

FAITH NEWS

JUNE 2026



Our Mission:
“Sharing the Love of God in Christ Jesus”

New Season, Same Vision

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

Hebrews 13:8

As we move into a new season of ministry at Faith Lutheran Church, there is both excitement and reflection in the hearts of many people. Seasons change. Ministry evolves. Leadership shifts. New ideas emerge. New opportunities present themselves. At times, things may look a little different or even feel a little different. Yet through it all, one thing remains steadfast and unchanging: our vision and mission centered in Jesus Christ.

At Faith Lutheran Church, we continue to stand firmly on the foundation of God’s Word and the beautiful calling to be a congregation that is “celebrating, learning and sharing the love of Jesus Christ.” That vision is not changing. In fact, every new season gives us fresh opportunities to live it out even more faithfully and intentionally.

We celebrate because Christ has first celebrated us through His grace, mercy, and salvation. We celebrate one another as a church family, caring for each other through life’s joys and challenges. We celebrate our community as a place where God has planted us to serve,

JOIN US ON SUNDAY...

Bible Study	8:30 am
Fellowship	9:15 am
Worship	10:00 am

AND ON WEDNESDAY...

Men’s Bible Study	8:00 am
Ladies Bible Study	9:45 am
Faith Ringers	1:00 pm
Men of Faith	2:30 pm
Choir	3:30 pm

MINISTRY STAFF

The Rev. Robert J Benke
Pastor

The Rev. Amos Gray
Vacancy Pastor

Constance Bergquam
Temporary Secretary

Lynne Border-Koon
Organist

Sigilda Naidin
Bell & Voice Choir Director

Faith Lutheran Church
1196 DeSoto Blvd Hot Springs Village AR
501-922-5700
Visit our website at www.faithhsv.com

encourage, and love people in meaningful ways. Celebration is not simply about events or activities; it is about recognizing the goodness of God at work among His people.

We learn because discipleship matters. God continually calls His people to grow deeper in faith and understanding. Through worship, Bible studies, small groups, fellowship, and personal devotion, we seek to learn God's Word and apply it to everyday life. Learning is not merely gaining information; it is allowing the Holy Spirit to shape our hearts, guide our decisions, and strengthen our walk with Christ.

And then we share. We share the hope we have in Jesus Christ with our friends, neighbors, families, and community. We share compassion with those who are hurting. We share encouragement with those who feel weary. We share unconditional love because Christ first loved us. As a church, we desire to create opportunities for people to join us on this journey of faith, discovering together the life-changing power of the Gospel.

Sometimes people become concerned when ministry methods change or when new leadership brings fresh ideas and perspectives. But change does not necessarily mean compromise. It does not mean the mission has been abandoned. Often, it simply means God is continuing to creatively work through His church to reach people in ways that meet the needs of the present season.

The church has always moved through seasons. Yet Jesus Christ remains the same yesterday, today, and forever. The Gospel remains the same. The cross remains the same. The mission remains the same.

This new season at Faith Lutheran Church is not about leaving behind who we are. It is about continuing to grow into who God is calling us to be. It is about faithfully walking together, trusting the Lord's guidance, embracing opportunities for ministry, and keeping our eyes fixed on Christ.

As we move forward together, may we continue to celebrate boldly, learn faithfully, and share passionately the love of Jesus Christ with everyone around us.

Because while the season may be new, the vision remains the same.



Pastor Amos Gray

THANK YOU FOR GIVING YOUR TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURES

ELDER for the month: Charlie Peterson

<u>DATE</u>	<u>VISITORS DESK</u>	<u>READERS</u>	<u>COUNTERS</u>
June 7	Janis Griffin	Chris Trimble	Preboskis & Griffin
June 14	Jeanine Preboski	Don Putnam	Schwanbecks & Klemann
June 21	Veronica Detjens	Michelle Ramon	Smestads & Marhenke
June 28	Veronica Detjens	Karen Schwanbeck	Woods & Michels

ALTAR GUILD FOR JUNE
Sharon Joy and Martha Olson

USHERS

June 7 & 14

TEAM C

Jim Betts
Joyce Betts
Jan Railsback
Linda Railsback

June 21 & 28

TEAM D

Carl Burns
Chris Marhenke
Carma Wood
Ken Wood

AUDIO BOOTH TEAM

June 7 Bob Barnett

June 14 Ken Wood

June 21 Ben Kilgroe

June 28 Hank Jarvis

WAYS TO FULFILL YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE LORD

1. Send check to Faith
1196 DeSoto Blvd
2. Bank draft to Faith
3. IRA or 401K RMD (Required Minimum Distribution)
4. IRA or 401K QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution)
5. Donate Stocks

Budget for the end of April

Budgeted Income	\$35,702.00
Income Received	<u>\$27,021.00</u>
Shortage for Month	(\$ 8,681.00)
YTD Budgeted Income	\$142,808.00
YTD Income Received	<u>\$113,804.00</u>
Shortage for Year.	(\$ 29,004.00)

Financial Report for April

April Income	\$27,021.00
April Expenses	<u>\$27,752.35</u>
	(\$ 731.35)
YTD Income	\$113,804.00
YTD Expenses	<u>\$103,613.70</u>
	\$ 10,190.30



Birthdays

5-Chris Leathers
11-Ben Kilgroe
14-David Knoernschild
14-Pastor Amos Gray
15-Dennis Spars
17-Ric Roll
20-Mike Catlett
22-Lorraine Pless
23-Evelyn Grandt
23-Marsha Lehmann
25-Mary Benke
26-Frankie Berlanga
29-Curt Franz
30-Kay Klemsz

Anniversaries

2-John & Pat Muzika (50)
4-Jan & Linda Railsback (38)
6-Russell Garrett & Constance Bergquam (1)
11-Joe & Grace Wersching (60)
12-Keith & Julie Keck (44)
15-Dick & Bettie Ann Salzwedel (25)
16-Rob & Bridget Kasten (3)
18-Pastor Bob & Mary Benke (43)
18-Mike & Stephanie Catlett (56)
21-David & Jeanine Preboski (51)
22-Russ & Mary Bartels (35)
24-Ben & Jenny Kilgroe (25)
29-Gary & Elsie Peeks (63)

Altar Flowers

7-Keith & Julie Keck's 44th anniversary

14-In memory of Ladonna Rhodes' June 18th birthday from Don Putnam

21-Joe & Grace Wersching's 60th anniversary

28-In memory of Sonya Marhenke's brother, David Eidsvoog

Welcome to Faith—May 17, 2026

Steve and Colleen Angel

George and Martha Antolik

Linda Bogle

Lynn Border-Koon



SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Shane Wersching, grandson of Joe and Grace Wersching is serving in the Navy. **Kevin Mason**, Army, son of Bonnie Mason, and **Kathan Tomlin**, Army, grandson of Bonnie Mason. **Brandon Carter**, son-in-law of Bonnie Mason.

Please, God, keep them safe....Amen

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last Tuesday (May 12) Pastor Gray sent his Letter of Acceptance for the Call that we extended to him. After consulting with President Paavola, June 21st at 3:00 PM was set as the Sunday for Pastor Gray's Installation as our Associate Pastor. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall, and Pat Muzika has agreed to coordinate the reception. A separate invitation will be sent soon so that we will have a count of how many to expect.

Blessings,

Susan Peterson

Call Committee Chair

OUR NEW MEMBERS



Steve & Colleen Angel moved to the village from Pennsylvania. Colleen grew up in Wisconsin and Steve grew up in Illinois and was a Criminal Justice major. He retired as a National Distribution Manager for an HVAC company. Here in the village, he enjoys fishing and was past president of the HSV Woodworkers. Steve and Colleen are Co-Toy Chairmen for the club. The club produces about 1,000 toys a year for area children. Colleen, a retired college professor, is Tiny Angel Gowns – bereavement gowns created and donated to US hospitals plus a few other countries.

Lynne Border-Koon is recovering from knee surgery, so we'll feature her next month.

George and Martha Antolik met at LSU in 1972 and were married on September 25, 1973. They were working on their graduate degrees in music, with a specialization in voice.

Eventually Martha achieved a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Memphis and George achieved a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Vocal Pedagogy.

Martha was a professor of voice at the University of Central Arkansas for over 30 years. Many of her former students have gone on to be excellent public school music teachers and college teachers of voice. Some have sung in every major opera house in the world and in Broadway musicals.

Both have spent decades in the Music Ministry of their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. They have spent many happy years as church soloists, directors of adult, youth, and children's choirs, and in general church ministries.

George has been an ordained minister for 46 years. They served at Christ Lutheran Church in the village for 20 years.

They are retired now but still enjoy ministering to the home bound in the church or to those who are in nursing homes. Both of them still enjoy teaching singing.

They are the blessed grandparents of Ryder Mala, age 14; Addison Mala, age 13, and Finley Mala, age 8.

Their wonderful daughter, Rebecca, is a ballet teacher in Centerton, Arkansas. Holding them all together is their wonderful son-in-law, Chris.

Linda Bogle was born on February 23, 1966 to Jean & Norman Fuerstenau in Watertown SD. She is the youngest of five. They moved to Guymon OK when she was 2 or 3 due to her dad transferring with Swift.

She worked for Walmart for 30 years, retiring in 2020. She married her husband, Alan Bogle, on September 6, 1992. He worked for UPS for 35 years.

His parents, Roy & Carol Bogle moved to HSV in 1992 and they have loved visiting so they bought their house in 2023 and moved in 2025.

They enjoy Nascar, college softball and football, Cajun Festivals and the beach, so they do a lot of traveling.



Suffering – Perseverance – Character – Hope (Romans 5:3-4)

In late October 2025, in the Chinese City of Beihai, Pastor Ezra Jin was just finishing his dinner with his mother-in-law in the Chinese City of Beihai when he was arrested by a dozen Chinese police. The police stormed the apartment, confiscated his phones and computer, and hauled him off to jail. He has been confined in a dank cell ever since. His sin: leading a church that Premier Xi Jinping cannot bring to heel.

For years, Jin built a thriving Protestant congregation in the heart of Beijing, known as Zion Church. The church operated outside the government system of tightly controlled official churches. At a time when China's economy was thriving and the country was opening to the world, Zion Church and other similar churches were tolerated. Then Premier Xi took over and tightened the screws. However, Pastor Jin refused to back down. In 2018, the authorities raided Zion Church and shut it down.

Jin then turned to Zoom and other digital technologies and reached more followers than ever, placing him on a dangerous crash course with the Xi government. The government has used digital surveillance and tough jail sentences to silence activists, lawyers, and business people, but it cannot fully control Christians who number in the millions in China. In fact, some believers say the more authorities seek to suppress Christianity, the more faith spreads. The Christians are on the mark of following Jesus.

Pastor Jin's journey to the pulpit was forged in the aftermath of a different crackdown. In 1989, when he was enrolled in Peking University the Tiananmen Square crackdown occurred. It was his experience in that crackdown that he became a Christian. He wrote: "I began to realize these Christians were different. They had God and a home they could sometimes return to and they could be sure that God loved them."

He enrolled in seminary within China's official church system. He began preaching in government sanctioned churches, but became frustrated by the controls. He then pursued a doctorate at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. He returned to China in 2007 and founded Zion Church. The church grew from about 20 members to over 1,500 within a decade. One of the largest unsanctioned churches in Beijing.

In 2018, the government demanded that Zion comply with regulations, but Pastor Jin refused. Later that year, he and his family moved to Wheaton, Illinois. In a short while, without his family, he returned to China where the authorities cracked down on his church activities. However, to keep the church going, he and others resorted to technology. In dozens of cities, believers gathered in living rooms for Zion's digital

services. Jin called it Church 3.0. One observation was that the church grew from a local church to a national church.

Later Jin, sensing that Beijing was no longer safe, moved to Beihai to continue his digital church and as noted above he was arrested for refusing to comply with the government's regulations of churches. From his cell, he has sought to energize his congregants: "The Lord calls us to be overcomers, giving us the courage that David had when he faced Goliath. May this persecution of Christians, like the thorns that afflicted Paul, sharpen our courage and make our faith as solid as a rock."

This article clearly reflects the sufferings of Christians, not only in China, but around the world. The lesson is that from sufferings perseverance develops, from perseverance character develops, and from character hope springs forward from faith in our Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Pastor Jin reflects that pattern of going from sufferings to hope. He has never given up on his pursuits in the name of the Triune God. Reflect on: "How does your Christian Journey compare to Pastor Jin's Journey?"

Don Putnam
Chair, Outreach Board

MEN'S MINISTRY

MEN'S MINISTRY GATHERING ON JUNE 2nd

Welcome to the one year anniversary of Men's Ministry Gathering invitation.

In our one year of existence we have participated in some interesting, challenging, community & educational activities and events.

Many of you have been with us from the beginning for which we thank you.

We have conducted some fun activities such as bowling and "The Second Chance for Cupid"!!

Now we are working on the signup of people for the Flag Day Sunday Morning Pancake Brunch for all of our members and friends.

There are still about a dozen of the 50 spaces available for the ARK & MUSEUM trip. but commitment and full payment are needed by July 1st! For more information and/or signup for the trip, see John Tidquist.

Our June Gathering will consist primarily of our pizza dinner, devotional and our motivational speaker, Muskie Harris, with Razorback football background and helping men through a Rehabilitation Service program!

For our July Gathering, we will be hosting a Nationally known speaker and historian (Carl Flowers) who will make an arousing presentation about America's early and important development entitled "IN GOD WE STILL TRUST" and untold stories of American Independence.

He will make the U.S. Constitution come to life for you!!

In HIS Service,
Your Men's Ministry Team.

Bountiful Batter Bash – Men's Ministry Pancake Brunch

On Sunday June 14, 2026, the FLC Men's Ministry will host a pancake brunch in the Fellowship Hall taking place right after the Worship Service. We will have 3 "chefs" flipping buttermilk pancakes (with the options of blueberries, or minced pecans), sausage, fruit, juice, coffee, and tea. We'll have plenty of butter and maple syrup, too. Everyone from the Worship Service that Sunday is invited to attend this pancake feast, but we'll need you to sign up beginning May 24th (so we know how much batter to prepare). We will also have a free will offering (tip jar) for the Men's Ministry which will go to fund future events (for example, think Cupid's Second Chance 2027).



FAITH LADIES GUILD LWML



Ladies Guild

Join us on Monday, June 15th, at 9:00 AM for fellowship and snacks followed by Vicki Poecker's program "Camino de Santiago Part 2" about her adventures overseas! After our business meeting Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief will be assembled. We hope to have enough donations to make 50 kits. More sturdy combs and soap (2 bars total of 8-9 oz) are still needed.

Food donations continue to be needed for Harvey's Chapel Food Pantry. With children out of school for the summer, cereal and snacks are always appreciated.

Special thanks to our District Convention delegation: Julie & Darlene Keck, Bonnie Mason, and Veronica Detjens. They will travel to Springdale, AR, June 12-14, to represent us, share our mission projects, and vote for the next biennium of missions. We pray for safe travels!

LWR Quilting will continue to meet on Mondays, from 9:30-11:30am (except the third Monday) through the summer of 2026. If you want to get out of the heat then join us in putting together quilts for disasters. It is easy, fun, and doesn't require any sewing skills!

There will be **NO JULY MEETING** scheduled. On August 17th our speaker will be Missy Masterson-Hale, RN, who will present "Alzheimer's and Dementia".

May Ladies Guild speakers, Michael and Janie, from Jackson House in Hot Springs.

And also Susan Peterson and Julie Keck.



May Ladies Guild Prayer Breakfast

Ladies Bible Study:

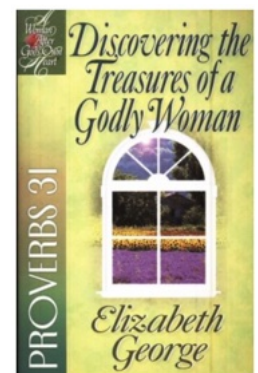
Discovering the Treasures of a Godly Woman: A Woman after God's Own Heart Series, Proverbs 31 by Elizabeth George

There will be no Ladies Bible study for the summer but we will resume after Labor Day. We will review Lessons 1-3 the first week. We'll meet the same time schedule as before-9:30 am for fellowship then we will start right away at 10 am so we are finished by 11 am.

If you are interested in joining us, but don't have a book, please let me know and I will get you a book.

Blessings!

Veronica Detjens-402-992-3441



BOARD OF EDUCATION



June Prayer Points for students:

Dear Family of Faith congregation: We have been lifting up the students in our midst from the Jessieville, Mountain Pine, and Fountain Lake schools for over three years. Please remember these dear neighbors through the summer, with the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank You so much for the school year that has passed. Now that school's out, we pray a [prayer](#) of blessing over the students who now have more free time. We pray that this time will bring rest and renewal and new opportunities to grow in their faith in You. Perhaps that will be through spending time in nature, in children/youth activities at church, and focused time with parents if they go on vacation. We pray that You guard their hearts, minds, and bodies as they embark on new adventures, perhaps in a summer camp, or other scheduled activities. Most of all, we pray that they would have a greater understanding that You are their Abba Father who loves them. In the mighty name of [Jesus](#) we lift these students up to You, trusting You with their lives.

From [Crosswalk.com](https://www.crosswalk.com), May 2025.



**MOVIE MATINEE, SUNDAY
JUNE 14th, 2:00 PM**

COME, BE BLESSED!



FAITH GAME DAY
 (4th Sunday of each Month)
Sunday, June 28nd 2:00pm-4:30pm
Initials M-Z please bring
light snacks or beverages to share
Try it... You'll like it!!

MEN'S MINISTRY LABOR ASSISTANCE

Members of our Men's Ministry and others are offering short term labor assistance to the members of Faith.

If you are unable to accomplish a needed activity of manual labor around the house, contact Javier Ramon at 262.484.6929 and he will determine if that help is available now.

We hope to be able to help when help is needed.

In HIS Service,
 Your Men's Ministry Team!

EXTRA NEWS....

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren will take a summer break. If you'd like to help, or if you know of any grandparents and grandchildren that might enjoy getting together with the group once a month, please contact Pastor Amos or Chris Trimble.

JUNE 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 WRQ 9:30 MJ 1:00	2 Elders 8:30 Men's Ministry 5:00	3 MBS 8:00 NO LBS AA 12:00	4	5	6 AA 9:00
7	8 Mem Gar 8:00 WRQ 9:30 MJ 1:00	9 Braille 9:00	10 MBS 8:00 NO LBS AA 12:00	11 HSV Quilt Guild half day	12 HSV Quilt Guild all day	13 AA 9:00
14 Flag Day Holy Comm Pancake Brunch Movie 2:00	15 FLG treats 9:00 FLG mtg 9:30 MJ 1:00	16 Braille 9:00	17 MBS 8:00 NO LBS AA 12:00	18	19	20 Board/Trustees Work Day 8:00 AA 9:00
21 Father's Day Pastor Gray Installation 3:00	22 Mem Gar 8:00 WRQ 9:30 MJ 1:00	23 Braille 9:00	24 MBS 8:00 NO LBS AA 12:00	25	26	27 AA 9:00
28 Holy Communion Game Day 2:00	29 WRQ 9:30 MJ 1:00	30 Braille 9:00				
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"> AA-Alcoholics Anonymous FLG-Faith Ladies Guild LBS-Ladies Bible Study MBS-Mens Bible Study Mem Gar-Memorial Gardens MJ-Mah Jongg MOF-Men of Faith WRQ-World Relief Quilters </div>			