

# Faith Lutheran Church & School

## Forward in Faith

### July—September 2025

*“Where faith meets life”*

*Galatians 2:20*

#### *Our Mission:*

*Sharing the word of Jesus Christ through a loving and caring ministry responding to the needs of all people.*

#### STAY CONNECTED

2265 Red Lion Road  
Bear, DE 19701-1849

OR

P.O. Box 1000  
Bear, DE 19701

Church 302-834-1214  
School 302-834-3417

#### WORSHIP SERVICES

Contemporary @ 8:15 AM  
Traditional @ 10:30 AM  
Livestream @ 10:30 AM  
5th Sunday @ 9:30 AM

#### WEBSITE:

[www.faith-lutheran.church](http://www.faith-lutheran.church)

#### YouTube:

[www.youtube.com/@FaithLutheranChurchBearDE](http://www.youtube.com/@FaithLutheranChurchBearDE)

#### FACEBOOK:

[www.facebook.com/faitb.bear.de](http://www.facebook.com/faitb.bear.de)

#### PASTOR'S EMAIL:

[revthress@icloud.com](mailto:revthress@icloud.com)

#### Never A Dull Moment



Today (June 20) is the summer solstice – the “longest” day of the year. As we officially enter summer, I’m ready for things to slow down a bit. And on one level it’s true that things change here at the church during the summer months. The most noticeable change for me is the absence of preschool. It’s so quiet during the week. But even that’s not always true. This week, for example, as I write this article there is a lot going on as we decorate and prepare for VBS!

This reminds me that while activity may fluctuate, ministry never ceases. VBS is always an exciting week. Looking ahead to the fall, we have a busy season as we reintroduce our Fall Festival at the end of September and get ready for Trunk-or-Treat in October. The next thing you know, we will be heading toward Thanksgiving and Christmas again.

But before I get too carried away and ahead of myself (188 days until Christmas as I write this), the reality is that in this moment – right here, right now – God’s Mission is at work. We continue to gather each week for worship and Bible study. Life continues for each of us – the ups and downs, the joys and struggles – even during this season of vacations and beach time.

In fact, during this summer season, I would encourage you to use some of your downtime to spend quality moments with God. Find a book or devotional that you might enjoy reading on the beach or at the pool. Pick a book of the Bible to study more closely. Take the extra hour on Sunday mornings to join our Bible class as we delve into Paul’s letter to the Romans.

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUES...

Summer flies by. But with each passing day, God is always at work. His Word is living and active (Hebrews 4:12). His mercies are new every morning and His faithfulness is great (Lamentations 3:23). His steadfast love endures forever (Psalm 118:1). I pray that this summer will be for you a time of renewal – in body and spirit.

### *Psalm 121*

<sup>1</sup> *I lift up my eyes to the hills.  
From where does my help come?*  
<sup>2</sup> *My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.*  
<sup>3</sup> *He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.*  
<sup>4</sup> *Behold, he who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.*  
<sup>5</sup> *The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade on your right hand.*  
<sup>6</sup> *The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.*  
<sup>7</sup> *The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.*  
<sup>8</sup> *The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and forevermore.*

The Lord bless and keep you in every season.

Pastor



## COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

This may well be a summer of uncertainty for many. We don't yet know how the economy will respond to tariffs and new budget bills. We don't know how the conflicts in the Middle East will turn out or affect us. We don't know what the increased temperatures that we have been experiencing will do to our nation's crops and weather patterns. The only thing we can be certain of is our God's faithfulness to keep his promises in Christ. He will never leave or forsake us. We can always trust in his love for us.

No doubt this uncertain, turbulent time has affected your family in many ways. Perhaps you have put off that big vacation or car purchase. It is wise to be cautious with spending when things are in doubt. But it is interesting that when it comes to our giving to the Lord, we find an almost counterintuitive dynamic at work. Paul, writing to the Corinthians, encourages them to contribute cheerfully to the collection of an offering meant for the church in Jerusalem. He knows that for the Corinthians, who won't be on the receiving end of the offering, that this giving is a sacrifice. But he teaches them God's principle of giving – that by doing so, they themselves will receive much more! We know God certainly doesn't need our money. He *"owns the cattle on a thousand hills."* But our giving to him is actually for us, to increase our trust in his providence, that our hearts would not be on our possessions, but on him who provides all. Giving to the Lord returns much more to our benefit than any investment interest. It puts our focus

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## COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE CONTINUES...

where it belongs – on him. And then we also discover that God meets our physical needs as well, as Jesus tells us *"Your Heavenly Father knows you need all these things, but seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

So, I encourage you even in these uncertain times to put God to the test and be faithful in your giving to him and see whether he provides all you need. Our daily response to his great love for us needs to never pull back but be lavish in all areas, not just our finances. It is encouraging to see so many here at Faith giving of their time and talents! God is using all of us to build his church and spread the Gospel. So, be certain of one thing – God loves you and is always faithful. You can trust him!

Pete Mueller

Faith Lutheran Church Council Chair



## ICON UPDATE (Church membership software)

It has taken a while, but I have managed to get through the entire database and enter and update all the data I have gathered thus far. The next step is to reach out to individual households to fill in the blanks via email or possibly a text message. My primary focus is to have correct household addresses, email addresses for individuals, phone numbers, and birthdates (year is optional). If you receive an email or text message from me, please respond. Along those lines, please email [office@faith-lutheran.church](mailto:office@faith-lutheran.church) with any updates. My hope is to produce a member directory by September. Please help me reach my goal!

Sunday morning sign in has been going well. It only takes a moment, each week, to jot down your name and how many from your family are attending. The sign-in sheet is located on the podium by the sanctuary doors. You can sign in as you enter, or as you leave. Accurate attendance helps us to improve our internal recordkeeping, allows us to accurately complete LCMS reporting requirements, and it's useful for budgeting and financial management. Help us to help others by letting us know you were here!

JoAnne Gross

Interim Secretary

## MATT WANZER'S NEW ADDRESS

Please keep Matt in your prayers as he begins his academic studies at Concordia Seminary.

His new address is:

801 Seminary Place

St. Louis, MO 63105

## Mite Box Mission

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month  
is Mite Box collection day



Even a small donation adds up & can help  
people all over the world!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

### JULY

07/03 Nicolas Vacula  
07/06 Seth Cordrey  
07/06 Gabriele Semenoro  
07/09 Michael Semenoro  
07/11 Elijah Rufus  
07/11 Luke Thress  
07/17 Helen Knapp  
07/18 Kristen Nawrocki  
07/19 Dave McCrea  
07/19 Rocky Zelano  
07/21 Jim Bennett  
07/21 Debbie Eisenhauer  
07/22 Derek Loveless  
07/24 Martha Elder  
07/27 Anna Drummonds  
07/29 Joe Zebley  
07/29 Joe Zelano

### AUGUST

08/01 Eric Loveless  
08/03 Connor Roman  
08/04 Julie Carter  
08/05 Sue Bradford  
08/05 Allison Thress  
08/06 Laura Bettinger  
08/08 Barbara Bradford  
08/11 CR Bradford  
08/12 Paul Mackey  
08/15 Abigail Dalby  
08/15 Kayla Zelano  
08/18 Talen Faverio  
08/19 Alexandra Luzetsky  
08/19 Annie MacLaren  
08/20 Jamie Eisenhauer  
08/23 Danny McLaughlin  
08/24 Alayna Bettinger  
08/28 Judy Andela  
08/28 Hedy Fay  
08/31 David Lyons

### SEPTEMBER

09/04 Josie Traver  
09/08 JoAnn Littleton  
09/09 Loretta MacLaren  
09/12 Ron Cuomo  
09/13 Robert Cordrey  
09/16 Charlie Bradford  
09/19 MaryBeth Cichocki

*If your name is missing, please contact the church office with your date of birth (month and day)  
so we can celebrate with you!*

## FAITH PRESCHOOL NEWS

On May 20th, Faith Preschool graduated 15 students (14 pictured)! Many thanks to Diane Roman, Director and Kelly Viar for preparing these young minds for Kindergarten. Our preschool has been running continually for over 25 years and because of our excellent reputation in the community, our enrollment is usually full. At this time, we only have one space remaining in the 4-year-old class which meets three-days a week (8:45 AM—11:45 AM). If you know of someone who is interested, please have them contact the office.

**Congratulations Class of 2025!**





# ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS...



## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, we witnessed the following students affirming their baptism through the Rite of Confirmation. Congratulations to our Confirmands:

*Alayna Bettinger*

*Thomas Cronin*

*Abigail Dalby*

*Jordan Dalby*

*Katelyn Drummonds*

*Erin Loveless*



## BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

- Adult Bible study - Continues Sunday mornings @ 9:15 AM with the study on Paul's letters to the Romans.
- Women's Bible Study - Will resume Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 AM at church. Study topic: Prophets: Obadiah, Jonah & Micah.
- Children's Sunday School (during 10:30 AM service)



## THANK YOU!

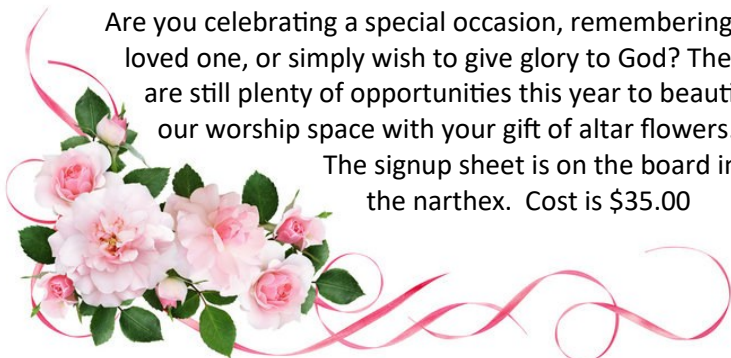
When you see Betty Agovino, be sure to thank her for tending to our flower beds every week, keeping them watered, weeded, and mulched.



## ALTAR FLOWERS

Are you celebrating a special occasion, remembering a loved one, or simply wish to give glory to God? There are still plenty of opportunities this year to beautify our worship space with your gift of altar flowers.

The signup sheet is on the board in the narthex. Cost is \$35.00



## THANK YOU!

A special thank you to Kristine Turner for sharing her talent with Faith and creating a new banner for our sanctuary. *Come Holy Spirit* is a beautiful addition to our banner collection!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS...

## **CALLING ALL LADIES**

Want to grow spiritually? Relax? Refresh? Need a break?

**You** are invited to the  
Lutheran Women in Mission

### Christian Life Retreat



**September 19-21, 2025**  
**Williamsburg, VA**

DoubleTree by Hilton  
Rooms \$159+tax/night  
Parking \$6/day

Registration fee - \$250  
After August 19, \$265

**Bible Study** – *“God’s Grace in the Wilderness”* Lindsay Hausch

**Entertainment    Servant Events**

**Free Time!    Fun and Fellowship**

**Silent Auction    Mites Walk    Ingathering**

**Interest Sessions    LWML Store Open**

**Closing Worship with Communion**



**Pre- & Post-Conference Williamsburg Historic Tours Available**

**Registration Materials coming in the next Chesapeake Breeze**

**Make your plans to join us and bring a friend!**



# FORWARD IN FAITH

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

During the week of June 23<sup>rd</sup>, we were blessed with 35 children joining us for an ***Epic Australian Adventure*** to the land down under! The sanctuary, narthex, and lower level were beautifully transformed into a theme-based experience so our young friends could have ***An Unforgettable Journey with Jesus***. The outside temperatures may have been excessive, the sanctuary air conditioning was definitely not working properly, but the adventures, friendships, and smiles were priceless. None of this could have happened without the love and support of many volunteers and especially our coordinators: Joleen De Luz, Kym Caudill, Martha Elder, and Nancy Malkin. This year the VBS mission was to support ***The Hope Center***, for those in our community facing housing insecurities. A collection of non-perishable food, paper products, and fun items for children was collected. To learn more about ***The Hope Center***, visit their website at <https://www.familypromisede.org/hope-center>.



## FAITH'S FALL FESTIVAL RETURNS SEPTEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>!

Mark your calendars for the return of Faith's Fall Festival. The event promises to be as spectacular as it used to be! Kelly Figgs has been hard at work, behind the scenes, organizing the events and getting started on marketing. This is a **FREE** outreach event (except concessions) and it will take **MANY** volunteers. Please prayerfully consider how you can help make this event a huge success and show the community what Faith is all about.

For starters, we need people to coordinate the concession stand (simple food & drinks) and a parking lot coordinator to keep people safe and keep an opening for the entrance and exit of emergency vehicles.

This is a rain or shine event, so it's never too early to start praying for dry weather and a successful festival!

For questions or more information, contact Kelly at 302-897-3207.

### \*\*\*\*\* EVENTS PLANNED \*\*\*\*\*

Hayrides \*\* Firetruck with candy drop \*\* Moon Bounce \*\* Magic Show  
Cupcake Decorating \*\* Pumpkin & Nail Painting \*\* Basket Raffles  
Cake Walk (bakers needed!) \*\* Community Resource Table

# FORWARD IN FAITH

## FOOD FROM FAITH

### Calling all strong men and women!!!

The *Food from Faith* food bank is looking for some help! If you could please help the second Saturday of every month from 10 AM-12 PM. July 12<sup>th</sup> is the next distribution day. Our food bank was started by our sister in Christ, Kim Wanzer about 8 years ago. Herta Patrick and Jamee' McGaughan also played a pivotal role in the development of our food bank. Kym Caudill and Julianne Harp currently run the team. We serve anywhere between 12-28 families every month and some of them have been with us from the beginning. They have become part of the Faith Family and have attended a couple of our events. Your generosity has given them holiday meals and backpacks for their kids. It is truly a gratifying experience to be able to give back to our community and those less fortunate facing food insecurities. Please see the signup sheet in the narthex if you can help or see Kym Caudill.



## A HUG FROM MATT

### SUMMER DONATION NEEDS



## Back to School Backpacks for our Food from Faith families

If you can help the Women of Faith "stuff the backpacks", please consider donating gift cards to Target, Staples, or Walmart. Cash or checks are also appreciated.

See Kym Caudill for questions. Thank you for your support!

*Whoever is kind to the poor  
lends to the Lord, and will be  
repaid in full. Proverbs 19:17*

*May you and your family have a  
peaceful summer, safe travels,  
take time to admire God's  
creation, and make time for  
personal renewal and reflection.*