

Living Faith



Remembering, Restoring, & Renewing

Beloved Friends of Faith Lutheran,

Three months ago, I left for sabbatical to focus on the themes of **Remembering** (where I've encountered God in my life), **Restoring** (patterns of rest), and **Renewing** (my mind through creativity).

Now, I **return** to you with a rested body, a renewed spirit, and a heart that has been softened by this gift of sabbatical. As I've eased back into the rhythm of church life—the calendar, the meetings, the joyful chaos—I find myself moving more gently, more intentionally. The busyness is still here (it always is), but I'm not stepping back in as the same person who stepped away.

One of the central truths I've returned with is this: **I am not the center that must hold. God is.**

A few years ago, the Pastors' Book Study read, *Everything Happens for a Reason (and Other Lies I've Loved)* by Kate Bowler. After her cancer diagnosis and surgery, upon seeing her son, Bowler says,

“All I thought was, *I can't leave you here. Alone.* It is an easy lie that has wormed its way into my mind: *I am the center that must hold.* It is a thought I picked up so early on in my life that I can't bring myself to question it. It is something closer to a reflex. Life is unstable because it is life. But I am steady...*Yes, this all hangs on me. And it will all fall apart.*” (Bowler, p.80-81)

I remember thinking, “But...*I am* the center that must hold.” I didn't say it out loud, but it was the unspoken belief that had shaped so much of my life—both personal and pastoral. Like Atlas in Greek mythology, I was holding up the weight of the world—or at least trying to.

But sabbatical gifted me a chance to lay that weight down.

And you know what I discovered?
Faith Lutheran was fine.

Ministry continued. People stepped up. Volunteers led with creativity and care. Staff and leaders did what they do best. The Body of Christ kept moving, kept breathing, kept loving—and it did not all rest on my shoulders.

At first, that realization was scary. I'm someone who's very good at getting things done. But to *not* do everything? To let go and trust? That felt risky.

And then—liberating.

I had time to rest, truly rest.
I had time to be a mom and spend so much quality time with my kids!
I revisited places sacred to my call.
I reconnected with spiritual direction, therapy, and scripture—not for preaching prep or confirmation class, but for my soul.
I remembered what actual self-care looks like: slowing down, grounding myself, and remembering I'm human, not a machine.

At my pottery class, I was reminded how crucial it is to come back to center. A pot thrown off-center becomes lopsided, wobbly. The same is true in life. When we try to live as though we are the center, things get off-kilter. But when we center on God—*really* center, and continuously come back to center—there's strength and beauty and balance.

During sabbatical, I remembered that I am not loved because of what I do. I am loved because of who God is.

I remembered that God—not me—is the One who holds all things together. God—the One who created us, who reconciles us in Christ, who gathers us into the Body by the Spirit—is the steady center of this church, this world, this life.

And so I return to you, not to resume carrying everything, but to equip, empower, and walk alongside. Because this congregation is gifted—overflowing with leaders, creativity, compassion, wisdom, and strength.

Let's lean into that.
Let's unleash the gifts already among us.
Let's trust that the Holy Spirit is already moving in this place.

You don't need me to do it all.
But it is a gift to be your pastor—to serve, to celebrate, to return.

So let's return together.
Return to God, our center.
Return to community, belonging, and purpose.
Return to the One who holds us even when we feel like we're falling apart.

We don't have to hold it all together.

Because God does.

With peace and gratitude,
Pastor Katie



Chelan WA, Overlooking Lake Chelan



A product of Pottery Class



Gooseberry Falls, North Shore MN

Restoration and Renewal

Bringing New Life to Faith's Outdoor Space

My name is Sam Hartmann and I am beginning my Senior year at Waconia High School. I was recently awarded the rank of Eagle Scout following the completion of my Eagle Project. Eagle Projects benefit a local organization, such as a school or a church. I've attended Faith Lutheran my whole life, so when I was looking for a project, it was natural for me to want to do something to benefit Faith.



Gaga ball pit, storage, picnic tables, & restored seating

Faith owns a piece of land across Waconia Parkway from the church. This is a small wooded strip of land between the parkway and the marsh on the other side. There is a firepit on this land that the church uses for youth activities. The firepit and the benches were originally built by a different Eagle Scout as his project many years ago. There is also a gaga ball pit that was added about two years ago by another Eagle Scout.

This area had become overgrown since the firepit was first built and had fallen into disrepair. Layers of decomposing leaves and wood chips several inches thick covered the ground, making the ground uneven and difficult to walk over. Stones around the fire ring were out of place and some were missing. And the benches around the area were cracked and covered with moss.

There's a small path through the woods to a seating spot that is overlooking the marsh. This area was overgrown, too, and the logs that lined the path were rotting or missing. The gaga ball pit was full of leaves.

My project restored and enhanced the entire firepit area making it more usable for the church and the Waconia community since there is a public walking path that runs right next to the firepit area.

Last spring, I worked with volunteers, including scouts, our youth group, and others to remove the layers of leaves and wood mulch in and around the firepit, gaga ball pit, seating and trail areas and level the ground. We cut back branches and other plant growth. We fixed cracked benches with new material, replaced the fire ring, added picnic tables, and built a storage area for firewood to stay dry.

I was really excited to do this work because before my project, this space was used a few times a year because it was not very welcoming or comfortable. By improving the seating and cleaning up the ground and overhanging branches, the church will be able to more easily use this space for both youth activities and maybe some of the adult small group activities. In fact, the space is already getting more use—we had one of the Wednesday summer worship services at the fire pit area this summer.

One of the church's goals is to be more involved in the community. I believe that if this area were more inviting, more members of the community might use the space as well - such as the gaga ball pit or picnic tables.

I want to thank the Pastors for supporting the idea of this project. I hope Faith members will enjoy using the space.



New firepit at Faith's outdoor area

By Sam Hartmann



Faith

THAT OVERFLOWS

A JOURNEY OF SAYING YES!

Late last fall, I was sent an invitation. An invitation to be part of something that I would never have sought out. An invitation that I would never have volunteered for. An invitation that I would never say “yes” to being part of. Except that I did. I volunteered and said “Yes”.

Sam Johnson, Program and Day Camp Director from Green Lake Bible Camp reached out and invited me to be part of the curriculum team for all of the summer curriculum for 2025. This included on-site camps (overnight at Shores, Green Lake, and Camp House), day camps (where teams travel to churches), Serve Boldly (mission trips), family camps, specialty camps, staff devotions, and even family at home devotions.

In early January, our curriculum team gathered to retreat for a couple of days. There were four of us from varying positions in our churches. We were given a theme, a day to focus on, an outline, and we each began our time of research and creation. For three days, we spent time journeying through the curriculum process (Hook, Book, Look, Took). At the end, our writing retreat may have been over, but the process continued. We had deadlines. We edited our own sections. We edited and added thoughts/ideas to one another’s daily themes. This continued on through the end of March. Everything went to print from there.

A few weeks ago, we were given an update to hear how our curriculum is being used in action and out in the field. It’s a joy to hear how what we created together is being used daily through the various camp forms! Staff are finding ways to personally connect their faith and encourage the faith of campers.

Thank you, Faith, for your encouragement for your staff to take on roles to not only share faith to the kids and youth that walk through the doors of our church building, but also for your support of us participating in the bigger church. It was a joy seeing our kids at camp at the end of July use our curriculum and know that I had a little piece of this faith experience!

By Shannon Anderson



Bible Study at Green Lake



Using dough to interpret Monday's theme of Creation

Equipping the Called

Mentoring, Learning, and Growing Together in Ministry

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace... equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

God has called us to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). This call is to each of us and to the church as a whole. Faith has decided to live into this call. We have committed ourselves to walking alongside Shane Marcus as he prepares himself for a ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. In other words, Shane is becoming a Lutheran Pastor, and we (the members of Faith) are helping him do it!

This is an exciting time to be part of Faith!!!

A significant part of our commitment is that Shane has begun a nine-month pastoral internship at Faith. With this internship, Shane’s roles and responsibilities at Faith have changed. This means YOU will see him doing a lot of different things around here. With all the wonderful ministry gifts Shane already possesses, there are many areas of expertise that a pastor needs in which he is still very green. So, with the help of his internship supervisor, Faith’s internship committee, and you, he will be exploring, learning, and growing throughout these nine months.

So what’s the plan? During the internship, Shane will work with a supervising pastor, developing learning goals concerning eleven different areas of expertise as well as an internship project. Seminary has already provided Shane with a foundation in these areas, so the goals and project will really focus on creating the hands-on learning experience that can only be gained out in the world. Shane will meet monthly with the internship committee to review these and receive sermon feedback. He will also be meeting regularly with Pastor Adam to coordinate the completion of each step and receive feedback.

Faith is a wonderfully diverse congregation with deep experiences in ministry. Therefore, you may be asked to share your ministry experiences as part of this process. Shane may join your meeting or attend your small group. Shane may need time with you to fully understand the process your team has implemented. Please, join us with a joyful heart as we equip Shane to do God’s will in the world.

Thank you for sharing this call to ministry with Shane.

By Jesse Norman Bergstrom



Shane leading prayer at Schram Vineyards

*At any time, feel free to provide feedback to Shane,
Pastor Adam, or anyone on the Internship Committee:*

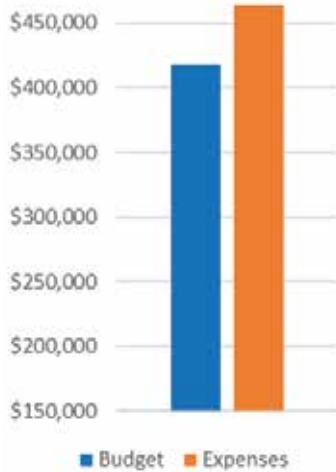
Eric Aune
Diane Hamilton
Mya Sannes
Charley Streiff
Maureen Sullivan
Sarah Wilson

Jesse Bergstrom – Internship Committee Chair
jessebergstrom@hotmail.com
612-432-4300

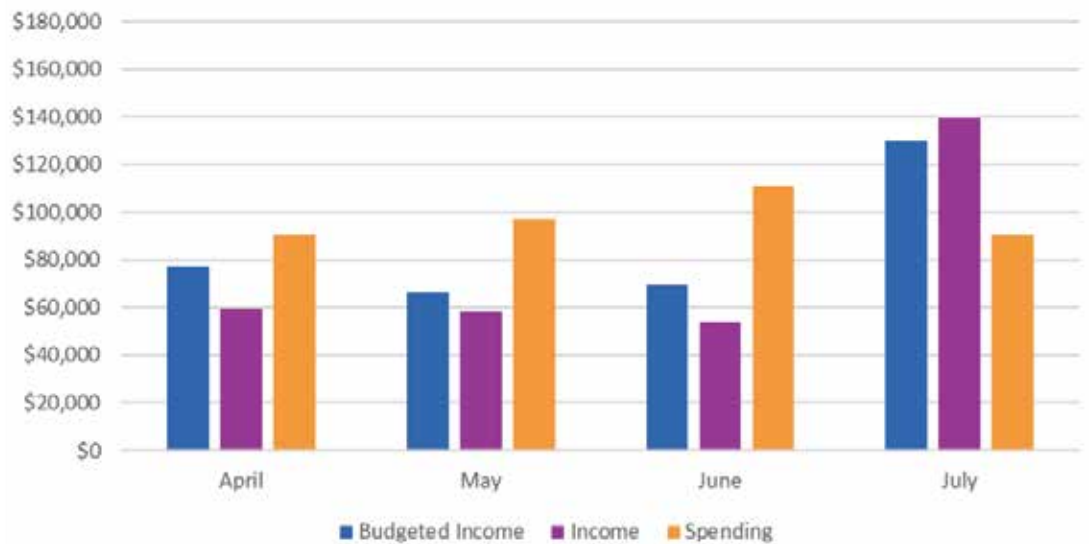
Financial Update

Note: Through July of this year: we've spent \$6,775 more than we planned to spend, and we've received \$1,695 less than we planned to receive.

2025 YTD Income vs. Expenses



2025 Monthly Income vs. Spending



FAITH
LUTHERAN

Come Worship with us!

Sundays at 9 & 10:30am

Prime Time Wednesdays at 6pm

www.waconiafaithlutheran.com // @f

952-442-2101



Pastor Adam White

adam@waconiafaithlutheran.com



Pastor Katie Jorgensen

katie@waconiafaithlutheran.com

SPECIAL APPEAL NOW UNDERWAY

A huge THANK YOU to all who attended the Special Congregational Meeting on August 3rd. A motion was approved to move forward with the immediate maintenance needed on the church building costing a total of \$31,640.57.

We are already receiving donations for the special appeal and will continue to collect during the three-week period of August 3-25, 2025. The maintenance is also already scheduled and on the calendar! We trust the total amount will be received to pay the vendors after the work is completed.

To give, donate cash/check (written to Faith Lutheran with a memo of Special Appeal) and indicate "Special Appeal" on a separate envelope to be placed in the offering plate or dropped off in the office.

To give online, go to waconiafaithlutheran.com click the Give button in the upper right, then Online Giving or scan the QR code provided. In either case, select Special Appeal from the Fund drop-down.

If you have any questions about the Special Appeal, please contact Tara in the church office.

Scan to donate





FAITH
LUTHERAN
800 Waconia Pkwy N
Waconia, MN 55387



Scandinavian Treats & Coffee

Faith Lutheran has deep roots into Scandinavian heritage. One way we honor that heritage is by annually hosting Scandinavian Treats & Coffee, this year scheduled for Sunday, December 7th at 10 am in Steiner Hall. The group who has been planning & leading this event is looking to pass it onto the next generation!

Come to the informational meeting on **Sunday, September 21st at 10am in the Fireside Room** to learn what it takes to plan this event. [SignUpGenius](#) to come!

Join us for:

FALL KICK-OFF

September 7th

Worship at 9am – SPARK begins!

Following Worship:
Pancake Breakfast
Rakow Ranch Mobile Petting Zoo
Cake Walk

Money raised will benefit youth trips.