

Living Faith



FAITH SUMMER TOUR

Wednesdays at 6:00pm

- May 9 Faith Lutheran // What's A Calling?
- June 5 Carlson's Lovable Llamas Farm // A God Who Calls
- June 12 Faith Lutheran // Called by Name
- June 19 Faith Lutheran // Called to Plant & Tend
- June 26 Paradise Commons // Called to Speak for God
- July 3 No service
- July 10 Faith Lutheran // Called to Wrestle
- July 17 Faith Lutheran // Called!
- July 24 Lea Ann & Gary Burau's Home // Changing Calls
- July 31 Faith Lutheran // Sharing Calls
- August 7 Rutz Lake Cemetery // Passing the Mantle
- August 14 Faith Lutheran // One Call, Many Forms
- August 21 Faith Lutheran // Called Together
- August 28 Schram Vineyards // What's Our Calling?



Check our website and socials
for food and activity of the night.

CALLED BEYOND THE WALLS



A Faith member came into my office one day, asking for someone's email and saying, "I heard their name in the prayers on Sunday, and we used to work together. I'd like to check in on them."

My mind flashes back to a conversation I had with this member a few months ago, when we read *Belonging: 5 Keys to Unlock Your Potential as a Disciple*. This person said, "I don't know what you mean by 'call' and God 'calling' people. I've never heard the voice of God."

What if call doesn't look like a bright yellow rotary phone ringing, waiting for us to answer "Hello, God? It's me." Not all of us get a burning bush or a booming voice from heaven. Sometimes, call sounds like the small voice within moving us towards love, care, and community.

We've lost the plot when we act like calling is a one-sized fits all gig. In our scriptures, call comes to all different kinds of people in all different kinds of ways. Some are young, some are old. Some are powerful, some are powerless. Some are called to go and move, some are called to stay.

How is Faith being called?

Across the threshold and into living rooms, our Expressions of Care Team has felt the call into visitation and bringing Communion to those who are unable to attend worship services.

Across borders and into new places, the Rejoice and Reform: Faith Choir Tour to Germany participants are called to share their gifts of music and learn what it means to be people of the Reformation.

Across state lines and into the heart of the Big Easy, our National Youth Gathering high schoolers are called into community with tens of thousands of ELCA Lutheran Youth from across the county. They will all gather around the theme, "Created to Be."

This summer, we'll wonder together what it means to be called, to live our call, and who God calls us to be. I can't wait to see what we discover together!

By Pastor Katie Escalante



Wednesday Summer Worship at 6pm

Each Wednesday, we will have worship, food, and an activity, whether we are at Faith or another location. Just as our faith is not confined to the church building or property, we're taking the Called Faith Tour into our community and the surrounding area.

What to expect?

Worship will be simple with music, scripture, sermon, Apostle's Creed and prayer. Food will vary each week between food trucks, grilling, and bring your own picnic. Activities will change depending on our location and the theme for the week. Food and activities will be announced in worship, on our website and socials.

Music Notes

Music plays an important role in worship here at Faith, and we are always on the lookout for musicians! Please prayerfully consider contributing your musical talents to our summer worship on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights – all ages and instruments are welcome! Contact Music Minister/Coordinator Cynthia Betz: cynthia@waconiafaithlutheran.com



"Hello, God? It's me."

Beyond the Walls: CROSSING BORDERS

Faith Lutheran is going far beyond our walls this summer: we're even crossing international borders.

In July, thirty-one members and friends of Faith will be singing their way through Lutheran Reformation history. Led by Faith Choir Director, Aaron Olson, and Pastor Adam White, participants are traveling to Germany and the Czech Republic to participate in Rejoice and Reform: A Faith Choir Tour to Germany. Throughout this choir-focused tour participants will be visiting and learning about key sites in the Lutheran Reformation and singing together.

Aaron recently shared some of his thoughts about the upcoming trip:

What excites you about this trip?

"I am excited to travel in the footsteps of Martin Luther and learn more about his life and what prompted him to post his objections to the catholic church. I am excited to be able to sing in some of the great cathedrals of Central Germany. I toured with my college choir 30 some years ago and had the opportunity to sing in these great cathedrals. That had a profound impact on me and I am excited to share that again with the members of the Faith Choir."

What do you to learn?

I am looking forward to learning more about the Life of Bach as we travel to Eisenach where he was born and especially Leipzig where he spent the last 25 years of his life. I hope to see the St.

Thomas Church (Thomaskirche) where Bach wrote most of his Cantatas, Motets, Masses, including the St. John and St. Matthew Passions. I have not had the opportunity to travel to this part of Germany before so I am especially excited to see Berlin, Dresden, and of course Prague.

What's the significance of this kind of trip?

"There is nothing like traveling and performing with a performing ensemble especially to a place that is so rich in musical history. Having the opportunity to come together as one and take part in a deeper understanding of our church roots will lead to an even more meaningful worship and Faith Choir experience for us all."

"I think having a better understanding of our foundation helps us to strengthen and enforce our church moving forward. We will have a better understanding of the importance of our role in the church. Martin Luther believed in the importance of empowering and including the lay people in the total worship experience through the use of the vernacular language (He translated the Bible into German) and the congregational hymn singing. By learning more about Luther's teachings, we can have a better understanding of how we can serve the people of Faith, our Waconia community, and all those that we encounter."

By Pastor Adam White



BEYOND THE WALLS:

The ELCA National Youth Gathering

Preparing to leave the church to find the church.

Young Lutherans have been gathering together for more than a century. Faith's longtime custodian, Carl Bredberg, remembers taking the train from Minnesota to Miami to gather with Lutheran youth from all over the country. Many adults in our congregation have gone, both as teens and as sponsors with Faith (or with other churches)! And while the last event was cancelled due to the pandemic, every three years youth from 8-12th grade get the chance to participate in this amazing tradition.

This year's theme is **Created To Be**. Each day will have a theme that we explore: **Brave, Authentic, Free, Disruptive, & Disciples**.

At first, there are a lot of exciting elements to consider: there might be 30,000 youth who attend this event; it's in New Orleans; most everyone gets to travel without their parents. Several students were so excited that they invited their friends from outside of Faith to come! But, truth be told, it's also an event that comes with a hefty price tag, and with that cost comes a lot of work.

Aided by a rock-star team of adult volunteers, 18 Faith youth have participated in a steady stream of fundraisers. For the 8th and 9th graders, this has been in addition to their IGNITE and Burn requirements; the 10-12th graders, they pile this on top of regular participation in Glow, and serving the church in worship, Spark, Ignite, and B.Y.G. These youth have shown up for Parents' Nights Out, bagging at Mackenthun's, a Wednesday night meal, a pancake breakfast, and running food at Culver's.

As these teens have come together primarily to work, they've already started living out the theme. Students have been **freed** of some barriers that exist at school as they work and play together. Some students have **bravely** stepped up into leadership roles: bringing activities to lead with "the littles" at Parents Night Out. One night ended with nearly the entire group playing "blob tag," laughing with arms wrapped around each other running through the gathering space – which was both **disruptive** and delightful. And, as with any group of teens gathered together, they frequently break into small groups to chat about their joys and struggles, sharing and caring for one another – building community – with real **authenticity**.

Research on faith formation suggests that students who go to camps, conferences, and retreats are significantly more likely to stick with their faith into early adulthood. What started as an exciting notion – "I'd like to go on that trip!" – has become a place where raising money has led to building relationships, with the hope that these students will have an experience that helps them grow into **disciples** for years to come.

By Shane Marcus



Beyond the Walls:

FRIENDSHIP SPROUTING FORTH

Have you ever met someone and immediately felt like you had known them your whole life? As though you had been friends for years and not just minutes or days? If you have, you might understand how Barb and Elsie have felt since they met just a few short months ago.

Elsie Thoms is a member of Faith who lives in Westview Acres right here in town. She and her daughter each got an apartment there about a year ago so they could be close to each other and other family living in Waconia. She will be 86 years old this fall and enjoys spending time with her family and reading. She and Pastor Jim have been visiting regularly, but as the Expressions of Care ministry got started this year he thought he might have a volunteer that she would enjoy visiting with even more. And boy, was he right!



Barb Christopherson has been attending Faith for over 19 years with her husband (and kids when they were around). She is “retired” from Ford, though she often works for them off and on between visits to her children and grandchildren. She was excited to join as a volunteer when the planning committee announced the creation of the Expression of Care team. As children, her kids would say “I don’t get anything out of church” but to Barb, it is not what you get out of church but what you can give that matters.

Barb and Elsie just hit it off. They have already begun reading books together so they have more to talk about. As Barb said, “I think we could go on a three-hour road trip, and there wouldn’t be even a moment of awkward silence between us.” They are already completing each other’s sentences. They just melded, and it has already enriched both of their lives.

Elsie wasn’t very nervous when Pastor Jim asked if she would like an Expressions of Care volunteer to come and visit. Her late husband, Duane, had done a similar ministry years ago. She knew how those connections could grow into friendship. She had seen Duane and Larry’s friendship grow to even include her over the years. She knew she didn’t want to miss the opportunity, or she would regret not taking advantage of it. She would encourage others to do the same. It is never too late to make friends.

Barb would also encourage anyone with an inkling of wanting to volunteer to join the Expressions of Care team. This is not like cold calling; it is literally just getting together with a friend. Along with visiting they have shared communion, and doing “church” at home with just a few people has been a very powerful experience for both of them: Connecting through faith and friendship.

When asked what the best thing has been, Elsie replied, “I got a new friend! And so many of my friends have passed on.” Every year, we are amazed to see new shoots spring forth after the emptiness of winter. But each spring we get to witness new growth in our world. It is the same, watching new relationships sprouting forth, budding, and blooming. This is how Faith grows.

By Jesse Norman Bergstrom



Learn more about Expressions of Care

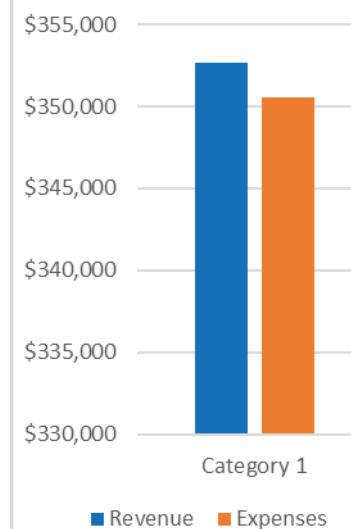
If you or someone you know would like personal visitation, distribution of Holy Communion, or commendation of the dying, please let Pastor Katie know by email, katie@waconiafaithlutheran.com.

That is how Faith grows.

Financial Update

Note: Through the first four months of the year: We’ve received \$2,172 more than we’ve spent. According to our budget projections, we’ve spent \$18,169 less than we planned to spend, and we’ve received \$14,934 more than we planned to receive.

2024 Total Revenue vs. Expenses



2024 Monthly Income vs. Spending



Come Worship with us!

Summer Sundays @ 9am

Summer Wednesdays @ 6pm

www.waconiafaithlutheran.com

952-442-2101



Pastor Adam White

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Pastor Katie Escalante

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FAITH LUTHERAN