



September

take up the shield of faith

Ephesians 6:16

September 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...

How We Live

“...present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.”
Romans 12:1

Living Sacrifice

We are called to live every day (a.) acknowledging that God is truly in charge, (b.) believing that God sets the standard by which we measure our personal life, and (c.) that Jesus is the example we follow in engaging the people around us. As followers of Christ, we are called to live in a way that is holy and acceptable to God.

Soul Healing

Our confidence that God is truly in charge drives the life of the church. But we also acknowledge that people have moments of doubt – like the young confirmand whose heart may not mirror the bold promise he or she makes on Confirmation day to remain in the Christian faith, and to remain involved in church over the years. Doubt & despair can enter at any point in life, for any reason. But that’s all the more reason to remain firm in our mission of sharing the Gospel. Just as people turn to medical professionals when they feel uncomfortable and suspect something is wrong physically, the people of God are called to turn to God’s Word to hear the Gospel which heals sin-sick souls. True celebration and joy come when the soul is reconciled to God. If we truly believe that God changes lives, then what we believe in our hearts will be obvious in all that we do.

New School Year, New Opportunities

The new school year is an opportunity for you to be involved in the life of the church and to hear the life-giving message of the Gospel. Activities such as worship, Sunday School, Confirmation, Bible studies, and home devotions are a few examples. Regardless of your age, a new school year is also an ideal time to pray about how we can make time to meditate on the Word.

Life of Faith

Together, may we each respond to the mercies of God with a daily routine that is a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.

In Christ,
Pastor Johnson

President's Message

Dear Faith Friends,

George and I joined our daughter, Ashley, her husband, Josh, our grandson, Emerson, and granddaughter, Elysia, for a few days in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for some family time and hiking. One hike was especially challenging. It was in the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness Area along the East and West River Trails Presque Isle River Area. God spent a lot of time here as the rugged beauty was everywhere. Before we set out, we were guessing how many waterfalls we might see, most of us guessed 3-4-6, but little Elysia spoke up and boldly shouted 43! Well it was impossible to count how many times the water fell in our 3.7mile hike, but I think Elysia was by far the closest! To view these wonderful water falls, we had to traverse some rough terrain. Roots, enormous hemlock trees, rocks, and **BOULDERS**. We traveled around them, over them, between them, luckily not under them. But we needed to climb over, and around these huge **boulders** to continue on the path because we knew there was more to see and do up ahead. This journey made me think of our journey as a church.

In life, we often face **boulders**—huge, immovable obstacles that block our path, whether they are fear, doubt, sin, or circumstances beyond our control. But as followers of Christ, we are not called to retreat or be crushed beneath them—we are called to be **bolder**. *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind.”* — 2 Timothy 1:7 When David faced Goliath, he didn't see a **boulder**; he saw an opportunity to trust God **boldly**. When the stone was rolled away from Jesus' tomb, it wasn't just a **boulder** being moved—it was the beginning of resurrection power breaking into the world. God doesn't just remove **boulders**—He makes us **bolder** in the face of them. Our faith doesn't eliminate obstacles, but it gives us the courage to climb over them, move through them, or wait patiently as God moves them. *“Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain (or **boulder**), ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move.”* — Matthew 17:20. So whatever **boulders** stand in your way, ask God for the strength to be **bolder**—not in your own power, but in His.

Thank you for your time and attention to the Faith the next 15 focus groups. These focus groups give us all a chance to share ideas, brainstorm, and dream big. At our September council meeting we will be looking at the notes and surveys closely and then hopefully make new focus groups that can take your ideas and passion areas to a reality. These new ideas can be then drawn up with a budget and presented to the council for further consideration. The founders of our church moved **boldly** around many **boulders** to make our church a reality now we must move **boldly** to move forward for the next 15! There will be **boulders** to go around or over, but that cannot stop us! There are many people in Morrison County that don't know about our Savior. We need to reach out **boldly** and find ways to invite them in. Thanks again for your time and attention! A special thanks to Roger and Patricia for their mission work here at Faith. Also a huge thank you to all who stepped forward to help out with the custodial work. May God continue to bless our church and the work we do. Love, Faye

Youth Director

Hello Youth families!

Hope everyone had a wonderful summer! As the school year begins, so do our youth and confirmation classes and events. In the hallway at church, you will see a bulletin board showing all the dates of the upcoming events, trip pictures, and information on how to become more involved in youth ministry. Here are some important dates that are coming up:

•**September 10th:** Youth Group and Confirmation classes start at 6:45 p.m. Kids are welcome to come as early as 6:15 to join in fellowship with their peers. Class will last until 8:00 p.m.

•**September 14:** Rally Sunday! Jonah and the Whale with outdoor service at 9 a.m.

oIf you would like to help with face painting or being a greeter, please let me know.

oWe will also have our annual lucky duck bean bag tournaments for adults and kids. If you have an extra set of boards/bags you could bring for the day, please let me know.

o**September 17:** Youth Group & Confirmation Class (6:45 - 8:00 p.m.)

o**September 24:**

oSee You at the Pole event at School flagpole in the morning before class.

oChurch Potluck at 6 p.m. with outdoor worship service after. Everyone is welcome - please bring a dish. Starting at 6:45 p.m. we will have Youth Bible Trivia. Parents are welcome to participate as well!

Blessings to All,
Heather Byers

Congregational Life Team

Congregational Life Team met in August.

We talked about two events coming up.

First of all, the retirement of Roger and Patricia Fernelius. They have been

dedicated custodians for a very long time! Stop by after church on Sunday,

August 31st and enjoy some cake and coffee or lemonade and wish them well.

Our next event is Rally Sunday on September 14th. The theme is Jonah and the whale! It is going to be lots of fun,

with food, games and a huge whale! We are inviting the whole community! More information to follow.

Remember the suggestion box on the table in the gathering area.

School is starting... watch for kids and school busses!

For the team,
Bev

Attendance & Offering

August 3:	147	\$ 5,244
August 10:	121	\$ 8,927
August 17:	107	\$ 4,448
August 24:	127	\$ 4,010

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. This group typically goes over the sermon text for the upcoming Sunday.
3. Mission Quilters meet on Thursdays at 9am in the Gathering Area.

Rally Sunday: Rally Sunday will be September 14 and will look a little different than years past. What will be different?

We will be having an outdoor service, which means lots of room so invite family and friends!

To start Fall with a big splash, there will also be a **HUGE** whale! After the children's message, children will be invited to go *inside* the whale and hear from Jonah for their first day of Sunday School!

Instead of our traditional potluck, Faith Lutheran will be providing lunch, and we ask you please bring bars or cookies to share.

We will still have our Lucky Duck Tournament and are adding a Junior Lucky Duck Tournament as well! If you have bean bag boards that we can borrow, please let Heather Byers know as she will be coordinating the boards. Call or text her at (720)987-1512.

There will also be other activities for the children after service as well as a time for the adults to venture inside the whale as well!

This is a community event so please invite family, friends and co-workers! This will be a fun-filled afternoon for all families to attend!

Trunk-or-Treat: *Mark your calendars!!* October is right around the corner, which means Trunk-or-Treat will be here before you know it! If you would like to take part in this day of fun, please mark your calendars for Saturday, October 25! We will be looking for youth/adults to greet guests, decorate trunks, and run games. Please let me know if you are interested in joining us!

Amanda Hyatt,

Ministry Volunteer Coordinator

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Children's Team

The Children's Team has been busy planning for the upcoming Sunday School year. We will be having Sunday School during the church service sermon time frame.

Please register! So we can plan to make it a great experience for everyone.

There will **not be Sunday School on the** first Sunday of the Month, or on Confirmation Sunday, Thanksgiving weekend, the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's, Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

We are also looking for teachers for the classes!

They are divided in 3 groups— ages: Preschool – 1st grade, 2nd- 3rd grade, and 4th -6th. Choose which group you can help with. You can contact Amanda Hyatt— she is gathering the information for this years Sunday School registration.

Lessons are easy to follow and to plan for- help us make a difference and become a Sunday School teacher. We plan to have a rotating schedule and hope to have enough volunteers that it would only be one Sunday a month.

We will begin the Sunday School year inside a WHALE!

On Sunday September 14, we will be having an outdoor service at 9 am at Faith, which includes a Whale and Jonah!!

The kids will be invited into the whale for the Sunday School time.

There will be lunch and games after the church service-- We hope you can join us!!

There will be a lot of space so please invite friends and family to join us.

We will be meeting on September 7 at 8 am if you would like to join us!!

Enjoy everyday!!

—Becky Fellbaum

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

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August Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting - August 21st, 2025

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

Zach called the meeting to order and opened in prayer. Additions to Agenda: Added under new business: Matt Neutz's request to borrow sound equipment for a Sept. 12th Wedding.

Council Secretary's report: Brian moved to accept June minutes as presented: Glenn seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer's report (Brian): For July, Actual Revenues were over budget by ~\$30,000. The majority of this is from donations received for mortgage principal and Phase II Construction. We are running behind on general revenues compared to last year. Expenses are running ~\$13,400 under budget. \$6,000 of this is from committees not spending their budgets yet. Rest is from support staff (Heather) not working as many hours as planned. Expenses are running a little more than last year. The underage in general revenue is sustainable because Heather is working fewer hours than planned. There has not been a lot of change in the Total Bank balance. Chris moved to accept the June & July financial reports as presented. Mark seconded. The motion carried.

Credit Card Update – we now have a credit card thru Pine Country Bank. The card is in Brian's name. We can have up to 10 people on the card.

Pastor's Report: Richard Collins' surgery went well. Pastor is getting ready for Confirmation. They will start the 2nd Wednesday in September. New member classes will start Sept. 21st. He will be teaching a Sunday morning Bible study. He thanked Faye for her work on getting the job description together for janitor position, and thanked Sarah and Amanda for keeping slots filled and the work organized. Thank you to everyone who is helping with the cleaning. Congratulations to Zach on his wedding.

Old Business:

Door Knob Change: this was taken care of this week by Tom Lippert.

Forward in Faith Check-in: council members shared their progress.

Security Updates: Any use of the property for streaming for social media needs to be preapproved. We need to be diligent to keep the doors locked when they aren't monitored.

New Business:

Sound Equipment Request: Matt Neutz requested to borrow sound equipment (an amp and 2 speakers currently in the garage) for a Sept 12th Wedding he is playing for. Brian moved to approve, Glenn seconded. The motion carried.

Rally Sunday: Faye, Amanda, and Heather met with Bev from Congregational Life and Pat Rioux from Mission & Outreach last week to plan the event. The Mission Team is donating funds for the event. Concerns were expressed about holding the worship service outdoors.

Reports:

Church Secretary Report (Sarah): Our copier company is no longer making parts for our current copier. They presented a proposal for a different copier. There haven't been any issues with the current copier, so nothing will be done at this time. Our Payroll company is changing their name from Ministry Works to Brotherhood Works. We received a facility use request from a support group for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. They are looking for a place to meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 12:30 – 2:30 pm. Someone would need to be here to let them in and make sure the church is locked up when they are gone. Pastor Mark will check into this.

End date for Roger Fernelius – Roger's final day as the day he turned in his keys.

Ministry Volunteer Coordinator Report: no report

Ministry Team Reports

Children's (Mike) – They talked about the new curriculum "Two or More". They looked for curriculum that would work for combining classes when they are small. They discussed Rally Sunday. More teachers are needed. They asked if the children's offering (bucket money) can be given to Operation Christmas Child. There is currently \$1,834.07 in the Kids Tin Bucket fund. They were informed that they can decide where it should go. This will be reported back to the committee, they will make a decision on where to give the money.

Congregational Life (Mark) – There is a cake reception on August 31st for Fernelius's. Rally Sunday was discussed.

Finance & Management (Brian) – We need about \$20,000 total for chairs. There is a new engraving company for the columbarium. Thank you to everyone who is helping to clean the church. They are getting a quote to insulate the 24" pipes above the sanctuary. They think this is what caused the leak by the dishwasher.

Mission & Outreach (Linda) – Glenn moved to donate \$1,000 for expenses for the School Symposium put on by Youth For Christ. Chris seconded. The motion carried. This has been vetted by the Committee. Brian moved to donate a maximum of \$1,500 from Mission & Outreach for Rally Sunday. Glenn seconded. The motion carried. \$250 will be for the whale. Approximately \$840 is needed for the food.

Worship & Prayer – Did not meet.

Youth & Family/ Youth Director Report (Renee & Heather) She passed around a youth calendar for now through December. An update was provided on the mission trip. Heather is checking out a couple of different options for the next youth mission trip. There is a new youth bulletin board in the hallway by the bathroom. Feed Bible is the new curriculum that will be used this year for the youth. Heather is holding a meeting this Sunday for people who want to help with the youth.

Mark moved to adjourn the meeting. Chris seconded. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.