

JULY 2023

FAITH | ALIVE

WELCOME TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWS

Christ Has Set Us Free

BY DR. JERRY WATTS, SENIOR PASTOR

“Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.” - Galatians 5:1 (The Message)

As the Fourth of July dawns and our nation celebrates independence on its 247th birthday, freedom is on our minds. It is worthy of fireworks and parties, but it is what we do with freedom that matters most. Christ has set us free from the yoke of slavery - now what? Martin Luther reminds us when writing on Christian freedom in 1520:

“We conclude, therefore, that a Christian lives not in himself, but in Christ and in his neighbor. Otherwise he is not a Christian. He lives in Christ through faith, in his neighbor through love. By faith he is caught up beyond himself into God. By love he descends beneath himself into his neighbor.”

When we talk about living a Jesus-shaped life with the people we encounter, it is for our neighbor. The Body of Christ exists to glorify God and love our neighbor. We exist not for ourselves or by ourselves. We do this by the fruit of the Spirit, of course, when we serve our neighbors near and far with acts of love and kindness. We do this when we boldly speak the truth of God’s Word in a world that has often confused the truth for a lie. This secular age is desperate for the truth and may not even know it. How shall we live out this calling with those closest to us, or anyone we encounter? I’m praying that as God’s people, called to walk the path of a Jesus-shaped life, we will ask the Lord to give us opportunity and willing hearts to do it.

Will you pray these prayers with me?

- God, what are saying to me?
- What am I supposed to do about it?
- Lord have mercy, help me to do your will.

Christ has set us free to live a free life. So now let us take this stand together.

Happy Independence Day!



Dr. Jerry Watts, Senior Pastor



Together

BY PASTOR MARK BEHENNA

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Pastors are required to perform many, varied duties. We pray, read, study, write, teach, meet with others, participate as members of a staff and groups of volunteers, resolve problems, celebrate joyous occasions, and even lead worship. As you might guess, we pastors fully enjoy some of these tasks and others are lesser amounts of fun.

For me, the most invigorating pastoral task is leading Bible study. I truly love to be in worship, and I hope that comes through when I face you on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings and on other special occasions. But there is something that really gets my juices flowing when a good number of us gather around the Bible and discover meaning in God's word.

When I am privileged to join with you in Bible study on Wednesday evening or Sunday morning, it seems as though a fire is lit in my heart. The scripture itself is the spark which ignites this inferno. But any fire needs tinder—fuel to burn bright and hot. It is the participation of those with a passion for the Word who are that tinder. When we share the meaning we each find in the Bible, our collective and individual understanding of God's intent for us is increased. New horizons are opened to us. If you have ever had the opportunity to teach any topic, you know that your own learning expands dramatically because of your participation in the learning experience. The free-flowing give-and-take our membership shares in Bible study has taught me quite a lot. May God continue to bless us all in this way.

I also have the chance to meet with many of you individually or in small groups. The conversation we share leads us to discover possibilities that none of us had in mind before we met. Earlier this week, before sitting down to write this, I had the privilege of meeting with the leaders of our Stephen Ministry. As we parted, I felt an excitement for the future of our church and a sense of mutual purpose. I am convinced that God is leading us through the voices of all who gather together. Meetings (not usually my favorite activity) can be great fun when this exciting dynamic is at work.

Preaching can be fun too. Offering God's word for others' consideration is a sobering and humbling responsibility. However, when offering a sermon, I can often see eyes open wide because something said is really touching that person's heart. Sometimes I can see people nodding or shaking their heads back and forth as you send non-verbal signals of approval or disapproval. Occasionally, a person or two will choose to respond verbally—I might hear an answer to one of my sermon questions, or I might even hear you say, "Amen." You might be surprised to know that your communication to me in these and other forms often inspire me to change the sermon in mid-stream. Communication is effective: I lead prayer or interpret God's word and Helen, Ronda, and Emmaus lead us in song, you respond, and God conveys His message through the Spirit to each of our hearts. This too is a joyous part of my pastoral calling.

If there is one thing I don't enjoy doing, it is writing these letters for our weekly newsletter. Thank you so much for reading this far ... please stick with me to the end of this task. I think the reason I struggle so much with these newsletter articles is that I don't feel the sense of community or give-and-take that so many other pastoral tasks have to offer. I'm sitting at my messy desk typing this letter. As I type, I wonder how you are reacting. I can only imagine if you find any inspiration through my monthly musings. Once in a while, one of you will say, "nice letter this month." When you compliment me in this way, I sometimes struggle to remember what I wrote all those days earlier. That may be because we did not have a chance to engage in the topic together.

Together *cont.*

I think that one of the greatest things a congregation has to offer is a sense of open, caring communication. We are at our best when we are gathered together sharing the inspiration God has showered on our lives. I think that is why I am most invigorated when we are engaged in an active conversation, especially around the Bible. I also think that is why writing this letter is difficult for me—because you are not with me as I offer these thoughts and I cannot hear your voice or see your non-verbal signals.

Let us spread joy. Let us be in open, honest communication with one another. If you are even a bit like me, sharing Godly communication will really light beautiful fireworks in your life and the lives of your sisters and brothers!

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

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2023 LCMC Youth Mission Trip June 18-24, 2023

WRITTEN BY PASTOR SCOTT STRACHAN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

2 Corinthians 4:18 (ESV) - "as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."

As I write this article submission to you all, our youth and leaders are among other LCMC friends in the beautiful Columbia, South Carolina. We have had a blessed week serving, learning, and growing in faith. Our youth and leaders worked hard! Our focus this week was on the Bible verse above and how seeing is not the equivalent of believing - the same is true for our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ!

I pray you have a blessed Summer!
In Christ,

Pv. Scott Strachan



Photos on the next page!



Summer Mission Trip 2023



Thank You

Dear Pastor Behenna,

This is Lieutenant Dan Phelps, I serve as a MEDEVAC pilot for a deployed air ambulance platoon. I wanted to reach out and say thank you for the thoughtful care package that your congregation sent to my platoon. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

I also wanted to thank you for the prayers, I truly believe these prayers assist with the safe completion of our mission. My team provides state of the art medical care and evacuation to those who need it the most.

From a fellow Lutheran to another, I wish the best for you and your congregation. May God bless and watch over all of you. Thank you again for the support and kind words.

Respectfully,
Daniel R. Phelps



Dear Faith Lutheran Church,

We thank God for your partnership in sending out Missionaries. Because of you, we can continue to reach Spiritual Orphans in former communist countries with the Hope of the Gospel. Your gift is a great blessing to those who do not yet know that they have a Father in Heaven who loves them or that they have brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world who want to see them adopted into the Family of Christ. SON engages people in the Word of God, helping them to reclaim their identity as children of God and walk alongside them as they are transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you for your support and being part of the generation of faith helping to connect Spiritual Orphans to the global family of Christ.

Pr. David R. Breidenbach
SON Executive Director



More great reads inside this issue:

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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
May 2023 Mission Offerings as follows:

\$800.00 to Friends of Madagascar Mission: Our congregation annually supports an Evangelist in Madagascar, RANDRIAMANANA Tovoherly. Missionaries aren't being sent to Madagascar because there is a new kind of missionary serving there. The Malagasy Lutheran Church (the first indigenous church body within Lutheran circles, begun in 1950) has an abundance of people educated, trained, and ready to serve as the new missionaries, called EVANGELISTS. They are a leading church in evangelism - connecting evangelism and humanitarian action and the growth of church members and new congregations. www.madagascarmission.org

\$400.00 to Nofy i Androy Program: Our congregation currently supports the continued education of 2 students, Kalilikie and MARY Nafini Claudette, in the Androy region of Madagascar - one of the poorest regions, suffering from periodic drought, famine, and harmful cultural practices. This is a male-dominated culture that has limited the value of women and girls to baby production and raising a family. This program tutors and mentors female students to receive scholarship support through middle, high school, and on to university. www.madagascarmission.org



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

A list of Brand New School Supplies needed will be on display in the Centrum beginning July 15-16.

Your donations make a difference!

continued on the next page



Mission Corner *cont.*

Don't Miss The Trinity HOPE Haiti Special Presentation

Interested in learning more about Haiti and the tremendous challenges these people face everyday? Do you want to know how Faith Lutheran is already making a difference in the lives of children throughout this country?

Keith Logan, Executive Director of TRINITY HOPE, will be joining us July 29-30 as our Mission Weekend Speaker. In addition to speaking briefly at worship services on Saturday (5:00) and Sunday (8:00 and 9:30), Keith will provide a more detailed presentation at 10:45 in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday.

He will speak about the current social and political conditions in Haiti, the enormous challenges created by gangs now controlling over 60% of the capital city, and how God continues to protect the ministry of Trinity HOPE and allows them to feed over 62,000 meals every day to children attending 270+ Christian schools throughout the country. You will learn why these children are considered "little missionaries" within their own country and how Trinity HOPE is "bringing Hope to the children of Haiti, one bowl of Beans and Rice at a time." There will be time for questions and answers at the end. Please plan to join us.

Sunday, July 30, 10:45am in the Fellowship Hall



July Birthdays

PREPARED BY DIANE WILDER, CHURCH OFFICE

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 Courtney Crow, Sandy Harstad,
Abi Mayo | 11 Ann Campbell, Kimberly Etzcorn,
Colleen Wyss | 22 James Mortensen, Christie
Wente |
| 2 No birthdays | 12 Duane DeWerff, Karen Mayo | 23 Christina Pease |
| 3 Tammy Baumann, Amy O'Brien,
Simeon Weiss | 13 Loretta Mangano, Mark
Platzbeker, Sharon Ruyak | 24 Tina Burwinkle |
| 4 Kirk Allison, Colin Grassham,
Janice Peres, Synneva Piper | 14 Linda Dudley, Judy Haag, Lailah
Leyba, Andy Schesser | 25 Darlene Jost, James Rewalt,
Shane Roeseberg |
| 5 Addison Cook, Carol Siders, Otto
Strack | 15 Patricia Campos-Coull, John
Ruyak, Therese Sears | 26 James Hicks, Kara Nevin |
| 6 Bob Stueber, Ahren Thorson, Alex
Thorson | 16 Michael Burns, Pam Miller | 27 Mary Ann O'Brien |
| 7 Kelly Burma, Grayson
Hausermann, Christine Watson | 17 Justin Draper, Larry Shore | 28 Benjamin Eickman, Andy Legant |
| 8 Tyler Patterson, David Vreeland | 18 Shaha Anaya, Sherish Din, Carl
Eckelman | 29 Jill Kennedy |
| 9 Christopher Irvine, Jim Mischke | 19 Jennifer Morgan | 30 Bruce Dahlquist, Ainsley Burrell,
Olivia Wilson |
| 10 Emma Gehlert | 20 No birthdays | 31 Tara Anderson, Reese Atencio,
Norma Barney, Diana Piper, Glen
Thurow |
| | 21 Clark Aamodt, Renee Ennis,
Phyllis Jacobson, Debra Ruth | |

Events & Announcements

"Judaism to Christianity -- Roots and Links"



A Class led by John Stichman
With Potluck Dinner

Saturdays 6pm, Ongoing through August 5th



Have you ever wondered how Christianity is related to the Jewish religion? What are the seeds of our faith in the Jewish faith? What do we have in common?

We will explore:

- God's revelation of Himself to the ancient Hebrews as recorded in the Holy Bible.
- An historical journey through Israel and its religion leading up to the time of Jesus.
- How major teachings relate to the teachings of Jesus and the apostles.
- How key writings like the Torah and Talmud relate to our Christian faith.
- Respective views of the nature of God, the Messiah, sin, resurrection, etc.
- Groups, Practices, and Observances in the Christian Era

- Martha Mission *Tuesdays, 8:30am-2pm*
- Walk in Faith *Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2pm*
- Faith Quilters *Wednesdays, 9am-2pm*
- **Faith Riders** *Wednesdays, 6:30pm*
- Men of Faith Bible Study *Saturdays, 7am*
- **"Judaism to Christianity":** *Saturdays through Aug. 5th, 6pm (w/potluck dinner)*
- **Summer Sunday school** *July 2, 9, 16, 23*
- Maryland State Boy Choir (in concert here at Faith) *Sunday, July 2, 3:00pm*
- Youth Mission Trip at Joni & Friends Family Camp *July 3-8*
- Dorcas Needlework *July 10th & 24th*
- Vitalant Blood Drive *Sunday, July 16*
- Lunch & Learn *July 20*

The Maryland State Boy Choir
Tour Choir - Live In Concert

Sunday, July 2, 2023
3:00pm
Faith Lutheran Church
10000 Spain Rd NE

Free & open to the public!

Get to Know Your Church Council

RACHEL ARCHER

Faith Lutheran has been my church family since 2012, and I've been a member since 2015. I grew up in Lancaster County, PA, met my husband of 30 years, Marlan Ball in Texas, and moved with him and our daughter Christa to Albuquerque in 1993. I have worked as an editor at a media company for the past 15 years. I love being outdoors, and my favorite activity is riding my road bike for hours.

When we began our search for a church home, Marlan and I were looking for Bible-based leadership, which we found here. We also found a wonderful faith community, which means so much to me. Over the years, I have served as a greeter, a communion usher and a lector. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.



JENNIFER WILSON

We are so grateful for the beautiful community at Faith and I am beyond honored to serve on the Faith Church Council.

We first joined Faith when I was on staff as the Children's Minister at Faith's westside campus. It was an amazing experience to be part of a church plant and we made relationships that continue to this day even though the physical location of the church is no longer in existence. The experience of serving in a church plant more fully opened our eyes to God's presence in non-traditional settings. Eventually we were led to help



start a home church where we served alongside others desiring to bring the Word to those that might not be comfortable starting their walk in a regular church setting. During this time, we continued our relationship with Faith, enjoying time at the best VBS in town and Faith Riders. God eventually led us back to Faith and we have been loving time with friends from the past and new friends. My husband, Chisom, and I are back where we belong - discipling the littlest people in Sunday school.

God has given Chisom and me four beautiful children to love, disciple and do the messiness of life with. I teach science, STEM, math and logic at Axiom Christian Classical, a new school in downtown Albuquerque. The best parts of my job are loving the kids I serve (including my own!) and being afforded the privilege to show them God's presence in His good creation.

June 2023 Council Meeting Summary

The Council heard reports from the pastors and staff, and updates on the audit, ERC, and Attendance Task Force. The new business was brief with an introduction of the slate of at-large members for the election committee, which was approved, and the proposed date of the annual congregational meeting, which was also approved for 10/22/2023.

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 May	Year-To-Date as of 05/31/23	Year-To-Date Comparison of Offerings
offerings	\$116,762	\$623,422	
budget	\$141,286	\$706,430	(\$83,008)
expenses	\$129,216	\$714,290	(\$90,868)

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

Military Prayer List

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



Becca Arango	Russ Graef	Faun O'Brien
Steven Arango	James Hansen	Ryan O'Brien
Daniel Brinson	Chris Hinnerichs	Melissa Peterson
Jeremiah Brinson	Alec Kainer	Carl Powell
Brandi Brown	Robert Krause	Jason F. Ruetschilling
James Butcher	Phillip Levison	Sean Ryan
Mark Ciesielski	Ryan Loyd	Brandon Saxton
Chad Craner	Matthew Lueders	Dominique Tinsley
Melissa Craner	Gaetano Mangano	Courtney Werth
Timothy Everhard	Jonathan McDivitt	William Werth
Joshua Fanning	Daniel Miranda	Craig Wheeler
William Fink	Ian Moss	Canyon Wilder
		Patrick Winkels

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

General News

Recent Deaths

- Richard Nash, Ellen Nash's father
- Nancy McAllister on June 22

Recent Baptisms

- Henrietta June Carey on June 11

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.

Faith Lutheran Church
10000 Spain Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111
Ph. 505-296-0762
Fax. 505-291-5576
Email: faith@faithabq.org
Website: faithabq.org

Current Resident or...

Thank you Lord for:

