



October

take up the shield of faith

Ephesians 6:16

October 2025 Newsletter

Take Note...

Online giving now
available on our website:
faithlutheranlittlefalls.org



**Faith's Core
Values:**
*Discipleship,
Hospitality,
Prayer,
Service,
Stewardship,
Worship,
and Unity*

From Pastor Mark...

Reformation In the Church & Personally

“If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

John 8:31-32

On October 26, we commemorate the Reformation. The Bible readings for worship that day include the passage which changed Martin Luther's life which is Romans 3:28, “For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.” This was an epiphany for him in helping him move from seeing God only as a wrathful God of rules and regulations that we can never perfectly follow, to seeing God as being filled with grace and love. That insight set the foundation for the Reformation. We commemorate the day Luther pounded the 95 Theses to the Wittenberg Chapel Door – October 31, 1517 – as the start of the Reformation.

After Martin Luther was outlawed by the pope and the emperor, the Reformation continued – sometimes chaotically. But its basis was a preaching movement – the sharing and hearing of God's Word. From there, the first outward signs that more was happening than inner spiritual reforms were the marriage of priests and the mass resignation of monks from monasteries. Next, various changes in worship were instituted. So you can see how the reformers saw renewal in one's faith-life as being intertwined with (a.) how we live our daily life *and* (b.) with how we conduct our congregational worship.

Because of the courage and faithfulness of the Reformers, we have inherited a rich faith tradition in the Lutheran church (interestingly Martin Luther was not wild about having a church named after him). In addition, the larger church has benefited and learned from their teachings and witness. For their faithfulness we commemorate their work and we give thanks to God.

Let it be our prayer to ask God for the courage and the insight to continually engage in the Reform not only of the Church's witness, but of our personal faith life.

God grant us grace to grow in faith so as to walk content in His ways.

Soli Deo Gloria !

Pastor Mark

President's Message

Friends of Faith,

IF YOU TEXT IN ALL CAPS, IT GETS THE ATTENTION OF THE READER. If you use exclamation points when writing, it shows you are excited! Or mad..... If you type with a **bold font**, the reader knows **you mean business**. If you use a large font size, people think it's important. If you raise your voice, people tend to listen. As Christians we need to figure out ways to get attention, ways to get the Good word out. WE need now more than ever to be out loud Christians! We, George and I, have been talking about how to be more bold about being a Christian, being more capital letter, exclamation point, large font, out loud Christians. George and I both struggle with praying in a restaurant, asking a friend or neighbor to come to church, doing things out of our comfort zone. BUT No time like the present, right?

LOOK AT CHARLIE KIRK. Whether you agree with everything he says or not, one thing is clear — **HE WASN'T QUIET ABOUT WHAT HE BELIEVES.** He was bold, unapologetic, and he used every microphone he could find to talk about faith, family, freedom, and truth.

Charlie is a powerful example of what it looks like to live as an *ALL CAPS* Christian in today's world. He was not afraid to speak up about culture, politics,... on college campuses, wherever— and he was doing it all with a firm foundation in his faith.

WE NEED MORE OF THAT. More boldness. More truth spoken in love. More people willing to be *loud* for Jesus — not obnoxious, but **unafraid**.

So what's stopping us? If Charlie Kirk can stand up in front of thousands and speak God's truth, we can speak up at our dinner table. We can pray over our food. We can invite someone to church. We can speak confidently as children of God. We can be **OUT LOUD CHRISTIANS!**

Thank you for all you do! Love, Faye

Ministry Volunteer Coordinator

Current/Upcoming Small Groups:

1. *Women's Bible Study* meets on Friday mornings at 9. They go over the sermon text for the upcoming Sunday.
2. *Men's Bible Study* on Wednesday mornings at 9. They go over the sermon text for the upcoming Sunday.
3. *Mission quilters* meet on Thursdays at 9am in the Narthex.
4. *Dig Deep*; a study on Christian Doctrine for Women. Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm in the nursery. This group will begin on Wednesday, October 15

Dig Deep: Where do we get our Christian beliefs from? Are they in the Bible? If you're desiring to know and study more and dig deep into the Bible and our faith, this is for you!

What: A study on Christian Doctrine for women

When: Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm starting October 15.

Where: Faith Lutheran Nursery

If interested, contact Sarah Johnson, 641-954-2980

3-year-olds & 3rd Graders: On Sunday, October 5, 3-year-olds and 3rd graders will be invited up to receive a Bible. If you have a 3-year-old / 3rd grader student, and have not heard from me, please reach out to me, (320) 630-2887.

Jonah and the Whale: There was a lot of great feedback with this event. Thank you to Faye and George for all the work you did and to all the volunteers!

Trunk or Treat: We will once again this year be hosting a Community Trunk-or-Treat! This will take place on Saturday, October 25 from 1-3pm. Plans are in the making!

There will be music, games and of course, Trunk-or-Treating! For those unaware of what Trunk-or-Treating is, it's where people open the back of the vehicle and decorate it. Each vehicle is treated as a house, as families arrive, they go trunk to trunk collecting treats or other goodies. There will also be music and fun activities to take part in.

There are many ways to help with this event. We need volunteers to help set up, game station helpers, handout welcome bags, greeters to count people (don't worry, we have a counter for you) trunk hosts and a clean-up crew.

There is a sign-up sheet at church in the gathering area or you can scan the QR Code to sign-up online.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask me!

To contact me, call/text 320-630-2887 or email at volunteerfaithlutheran@gmail.com

God Bless, Amanda Hyatt



Youth Director

Hello Youth Families!

Please see the list of great sessions/activities we have planned in October:

- October 1
 - ◊6:30 p.m. = Confirmation class meet with Mentor
 - ◊6:45 - 8 p.m. = Confirmation class and Youth Group: Charlie Kirk session with Pastor Mark (Parents encouraged to attend!)
 - October 2
 - ◊National Bring Your Bible to School Day!
 - October 5
 - ◊Youth Sunday and Bake Sale - Please have youth arrive by 8:30 a.m.
 - October 7
 - ◊Student Reach School Assembly (during the day at Pierz school)
 - October 8
 - ◊Student Reach School Assembly (during the day at Little Falls school)
 - ◊6:45 - 8 p.m. = Confirmation class and Youth Group: Will discuss takeaways from school assembly session
 - October 15
 - ◊6:45 - 8 p.m. = Confirmation class and Youth Group
 - October 22
 - ◊Fields of Faith at LF High School football field
 - October 25
 - ◊Trunk or Treat 1-3 p.m.
 - ◊Youth Fall Festival 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. (NEW event this year for confirmation and youth group. Will have activities and prizes!)
 - October 26
 - ◊Church Service at 9 am / Confirmation Sunday
 - October 29
 - ◊6:45 - 8 p.m. = Confirmation class and Youth Group: Adults Saving Kids Session (Parents are encouraged to attend as well!)
- Looking forward to seeing you soon! Happy Fall!
Heather Byers

Adults Saving Kids Community Event

Wednesday, October 29th at 7:00 p.m.

The battle for our youth is in full swing, whether we are paying attention to it or not. Dangers are everywhere. Do we love our youth enough to put ourselves on the front lines? God is calling parents, grandparents, mentors, and young people to learn, to act, to pray, to be there for each other. If we want victory over the deceitful schemers, the despisers of our children we must prepare ourselves. Christ calls churches to equip their people for the battle going on. God has provided what is needed and this must be shared. It is time to reject denial and passivity. Every man and woman, every father and mother, every grandfather and grandmother must be a front-line soldier. Come and find out what you are called to do. Discover the resources that will enable you to do it.



Attendance & Offering

September	7:	151	\$ 2,209
September	14:	166	\$ 3,862
September	21:	157	\$ 6,499
September	28:	122	\$ 4,699

Mission Statement

Know, Grow, Go

- *Know* God and others
- *Grow* in Faith
- *Go* in Faith to Love and Serve the Lord



Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to **stand** your ground, and after you have done everything, **to stand**. **Stand** firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **Word of God**. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Ephesians 6:16

Faith Lutheran Church

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September Council Minutes

Thursday, September 18th, 2025 - 6:30 p.m.

Present: Mark Berger, Brian Bergs, Linda Collins, Glenn Hietala, Michael Johnson, Zach Leibold, Faye Sandy, Chris Scholl, Renae Stueber, Steve Tschida and Pastor Mark.
Absent: Tom Lippert and Pam Trang

Faye Sandy called the meeting to order. Opening Prayer was led by Mark Berger. Chris Scholl offered to lead prayer next month.

Secretary's Report: Zach Leibold moved to approve the August Council minutes with the correction of the spelling of Matthew Neutz's name. Glenn Hietala seconded. Motion carried

Treasurer's Report: Brian Bergs shared the August Financial Reports. The Budget comparison shows we are 26k over budget on revenue mainly due to mortgage principal. This is very strong compared to last year, but those numbers are somewhat misleading due to the large amount coming in for the mortgage principal earlier this year. It's a better indicator to look at whether our income is covering our expenses and we are doing that. The Balance Sheet shows a healthy amount in the checking account to cover expenses. We started early in the year with lower offering and have not really recovered, this is something we need to watch closely. We are significantly under budget for the expenses this year and well under last year as well, this is primarily due to fewer hours worked by the Youth Director and the Custodian compared to budget. Linda Collins moved to approve the August Financial Reports. Steve Tschida seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mark reported he is working on visits to those who are ill or shut ins. He is also preaching on the first Thursday of each month at Highland Living Center and hoping to work with other nursing homes locally soon.

He shared a thank you to those who have been cleaning as volunteers. Thank you to Faye, George and Mark Berger for their skills building the whale. Thank you to Sarah, Amanda and Heather for their work behind the scenes to get things done for Rally Sunday and all the volunteers who helped with set-up and clean-up.

People to keep in our prayers: Family of Bill Messerschmidt, Millie is placing flowers on the altar on Sunday in his memory. Sandy Larsen's family, as her brother just passed away.

New Member class is being delayed to September 28 due to the Tough Talks discussion session, Nick Leibold will also help lead this session on Sunday. The goal of these is coming together as people of God to talk and listen to each other. The new 'Foundations of Christianity' Bible Study will also be pushed back to begin on October 5. Sermons in September are going back to where we left off in Genesis.

Confirmation class has 8 students this year in grades 7-8. The fall semester will focus on the Old Testament and the Apostles' Creed. Claire Stueber is the one confirmand this fall, she will be confirmed on Sunday, October 26th.

Old Business:

Forward in Faith Reports: Faye is checking in with all the council members on how their meetings went and collecting the surveys. She is starting to compile the data. Seems like security is a major concern from what has come in so far.

Rally Sunday Recap: It seemed to pop up quickly, so it was difficult to get everything done. We may need to plan ahead a little more next time. Otherwise, the whale and Blaine MacNeil as Jonah were a big hit!

Operation Christmas Child Recognition Frame: We still need to hang the recognition from Operation Christmas Child, an appropriate place needs to be found. Which also brings up the question of gifts to the church, both physical and financial. The council will review and vote on a policy regarding gifts to the church at the next meeting.

New Business:

Pine Country Bank CD Renewal: The CD at Pine Country Bank is set to renew today, September 18th for another 9 months. Brian recommends we do this renewal as we are unlikely to need these funds in the next 9 months. Glenn Hietala moved to renew the CD for 9 months. Zach Leibold seconded. Motion carried. Brian will make a recommendation to put further money into a CD next month, to earn interest on money we are not currently using.

Worship Band: The Worship Band Team is feeling overwhelmed with extra services and special rehearsal coordinating. Those who are currently handling scheduling are very busy with their paid work and cannot devote more time to special events right now. They will prepare a description of what this extra scheduling entails and bring it to the council so we can find a solution. Possibly someone paid to help coordinate these extra events.

Confirmation Mentors: This idea for extra encouragement and relationships within the congregation for the confirmation students was presented last year. There are 8 students and Faye Sandy has worked to find 8 adults willing to be a mentor. They are hoping to set up a time to meet with parents, mentors and mentees with Pastor Mark.

Custodian Job Offer: Todd Anderson applied for the Custodian job. The Executive Team interviewed him and then performed a background check. At this point the Executive Team unanimously recommends hiring Todd with a 3-month probation period. Chris Scholl moved and Mike Johnson seconded to hire Todd with the Executive Team's recommendations. Motion carried.

A/C Duct Insulation Quote: Tom Lippert got a quote from Prime Mechanical Insulation, Inc. to wrap the Air conditioning ducts that we had issues with this year in 3" of fiberglass. The estimated cost is \$1490 and should prevent further problems. Glenn Hietala moved and Mark Berger seconded to get the ducts wrapped for no more than \$1500. Motion carried.

Gutters: Faye Sandy noticed on Rally Sunday that the gutters above the doors need to be cleaned. Zach Leibold offered to get these cleaned and the issue will be passed on to the Finance Team for the future.

Reports:

Church Secretary: Sarah brought forward the idea of replacing one computer, which is budgeted for each year. Amanda is having issues and has requested her computer be the one replaced. As it is the oldest, this makes sense. Zach Leibold moved and Steve Tschida seconded to buy a new computer for Amanda with a \$1200 maximum budget. Motion carried.

Ministry Volunteer Coordinator Report: Amanda shared her ongoing projects and Bible studies. Planning for Trunk or Treat has begun, it will be Saturday, October 25th from 1-3 pm.

Children's Team: Sunday School has officially begun. There are 19 students registered and 9 teachers. They are using the Two or More curriculum or the Bible text for the week. The Christmas Program will be December 14 with rehearsals November 16 & 23 and December 7.

Youth Report: A new event is being planned for after Trunk or Treat. The Youth Fall Festival will be the same day with activities for older youth.

Congregational Life: Planned Rally Sunday and the meals required for that.

Mission & Outreach: Operation Christmas Child Boxes are ordered, Heather is hoping to have the youth pack 100 boxes!

Finance & Management Team & Worship & Prayer Team: Did not meet.

Brian Bergs moved to adjourn the meeting, Mark Berger seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Sarah Kalkbrenner, Faith Lutheran Church Secretary