
AUGUST 2023

FAITH | ALIVE

WELCOME TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWS

Working From Rest ≠ Not Working For Rest

BY JERRY WATTS, SENIOR PASTOR

The second weekend of August brings a new sermon series into the book of Daniel. In chapter one we learn that the teenager Daniel resolved or purposed in his heart not to defile the LORD. It was a new chapter in his life, and it was as if to pray, as Jesus taught us, “thy will be done, thy kingdom come” — a prayer we pray every day in our homes, and every week in worship. With school starting, leaves soon to fall, and a new chapter in our lives unfolding, will we be as resolved as Daniel? The good news is, Jesus is the greater Daniel and He is resolute for us. Jesus invites us in Matthew with this invitation:

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
Matthew 11:28–30 (ESV)

As I write this, I am in the final days of the blessing of a Sabbatical and I am reminded that this provision from Faith Lutheran is a gift. In other words, like our weekly Sabbath routine, we are called to work from the rest the LORD invites us to and gifts us with. We don’t earn it — we receive it, and then respond with the resolution of Daniel because we have the strength of the LORD.



As fall programs launch, new semesters begin, marching band practices resume, schedules get full, and new initiatives unfold, may we together resolve and pray: “thy will be done, thy kingdom come.” May we come to the LORD together on His Sabbath, all who labor and are heavy laden, and receive His gift of rest.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry Watts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Dr. Jerry Watts, Senior Pastor

"This is My Body"

BY PASTOR MARK BEHENNA

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We take so very much for granted in the modern world. It should not surprise you that we do the same as we worship. There is even much having to do with the Lord's Supper that we do because "we've always done it that way." We receive Christ's body in the form of "bread" ... either a loaf baked by a local store or one of those wafers purchased in bulk from a church supplier. Why do we receive the real presence of the body of our Lord in these forms? Because that's the way we at Faith "always" have.

It seldom occurs to us that the bread we receive bears little resemblance to that which Jesus actually offered his disciples and other followers.

I'd been going along for more than twenty years acting in a pastoral role in churches in four states and six congregations never giving communion bread a second thought. I concentrated on the people who would receive the sacrament of the altar, but whatever bread was laid upon the altar by those who served in our sacristy was merely the local custom.

And then a young man came into my life this past spring. The younger man was introduced to me by his father. (I'll withhold both names to preserve their privacy.)

My younger friend had come into possession of a sack of Khorasan wheat. This wheat has been grown for hundreds of years in the country of Turkey, at the foot of Mt. Ararat. The Khorasan legend is that this wheat was carried aboard Noah's ark as it came to ground at Mt. Ararat. It has been grown in that area of the world, and other places, ever since.

This nutritious (and delicious, I'm told) grain made its way to New Mexico in the hands of my new friend, and one acre has been planted in a donated field in Corrales. Each grain was planted by my friend alone. His prayer is that enough grain will eventually be harvested so that it can be given to worshipping communities (churches) so that they may receive Christ's presence in a very special, meaningful way. Given to my friend with no price attached, he intends to give it to others freely as well.



Khorasan wheat seeds



Khorasan plants break the surface

I have no experience at all with farming. But through my as-yet brief experience in this wheat field I have learned much from my expert coach. I have learned once again that when Jesus teaches us, he speaks on many levels at once. For example, when He says, "this is my body" and when pastors repeat these words as we share the eucharist, He is declaring more than His mystical presence in the bread we receive before the altar.

continued on the next page

"This is My Body" *cont.*

I have learned in that hot Corrales field that actual sweat and blood is shed by the farmer as the ground and crop is tended. It has been my privilege to have dropped my own sweat along the rows of wheat as I have weeded the crop. I've also dropped a bit of my blood on that same ground as thorns from some of those weeds pricked my fingers. The young Khorasan plants' roots take up my sweat and blood along with the other nutrients of the soil. The same is most certainly true for my young mentor as he has put hundreds of hours of toil in that field.

Jesus lived in an agrarian society. Almost everybody worked, perspired, and bled in the first century fields of His time. So, when Christ said, "this is my body" He knew, and His hearers knew, the essence of what their ancient grain held. The presence of Christ and that of the community was being shared for the benefit of all.

Wouldn't it be amazing if we could share the same thing in our time? How meaningful would that be for us all?

My young friend has this very vision. The small amount of help he has from his father and I, we pray, will bring in a bit of a harvest later this year ... if the Good Lord is willing. And if this effort is successful, next year Faith may have a bit of grain to cultivate on its own. A community will be needed to plant, nurture, harvest, and grind into flour our own crop. Some folks will also be needed to bake our communion bread (likely only for "special occasions" like Maundy Thursday – the celebration of the Lord's Supper). And yes, one or more places will be needed to actually plant our Khorasan.

In this way, it will not just be the farmers who become our bread of the covenant, it will be all who toil to produce our bread who join with Christ in this way. I pray that there may be many at Faith who come to know the full meaning of "this is my body" as the people in Christ's own time surely understood. Let me know if you are interested in becoming involved next spring.

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May you always be in communion with Christ,
Pr. Mark Behenna

Discipleship and Internship

WRITTEN BY PASTOR SCOTT STRACHAN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This summer of 2023 we began the second year of our youth ministry internship. The youth ministry internship program began in summer of 2022. This internship and discipleship program is targeted at young adults/college students who are interested in vocational ministry. This 10-week internship is meant to give the intern a unique insight into vocational ministry – not only into youth and children's ministry, but also into ministry in general. Further, and most importantly, this internship allows for one-on-one discipleship. Throughout the summer the intern and myself work through studies aimed at spiritual discipline, Biblical literacy, and most importantly their relationship with Jesus Christ. Internship duties include chaperoning on all youth trips during the summer, leading small group devotions, helping with the youth area, going to pastoral visits, learning about teaching, leadership skills, etc...

Our first intern, Charlotte Boyd, served during the summer of 2022 and did an excellent job. She is a FLC youth group student who went all the way through our Refuge High School ministry. She is currently a full-time student at the University of New Mexico. This Summer she is serving as a leader with Group Mission trips in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Our 2023 summer intern is Ahren Thorson, who grew up at FLC. He was part of one of the first classes to go through Children of Faith preschool right here at Faith. He also grew up in the FLC children and youth ministries, still attending the Young Adult Ministry when he is in town. Ahren is a full-time student at Western New Mexico University.

It has been amazing and humbling to see how God is working through these young adults as they learn, grow, and serve. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to lead and serve!

I pray you have a blessed Summer!

In Christ,

Dr. Scott Strachan

Ahren Thorson



more
photos
on the
next
page!





Ahren on the 2023
LCMC Youth
Mission Trip to
South Carolina

Charlotte Boyd
(second from right, below)



Thank You

Dear Members of Faith Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of “Friends of Madagascar Mission” (FOMM), I wish to express our thanks for your gift of **\$1,200** in support of FOMM’s mission programs: \$600 support for evangelist RANDRIAMANANA Tovery, \$100 for his continuing education, \$100 for his health insurance, and \$100 to support two girls in the Nofy i Androy program. One hundred percent of your gift goes to mission!

Thanks for your support! Your gifts do make a difference in supporting these ministries. We are on the “Frontline of Mission” so your gifts will reach the people and their needs!

PEACE IN CHRIST!

The Rev. David P. Lerseth
Friends of Madagascar

From our Mission & Service Ministry Team:

Locker 505 Sends Thanks

Locker 505 so appreciated the much needed donations from Faith Lutheran Congregation to help needy children in our community - especially in preparation for the start of school. Look what we collected!

910 underwear bottoms,
19 new sweatpants,
28 pairs of leggings,
150 pairs of socks,
plus an assortment of mostly new clothing including
t-shirts, sweaters, dresses, pants, shorts, jackets, bras and jeans

'Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'



More great reads inside this issue:

MISSION CORNER - 7
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Mission Corner

PREPARED BY GINNI WEBB AND MISSION & SERVICE MINISTRY TEAM

"GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS TO THE WHOLE CREATION. -MARK 16:15

Your Mission & Service Ministry Team recently made distributions of **June 2023 Mission Offerings** as follows:

\$1,000.00 to Lutheran World Relief: Lutheran World Relief is an international non-governmental organization that focuses on sustainable development projects and disaster relief and recovery. This gift will reach your neighbors with the very least who are living in some of the most remote and forsaken regions of the world.

\$500.00 to Roadrunner Food Bank: With school meals on pause during the summer, many caregivers of children simply won't be able to provide two extra meals per day, per child, leading to many days of hunger. These extra donations can help make summer as it should be for every child until school resumes.

\$1,250.00 to Trinity HOPE: Feeding over 62,000 children daily, physically and spiritually, in 270+ Christian Schools in Haiti. This is the first half of a new recurring annual donation from Faith Lutheran of \$2,500.00, which will be matched indefinitely for the life of the donation through the Bread of Life Campaign!

School Supply Collection For APS TITLE I HOMELESS PROGRAM July 22 - August 6

Your donations make a difference!



Brand New School Supplies Needed:

- Wide ruled Spiral Notebooks
- Wide ruled Paper
- Erasers
- Pocket Folders
- 3-ring Notebooks w/dividers
- Rulers
- Compasses
- Protractors
- Glue sticks 2-pack
- Bottles of Glue
- Rounded Scissors
- Calculators
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Pencils
- Highlighters
- 24-count Crayons
- Washable Markers
- Colored Pencils
- 4-pack Black Pens
- 4-pack Blue Pens
- 1 Red Pen



August Birthdays

PREPARED BY DIANE WILDER, CHURCH OFFICE



1 Mark Espelien, Mark Fenton, Jean Thurow,
John Towne

2 Courtney Grassham

3 Edith Kraus, Clay Jones

4 No Birthdays

5 Madison Burger, Arthur Kramer, Selah
Vreeland

6 Melody Dahlinger, Delphine Zwegardt

7 Lauren Behenna, Emma Eickman, Chris
Jones, Jocelyn Kreitinger, Jane De Palma

8 Margie Beck, Al Lanting, Gail Taylor, Judy
Tennant

9 Eric Lindstrom, Zuzana Patterson, Russ
Skocypec, Doug Wacker

10 Jim Biddle, Brooklyn Byrd, Doug Dederman,
Preston Griffith, Galen Puls

11 Mark Edwards, Marilyn Fehrmann, Skye
Haworth, Lourdes Kirby, Madison Trainor,
Susan Velarde

12 Lurette Balkcom, Leola Fellows

13 Kris Anderson, Ron Roeseberg, Don Taylor

14 Wendy Gustafson, Naima Mall, Cathy
McDivitt, Neil O'Brien, Lesley Schultz, Joan
Seward

15 Adina Dean

16 No Birthdays

17 Evelyn Allen, Maureen Campbell, David
Hawn, Carol Jenkins

18 Angela Breidenbach, Brent Jacobs, Diana
Gomez Pena, James Hubert, Norma Johnson,
Elizabeth Patterson

19 Patrick Kelly

20 Kit Atencio, Aaron Edwards, Kaylee Holden

21 Edna Jones, Lora Humelsine, Trudi Rexroth,
Gerald Werth

22 Vicki Crow, Alex Droemer, Ashley Gahan

23 Joe Limke, Brian Platzbecker

24 Sue Lampson

25 Karen Naase

26 Yvette Calvillo, Ethan Legant, Kris McGill-
Reaves

27 Damian Calvert, Austin Dahlinger

28 No Birthdays

29 Laura Etcorn, Marla Kist, Carl Konrad,
Lucille Rewalt

30 Jonathan Bergman, Timothy Clark, Sondra
Golden, Bob Lowder

31 Michael Blomker, Lois Brown, Bob Daws,
Jeremiah Pease



Events & Announcements

August menu
for Wednesday nights



23

TACO SALAD &
CHEESE
QUESADILLAS

30

HOT DOGS &
GRILLED CHEESE

SUNDAY SCHOOL
RESUMES
August 13th, 9:30am
service

FAITH FIESTA
August 16th, 6-8pm

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
PROGRAMS
Kick Off August 23rd



FAITH FIESTA
Wednesday, August 16th, 6-8pm

Come join us for a Faith family picnic-style celebration as we look to start up all our Fall ministries! Bring your lawn chairs or your tailgate and your favorite outdoor games!

Free admission

Food trucks/catering + Pop-Pop's Italian Ice truck onsite

For fun, we will have fellowship, music, and outdoor games! Also, our Faith Riders ministry will be on site for bike riding.



LUNCH & LEARN
Thursday, August 17th, 11am
Fellowship Hall

Our speaker will be Julie Garcia with
the Renaud Investment Group



SHRED FEST
Saturday, August 26th, 10am-12pm

Bring your documents to the parking lot for shredding at the Shred Fest, hosted by NM Society of Enrolled Agents. Shred trucks will be on site for the event.

July 2023 Council Meeting Summary

Our Church Council did not meet in July. Check this space next month for a summary of the August meeting.

Did you know you can read the full minutes of each Council meeting? Once the minutes from the previous month's meeting are approved, they are placed in a binder that is kept in a drawer of the curved counter in the Centrum. You are free to access it at your convenience.

Financials

2023	Month of June	Year-To-Date as of 06/30/23	Year-To-Date Comparison of Offerings
offerings	\$126,128	\$749,550	
budget	\$141,286	\$847,716	(\$98,166)
expenses	\$140,077	\$857,367	(\$107,817)

Please note: Expenses are subject to change pending the Annual Financial review.

Help Us Stay Up-To-Date

If you've moved,
 changed your cell phone number,
 gotten rid of your landline,
 changed your email address,
 etc. -

Don't forget to let your church know!

You can contact Diane Wilder at 505-296-0762 (Mon/Tue/Thu)
 or email her at dwilder@faithabq.org to update your records.

Thank you so much!

Military Prayer List

SUPPORTING OUR MEN & WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY THROUGH PRAYER,
SHARING THE WORD OF GOD, AND ENCOURAGING THEIR MORALE & WELFARE.

We ask your prayers for all those who serve in the United States Armed Forces in any capacity, anywhere in the world.

Regrettably, our military prayer list is in need of updating and maintenance. Therefore, I have removed names for which we don't have records, others appear to the right. If you would like a name re-entered onto this list, or if you would like someone added, please let me know. If I have removed a name that I should not have, please accept my apologies; I will be happy to make any correction.

Pr. Mark Behenna



Chris Hinnerichs
Alec Kainer
Joshua Fanning
Liam Fink
Logan Nebl
Faun O'Brien
Joseph O'Brien
Jason F. Ruetschilling
Courtney Werth
William Werth
Patrick Winkels

FOR CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO THIS LIST, PLEASE CONTACT PR. BEHENNA
OR THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (505) 296-0762.

General News

Recent Deaths

- Joan Aragon, sister of Carl Konrad, on July 6
- Mark, uncle of Jessica Anderson, on July 1

Listen to Church with your Landline

Listening to Services Over the Phone
Please dial 1.833.531.1980

Hospital & Home Visits

Please call the church office to let us know of hospitalizations, illnesses, and situations of need and we will make every effort to be present with you or your loved one. Our prayers continue for all those in need of healing, comfort, and peace.

Prayer Chain

Volunteers for this ministry respond to all prayer requests by praying for the names they receive. All requests are confidential. To notify us of a prayer need, contact the church office at 505.296.0762.

LCMC (lcmc.net)

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ is an association of independent, evangelical and mission driven congregations grounded in the Scriptures and working together to fulfill Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations.

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Current Resident or...

Thank you Lord for:

