

OCTOBER 2023

FAITH | ALIVE

WELCOME TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWS

“AND THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE APOSTLES’ TEACHING AND THE FELLOWSHIP, TO THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND THE PRAYERS.”



Dear Friends,

Last August your church council, staff, and pastors gathered on a retreat about the vision of our congregation. The Holy Spirit worked in mighty ways to help us articulate: “Faith is a home where we walk a path of a Jesus-shaped life with God, each other, and the people we encounter.”

This fall, we are inviting you to be a trailblazer on that path. Beginning October 22nd we will spend five weeks in the book of Acts exploring how God was at work in the early church: how they were all in for God, each other, and the people they encountered. Together with the Lord's leading we will discover the Holy Spirit is calling us to do the same today.

In the high desert that we call home, many are quickly dehydrated without even knowing it, and in today's world many are spiritually dehydrated without even knowing it. I believe God is calling us to respond for such a time as this, to be ALL-IN for the Gospel. To carry the living water and lead others to Christ!

FOUR WAYS TO BE ALL IN

1. **Invite** friends and members who may have not been in worship to join us for these important five weeks and this exciting season. Don't miss this!
2. **Join a small group.** We are hoping you will join a small group with a discussion guide based on each week's preaching text from Acts. [Click here](#) or scan the QR code to let us know you will be part of a small group.
3. **Lead a small group.** When you fill out the form linked above, there is an option to let us know you are interested in leading or hosting a group. We need discussion leaders and hosts to have enough groups for everyone.
4. **Already in a small group?** Incorporate our materials into what you're already doing for those four weeks. Email Pastor Mark (mbehenna@faithabq.org) if you're interested, or click the link above.



We learn in vs. 47 of Acts that when God's people were ALL-IN devoted to the LORD and one another, our gracious God was adding to their number daily. Now is the time for us to commit to this kind of devotion and answer the call, and as the Spirit leads us, to lead others to Christ.

Don't miss these important days!

IN CHRIST,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry Watts".

DR. JERRY WATTS, SENIOR PASTOR

Go and Make Disciples

BY PASTOR MARK BEHENNA

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Jesus was provocative, in His time, and His teaching and preaching remain so in ours. The “Sermon on the Mount,” His parables, and the way in which He spoke to the religious leaders of His time are but a few examples of how Jesus shocked and surprised His audiences.

Again, Jesus continues to surprise in our time, even by what He did not say. Consider this: Jesus never told us to grow the church larger. Oh sure, we really want more people among us in worship. And, yes, it would be great if more people were available to help our present members carry the financial responsibility that every church must endure. And I agree that our worship at Faith would be even more glorious if more people shared in our praise of the Lord. But Jesus Himself had nothing to say about these things. Jesus Christ was much more concerned with the faithfulness of his disciples, brothers, and sisters than anything else.

If you take a look at an “average” church in North America, you will find that about 25 percent of the membership comes to church on any given Sunday. There are always good reasons for any family to be away from worship – vacations, family weddings or funerals, reunions, and more – however, it’s hard to imagine that 75 percent of us have reasons to miss time with God’s Word (and an opportunity to prepare to reach out to our neighbors with the gospel) every single week. Online worship has a small positive effect on the in-person numbers presented here, but still, the trend remains concerning.

Taking another look, 38 percent of “average” church members are over the age of 62, and 79 percent are over the age of 40. Even more telling, in the past fifteen years, more than 90 percent of new “average church members” were practicing Christians before they joined their new church. For those who joined about ten years ago, nearly 100 percent were already members of other congregations before joining their new church. These are not pretty statistics at all. The churches of North America are not drawing “unchurched” people to the gospel of Jesus Christ, we’re merely recycling people as they move from church to church.

Jesus did not tell us to focus on making church members (and it appears we are complying very well with His lack of direction in this regard). **But Jesus most certainly did tell us to go out and make disciples!** Observe this: Members go to church, disciples go to work!

The work of a disciple is to go and visit those who are hospitalized, spend time with a sister or brother who is hurting, teach someone who is young in years or young in their faith, or look for an opportunity to share the love of Christ with someone who has slipped into hopelessness. Disciples sent by Jesus prepare themselves and others to respond when their neighbors are so beat down by the stress of their world that they are finally receptive to God’s loving rule over their lives.

It’s not likely that you can become a good disciple by simply reading an information pamphlet (or this letter). Disciples, like those who followed Jesus in the Bible’s account, learned by *imitation*. So, if you don’t know where to begin to become one of Jesus’ disciples, approach someone who already is. Go on a hospital visit with someone who has done it before. Assist someone who leads a Sunday School class, or help deliver a meal to a family in distress. You may even choose to visit those in need of comfort along with me.

Remember, Jesus *commanded* us to go and make disciples. I believe it is time for all of us to begin by making disciples of ourselves. With this first success, we will be prepared to go and make disciples of others. With more and more disciples among us, the growth of church membership will take care of itself.

In Him,
Pr. Mark Behenna

Youth Fall Retreat Recap

WRITTEN BY PASTOR SCOTT STRACHAN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” - John 1:5

Youth and adult leaders had a blessed Fall retreat at Bonita Park! 37 youth and adults gathered for an awesome weekend of fun, fellowship, small groups and, most importantly, devoted time in God’s Word.

Thank you for your support of youth discipleship at Faith!



In Christ,

Dr. Scott Strachan

Thank You

Dear Faith Lutheran Church,

All **Spiritual Orphans Network (SON)** short-term teams are home. Here is the summer by the numbers:

- Latvia English Bible Camp: 54 students, 9 SON team members, 11 Latvian ministry partners = **74**
- Albania English Bible Camps & Life Camp for Teens: 76 students, 13 SON team members, 16 Albanian ministry partners = **105**
- Slovakia English Bible Camps: 123 students, 19 SON team members, 24 Slovak ministry partners = **166**
- Slovakia Life & Adventure Teen Camps: 102 students (including Latvians and Ukrainians), 15 SON team members, 32 Slovak & Latvian ministry partners = **149**

That is **494 people** that heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the hands, feet, and voices of the everyday saints that you and your congregation support through SON ministries. We thank you for your recent gift that allows us to Connect Spiritual Orphans to the Global Family of Christ.

In His Service,
Pastor David Breidenbach
SON Executive Director

Dear Friends at Faith Lutheran Church,

We are so grateful to you all for your generous donation to the **Storehouse**. The employees and the Board appreciate your thinking of those in our community who are so in need. We could not make the impact we do without donors like you.

All our thanks,
Sarah Cobb
Board Member, The Storehouse

Pr. Jerry and the people of Faith Lutheran -

Thank you for stepping out in faith to care for our global neighbors. Your compassionate kindness is a reflection of God's love for all people.

In Christ,
Jamie Lennon
Lutheran World Relief



More great reads inside this issue:

- MISSION CORNER - 5
- SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS - 6
- SEPT 2023 COUNCIL SUMMARY - 6
- CHILDREN OF FAITH PRESCHOOL - 7
- EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS - 7-8
- FINANCIALS - 8
- MILITARY PRAYER LIST - 9

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 **August 2023 Mission Offerings** as follows:

\$1,200.00 to The Storehouse New Mexico: As one of New Mexico's largest food pantries, their mission is fighting hunger in our community. With New Mexico ranking among the worst in the nation for food insecurity for children and adults, The Storehouse offers free groceries to people in need, feeding approximately 35,000 people per year. www.storehousenm.org

\$500.00 to Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless: For over 30 years, Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless has been the only health care organization in central New Mexico dedicated exclusively to providing services to 7,000+ homeless people every year, including primary healthcare, social and behavioral care, outreach and harm reduction, and dental care. www.abqhch.org



Our September Mission Weekend recently celebrated Faith Lutheran's partnership with Common Hope, a non-profit working with families in Guatemala to fulfill their commitment and educational dreams for their children, while building better lives for themselves; promoting education, generating hope and opportunity in Guatemala. We watched a video from Teresa Bettman, Strategic Relations Manager for Common Hope, and lots of information was available about the many ways we as a Church and individuals can become involved:

- [Sponsoring a student,](#)
- [Joining The Pathway,](#)
- [Traveling to Guatemala on a Vision Team,](#)
- Or just being an ambassador and telling others about Common Hope!

If you would like more information, please visit commonhope.org.



AN URGENT CALL FOR HELP



For almost 6 years, a team of volunteers from Faith Lutheran Church have served lunch at **The Rock at Noonday** (a day shelter for the homeless) on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. For many reasons, beginning with COVID in 2020, but also changes in team members' health, job changes, other responsibilities, and more, our team has dwindled. This is a great opportunity to serve with other Faith members, with a limited commitment of 1 day per month for less than 2 hours. The work is not difficult and we have a lot of fun together in fellowship, providing lunch to so many less fortunate individuals in our community. Please consider joining our Team.

Contact Karen Kainer at 505.296.0762 or kkainer@faithabq.org for more information.



October Birthdays

PREPARED BY DIANE WILDER, CHURCH OFFICE

1 Elaine Breen, Ron Iman, Louise Strachan
2 Pam Russell
3 Scott Elder, Randy Riddle, Nadia Ruetschilling
4 Taylor Harstad, Rowan Lawler, Mark Mahoney
5 Kris Stichman
6 Troy Covell, Roses Straughan, Faith Watts, Pat Wilson
7 No Birthdays
8 Stacy Irvine
9 Gail Barnes, Charmaine Grabowski
10 No Birthdays
11 Sheila Thygeson
12 Phyllis Barnes, Thea Bielejec, Cheryl Van Gilst
13 Jack Ramirez, Charmaine Schmille, John Stichman, Sonja Strack
14 Margie Gara, Matthew Mortensen
15 Coen Allen, Aven Gibbs
16 Dominic Anderson, Beverly Donahoo, John Gehrke, Kylee King, Thomas Maethner
17 Mary Burns

18 Jeffry Mullen
19 Maia Dannenbaum Zufall, Nicholas King, Lenny Mangano
20 Kevin Brown, Richard Brunson, Johanna Hale, Dwayne Knirk, Terri Maethner
21 Aidan Atencio, Will Frankland, Kim Legant, Alan Morgan
22 Martin Imbert, Jean Williams, Brian Wyss
23 Andrew Weaver, Heidi Weiss
24 Doris Christianson
25 Hal Lewin, Larry Wilson
26 No Birthdays
27 Ryanne Covell, Annelies Dahlquist, Carrie Mortensen
28 Cameron Golden, Giselle Weiss
29 Joseph Cromey, Taren Wenthe
30 Amanda Archuleta, Samuel Dunbar, Luella Wallace
31 Linda Novy-Doll

—◆◆—◆◆—

September 2023 Council Meeting Summary

The Council had their annual “long budget meeting” that included a report from the CPAs, Loftis and Lovato, on the 2021 Audit. Overall the audit was a very positive report with a clean opinion. Along that line, the annual budget for 2024 was presented by the Finance Committee Chairman, Phil Mayo. A vote was held on which budget option to present to the congregation, considering the All In One Fund process we have entered. The usual reports were also given. New business included reports of the elections committee and also the Staff Policy, Compensation and Benefits Committee (SPCBC).

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.

Events & Announcements



**Children
of Faith**
PRESCHOOL

cofschool.com

505-323-6400

Jennifer Alcocer, Director

Children of Faith Preschool is currently open for Fall enrollment!

We have immediate openings for 3 and 4 year olds! Our 2 and 3 year old class has a few spaces as well.

Call Jennifer Alcocer at the preschool at 505-323-6400 to schedule a tour if you're interested, or find out more at cofschool.com.

If you don't have preschool-aged kids, then please help us spread the word to your friends, family, and neighbors. Thank you!

Faith
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Congregational Meeting

Sunday October 22, 2023

One Service: 9:30am
Meeting: 11am

Events & Announcements



October menu

for Wednesday nights

4
TACO SALAD

11
BBQ CHICKEN SANDWICHES

18
PIZZA 

25
SLOPPY JOES

NOV 1
HOT DOGS

fall festival &



SATURDAY, OCT. 28
3-5 PM
 Candy donations gratefully accepted!

Also join us for...

"The Chosen" Season 2 Study Wednesdays, 6:30pm

Revelation class with Pr. Mark Behenna Sundays, 9:30 & 11am
 Wednesdays, 6:30pm

VISION LUNCHEON
OCTOBER 8
RSVP HERE by 10/1

Men's Bible & Brew
 October 3 & 17

Moms' Bible Study
 October 6 & 20

Confirmation Sunday
 October 15

Lunch & Learn
 October 19, 11am



The **SARAH Bible Study** meets **Wednesdays 9:30-11am** in the Family Room at the back of the Sanctuary, and we'd love to welcome new members! We're currently studying Genesis. Please consider joining us!



The **Fruit of the Spirit Bible Study** meets Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm in the Communion Room. Open to all adults! Please come join us as we study "[The Early Church](#)" with Ray Vander Laan.

Financials

2023	Month of August	Year-To-Date as of 08/31/23	Year-To-Date Comparison of Offerings
offerings	\$103,686	\$979,144	
budget	\$141,286	\$1,130,288	(\$151,144)
expenses	\$131,687	\$1,048,446	(\$69,302)

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.

For changes/additions to this list, please contact Pr Mark Behenna or the church office at 505-296-0762.



Ainsley Burrell

Leah Gallegos

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

General News

Recent Deaths

- Dr. Bonnie Kathleen Wilson Buzza, sister of Larry Wilson, on Sept. 5
- Don Atencio, husband of Kit Atencio, on Sept. 12
- Leileda Billie, family member of the Humelsines

Listen to Church with your Landline

Listening to Services Over the Phone
Please dial 1.833.531.1980

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 or dwilder@faithabq.org to update your records.



Volunteer Opportunity

Please consider helping answer phone calls in the church office on Monday mornings. Contact Diane Wilder at 505-296-0762 or dwilder@faithabq.org.

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.

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.

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
Email: faith@faithabq.org
Website: faithabq.org

Current Resident or...

Thank you Lord for:

