



Faith Lutheran Church

The Parish News

This Month's Message from Pastor Paul Dunbar

Some of you know that several years ago Emily and I got our first dog, an already middle-aged blue heeler mix named Georgia. Regarding my feelings for this dog that I'm still mildly allergic to and sometimes mildly annoyed by, I used to tease "Well, Emily loves the mutt, and I love Emily, so..." But the truth is I'm actually very fond of the beast. She's now 13-14 years old -- as a shelter rescue, her exact age isn't known -- but it's clear she's slowing down, mostly deaf, sleeping more, limping more. And my affections and compassion for her continue to grow. It's not something we talk much about at church, but animal companionship is a significant part of many people's lives and loves, so I thought I'd share a couple of good prayers, (abridged for space) densely but eloquently written, from one of my favorite books, Every Moment Holy by Douglas Kaine McKelvey.

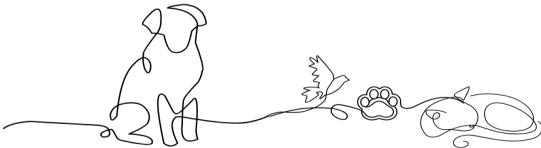
Here is the Liturgy for Welcoming a New Pet. Lord and Giver of all good things, you created the world and all creatures.... You also created people, fashioning us in your own image, and calling us to live in right relationship to the rest of your creation.... With glad hearts we welcome into our home and lives this unique animal you have created.... May we find joy in these days of companionship with a fellow creature. Bless this your creature, O Lord, as it enters our home. Among us may it find nurturing care and a sense of security that its needs will be met.... May it never be ill-used or neglected or have need to be anxious or in fear.... May our attachment to this animal never be a thing turned inward, diminishing our love for and interaction with people in our lives, but may it work upon us to further open our hearts to love all of your creation more deeply.... Through our caretaking, cultivate in each of us a heart more like that of a good shepherd, and in so doing, grant us fresh insight into the nature of your own Shepherd's heart toward us, your own great delight in our companionship, your own lavish affection for all you have made. Amen.

Liturgy for the Loss of a Living Thing:
King of Creation, here was your good creature, called to life by your own compassionate design. Here was your good creature, and here were the spaces and the days we shared, enjoying the glad company and cheerful fellowship of a fellow creature. We made room in our lives, room in our home, room in our hearts, to welcome your unique creation. And we gave your good creature the name _____.

We were filled with a right and fond affection for another living thing your hands had made, delighting daily in its presence. Now this season of our shared lives is ended by death. Our hearts are unprepared for such loss, and we are deeply grieved. Even so, Heavenly Father, we are grateful for the life that was, for the gift of a living thing so easily loved. We are thankful for the many blessings of knowing this creature, and for the lingering imprint of such a cherished presence in our lives. We are grateful for these good memories of sweeter times.... [take time to share stories...]

We are grateful, O God, for the happiness that was, even as we mourn the sorrow that is, even as we sit in the sadness of now empty spaces in heart and home, empty spaces that echo our loss. Now we say our goodbyes....

Be near us, O God. Be near each of us who must reckon with the sorrow of death and the sting of separation, for what we feel in this loss is nothing less than the groan of all creation. But this we know with certainty: You are merciful and loving, gentle and compassionate, caring tenderly for all that you have made. We know that the final working of your redemption will be far-reaching, encompassing all things in heaven and on earth, so that no good thing will be lost forever, so that even our sorrow at the loss of this beloved creature will somehow, someday, be met and filled, and overcome by joy. Comfort us in this meantime, O Lord, for the ache of these days is real. Amen.



Contact us at:

402-462-5044

Visit us at:

AFamilyofFaith.com

JOIN US SUNDAY MORNINGS

8:00am Worship Service

9:15am Education Hour

10:30am Worship Service



Artwork by Steve Erspamer

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October

News & Notes

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith (Hebrews 13:7 ESV).



The Board of Lay Ministers have designated October as **Staff Appreciation Month.**

Each of the seven staff members will receive a meal as a small token of appreciation.

You are invited to extend a word of thanks or place a card in the basket at the Welcome Desk on any Sunday in October.

IN OUR prayers

Sympathy

We pray for all those who mourn the loss of loved ones, especially: Gene Kohtz at the death of his cousin; Lynell and John Uden and their families at the death of their stepmother, Necia Uden; and Dennis and Teresa Powell and their families at the death of their mother, Bev Powell.

Health & Healing

Recently included in our prayers: Bob Matthies, Shannon Nelson, Christine Schenk, Glenda Streff, and Casey Weiss. **We continue our prayers for:** Maribeth Bruns, Doug DeVries, Bryce Evans, Vic Hesman, Gene & Mary Kohtz, Larry Kuehn, Karen Lierman, Mike & Patty May, Laurie Peterson, Rhonda Rail, Hayden Steppuhn, Paul & Phyllis Wathen, and Missie Wendt.

Celebrations

We thank our dear Lord for those newly baptized: Skylar Rae Priess, daughter of Nathan and Katie Priess.

OWLS Tour & Talk - October 1, 10:00am at Providence Place. OWLS tour the facility and listen to a talk about dementia. *See details on page 4.*

TheoPub - October 2, 6:30pm at Steeple Brewing. All men (21 & over) are invited to join others for informal Bible Study and Christian fellowship.

Youth Sunday & Coffee Bar - October 5. XYF will be selling coffee and goodies between services and perform worship work during the services. Proceeds go towards their summer service trip.

Priscilla Circle - October 7, 1:00pm in Room 102-103. All women are invited to join this month's meeting.

Book Club - October 9, 7:00pm at Dally's on South Street. We'll be discussing - *The Water Keeper* by C. Martin. For more information about this group please contact Deanna Dirks.

Young Adult Faithfuls - October 9, 7:15pm in Room 8. A Bible study for 20-30 year olds. *Details on page 7.*

Family Hayride - October 12, 4:00pm at the Buss farm. *See details on page 3.*

Young Adult Faithfuls - October 21, 7:15pm in Room 8. A Bible study for 20-30 year olds. *Details on page 7.*

OWLS' Service Trip to OGT - October 23, 9:15am meet at church to carpool. *See details on page 4.*

Monthly Bible Study for Women - October 23, 6:30pm in Room 8. All women are invited to join together for a time of lively fellowship and informal Bible Study.

Quarterly Voters' Meeting - October 26, 11:45am in the sanctuary. All are invited to attend.

CHESTNUT CORNER BAZAAR

November 8, 2025

8am - 1pm

837 Chestnut

- Service basket silent auction
- Theme basket silent auction
- Cookie Walk, Pies & Goodies
- Christmas Once Again *many cardinals*
- Cafe serving breakfast and lunch

CCB 2025 Charity: Revive Ministries

Prayers

Fall Hayride
October 12 from 4:00-6:00pm
at the home of Donna & Larry Buss
3300 W Prairie Lake Road



Please RSVP in the forum or call the office by October 5
Faith family and friends are invited to join us for a hayride, food, and activities at the Buss Farm. Please bring a chair for yourself and a main dish, side, or dessert to share. The hayride will leave promptly at 4:15pm, then we will return to the farm for dinner.

Give Thanks and
Give Back Challenge
October 12—November 12



FIRST—Donate food for the cause

We will be collecting non-perishable food items for our local food pantry. Our goal is to collect 2,500 items! All donations may be dropped off in the carts at the west entry and at the back of the Sanctuary. The food drive will be supplemented with a Generosity Multiplier gift of \$500, courtesy of the Thrivent Member Network—Nebraska region.

November 16 from 1:00—2:00pm

NEXT—Construct a structure or build on a theme

Sign up your team (2-5 individuals) for CANstruction. All ages welcome! Your team will compete against other teams to design and build a unique structure out of the donated food. The winning team will take home a one-of-a-kind CANstruction trophy.

November 16, 2:00—2:30pm

LAST—Pack and transport to the food pantry

After the event, volunteer to pack and transport the canned goods to the PEACE center at 2:00pm. Many hands make light work, so your help is really appreciated!

Looking Ahead



80+ Fellowship Meal
November 2 at 12:00 noon
RSVP to the office by October 20

Those aged 80 and above and their spouses are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall for a complimentary fellowship meal served by the high school youth. For anyone needing a ride, the church bus is available to transport you to the late service and return you home following the meal.



Puerto Rico Trip
June 9-16, 2025
High School—Adult

Adults and high school students are encouraged to consider helping our brothers and sisters in Christ in beautiful Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. It is a US territory so no passport is needed. We will be helping to replace a kitchen damaged by flooding at a church there as our main project, as well as other tasks to be determined later. One day of the trip will be used to take in the local landscape, like visiting one of the Caribbean beaches. The total cost of the trip is \$1500 including airfare, rental cars, lodging, and food while there. A \$500 deposit is due by November 14 to secure your spot with the balance due by March 1. We do not want anyone to be excluded by cost so speak with DCE Wade Johnson if that is a concern, or if you have any other questions. Space is limited to 15 participants.



Funds to promote Our Place After School Care

Our Place After School Care was initially located here at Faith Lutheran. They have now moved to their own facility and operate as a recognized Registered Service (non-profit) Organization for the LCMS. The Nebraska District of the LCMS is encouraging other congregations to replicate this program across the state. To create awareness of the great need, Our Place had booths at the National LWML Gathering in Omaha and the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this past summer. The

Faith Lutheran Foundation funded a grant of \$2,257 to pay for booth and hotel registrations. One of the missions of the Foundation is to provide outreach support for local, district, and synodical missions. See the bulletin board at the back of the church for more information or talk to any board member.



OCTOBER DOUBLE HEADER



OWLS Providence Place Tour & Talk **October 1, 10-12 RSVP by 9/26** **Meet at church at 9:45 to carpool**

Nicky Ockinga will guide us on a tour of Providence Place, including their new addition, and give a small talk about dementia. Refreshments will be served.

OWLS Group Invitation...

OWLS is a fellowship group of Faith Lutheran Church for retired/senior people interested in meeting monthly for fellowship and service. Times, dates, and activities vary. Coming next month: The Appalachian Trail *with Jason Stoddard*. If you would like to be added to the OWLS texting list and receive notifications regarding upcoming activities, please contact the office.



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

OWLS OGT Service Event **Thursday, October 23, 10am-2pm** (or however long you wish to stay) **RSVP by October 20**

We will meet at church at 9:15 am
to arrange carpooling

The OWLS will participate in the sorting and packing of clothing and other relief materials for shipments of aid to mission fields across the nation and across the globe. Please bring a sack lunch if staying for the afternoon.

Free will donations are accepted
to help offset shipping costs.

Orphan Grain Train
427 N Shady Bend Road
Grand Island, NE 68801



Thank You

Thank you for all the kindness you bring to the world... Pastor Josh, Pastor Paul, Priscilla Circle, congregation and staff, I wanted to send a very heartfelt thank you to every one for all the prayers and well wishes before and after my back surgery. My family and I appreciate it very much. Thanks again and God bless. ~ **Luke Schenk and family**

Thank you, to all my "Faith Family" for ALL of your prayers. With all of God's blessings. ~ **Jeff Grabill**

Thank you for your donation of salads and desserts for our Hastings guests! Your thoughtful concern for the needs of others is providing the opportunity for lasting change and hope for the future! We are truly grateful.
~ **Crossroads Mission Avenue**

New Handrail

Thanks to the discerning eye and talent of Lynn Alber, we now have a beautiful new handrail for the northeast set of terrace steps from Chestnut Avenue. Thank you, Lynn for caring for our family by sharing your talents with us.



Memorial Bench

We are extremely thankful for the addition of an all-weather bench given to Faith as a loving memorial from the family of beloved longtime member, Myron Peters. It has been placed on the east porch, providing a beautiful place on our church property to enjoy the outdoors.

Fall Photo Fundraiser

A Gold Award Project benefitting
Faith Lutheran Church

\$50 per session, cash only

Looking for fall family photos? Sign up for a 20-minute session and receive 7 edited photos plus all original photos taken. Photo dates are Sept 28, Oct 5, 12, and 19. This fundraiser supports the girl scout gold award project of Katelyn Hoins. Sign up using the QR code below or go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054BABA722A3FD8CF8-58322764-fall>. Contact Katelyn with any questions or special requests.



RIGHT NOW

is a great time for RightNow

RightNow Media, a Bible study and programming streaming service provided free to our members, gives you and your family access to a large library of resources to help your faith grow. From great programming for children to thought provoking Bible Studies on a great variety of topics (including printable study guides to help you along), RightNow Media has something for everyone. Click on the Faith Lutheran Church logo on the home page to see staff recommendations, current church studies, plus a whole lot more. Right now is the *perfect* time to check out all that RightNow Media has to offer. Use the QR code to sign up or call the office if you need help. Make a plan to grow in the Word today!

rightnow MEDIA



Community News

Wellspring Pregnancy + Health Center

Supportersofwellspringhastings.org

**Defend Life BBQ Dinner & Tour
Crosier Park Center Gym**

Sunday, October 5, 11:00am—1:00pm

Enjoy great food and fun activities for the whole family—all for a freewill offering while we celebrate and defend life. Plus, don't miss the bounce house! Tours will be available at Wellspring's new location: 747 N Burlington Ave., Suite 202. Come join the fun and support life!

Oktoberfest

**Peace Lutheran Church—Hastings
9th & California**

Sunday, October 5, 11:30am—1:30pm

Please join us for food, fun and fellowship! Brats on the grill and all the tasty sides you'd expect to find! Perhaps, even a Luther approved adult beverage. All are welcome!

Our Place Cupcake Rumble

**Monday, October 6, 2025
6:30pm—8:00pm**

Have you ever seen a cupcake rumble? Bring your friends and family for a fun-filled evening bursting with sweet treats, lots of laughter, and friendly competition. Purchase a box of 4 cupcakes (you pick the flavors) to take home for \$15. All proceeds will go to Our Place After School Care. *Use the QR code on the bulletin boards at church to reserve your box of cupcakes by October 1 as supplies are limited.*

Food Pantry Ministry

We're up to **2540 pounds** of food collected so far this year, WOW! Thanks for your consistent ministry to the needy in our community.

St. John's Lutheran Church & School

39452 205th Ave (Mason Road), Columbus, NE

Oktoberfest German Dinner

Sunday, October 19, 11:00am—1:30pm

Adults \$18.00 * Kids 5-10 \$7.00 * Under 4 free

Bratwurst—German Meatballs—Eisbien and Sauerkraut

Hot German Potato Salad—Hot Macaroni Salad—

Cheesecakes—Pies—Cupcakes and Bars

Ready for a road trip? Travel to Columbus and join us for our annual Oktoberfest meal. Proceeds fund various church and school projects. Worship service begins at 9:30am. Carry-out meals available, call 402-285-0335 to order. Tickets available at the door.

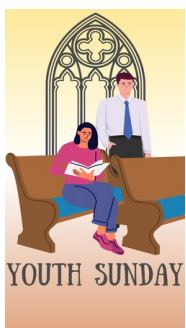
OGT Fish Boil / Brats Feed

**Sunday, November 2, 11:00am—1:00pm
Community Center in Campbell**

Hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church

Trinity Lutheran Church in Campbell hosts an Orphan Grain Train fish boil/brats feed. All free-will offering proceeds are used for shipping relief items to Honduras, Zambia, Moldova, Panama, the Republic of Georgia, Latvia, and Mission, Texas. 9:30am worship service guest speaker will be Steve Schulz of Mission Central—LCMS Advancement Mapleton, IA.

YOUTH PAGE



Youth Sunday Service Coffee Bar & Baked Goods Sunday, October 5

XYF youth will be serving throughout the worship service, as well as hosting a coffee bar with baked goods in the church forum on Sunday, October 5. Proceeds will go to benefit our youth group. Thank you for your support!



High School Summer Servant Trip Interest Meeting October 29, 7:30pm

Youth currently in 9th-12th grade and their parents are invited to come to this special meeting to learn more about our upcoming high school summer service trip. We will discuss the planning and preparation that will take place this year.



Soul Patrol Bowling Sunday, October 5, 3:00pm Meet at Pastime Lanes

Cost: \$6.00 for bowling and shoes
Bring a friend and get ready for some extreme bowling!

For more info call: DCE Wade Johnson
402-462-5044



Soul Patrol Rake N' Run Sunday, October 26, 1 - 3pm Meet at the Church

Bring a good rake, a parent with a car to drive, a friend from your circle, and be ready to have some fun working.



Middle School Summer Servant Trip Meeting November 12, 7:30pm

6th - 8th grade students and parents are invited to a service trip meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Program Plans

The Children's Christmas Program is coming soon! Participants include any child in preschool through 6th grade.

Practice times during Education Hours

- On Sunday mornings, at 9:15 am during Sunday School music time beginning Oct 12
- On Wednesday evenings, 3rd—6th grade WOW kids will join music time at 7:15 on November 12 and 19

Special Practice & Performance Information

- 12/6 Saturday practice from 10:00—noon
- 12/13 Saturday practice from 10:00—noon
- 12/14 Christmas Program is at 2:00—2:45

Faith Lutheran Church Website

www.afamilyoffaith.com

Our website is your go-to location to find out what is going on at Faith Lutheran Church. You can find information about Bible Studies, fellowship opportunities, groups to join, view past sermons, volunteer your time, plus a whole lot more. Look us up soon at www.afamilyoffaith.com.



Sunday School Offerings

This month's offerings will be used to sponsor our compassion child, Freddy Victorio Sanchez.



August

Perfect Attendance

Sunday School –
Pre-School 3's: Ada Strand.
Pre-School 4's: Lakyn Henkel.
Kindergarten: Lily Mangels, Pria Strand. **1st:** Brady Henkel.
3rd: Autumn Davis, Stella Jones.

Adult Bible Studies

Sundays

THE CHOSEN: SEASON 5 [C-202] - Fellowship Hall. Led by Cole Bulas. This multi-season “TV” show is based on the ministry of Jesus and His disciples. Whether you’ve seen it or not, you’re invited to join us as we read the Bible, watch corresponding scenes from the show, and discuss them together.

BASIC BIBLE TRUTHS [E-100] - Room 11. Led by Pastor Josh Davis. This class is for those who want to become members of Faith Lutheran Church and for those wanting a review of our faith and teachings.

THE BOOK OF JUDE: CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH IN A REBELLIOUS CULTURE [E-101] - Room 102-103. Led by DCE Wade Johnson. How do we stay close to Jesus, even when threatened by doubt, deception, or the culture around us? This question is as relevant for us today as it was for the early church.

Key to Adult Bible Studies



C= Culturalcontemporary issue/current event
E= Exegetical.....study of the Bible
H= Historical.... chronological study
P= Practical..... a specific issue/practice in life

100 level- No prior knowledge of subject needed
200 level- Some Biblical knowledge helpful
300 level- More challenging and uses own Bible
400 level- Homework and a “dig deep” attitude



Tuesdays

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY - *Russ's Market at 7:00am - 7:50am sharp.*
Gather each week for coffee or breakfast. We are watching and discussing *The Chosen* season 5.

WOMEN’S EVENING BIBLE STUDY - Room 11, 6:30—8:00pm. We will begin by studying the book, Be Still and Know: A Study of Rest & Refuge by Deb Burma to unpack the promises found in Psalm 46 that are fulfilled in Christ.

LADIES IN THE MIDDLE (YOUNG WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY) - *Lisa Bulas’s home, 6:30-8:00pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. In this six-week study, we will be working through the book, Jesus Over Everything by Lisa Whittle.*

YOUNG ADULT FAITHFULS - Room 8, 7:15pm twice a month. *See calendar for dates.*
Join with other 18-30 year olds for deep Bible Study and lively conversation. We will be studying the book of Hebrews. Contact Britney Krueger for more information.

Wednesdays

MORNING SERMON DISCUSSION [P-200] - Room 11, 9:00am. Led by Pastor Dunbar.
All are welcome to be a part of this wonderful group of friends.

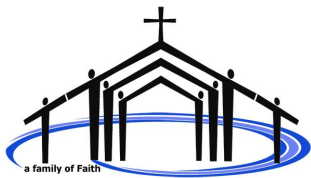
GOD’S M.I.G.H.T. (YOUNG MEN’S BIBLE STUDY): ISAIAH [E-200] - Room 8, 6:30pm. Led by Pastor Josh Davis. This group for young men will be studying the book of Isaiah. Bring your own Bible.

THE REASON FOR GOD [P-300] - Room 101, 6:30pm. Led by Pastor Dunbar. Many people have doubts and objections about the claims of Christianity. “Is there really a God?” “How can God be almighty and good, given all the suffering in the world?” “Is the Bible really God’s trustworthy word?” It’s important to engage the questions of our neighbors, our family members, and our own hearts in honest, winsome, faithful ways. Based on the book *The Reason for God* by Tim Keller, this study will be an opportunity for us to gain confidence in dialoguing with friends who may not share our beliefs.

Faith Lutheran Church
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Hastings, NE 68901

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Tina Clark, Admin. Asst.
Heather Jones, Bookkeeper
Dale Lambrecht, Custodian

Our Mission Statement: Faith Lutheran Church is the body of Christ,
called to be the caring hands and loving voice of Christ in this world.

2025 Church Council

Chairman: Doug Koopman Vice Chairman: Doug Gloystein
Treasurer: Adam Jacobitz Recording Secretary: Dawn Petersen
Board of Education: Marisa Butler, Laura Bulas, Marie Law
Board of Evangelism: Shannon Nelson, Tonya Krueger, Stacy Bierman
Board of Family Life: Liz Karr, Tressa Torres, Kim Shelton
Board of Finance: Dan & Deb Laux, Kathy Hansen & Scott Hansen, Gayle
Reiners, Mike & Charlotte Waters, Mitch & Brenda Stocker, Vicki Weseman
Board of Lay Ministry: Ron Haase, Tony Shafer, Deanna Dirks, Clayton Schenk,
Bryson Henkel, Dave Johnson
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Tami Berndt, Beau Toben