LWML History lesson, that include Jean Roehr's husband's aunt. Carli said she would continue to share LWML history at future meetings.

Marilyn had each table participate in a "very difficult" Bible Trivia. The stacked table with 2 Pastor's wives and a Pastor's daughter got them all correct.

We then had a raffle with quite a few winners.

Marilyn concluded the meeting with the LWML prayer and our table prayer.

The ladies then packed 100 Hygiene Kits for Manatee County homeless children.

We had a salad lunch to end the morning.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Sattanno, Secretary

[We are currently collecting school supplies for RCMA Child Development Center in Palmetto. We will be collecting up to the October meeting.](#)

[Here is the list of requested items:](#)



Crayola Markers

Hole punchers

100 2 pocket folders

Rolls of clear contact paper

Diapers – sizes 4, 5, 6

Baby Wipes

Construction paper

Dry Erase Markers

Crayola Jumbo (flat) crayons

Fine Point Pens

Small Bottles of glue

Water based tempera paint (all colors)

Large drawing paper

Finger painting paper

Collage craft items: Pompoms, straws, googly eyes all sizes, pipe cleaners, feathers, popsicle sticks, stick on letters and numbers.

## This Month's Privileged Servants



### Altar Guild

#### **Wednesdays, 5pm**

October 1 Eloise Schwarz  
 October 8 Karen Hill  
 October 15 Robin Parkin  
 October 22 Eloise Schwarz  
 October 29 Eloise Schwarz

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

October 5 Meta Green / Erin & Alec Carpp  
 October 12 Monica Carenza/ Gwyn Poock  
 October 19 Martha Riedl/Cindy Nuetzel  
 October 26 Sean Kons / Monica Carenza

### Elders

#### **Wednesdays, 5 pm**

October 1 Tony Bowen  
 October 8 Tony Bowen  
 October 15 Tony Bowen  
 October 22 Tony Bowen  
 October 29 Tony Bowen

#### Assistant

Carl Schwarz  
 Carl Schwarz  
 Carl Schwarz  
 Carl Schwarz  
 Carl Schwarz

#### **Sundays, 8:00 am**

October 5 Tom Weiss  
 October 12 Dennis Steinke  
 October 19 Tom Weiss  
 October 26 Dennis Steinke

#### **Sundays, 10:30 am**

Caleb Poock  
 Tony Bowen  
 Caleb Poock  
 Dennis Steinke

#### Assistant

Alec Carpp  
 Alex Boettcher  
 Alec Carpp  
 Alex Boettcher

### Offering Counters

October 5 John Niemi, Larry Colton  
 October 12 John Niemi, Stu Lindberg, Judy Sattanno  
 October 19 Marilyn Howard, Nancy Kendall, Marti Katterhenry  
 October 26 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 Carpp
- 6 David Pfuhler
- 7 Dorothy Kadelski, William Costello, Shawn Barto
- 9 Caroline Spirduso
- 10 Ken Scheer
- 11 Marilyn Howard, Harry Wiedenmeyer
- 18 Dana Ellerbrock Booth, Margo Reid
- 23 Paulette Natzke
- 24 David Krewin, Gwyn Pooch
- 26 Joseph Kaczmarek
- 31 Alice Bowen

### Anniversary Wishes to:

- 1 Jim & Sue Koehler (48 years)
- 3 Laurie & David Anderson (16 years)
- 8 Ronald & Donna Koenig (19 years)
- 14 Mark & Michelle Fluegge (47 years)
- 17 John & Margo Reid (33 years), AJ & Shawn Barto (44 years)
- 20 Carl & Eloise Schwarz (52 years)
- 21 Larry & Barb Wikel (19 years)
- 25 Rick & Jay Jean Bartelt (50 years)
- 29 Ronald & Jessica Franklin (30 years)



## WOMEN OF FAITH

Women of Faith will be finishing up the production of our lap-robies this month, especially juvenile one for Redland Head Start program. We hope to have shawls available from our two proficient crochet partners and possible "beach" dresses as we've had several dust ruffles donated that we've paired with long T-shirts.

**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 volunteer, Julie DuChane 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 26, 2025, even though it is memorialized on Friday, 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.



Reformation Day

**In commemoration of Reformation Day, we are asking everyone to wear RED on Sunday, October 26, 2025**

## 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 Sunday, November 2nd.

Saints that died this past year were:

**Rev. David Hinman, Rev. Lee Stisser,  
and Frank Francis**



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, Finish pancakes, sausage, fruit and breakfast breads.**



**Friday, October 10, 10:00** LWML ladies will have their monthly meeting and Bible Study, then deliver school items to Redlands Migrant Christian School.

**Sunday, October 13,** Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes begins.

**Friday, October 17, 1:00 to 7:30** Directory Pictures will be taken at the Church.

**Saturday, October 18, 10:00 to 4:30** Directory Pictures will be taken at the Church.

**Sunday, October 19,** 2026 Calendars go on sale.

**Sunday, October 26, 10:30** Divine Reformation Service, **PLEASE WEAR RED**

**Sunday, November 2,** All Saints recognition Sunday.

**Thursday, November 27, 12:30** Thanksgiving Meal at the Church.

**Saturday, November 29, 9:00** Church Decorating.

**Sunday, November 30,** Beginning of Advent.

**Wednesday, December 3,** First Advent Meal.

**Wednesday, December 10,** Second Advent Meal.

**Wednesday, December 17,** Third Advent Meal.

**Wednesday December 24, 5 and 7 pm.** Candelight Services.

**Thursday, December 25, 10:30 am.** Christmas Day Divine Service.