

# Walk With Faith September 2024 Newsletter



**Faith Lutheran Church, LCMS**  
**935 S. Crystal Glen Dr.**  
**Lecanto, FL 34461**  
**Church Office - 352-527-3325**  
**Pastor's Cell - 812-350-7820**



Greetings and God's Peace,



Do you remember your first full summer in Florida? I always will. It was different than all the other summers before it in only one way. There have been hot summers before, even hotter than the one just passed. Illinois summers get up over 100 degrees for days at a time, Indiana and St. Louis, too. There have been summers where I have experienced tornados nearby and heavy storms in the other states as well. Summers have come and gone with lots of rain, and summers have come and gone with little or almost none at all.

What made this one different for me? It was the first summer that found me as the sole pastor at a church. And that church was in Lecanto, Florida. It is hard to believe that it has almost been a full year, and yet it feels as if Faith has been my home forever.

This summer, spending time praying through the Prayers for June, July, and August helped me to focus my attention and prayer time on the here and now. These simple one-line prayers gave me a good jumping off point and a reminder to be in prayer everyday this summer. I prayed for things I never would have thought to pray for on my own. And my prayer life was better having a guide in front of me daily.

Choosing to read a chapter a day from the Gospels also helped in my devotional life this summer. You shouldn't find it hard to believe that pastors struggle in devotions. We are just normal people. Truthfully when I study scriptures preparing for a sermon or a bible study, that is much different than seeking the Lord in His word in personal devotion time. Beginning with Matthew Chapter One, these chapter-a-day readings have taken me through the Gospels and into the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. In fact, this chapter a day thing is working so well at keeping me focused on the New Testament, I am going to continue through til the end of the year.

While an apple a day may keep the doctor away, a psalm a day might also do the trick. 92 psalms over the course of the summer have been an awesome way to stay in touch with the LORD. It is amazing to read through the psalms daily and experience the variety of the writers and of the types of psalms in their totality as you go through them. The height and depth of the writer's experience of joy and grief, pain and pleasure, trials and triumphs take us through the emotional scales in ways we can only imagine.

Watching the work of the Lord throughout the course of this year as it has passed has also been amazing. So many good people doing great things in His name. And just listening to the stories of faith from people at Faith... So many lives changed by the power of the gospel at work in, with, and through the hearts, hands, and feet of the men, women, and children whose lives have been touched at our church.

Truly it has been an amazing first year. But as good as it was, as many say, there are better things coming, because our God is clearly not done with us yet.

Faith Lutheran Church continues to surprise me. Her people have hearts from God. I experience that in many different ways, but mostly in their desire to learn and grow in their faith through bible study, worship, prayer and study. I experience the hearts we have for people in the love that is reflected all around our church. As people share their gifts and talents through acts of service, words of affirmation, kindness, fellowship, prayer, simply being there for others, and caring for others more than themselves.

I am excited to experience all that God has in store for us on the journey ahead.

Pastor Patrick Galligar

[Pastor.galligar@faithlecanto.org](mailto:Pastor.galligar@faithlecanto.org) - 812.350.7820 (cell)

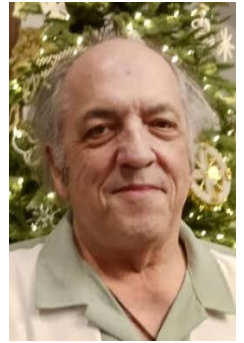
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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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# COUNCIL



Fellow members of Faith,

It's hard to believe that summer is over, and we are in September already. Here in the land of sunshine it is hard to figure out where summer begins or ends. This month our boards will begin meeting again and all our fall activities start up. I encourage all who can to help us out too as we are always in need of volunteers.

At our September council meeting we will be focusing on the budget for 2025 and also the nomination of officers. Our meeting will be on September 19<sup>th</sup> at **11am** so that we will have ample time to discuss the many items we need to plan and start. If anyone from our congregation has something they feel should be brought up, please let any of the council members know before the September 19<sup>th</sup>.

As some of our congregation are returning and traveling, we hope and pray for your safe return. God's blessings to all of our people here at Faith Lutheran. You are what makes us "a heart from God, a heart for others."

Yours in Christ, Dale

Dale Schluckbier	President	Kathy Blondell &	Co-treasurer
Fred Crogley	Vice President	Joanne Fetzer	Co-treasurer
Gloria Schultz	Stewardship	Carol Wygle	Financial Secretary
David Hanney	Recording Secretary	David Hass	Head Elder
Maxine Crogley	Coordinator	Ann Panas	Outreach
Gary Wygle	Board of Trustees	Sandra Lawrence	Education/finance
Linda Holthaus	Publicity		

**2025**

*Church Elections*

We have several open positions on the council starting January 1, 2025. Please pray about the upcoming church year and consider placing your name or nominating another member on the ballot. The October newsletter will have more detailed information regarding the open positions. Contact Maxine Crogley at 352-637-4649 or [fmcrogley02@brighthouse.com](mailto:fmcrogley02@brighthouse.com) for any questions or comments.



Greetings Dear Christian Friends:

In September we will again resume wearing name tags. It is important that everyone wears their name tag. Having name tags helps Pastor and both the new and established members to remember each other names. We also use name tags to track attendance. If you happen not to have a name tag, we will see that you get one.

September has three Holy Communion weekends; Aug 31, Sept 1; Sept. 14, 15; and Sept. 28, 29. There are bible studies that meet after Sunday Worship, and 1:30 on Tuesday, please try to attend one of those.

We need to add several elders for this next year. I will be talking to some of you, anyone interested in becoming an elder please let pastor or me know.

We are also continuing to look for someone to play piano, mostly for special music for Saturday nights and Sunday morning choir. If you know someone that might be interested contact either pastor or me.

Thanks to the many people who substituted for usher, elder, and altar guild duty during the busy vacation months. I also thank those who tended the office during Kevin's absence. It is good to have you well and back again, Kevin.

David Hass - Chairman, Board of Elders

YOUR ELDERS	
Alan Benner	Pastor Galligar
Lete Connelly	Fred Crogle
David Haas	Don Mueller
Don McNeil	Charlie Cox



Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet starting October 8th . I will be mailing checks of \$250 to the seminary food banks of both seminaries in St. Louis and Fort Wayne. This is amazing because we had no fund raisers last year. If anyone has any ideas for discussion or special speakers for our breakfasts coming up, please let me know.

David Hass

## Psalm 29

*"Praise the Lord, you heavenly angels! Praise the Lord's glory and power. Praise the Lord and honor his name! Worship the Lord in all his holy beauty. The Lord's voice can be heard over the sea. The voice of our glorious Lord God is like thunder over the great ocean. The Lord's voice is powerful. It shows the Lord's glory."*



## Congregational Survey Report

Like all organizations, churches go through stages of development and decline. New churches are typically filled with energy, enthusiasm, and a desire to grow. Established churches are stable, healthy, growing, and adapting. Aging churches have passed their prime, are beginning to look inward, and have stopped growing. Failing churches are barely surviving and often face closure.

According to the 97 congregants and friends of Faith Lutheran who completed the survey, we are in an early stage of decline called stasis. Stasis is the first stage of aging and while the congregation remains strong, it is beginning to lose flexibility and turn inward, focusing on what has already been established. *The good news is that this beginning decline can be reversed.*

To assist churches in addressing issues of vitality, the survey looks at ten different factors found in all churches. These factors are:

1. ADAPTABILITY, or how willing we are to make changes.
2. COMMUNITY, or how willing we are to engage the community around us.
3. FAMILY, or how well we minister to families and children.
4. HOSPITALITY, or how welcoming and responsive we are to visitors and guests.
5. INACTIVES, or how well we serve our inactive members.
6. INCORPORATION, or how well we involve members in our ministries.
7. OUTREACH, or how effectively we reach out to people outside our church.
8. UNITY, or how well we get along and our overall morale.
9. VIABILITY, or how confident we are about being able to continue our ministry.
10. VISION, or how strong our sense of mission and purpose is.

Of these factors, Faith Lutheran enjoys strength in Hospitality, Outreach, Inactives, and Incorporation. Four factors – Community, Vision, Unity, and Viability – are present at Faith Lutheran but need strengthening. And two factors need significant work to revitalize Faith Lutheran. These are Family and Adaptability.

So, in short, Faith Lutheran is doing reasonably well, *but retaining the status quo is likely to make us less effective in carrying out God's mission of making disciples of all.* How, then, can we reverse this trend?

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod has several program modules designed to help churches recharge their vitality. At a joint meeting of the church council and the mission/vision team we opted to conduct a churchwide module called *Serving in God's Mission*. This module involves a 9-session Bible study that **everyone is encouraged to attend**. The Bible study looks at the scriptural foundation for strategic planning in churches. We plan to offer the Bible study on Sundays at 11 a.m. and Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall beginning the week of September 22, 2024, and ending the week of November 17, 2024.

Following a break to celebrate Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, we will hold a 9-week workshop designed to help Faith Lutheran create a strategic plan for the church's future. As with the Bible study, **everyone is encouraged to take part in this opportunity**. At the end of the workshop, we will have set forth our **core values**, and created a statement defining our **purpose**, a statement defining **Faith's God-given mission**, and a statement that clearly **shares our belief in His Vision for the future of His church** in Lecanto. **We will also have established actionable goals for the church going forward.**



Congregational Survey Report continued.....

It is an exciting time for Faith Lutheran as we work on these essential elements of church life. We encourage anyone with questions to contact a mission/vision team member or the pastor for more information. As we go through this process, we will provide additional details through church announcements, notices in our service bulletins, and articles in the monthly newsletter.

Mission/Vision Team:

John Bechler	Kathy Blondell	David Hanny	Mike Haynes
Mark Holzwart	Kurt Johnson	Mike McFarland	Don McNeil
Bill Moeller	Dean Moore	Sally Moore	
Dale Schluckbier, Church Council President			Pastor Patrick Galligar

## Bible Study



### CHURCH-WIDE BIBLE STUDY – Begins September 22nd !!!

All members and friends of Faith are strongly encouraged to attend the Serving in God's Mission study being offered by the Church Council and Mission/Vision Team.

This 9-week study is an important lead-in to the workshop that will be held in January 2025. All those who will attend the workshop in January, should plan to participate in the Serving in God's Mission study beginning soon. The study will be led by a member of the Mission/Vision Team with Pastor Galligar as a co-leader.

The study will take place on Sundays (beginning on 9/22) at 11 a.m. and on Tuesdays (beginning 9/24) at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to attend this important study but are unable to meet on Sundays or Tuesdays, the team is willing to host a third session on Saturdays (beginning on 9/28) at 4 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, but only as a last resort.

Please email Pastor Galligar ([pastor.galligar@faithlecano.org](mailto:pastor.galligar@faithlecano.org)) by September 15, 2024 if you are unable to attend Sundays or Tuesdays, but would be willing to attend on Saturdays.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sally Moore



### Men's Fellowship and Faith

Join us every Monday at 8:30 a.m. at Papa J's Diner in Inverness for fellowship and food, followed by discussion based on *The Serendipity Bible*.

For more information, contact Dean Moore at 352-601-8390 or [mooread24@gmail.com](mailto:mooread24@gmail.com).





## Stitch and Tie Quilt Group

We are starting September with the hope that some new people become interested in our quilt group and can be a part of our mission endeavor to the community. Our snowbirds will be returning soon, and it will be good to see them once again.

Perhaps some of you remember Betty Nelson, a past member of our church. Betty is the one who made the beautiful quilt banner that hangs in the back of the sanctuary and says: Go in peace, Serve the Lord. She also gave the lace that is on the altar table covering and asked Geneva Davis to sew it on the white linen. Betty was in our quilt group, and we all learned from her. She was called to her heavenly home July 7, 2024.

Our meeting dates for September will be the 13th and the 27th, at 9:00 - 11:30 in the Fellowship hall. If you have an interest in sewing, we welcome you to join us.

Marilyn Richards, Member



### J C L" (Jesus Christ Our Lord) JAR

Please remember to drop your \$1 bills with the letters of either J C L on them, which stand for Jesus Christ (our) Lord, and put them in the plastic jar in the Narthex. The money collected is going towards new air conditioning units. Some units are 30 plus years old and could go at any time. So far, we have raised **\$17,250**. We need an additional **\$82,750** to reach our goal of \$100,000. With everyone's effort we can get there. Watch the thermometer in the narthex kitchen window going up. Any bill or check given is always appreciated.

Thank you, Maxine Croggle



Thanks be to God! Gina Galligar is our new Ladies of Faith (LOF) President and Barbara Feltner is our new Secretary starting on September 9. Please note that LOF will meet monthly the **second Monday of each month at 1 PM** unless noted otherwise. Therefore, please mark on your calendar to come to LOF meeting on Monday,

September 9, at 1 p.m. We have many things coming up in the near future, and we encourage all women of the congregation to come and be a part of LOF.

### MITE BOX

The third weekend of each month there will be a blue Mite Box on the table in the narthex. The money collected from the Mite Box is sent to the LWML (Ladies Women Missionary League) to support international and national missions. Any donation is appreciated.



October 12, 2024 | Floral City Florida

The Pregnancy and Family Life Center at 317 Tompkins Avenue in Inverness is holding its annual “Heroes Walk/Bike for Life” fundraiser on Saturday, October 12 at Floral Park in Floral City. It is about a two-mile walk. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the walk/bike ride starting at 9 a.m. Our church has supported this walk for several years. Last year we had twelve people from Faith doing the walk. We would love to see more of our congregation there whether doing the walk and/or offering support financially. More information will be available in the October newsletter.



## Operation Christmas Child

The shoebox is the means God has put into our hands to reach the children of the world so they will know God's love.

In the Narthex, there are Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas boxes for our members to take and fill. An ordinary shoebox can be used also. These boxes are due in the Narthex by Sunday, November 3rd, as Carla Nicklas will then take them to the 1st Baptist Church in Crystal River on November 4th. That church is the processing center.

Shoebox gift ideas are the following types:

1. Personal care items-but no liquids, toothpaste, or candy
2. Wow items- stuffed animals, dolls, balls, shoes
3. School supplies- pens, pencils, crayons, books, paper
4. Accessories- flashlights with batteries, jewelry, sunglasses.

Pray for the child who will receive the gift. One can write a note and include a photo also. The \$10 per box shipping fee will be paid by the Ladies of Faith Treasury , as we have earned money from fundraisers. This has been a Ladies of Faith project for several years now. Over one hundred million shoebox gifts have been given out around the world. Please secure a printed label on each box.

Acts 20:35- "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Psalms 41:1- "Blessed is he who considers the poor."

If anyone has any questions about contents for the boxes, please call Carla Nicklas at 352-257-1480. Thank you very much.

God bless.

Carla Nicklas



My grandma always says that she never gets any phone calls; so, for her birthday, I put one of those “How’s my diving?’ bumper stickers on her car.

Submitted by Carol Steans



**FIVE MONTHS**

**Trustees update from Apr. - Aug.:**

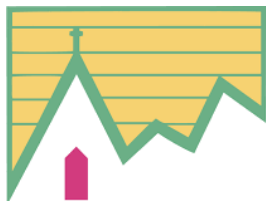
Hydrostatic system testing on hood range	K
Clean out garage storage	G
Met w/Fire Marshal for update of capacity	S,F,K
A/C Maintenance Contract (7) units	S,F
Repair soffit	F
A/C replacement estimates will be needed	F
Bug sprayed front entrance of fellowship	F
Removed wasp nest by mailbox and fellowship wall	O,F
Shampoo the narthex rug	N
Set up table & chairs - class rm. #2	F
Started up power washer & lawn tractor	G
P/U donated barrel chairs and sittees for fort office	N
Put up VBS signs	O,F
Special Project Fund for A/C approx. at \$17,500.	F
A/C Parts were ordered for minor repair	F
Raked yard from storm Debbie	O
Lawn service hauled debris from storm Debbie	O
Power washed sanctuary entrance	S
Installed new battery in lawn tractor	G
Met with Leeper A/C for review of A/C repair	S
Met w/Don Ross Roofing future roof repair inspection	S
Repair of door lock	F

F - FELLOWSHIP HALL & OFFICES  
 K - Kitchen  
 N - NARTHEX & OFFICES  
 S - SANTUARY  
 G - GARAGE  
 O - OUTSIDE AREA

*Trustee's Ministry*

*Congregates, A BIG "Thank You" to your Trustee Committee who participate in keeping your place of worship in working order, also as aesthetically. Any questions or suggestions, please contact me. There are forms in the Trustee portal to make request or question....*

*Gary Wygle, Chr.  
 352-419-2149*



**Church  
 FINANCES**

**Financial Congregate Contributions Received**

Submitted by: Carol Wygle, Financial Secretary

We have been experiencing lower tithe from FLC congregates. Possible reasoning: Household economics, lower FLC attendance and/or need for spiritual update within our worship programs. Our Co-Treasurers, Kathy Blondell and JoAnn Felzer will have a better understanding in comparative budget costs versus actual expenditures. Please contact them for further information. Again, I make a plea for money counters. Contact myself @ 989-954-5918 or Melissa @ 734-287-3777.

***Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)***

## **Teen Scene**

### **September, 2024**

Continued from the pamphlet *What Happens When I Die* by Rev. Stephen Hower for Project Connect.

#### **What Happens To Us Spiritually When We Die?**

I have always loved the way Jesus described earthly death to Martha when her brother Lazarus died in John 11:21-27. This passage has been a source of confusion for many because, at first, it seems contradictory: “Martha said to Jesus, ‘If You had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give You whatever You ask.’”

Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha answered, ‘I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.’

Jesus said to her, ‘I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?’

‘Yes, Lord,’ she told him, ‘I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.’”

Bible students everywhere are raising their hands. “Teacher, teacher, which is it? Do we live even if we die? Or, do we never die?” Those two outcomes are not the same. You can’t have it both ways! We either die but live, or we never die! It seems contradictory.

Jesus’ words are not in disagreement with each other. Jesus was discussing death from two different perspectives. The first is the perspective of those who remain behind after the death of their loved one. To the survivors Jesus in effect said, “Please don’t mourn too greatly the obvious physical death of your loved one. Even though they have died, they shall live to enjoy heaven’s eternity.”

The second reference is the experience of death from the perspective of those who die; Jesus is pointing out that for those who die, there is no such thing as a period of “non-existence.” In a seamless transition, our life passes immediately from this life into life eternal.

#### **The Moment Of Our Death**

In almost all accounts of near-death experiences, there is a critical moment when a person’s soul leaves his or her body, rising over that person’s physical remains. The soul of the dead continues to exist in a conscious but bodiless dimension in the afterlife.

Consider, for example, the lessons we can draw from the moment Jesus died. He told the thief who was crucified next to Him on His right, “... Today you will be with Me in paradise” (Luke 23:43b). Obviously, the physical remains of Jesus and the body of the thief remained on earth. Nevertheless, the words of Jesus were fulfilled when at the moment of death the believing thief and Jesus were immediately with God in heaven.

Greater insight can be found in a simple reading of Peter’s description in 1 Peter 3:18-20a: “Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. ...”

## Teen Scene continued

This passage is one of several passages that confirm Christ's descent into hell, an historic point of faith mentioned in the Apostles Creed. At the moment of Jesus' death by crucifixion on Good Friday, His body died. He cried out with a voice, "It is finished" (John 19:30b), and He died.

"Father," Jesus said, "into Your hands I commend My spirit. ..." (Luke 23:46a). The Scriptures teach that after His physical death Jesus traveled to proclaim His victory to "the spirits" who had been kept "in prison," going back to "the days of Noah."

Obviously, Jesus did not go to a prison in Rome, Ephesus, or Philippi. He went to visit people who died at the time of the flood, the spirits kept in the spiritual prison of hell. Peter could have said that Jesus went to preach to the spirits in prison who were being kept there from the time of creation (1 Peter 3:19-22).

Observe that Peter refers only to those who died at the time of the flood because he wants to make a reference to Baptism, namely, that eight people were saved in the ark by passing through the water (see 2 Peter 2:5). Also, note how "Baptism saves us ... not by the washing of the body with water, but by acting on the promise of God connected to baptismal water" (see 1 Peter 3:21). (Please review Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 2:38, Romans 6:3-5, Colossians 2:11-13, Titus 3:5, in this regard.)

Jesus descended into hell immediately upon His death and prior to His resurrection to proclaim His victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil. He did not go to hell to suffer. His work was finished on the cross.

Those who rejected salvation during the days of Noah were already in hell. These are the "spirits" to whom Jesus appeared and proclaimed His victory. The concept of an immediate and conscious existence in the afterlife is confirmed by other Scriptures as well.

When the rich man and Lazarus died, the rich man was immediately in hell and Lazarus was immediately in heaven. By examining the dialogue between the rich man and Abraham, who was in heaven, it is apparent the rich man was conscious of his surroundings in the afterlife and aware of Lazarus' presence in heaven as well (see Luke 16:19-31). John's later description of heaven as recorded in Revelation also describes the conscious state of the martyrs in heaven awaiting their vindication on Judgment Day (see Revelation 6:9-11).

## Jesus Is The First Of Many

Just as Jesus commended His spirit to His Father in heaven at the moment of His death, so too our bodies are laid to rest in the grave. But our spirit lives on and is immediately transferred to heaven or hell on the basis of faith or lack of faith in Jesus' death and resurrection.

When Paul described what happened to Jesus at the time of the Lord's death and resurrection, he added, "Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a Man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the first fruits; then, when He comes, those who belong to Him" (1 Corinthians 15:20-23).

In Jesus' story of the rich man and Lazarus, the Lord described what happened to their souls after their death but before the physical resurrection of their bodies (see Luke 16:19-31). We also learn from this story that it is impossible for our souls to move back and forth between heaven and hell. The

## Teen Scene continued

rich man asked “Father Abraham” to send Lazarus to cool his tongue with a drop of water. From heaven, Abraham replied, “... between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us” (Luke 16:26b).

He also refused the rich man’s request to send Lazarus to earth to warn his brothers so they would believe and not end up in hell. Abraham told him, “... They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them” (Luke 16:29b) and then, “... If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead” (Luke 16:31b).

We can surmise that as it is impossible to go from heaven to hell, it is likewise impossible to go from heaven or hell back to earth.

### We Do Not Acquire Miraculous Powers at Death

When people die they do not become angels nor assume the divine attributes of God. Angels are unique and specific creations of God; they are heavenly beings created at the beginning of the world to serve man (see Hebrews 1:14).

Neither should Christians expect to share God’s miraculous powers in the afterlife. Those who die do not become omnipresent (able to exist in more than one place at a time) or omniscient (all-knowing). When David said he was eager to awake with the likeness of God, he was describing life without sin, not appearance or authority (see Psalm 17:15).

In the afterlife, a person exists in only one place at a time. The souls of those who die are not able to move about as a ghost on earth while living in heaven at the same time. That is a quality possessed only by God.

The Bible teaches that Jesus will return to earth for a final judgment of both the living and the dead. At that time He will bring with Him all the souls of those who have died, and on that day (and not before), the bodies of the dead will be raised from the earth, transformed for immortality, and reunited with their spirits for eternity.

This is how Paul described that day in a letter to Christians in Thessalonica: “... God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him. According to the Lord’s own Word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever” (1 Thessalonians 4:14b-17).

This important factual information has practical implications to help us discern what is true and false in popular movies and books on the subject of death and life after death. For all the reasons stated previously, the Bible can be trusted for true insights into God and the world He has made here and hereafter. When we hear, see, or read other intriguing theories about life after death, we must examine those statements against what we know to be true from the Scripture, accepting or rejecting them in light of the Bible’s insight (see 1 Corinthians 14:37 and 1 John 4:6).

Because of the stories and teaching of the Bible, we know the dead do not wander the earth, haunting buildings or watching over loved ones as ever-present but unseen ghosts. Because of what we learn from the Bible, we also know it is impossible to talk to those who have died or to

## Teen Scene continued

communicate with them through a person who claims the power to “channel” the voice of the dead, or who conducts séances to invite the dead to a meeting of the living.

There is only one reference in the entire Bible where such a thing ever happened. It was during the reign of the Old Testament King Saul. When first appointed king, Saul was humble and obedient to God as the Lord spoke through the prophet Samuel. By the end of his reign, Saul had become prideful and disobedient, building monuments for himself throughout the country to remind the people of his victories. Because of unfaithfulness, the Lord ultimately rejected Saul and told the prophet Samuel to go to Bethlehem to choose Israel’s next king.



## FAITH’S MUSIC MINISTRY

A big thank you to those who provided special music during the summer. Our music program will soon begin its regular schedule. The choir will start September 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. All voices are needed, altos, sopranos, basses and tenors. All you need is a willing heart and a love for spreading the gospel through music. If you don’t read music, I am willing to

work with you.

We are in need of a piano player for the choir. If you play or know of someone who would be interested in accompanying the choir, please contact Pastor, Dave Hass or me. Sharron Royalty is willing to help us get started.

The bell ringers will start rehearsal Tuesday, October 22 at 2 pm. Please consider joining at that time. Carol Wygle, bell choir director, is a joy to work with and is willing to train anyone interested.

*“Through our songs, let us build bridges, break down barriers, and spread the message of love.”*

Lu Ann Cooke, Music Director

I want so much to serve You  
But to carry out Your will,  
Humble servant I must be.  
Why is this so hard for me?

Just Your will Lord, and not mine  
Will accomplish what You need.  
Trust and obey only You,  
Brings joy to all that I do.

Jean DuBose

1st Peter 5:6-7  
Humble yourselves, therefore,  
under the mighty hand of God  
so that at the proper time  
He may exalt you, casting all your  
anxieties on Him, because  
He cares for you.  
1st Peter 5:6





You say evangelism. I say outreach. What does it mean? Evangelism is spreading the Gospel by preaching, personal witness, announcing, or communicating the Good News. It's delivering the message that Jesus Christ is not only the Son of God but also gave His life as a sacrifice for our sins. In doing so, He ensured eternal life for anyone who believes.

Our new website platform is an effective outreach tool. We also use Facebook and Instagram to create a personal witness in our community. Please pray that God will use this technology to glorify His name!



It started as a simple request in November 2023 from Karen Bollmann to pray for her grandson, Joshua, whose military unit was being deployed to Poland. In addition to prayers, we began sending him cards and letters to his APO address. Some of our children drew pictures and sent them to Joshua. One of our ladies baked cookies and sent them!

Joshua returned to the United States in July. On Sunday, August 18, he visited Faith Lutheran Church with his family and thanked everyone for the cards and letters. Joshua told me that he displayed the cards around his locker. Other soldiers would ask him if they could read them, too. Thank you to everyone who was involved! God blessed this outreach more than we may ever know.

Project Connect is a Lutheran Hour Ministries booklet ministry that uses pocket-sized, topical booklets to promote outreach. In the past six months, we have shared 350 copies of these books and have had to restock our children's book supply! They are great gifts and an excellent way to introduce children to the Gospel. I will have these booklets available in the narthex. Please pick up a bundle in one of the cute fabric bags and share it with a child or parent today!

Similar to the signage at Easter, we plan to order new outside banners and yard signs to invite our neighbors to join us for Christmas. We will order postcards with details about our Christmas worship services for our members to give to others. I will make an announcement as soon as we have them available.

Please remember our food cart every week! Those items are delivered to the Citrus United Basket. It would be awesome to fill it every weekend and provide items to them weekly. Citrus United Basket has provided a helping hand to Citrus County residents for over 45 years. They depend on the generosity of individuals, clubs, churches, and businesses in our community to donate to C.U.B. Is this outreach? Yes, it most certainly is.

If you have an Outreach project or idea, please contact me, Ann Panas



CITRUS  
UNITED  
BASKET

**CUB (CITRUS UNITED BASKET) SUGGESTED SEPTEMBER DONATIONS ARE NON-FOOD ITEMS; SUCH AS: TOILET PAPER, DIAPERS, DIAPER WIPES, Q-TIPS, DEODORANT, RAZORS AND BLADES, FEMININE HYGIENE ITEMS, TOOTHBRUSHES, TOOTHPASTE, MOUTHWASH, SHAMPOO**

Drop your donated items in the garden cart in the Narthex. Any non-perishable donation is appreciated. Please also consider donating pet food. During the summer months we donated approximately 185 pounds. (You don't have to give every month. Please give when you can, what you can.) **Thank you!** Maxine Crogle



# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Marge Sawyer	11
Stephen Lane	16
Lizann Smith	19
Lucille Countryman	21
Diane Schmeiz	21
Michelle LaCour	28
Charlie Smith	28
Carla Nicklas	30

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Mike & Daine Hammill	3
Don & Vickie Mueller	10
Tom & Sandy Adabody	22
Carla & Ken Nicklas	25
Lizann & Charlie Smith	29



Our prayers go out the family and of friends of Shirley Janisko up her death in August.

October articles and updates will be due by Wednesday, September 25th. Please send them to Lu Ann Cooke at [blacooke@gmail.com](mailto:blacooke@gmail.com).

Live streaming of our worship services, newsletter and weekly updates may be found at our church web site. Go to <http://www.faithlecanto.com/>.



Ladies of Faith enjoyed a day out for lunch at the Pepper Creek Grill.

# SCHEDULES



## SEPTEMBER

Saturdays – Carolyn Arias  
Sundays – Ann Panas



The Altar Guild has plans to purchase banners for the walls behind the altar. We will be presenting a request to council in September. I also thought we should purchase a new sheet of plexiglass for the Altar. As always, I thank the ladies of the Altar Guild who work quietly behind the scenes helping to make our Communion services a blessing for the congregation. If anyone is interested in being part of the Altar Guild, we'll be happy to have you.

## SEPTEMBER

### Saturday

07 - Mark Holtz wart  
14 - Mark Holtz wart  
21 - George Cooper  
28

### Sunday

01  
08  
15 – Gloria Schultz  
22  
29



If you would like to be a lay reader, the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex and the readings can be found in a pouch attached to the name tag carrier.



## SEPTEMBER

Saturdays - Kurt Schmelz

Sundays - CARLA NICKLAS, Chuck Davey, Nancy Griffin, Judy Hill

If unable to usher on your scheduled date, please contact Fred or Maxine Croggle.

## BATHROOM CLEANING SCHEDULE

Week of:

Sept. 02	Professional Cleaner
Sept. 09	Maxine Croggle/Gloria Schultz
Sept. 16	Professional Cleaner
Sept. 23	Jean DuBose
Sept. 30	Professional Cleaner



## PART-TIME JANITOR (Paid Position)

Are you looking for a little something to do to pass the time and perhaps put a few more bucks in your pocket? Well, we have an offer for you. Effective January 1, 2025 Faith Lutheran Church is looking for a part-time janitor to vacuum, mop floors, dust and clean bathrooms. It is a paid position which involves an estimated eight hours weekly. If no one accepts the position at Faith, we will advertise locally starting in November. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Gary Wygle at 352-419-2149.





**2024**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:30 am Worship Service Communion  Bible Study	<b>2</b>  	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  6:00 pm Worship Service
<b>8</b> 9:30 am Worship Service  Bible Study	<b>9</b>  1:00 pm LOF	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  10:00 am Elders	<b>13</b>  9:00 am Stitch n' Tie	<b>14</b>  6:00 pm Worship Service Communion
<b>15</b> 9:30 am Worship Service Communion  Bible Study	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  12:30 pm Council	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  6:00 pm Worship Service
<b>22</b> 9:30 am Worship Service  Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  1:30 pm Bible Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  3:00 pm Choir	<b>27</b>  9:00 am Stitch n' Tie	<b>28</b>  6:00 pm Worship Service Communion
<b>29</b> 9:30 am Worship Service Communion  Bible Study	<b>30</b>					