

JUNE 2023

FAITH | ALIVE

WELCOME TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWS

On a Mission This Summer

BY DR. JERRY WATTS, SENIOR PASTOR

Do you have a favorite summer memory? Are they a collection of memories? Road trips are mine. When we hit the road as a family it is filled with conversation, listening to books, music, laughter, and shouts of “Marco” echoed by “Polo” in hotel pools. These moments include storied events that our family shares for years around the dinner table. Holy time set a part for a special purpose.

Faith Lutheran blesses its pastors after every 6 years of service with a sabbatical. Holy time set a part for a special purpose. This summer I will spend 8 weeks on sabbatical. Some for rest with road trips like I described above. The majority of which will be set apart for prayer and focused time working on the project we voted on in our March congregational meeting. These weeks of focus won't be done alone. I will be working with council members, task force volunteers, and staff members to pray, plan, and prepare for our congregation to live out the vision God has given us. That vision is threefold:

“Faith is a home where we walk a path of a Jesus-shaped life with God, each other, and the people we encounter.”

This summer as you have time set apart for special purposes, including gatherings we can share like weekend worship, Bible studies, small groups, or even road trips. I invite you to join me in prayer for what God is calling us in the days ahead to do together. But like we read in Deuteronomy 6, we don't have to wait until summer ends. God is calling me, God is calling you, to Holy, set-apart moments. Often they look like the ordinary, but then God surprises us with His extraordinary when we remember to come to Him when we rise or when we rest.

May the Lord lead us in Holy moments, in ordinary ones, road trips and all! May this Jesus-shaped life lead us right to where He is calling us to be.

HEAR O ISRAEL

THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE
LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD

*with all your heart and
with all your soul and
with all your strength*

THESE COMMANDMENTS THAT I GIVE YOU

TODAY ARE TO BE ON YOUR HEARTS

IMPRESS THEM ON

YOUR CHILDREN

*Talk about them when you
sit at home and when you
walk along the road,*

WHEN YOU LIE DOWN AND WHEN YOU GET

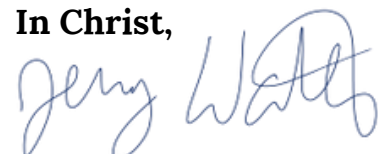
UP. TIE THEM AS SYMBOLS ON YOUR HANDS

AND BIND THEM ON YOUR FOREHEADS.

*Write them on the
doorframes of your houses
and on your gates.*

DEUTERONOMY SIX FOUR THROUGH NINE

In Christ,



Dr. Jerry Watts, Senior Pastor

It's Time to Hop

BY PASTOR MARK BEHENNA

Dear Sisters and Brothers;

"You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger." – James 1:19

Being slow to anger and abounding with steadfast love is a description of God found in several places in the Bible's elder testament. But in the New Testament, in the pastoral letter known as James, this sentiment is redirected to all of Christ's followers. Listening carefully, seeking God's guidance before speaking, and controlling one's temper are all virtues taught from the earliest days of the Christian church (and taught even before by Jewish Rabbis).

You've seen and heard the news from around our country. The scenes in our city streets have been more than disturbing. People have died, people have been blamed, people have quickly reacted with shouts of condemnation, anger has produced violence and theft, and more people have suffered and died.

We have seen the video recordings of the lamentable encounters between police and those suspected of crimes in most major cities, including the one in which we live. We each have our own interpretation of what we have seen in those videos. Our personal interpretation is, of course, influenced by our own background, upbringing, and personal experiences.

With the vast array of differences that make each human being a distinct individual, you might think that we'd all naturally take the guidance from James 1:19 to heart and spend time in prayer, with scripture, and searching for God's will with our brothers and sisters. But, by and large, taken as a collective society, we have done anything but. We've seen that far too many people have no time to listen to anyone, particularly if disagreement is a possibility. Far too many have been quick to shout the "truth" as they see it and discount the possibility that there is any other truth being offered through the experience of others. And anger has consumed so many that our big city streets now bear a better resemblance to a war zone than to a shopping and dining district.

How did this happen? How did our society degrade to such a state without very many of us noticing along the way? Well, I think it's like the parable of the frog in the frying pan. You know, a frog is cold-blooded, so it will never notice if the frying pan it is sitting in is gradually getting hotter and hotter. Finally, the frog is cooked before it ever perceives that a problem was right at its feet and one simple hop would have saved him.

Please don't take this to mean that I think you are a cold-blooded amphibian, far from it. But like the parabolic frog, our environment has been changing for a long while and we haven't noticed, or we chose not to notice, and therefore, we haven't done the one simple thing that would have saved us and the rest of those who have lived through this gradual change.

I'm talking, of course, about the removal of God from our public lives and the distancing we have experienced from the Judeo-Christian ethic. Think about the seismic shift in the American culture in the past 100 years. A century ago and more, children in this country were learning to read using "tracts" as basic primers. Those "tracts" were Bible stories and other sacred passages. Such a thing would be unthinkable in our schools today. Still, ask yourself, how many ways can you name that we have removed God and God's word from the public square, and as in my example, away from the education of our children? I'll not argue with those who have decided that a public school is the wrong place to teach religious precepts. That's not my point. Rather, I'm trying to convey that our society has removed God from nearly every aspect of "secular life," and has relegated the divine to an hour behind closed doors on the weekend. We have placed God in a box best described as a church building.

continued on page 3

It's Time to Hop *cont.*

Is it any wonder that after these 100 years we've come to a point where the ethic of James 1:19 is foreign among most of us? The divine commands issued by Jesus the Christ to "love your neighbor" and "love your enemy" have become completely lost in our time. I won't even begin to describe how far we've wandered from the 613 commandments to be found in Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy (the Jewish Torah). Yes, there are more than the "Big 10" commandments. And if you think it's a lot for us to learn from all those Old Testament commands, consider that Jesus himself issued more than 1,200 more in the four gospel accounts.

So now, given where we are, fellow frogs, what are we to do? It's clearly time to hop before things get even hotter. Hop on over to your Bible, pick it up, wipe the dust off of it, and stick your nose (and eyes) inside. Hop over to your family members and/or neighbors and talk about what you have found in your Bible sessions. Hop to your bedside, drop to your knees, and pray that God impart His will for your life. Then hop on out into the world proclaiming the Word of God in all that you do and say, at every opportunity.

But, you say, if I do that, my neighbors will ridicule me, my employer will be vexed, and my life will be made more difficult. I have no doubt that this will be the case. But weigh the alternatives. Would you rather face "the heat" which comes from proclaiming Jesus Christ in this world, or would you rather that this world decline to the point where we are all fried to a crisp in our shared frying pan?

My advice, go with God. He is the way, the truth, and the only hope for a peaceful life.

May the love of God be known in your heart,
Pr. Mark Behenna



More great reads inside this issue:

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Keep It Simple

WRITTEN BY PASTOR SCOTT STRACHAN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Hebrews 12:1-2: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder, and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Luke 10:38-42: Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Have you ever attended a special event or family gathering and got caught up in the moment with taking pictures and making sure all the details were just perfect, then when the time had passed just paused and asked yourself, "Did I miss it?"

I have certainly felt this way: you were there right in the middle of something important, but let details get in the way and somehow checked out of the importance of what just took place.

We see this many times throughout Scripture, the people and even the disciples get caught up in the details, worrying about things that in retrospect were not important at all. Recently, I heard a keynote speaker talk about this very thing. His thoughts were that when we are so focused on what is happening next, or what we need to do after this, or what we have going on later in the week, we can miss the presence of the Holy Spirit in the moment.

How much of our lives gets complicated or cluttered when we operate this way?

This month, I want to invite you to take some time and just be present with the Lord. Set aside your distractions and your to-do's to focus on what the Lord has in store for you. Our God wants to be in communion with you; if not, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ would not have needed to go to the cross for that very thing.

Here are some ideas to jumpstart this time for you:

- Spend some time in the morning in God's Word and prayer before starting your day.
- Take a long walk or some time outside without distraction to be silent and focused on God.
- Take a break from media for a day to spend time in God's Word and prayer.
- Spend time in praise with worship music.

The most important thing to remember is our time with God doesn't have to be complicated, keep it simple and rest in God's presence!

I pray you have a blessed Summer!
In Christ,

Dr. Scott Strachan

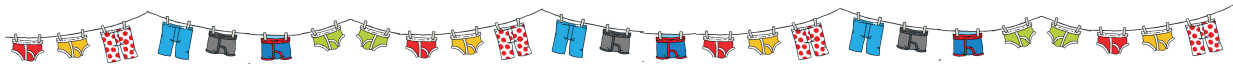




Your Mission & Service Ministry Team recently made distributions of **April 2023 Mission Offerings:**

\$1,000.00 to Meals On Wheels: This program is currently the only one of its kind in the Albuquerque area, providing services to anyone of any age, with no restrictions for age or disability. We help you or your loved one stay happy, healthy, and independent. We serve over 141,000 meals per year, and eliminating our wait list has really increased meal totals. It's been a blessing to be able to respond quickly to folks in need. www.mow-nm.org

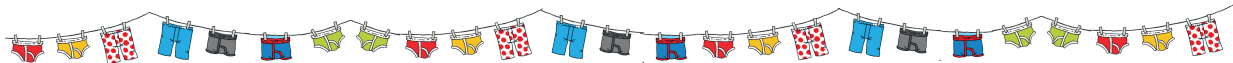
\$700.00 to Spiritual Orphans Network (SON): Connecting Spiritual Orphans to the Global Family of Christ, building relationships through Christian missions to former communist and Soviet bloc nations that Engage, Reclaim and Transform lives in Christ! In other words: **Connected through YOU. Adopted by GOD.** www.sonetwork.org



Get Ready For **LOCKER 505 SUMMER COLLECTION** June 3 - 18

BRAND NEW UNDERWEAR BOTTOMS (boxers & panties), SWEATPANTS, & LEGGINGS for Boys and Girls Pre-K through High School. Sizes: 4T - 3XL

Underwear can be FUN and EVERYBODY NEEDS IT!





**Are You Looking For A Volunteer Opportunity?
Choose Your Adventure With
ROADRUNNER FOOD BANK**

Time: Volunteer in the warehouse, around the office, take food assistance calls, invite people to our “Food For Thought” Tours, or become a Table Captain at our fundraising breakfast called “A Place at the Table.”

Treasure: Make monetary contributions to support our work: join the Roadrunner Club and give monthly, join the Full Plate Society with a 5-year pledge, or make a one time donation. Every penny helps.

Talent: You have skills to donate, or your company does, and we may need those skills in our daily work.

Testimonials: Tell your story and/or TELL OUR STORY - share our social media posts and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, and YouTube.

Ties: Open doors for us and help us grow by leveraging your social and professional networks.

Contact us at info@rrfb.org or call us at 505.349.8909

Thank You *cont.*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for investing in the children and families of Cuidando Los Niños. With your support and partnership, we are breaking the cycle of homelessness. Our amazing staff gets our families off the streets, into housing, and on the right track for a successful future.

At Cuidando, we provide young children experiencing homelessness with the highest quality pre-school experience, nutritious meals throughout the day, and most importantly we provide a safe environment for our families both in and out of the classroom. Parents receive education and support which builds self-confidence and resiliency, ensuring that the family is stable. For us at Cuidando Los Niños, this is our goal for every family that walks through our doors.

We appreciate you being the voice, light, and energy that it takes to change lives.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Hoehn
Executive Director, Cuidando Los Niños

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the board, staff and families of Saranam, we thank you for your generous contribution of \$1,000. Your donation will go directly to support our families as they break cycles of homelessness and poverty to pursue paths of independence and self-sufficiency.

The Saranam model is rooted in a holistic, two-generational approach. Families who participate in the program benefit from safe, secure housing, academic and vocational education, life skills education, children's programming to target the special needs of vulnerable children, and community support systems to provide guidance, encouragement, friendship, and positive reinforcement.

Your continued support enables Saranam to make significant and positive impacts on an increasing number of families experiencing homelessness in our community. Together we can end their poverty and homelessness, bringing them hope for a bright future. Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Tracy Weaver
Executive Director, Saranam

Dear Mission and Service Team, and Members of Faith,

What a wonderful task the Team and Faith members did to raise such an amazing amount of funds to dig new wells in Madagascar!

I and a group of staff and board members from Friends of Madagascar, plus another individual from a congregation that provided funds for digging a well, will be traveling to Madagascar from May 31st through June 15th. During this time we will hold many "Summit Meetings" on topics of mission and ministry, and one of topics will be digging the wells. It is so much better for me/us to meet face to face with the people we will be hiring to dig the wells than to deal with it from such a far distance. I will keep you informed as to the progress of the digging of the wells and send you reports/photos/stories, and in the future also videos.

With heartfelt thanks, this is an amazing story, and we will want to share it in our newsletters and website.

God's richest blessings and PEACE IN CHRIST!
The Rev. David Lerseth

Dear Pastor Mark,

Thank you so much for the support you provided for Sheryl Fleck's funeral service at Faith Lutheran on April 28, 2023. Thank you all so much from our whole family for the beautiful service; Sheryl would have loved it!

Very Respectfully,

**Katie Charnota on behalf of the
Fleck Family**



Summer Wednesday Nights begin May 31st, and include:

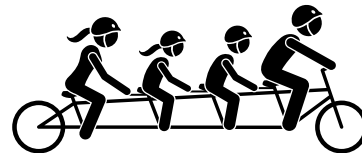
adults & teens

“A Summary of the Evidence for Intelligent Design”: Presented by Professor Granville Sewell, author of “In the Beginning and Other Essays on Intelligent Design.”

Five Class Sessions: Wednesdays,
May 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28
6:30pm in the FLC Lecture Hall

kids & families

Join us for **Faith Riders!** Pizza, fun, & bike riding start at 6:30pm on May 31st - don't forget to bring your helmet! We have loaner bikes for use and free bike repairs.



New Class:

"Judaism to Christianity -- Roots and Links"



A Class led by John Stichman
With Potluck Dinner
Saturdays 6:00pm, June 17 – August 5



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

Ladies, Faith's Women's Ministry Team Invites you to Join our Ministry



Women's Ministry is a vibrant and active group at Faith. We love Jesus and seek to minister to the needs of other women through opportunities to gather in friendship, prayer, bible studies and more. We pray you will consider joining our mighty team as many hands make light work. We meet once a month, on the third Sunday, at 12:15 pm, except for December and summer. Contact Jessica Behenna at Jessica.behenna@outlook.com to learn more.

Get to Know Your Church Council

JIM BURRELL

Jim and his wife Lisa have been members of Faith since the early 2000s. All of their three girls attended Children of Faith and youth activities throughout their young lives. Although the family has moved from Albuquerque for several assignments, they have always returned to Faith and are here to stay. Jim has been in federal law enforcement for 32 years and is expected to retire soon.



BRADY GEAR

Brady is blessed to have been baptized at Faith Lutheran in the fellowship hall back when everyone called it the sanctuary! In 2001 he joined Faith's praise band, Emmaus, and never stopped loving the feeling of making music on Sunday mornings. He, his wife Anna, and their children Hunter and Harper have experienced the incredible joy of serving and being served by the part of God's church called Faith Lutheran. Brady also works in healthcare administration, currently as the director of contracting and provider reimbursement for Presbyterian Health Plan. Backpacking, playing music, and spending time with family and friends are some of his favorite pastimes.



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May 2023 Council Meeting Summary

Besides the normal financial and pastoral reports, this month's meeting included a presentation by the CPA, Loftis and Lovato Group. They gave the finalized 2019 and 2020 Annual Reviews and found no issues to report. In addition, the 2021 and 2022 financial audits are underway with more onsite visits by the auditors in May, June, & August. Phil Mayo also reported on potential changes in the process to develop a spending plan and how that might work should the congregation choose that path. New business included an update about the Generis project and the formation of the election committee.

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 April	Year-To-Date as of 04/30/23	Year-To-Date Comparison of Offerings
offerings	\$163,501	\$506,660	
budget	\$141,286	\$565,144	(\$58,484)
expenses	\$119,726	\$585,074	(\$78,414)

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

It's Not Too Late to Have Your Photo Taken!
Now through June 4th

W. family

Directory Photos!

B. & N.

Faith Lutheran family

Faith
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

- Glenn Herreid on April 30
- Loren Jacobson, brother of Roger Jacobson, on May 4

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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Fax. 505-291-5576
Email: faith@faithabq.org
Website: faithabq.org

Current Resident or...

Thank you Lord for:

