

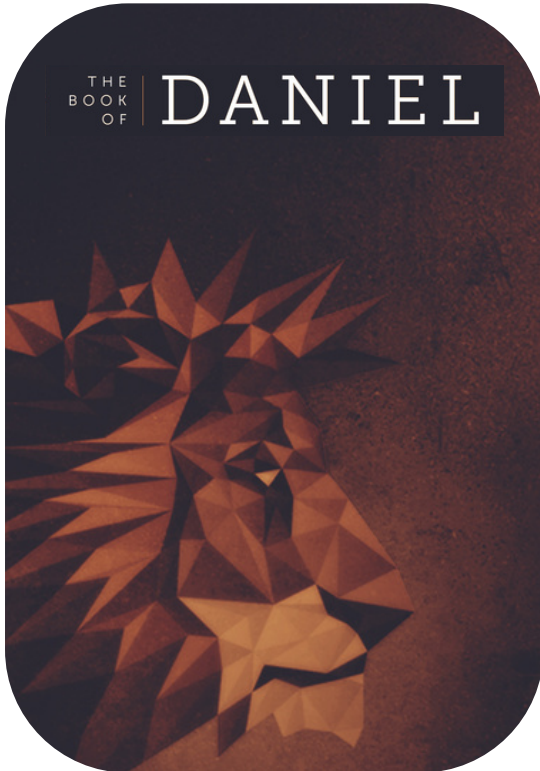
SEPTEMBER 2023

# FAITH | ALIVE

WELCOME TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWS

## Faith in the Furnace?

BY PASTOR JERRY WATTS



As we dive into the book of Daniel this month, it is an important time for us to ask: how I am following Jesus in this secular world? Am I resolved, like Daniel before his captors in chapters 1 and 2, to not be redefined? Am I resilient like Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah in the fiery furnace? Though the king and Babylonians changed their names, Daniel and his friends would not be redefined by anything other than the WORD of God. For you, and for all of us, it begins by being anchored in the WORD of God. There, as in Isaiah 43, we remember we are the redeemed of the LORD.

For our congregation it means being anchored by the WORD of God! If you feel the Holy Spirit calling you to this high and holy mission to be resolved, remain faithful, and share the Gospel, then you need to be at one of our VISION Leadership Lunches.

September 10, 24, or October 8, 2023  
<https://faithabq.org/vision>

It is there where we will consider how God is calling our congregation to blaze a trail on a path shaped by Jesus. We believe that Faith is a home where we walk a Jesus-shaped path with God, each other, and the people we encounter.

I hope you will go to the website. Be prepared to dig in, get on this Jesus-shaped path, and resolve to serve the LORD together!



On this Path Together!

**Dr. Jerry Watts, Senior Pastor**

# Two Things

BY PASTOR MARK BEHENNA

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This month I am writing to you concerning two subjects, one a bit heavy and one quite hopeful.

## Thing One

I apologize to you, all of you. Back in our March newsletter, I made a case that political speech has no place in the pulpit. I also said that it is impermissible for a pastor to stand before the congregation and advise the members how to vote. With regard to voting, my thoughts about the pastor's role have not changed. However, I have learned more recently (it's more accurate to say that I've been convicted in the past month) when it comes to proclaiming God's Word in the face of secular political activities.

My change of heart came about when one of our brothers gifted me a book entitled "Letter to the American Church," by Eric Metaxas. You may be familiar with Mr. Metaxas' earlier biographical works on Martin Luther and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. In his "Letter," Metaxas draws on his Bonhoeffer research into the actions and inactions of the German church as Nazism was on the rise in 1930's Germany. The first persons to be persecuted and eliminated from that society were not the Jews, but surprising to many of us these 90 years later, it was those with birth defects or other crippling infirmities. Later, Hitler's scourge grew to afflict Gypsies, Jews, and Russians. Millions died. The majority of the German Church held on to Luther's 400-year-old view that governmental leaders were to be honored as representative of God's intent for His people, and thus they did nothing through it all. Evil was met with the Church's silence.

The exception to the German Church's failing was a relatively small group which came to be known as the "Confessing Church," of which Bonhoeffer was a principal spiritual leader. Bonhoeffer trusted the Lord to such an extent that he spoke to his whole nation on a radio broadcast to let everyone know that what the Nazi regime was up to was contrary to God's will. Governmental authorities "pulled the plug" on that broadcast before it was finished. And yes, a few years later, as you likely know, Pr. Bonhoeffer paid the ultimate price for his opposition to the evil authority of his time.

Please do not take what is described above as a call "to die" on behalf of our Lord's calling. Instead, Metaxas teaches us that trusting Christ to lead us when evil rises up in the world is an essential part of our Christian calling. Dr. Martin Luther King and many others lived out this reality too. Martin Luther himself also lived through extremely adverse political threats (which causes us to carefully balance his later advice to honor the authorities appointed over us).

Should evil arise in our modern political environment or in our cultural or social spheres, it is the pastor's responsibility and calling to point to and oppose that evil. Again, this is different than supporting a specific political candidate.

A church which remains silent in the face of evil is not a church at all. To be silent when evil is afoot is to condone that evil. I repent, and going forward I shall summon the guidance of God's Holy Spirit whenever the time calls for me to voice opposition to evil among us.

God, give me the strength and wisdom to trust you to give me the words and actions that uphold your will.

*continued on the next page*

## Two Things *cont.*


### Thing Two

In the August issue of “Faith Alive” I described a field of ancient wheat, called “Khorasan,” which has been planted in a field in Corrales, New Mexico. I’ve been privileged to have been allowed to help tend this wheat crop since its planting. Today I can report that a good number of wheat plants have grown to a point where the wheat heads themselves are gloriously visible (see picture). Some sections of the field have not offered a good yield, and other portions did not support any yield at all. This reminds me of Jesus’ parable about the farmer whose seed fell on various kinds of soil. Nonetheless, I’m heartened to witness God’s bounty rising from the earth.



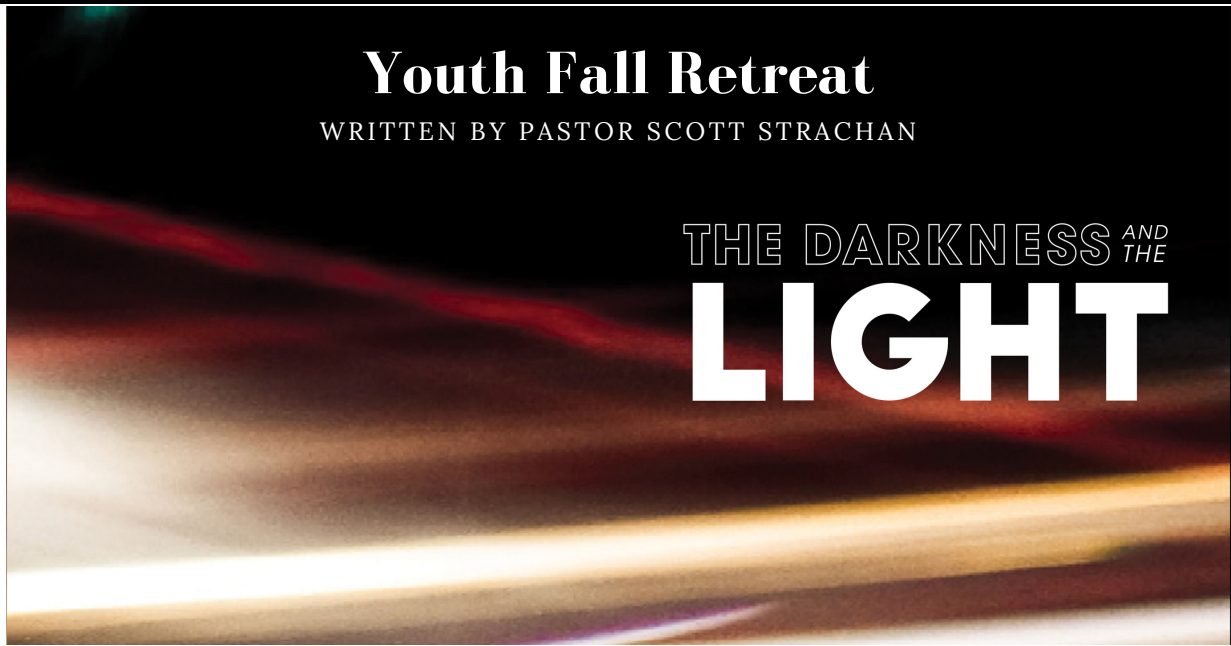
If you feel motivated to help in this wheat field, please know that not much labor is required right now as the Khorasan plants mature. However, when harvest time arrives your assistance would be greatly appreciated. If you’re interested in helping, or if you’d like more information about this farming mission, please contact me through the church office.

To God be the glory,  
*Pr. Mark Behenna*



**More great reads inside this issue:**

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This September 15-17, our youth and adult leaders will be heading to Bonita Park near Capitan, NM for our annual Youth Fall Retreat. With a great facility that includes zip lines, paintball, a pool, rock wall, and much more, we will have fun for sure. More importantly though, we will continue down the path of discipleship to Jesus as we spend a weekend in God's Word, learning how Jesus Christ is the true light in the darkness and how we are called to be the light in the world by and through Jesus. If you would like to join us as an adult or you know a 5th through 12th grade youth who may be blessed by this retreat, I invite you to share this information! Below you will find more about this life-changing trip.

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

Have you ever been in a place that's really and truly dark? A place with absolutely zero sources of light? It's a little unsettling, isn't it? We lose context. We become disoriented. And if we're honest, sometimes we get scared. There is another kind of darkness that surrounds us. It's not the absence of light. It's the darkness of a world without good. A world without God.

There is darkness. But there is a light, too. And not just any light. It's a light that is overwhelming, all-consuming, and perfectly pure . . . a light that refuses to be ignored. It's the light of God's goodness. And it breaks through in the most amazing ways. There is a light that drives away darkness. A light that drives out fear. A light that runs off despair. A light that shines for justice. A light that is comforting, and clarifying . . . A light that saves. The only true light...

Together we will learn more about The Darkness & The Light to discover how God's light shines around us, in us, and through us.

More information  
or to sign up:



**SCAN HERE!**

**In Christ,**

*Dr. Scott Strachan*

# 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 **July 2023 Mission Offerings** as follows:

**\$650.00 to The Storehouse New Mexico:** As one of New Mexico's largest food pantries, their mission is fighting hunger in our community. They offer FREE groceries to people in need. New Mexico ranks among the worst in the nation for hunger, for both children and adults. With your support, they are able to feed approximately 35,000 people a year who come to their pantry for food. [www.storehousenm.org](http://www.storehousenm.org)

**\$500.00 to Samaritan's Purse:** After sharing the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said "Go and do likewise." That is the mission of Samaritan's Purse—to follow the example of Christ by helping those in need and proclaiming the hope of the Gospel. They are an effective means of reaching hurting people in crisis in countries around the world with food, medicine, and other assistance in the name of Jesus Christ. [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org)

**\$500.00 to International Christian Concern:** Every year, 200 million Christians suffer some level of persecution. Persecution is a multifaceted problem that requires a comprehensive solution. For nearly three decades, ICC has developed a unique approach focused on Assistance, Advocacy, and Awareness, existing to bandage the wounds of persecuted Christians and building the Christian Church in the most challenging parts of the world. [www.persecution.org](http://www.persecution.org)



For more information, visit [trinityhope.org](http://trinityhope.org)

### In Case You Missed the Trinity Hope Presentation on July 30th:

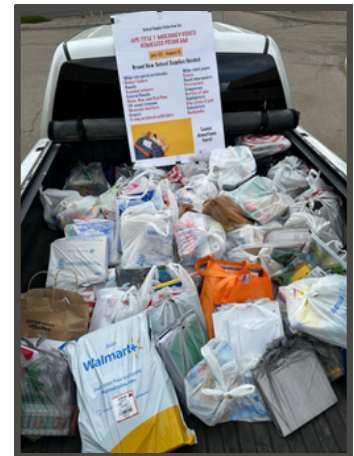
It's not too late to hear Keith Logan, Executive Director, share information about the work being done in Haiti by our Ministry Partner, Trinity HOPE!

[A recording of his talk is on our Youtube page.](#)

[youtube.com/FaithLutheranChurchAlbuquerque](https://youtube.com/FaithLutheranChurchAlbuquerque)

### YOU made it happen!

Faith Members have packed a pickup once again with school supplies for the **APS TITLE 1 McKinney- Vento PROGRAM**



### [September Mission Weekend: September 23-24](#)

We will be celebrating our partnership with Common Hope, an organization promoting education, generating hope and opportunity in Guatemala, September 23-24. Learn about the many ways we as a Church and individuals can engage, such as: sponsoring a student, joining The Pathway, or traveling to Guatemala on a Vision Team! [commonhope.org](http://commonhope.org)





## September Birthdays

PREPARED BY DIANE WILDER, CHURCH OFFICE

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>1</b> David Breidenbach, Max Stefoin<br/> <b>2</b> Ethan Wentz<br/> <b>3</b> Beverly Caplis, Christian Droemer, Barbara Esch, Tyler Etcorn, Erja Saroea<br/> <b>4</b> Stephanie Crosser, Julie Billison, Lori Hendrex, Alan LaSeck<br/> <b>5</b> Christi Erben, Norma Vig, Janet Vogt, James Wilder<br/> <b>6</b> Tim Reiser<br/> <b>7</b> Malia Irvine<br/> <b>8</b> Sherry Riddle<br/> <b>9</b> Tom Roberts<br/> <b>10</b> Lisa Allison, Shea Ansotigue, Debra Lindstrom<br/> <b>11</b> Karen Dannenbaum, Diana Schesser, Kurt Thorson<br/> <b>12</b> Myles Calvert, Stephen Craycraft, Mark Shockey<br/> <b>13</b> Karen Carroll, Clara Griffith, Ethan Hausermann, Haley King<br/> <b>14</b> Cierra Lords, Lindy Smith</p> | <p><b>15</b> Chris Bohnhoff, Lyla Patterson, Tom Wubbels<br/> <b>16</b> Amber Byrd, Erika Vreeland<br/> <b>17</b> William Donohoo<br/> <b>18</b> Betsy Droemer, Karen Kainer, Rudy Lucero<br/> <b>19</b> Caroline Burrell, Kelly Dunbar<br/> <b>20</b> Doyle Burnett, Dan Gahan, Caleb Lasher, Sarah Lynch, Erica Manteufel, JoAnne Mech, Linda Nelson<br/> <b>21</b> Cheryl Boon, Aiden LaSeck, Mona Handlos, Laura Heincelman<br/> <b>22</b> Keith Balkcom, Sandra Humelsine, Jan Lohrding, Melissa Smith<br/> <b>23</b> Willard Dunlap<br/> <b>24</b> Samantha Trainor, Bryce Wilson<br/> <b>25</b> Adam Garcia<br/> <b>26</b> Reece Apodaca, Eloise Ellenwood<br/> <b>27</b> Rebekah Allen, Gina Bombard, Bruce Hall<br/> <b>28</b> Michael Dyer, Susie Ellsworth, Nathan Holden, Matt Larson<br/> <b>29</b> Joy Watts<br/> <b>30</b> Brooke Morgan</p> |
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## August 2023 Council Meeting Summary

The Council heard reports from the pastors and staff, as well as updates on the audit, ERC, Attendance Task Force, election committee, and the Generis project. The new business included an update on the Strategic Initiative Vision with four upcoming vision events where, together with the Lord's leading, we can move our vision from a dream to a reality. We want everyone to have a chance to share what Faith has meant to them and their families over the years, while also envisioning what Faith could become in the future. All of this will take place before the big launch of the initiative on **Oct. 22, 2023**, with one worship service at 9:30am followed by the Congregational 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.

# Thank You

Dear Friends,

Thank you for Faith's recent gift of \$1,000.00 to **Lutheran World Relief!** When you love your neighbors with your generous gifts to LWR, you change lives in amazing ways.

For Walaa Ali al Ali, a Syrian refugee living in Lebanon, your love arrived in the form of a beehive. As the primary breadwinner for her family – including her mother, her developmentally disabled brother, a niece, and a nephew – she struggled to find work amid Lebanon's economic crisis. Her family was safe from the war in Syria, but they didn't have access to adequate food or basic medical care.

Through LWR, Walaa enrolled in a livelihoods program for refugees and received all the training and supplies she needed to start a business as a beekeeper. With the money she earned, she also planted a vegetable garden to help feed her family. Now she's earning enough to keep her family afloat, and she's even training other women how to produce and sell honey.

Thank you again, and God bless you!  
**Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard (ret.)**  
**President and CEO Lutheran World Relief**



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$500 to Roadrunner Food Bank. Your generosity and support help **Roadrunner Food Bank** continue to put much needed food on the tables of New Mexicans facing hunger in communities across our state.

This is an important time of year for Roadrunner Food Bank, as we work with schools to provide food to families in a variety of ways through our Childhood Hunger Initiative (CHI). CHI works to solve child and family hunger by providing each partner school the ability to receive food from Roadrunner through a combination of hunger-relief programs. **School Pantries** provide each school the opportunity to create a school-based or on-site food pantry allowing families to receive help anytime it is needed during the school year. **Mobile Pantries**, where every month schools receive a monthly mobile or "traveling" food such as vegetables, fruit, dairy, meat, and much more. **Backpacks**, where a small amount of food can be sent home in a backpack with the child to help the family through a short amount of time. This supplements food for children and families in situations where a parent/guardian is unable to pick up food from school.

Once again, thank you for being a crucial part of ensuring that our neighbors facing hunger have access to fresh produce and other essential nutritious food.

In Gratitude,  
**Linda J. Wedeen**  
**Interim President and CEO, Roadrunner Food Bank**



Dear Members of Faith,

We are closing out the 2022-23 school year and preparing to start anew in August. In the past, regional issues such as hurricanes or earthquakes have delayed school starts. However, in the fall of 2022, we saw an entire nation delay school due to the extreme political unrest and gang violence. In October, schools began to slowly open, and we began to feed children. However, the delayed start means a very short break for the Haitian children this summer. We know that the vast majority of schools are still open, and we will continue feeding children throughout July!

We are all so excited that the children in Haiti were able to return to school so they can continue to grow in their faith. Because of your gift, they have been able to have a daily meal at school, even when food in the community is scarce.

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,310.00 to help spread the Gospel to our brothers and sisters in Christ in Haiti! Your gift relieves the hunger pains and allows the children to memorize the Scripture readings taught in school. That gift makes them little missionaries, spreading the Good News throughout the community. You are helping change lives now and forever.

Serving in Christ Together,  
**Candi Cook, Operations Manager**  
**Julie Childs and Penny McMahon, Gift Response**  
**Jennifer Perkins, Administrative Assistant**  
**Trinity HOPE**

# Events & Announcements



**September menu**  
for Wednesday nights

- 6** BREAKFAST FOR SUPPER
- 13** SLOPPY JOES
- 20** PIZZA 
- 27** CHICKEN PATTY SANDWICH

## Faith Covenant Bible Study Group

The 8:00 Adult Sunday School Class is a Covenant Group that has been in existence since September 2003. We begin our Fall classes on **Sunday, September 17, 2023.**

We are an interactive Adult Bible Study Group open to all ages and life stages. We share Bible study, pray for each other's concerns, and relate our Bible study to practical real-world living and service. We meet in **Room 13.**

We do not have teachers, but rather individual class members who volunteer, during a semester of 12 lessons, to facilitate a lesson. Our format is open interactive discussion based upon the scriptural readings and the structured lessons. We also have a couple of outside social events during the year.

Please contact Bill or Lonnie Dennis (505.823.2898, wdennis1616@gmail.com, Dazzler1496@gmail.com) or sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

With open arms and hearts, our group looks forward to welcoming you in the name of Christ!


**Bill & Lonnie** 



## Financials

2023	Month of July	Year-To-Date as of 07/31/23	Year-To-Date Comparison of Offerings
offerings	\$122,908	\$875,458	
budget	\$141,286	\$989,002	(\$113,544)
expenses	\$129,664	\$917,031	(\$41,573)

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



**Quilters this past Friday, August 25, 2023 delivered:**

- 25 quilts to Salvation Army
- 22 wheelchair quilts to the Spinal Cord unit at the VA Hospital, and
- 44 children's quilts to Carrie Tingley Hospital

We invite you to join our Faith Quilters group! We meet on **Wednesdays from 9am-2pm.** No experience necessary! We have everything you need to join in.



# 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**

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## General News

### Recent Deaths

- Olive Norwell, sister of Joan Seward, on August 10
- Ralph Pool, brother of Mary Joyce May, on August 11
- Judy Watts, mother of Pr. Jerry Watts, on August 15
- John Cummings, son-in-law of Alex & Pam Zimmerman, on August 29

### Births

- Adlyn Mary Hausermann was born on August 17

### Baptisms

- Kameron Stevens on September 1

### 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](mailto:dwilder@faithabq.org) to update your records.

### 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](http://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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Website: [faithabq.org](http://faithabq.org)

Current Resident or...

**Thank you Lord for:**

