

FAITH at WORK

May 2025

Dear Beloved of God,

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Easter Sunday was a spectacular day, with two baptisms and family. What a beautiful day to celebrate God's faithfulness in Christ Jesus.

At the font, God's "YES" to those two, and to us at our baptism, is all about what God has done and is doing and will do in us and for us. If we are willing. If we believe God's love is able to bring new life from death.

During the Easter season we hear of the resurrection sightings recounted for us. Jesus did not stand around. He met people where they were—in grief, in fear, in confusion, in hope, in joy. And he continues to come to us in our life, unexpectedly, inviting us to continue to follow him.

Follow Jesus. You see, the resurrected Jesus doesn't stand around. He is on the move. He meets Mary in her grief. Peter has moments with him. The disciples and followers encounter the risen Lord Jesus. Even Saul, who becomes Paul, meets the Lord. Before his ascension, Jesus shows up all over. And in the gospels Jesus tells his followers to wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them. When that happens on Pentecost, they don't stand still either. The Spirit keeps them moving—out into the world they go!

At baptism we gain our true identity, children of God. Our place is in Christ Jesus, in God's Kingdom, not in a geographical place. While we are in the world, we are God's and learning to love the world the way God loves. All in!

God's story that we tell in Scripture is about a relationship that is alive, dynamic. Abraham and Sarah leave their home and go out into the world. After 430+ years in Egypt, where God had provided, the Israelites were liberated and traveled in the wilderness for 40 years before entering the Land of Promise. When Jesus sends out his followers they go all over, with some staying in Jerusalem. Paul was the most prolific, traveling all over the Roman Empire with the good news of Jesus Christ, God's love in the flesh.

The church where I grew up, Hope Lutheran, is also declining, and has an Interim Pastor to help them figure things out. The thought of my home church closing, changing, is hard. I know the thought of closing Faith is hard—you have told me this. But is that what God is calling us to do? Maybe, maybe not. We will see as we participate in the process we are beginning. (see Timeline)

Faith Lutheran Church

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We are called to let go of how things are supposed to be, in our own minds, in order to take hold of our identity in Christ, our calling as followers of Jesus. Instead, because of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, nothing is the same. Yes, Jesus had a tangible body with visible wounds that he showed to his followers. Yet nothing could hold him back or down. Jesus is on the move and calls us to follow him. What might that look like for Faith?

In the following weeks we will have Listening Team training, which will be open to anyone interested in learning along with the combined Listening Teams (internal and external). We have seven members willing to lead and facilitate the Listening Season we are entering into with Good Shepherd. You are all on the Prayer Team, praying daily and listening to God speak. The Holy Spirit is inviting us to participate in this time of listening and discovery.

This will be a time of taking steps of faith in the Crucified and Risen Jesus Christ. There will be some letting go. We cannot continue forward with the Spirit and the process without trusting that God's got us. Something new is being planted and incubated, which will spring to life.

Remembering our baptism, God's "YES" to us, and God's faithfulness throughout the generations, in all places, we can go out, we can let go, we can trust that God's got this and us.

Resurrection is powerful! No matter what happens, we always have Easter. That is our identity.

In Resurrection faith and hope,

Pastor Dorthy+

From Church Council

Hello Brothers and Sisters of Faith,

We are continuing our process with Good Shepherd, they are doing the discernment work we did last year with Pastor Dorthy. We should begin our combined work with our internal and external listening teams in June. Update 4/29/25 – I received an updated time line at a meeting with the Pastors and James Howard, President of GSLC last night. I will have Carol add it to the newsletter and we will also mail out a hard copy to make sure everyone receives one. This is a fluid process and things are changing as we move along and I wanted to keep you all updated as best I can. Please let me know if you have questions.

Work on our Centennial celebration in August is continuing. Jan Wetzel, Nancy George and Linda Gail are working on setting it all up. It will be a 2-day celebration and the proceeds from the rummage sale are going towards the event.

Council meetings will now be held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Noon in the conference room. You are always welcome to join us. Bring your lunch!

Blessings,

Gordy Gamet
FLC Council President

The next steps for blending Faith Lutheran and Good Shepherd Lutheran churches is shown below:

MAY-AUGUST 2025 (Phase 2) Discernment

- **May 18, 2025:** Listening Team Training After Worship
- **TBD Before June 8:** Listening Teams meet and make a plan
- **June 8, 2025: Commitment Service with both Congregations**
- **June 8, 2025: Joint Congregational Meeting #1** After worship, the teams share timeline and set-up listening schedule with groups. Listening begins during this meeting with groups one-on-one, two-on-two, then four-on-four.
- Blending process for Worship to include members of both congregations to plan worship monthly.
- Listening teams do the listening
- Listening teams gather data & prepare to share what they heard with the congregations.
- Create a list of SMART goals to present to the congregations based on the listening.
- **August 20, 2025:** Listening Data Collected and forwarded to Oregon Synod.
- **August 31, 2025: Joint Congregational Meeting #2** Listening teams present what they have been hearing, and share vision for mission and ministry with SMART goals. Congregations then prepare for a vote whether they will move on to the next Phase which will be the transition phase.

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2025 (Phase 3) Prep for Commitment and Transition

- **September 1, 2025: Establish a transition team:** (Explore and make a plan for the blending of leadership, new identity, inventory of physical assets and plan for blending fiscal assets) Plan a Transition Retreat for the team.)
- **September (TBD) Transition Team Retreat:** This retreat will be to outline the goals and benchmarks for the transition team.
- **September 28, 2025: Joint Congregational Meeting #4** Synod will report back the analyzed results of the listening.
- **November (TBD): Joint Congregational Meeting #4:** Transition team reports to the congregations their plan for blending and finalize SMART goals for the Transition Year.

DECEMBER 2025-JANUARY 2026: Official Votes

- Both congregations decide whether they want to legally blend for mission and take an official vote. Prepare to extend a new call to Pastor Cindy for the blended congregation including negotiation of new compensation package.

JANUARY 2026-TBD (Phase 4) Transition Year

- The blended congregation will use this year to establish policies, begin to blend mission and ministries and evaluate the SMART goals established during the process of discernment.
- Begin with a transition team and blended council retreat to establish timelines and guidelines for the blending ministry.

May-Flower

Pink, small, and punctual,
Aromatic, low,
Covert in April,
Candid in May,

Dear to the moss,
Known by the knoll,
Next to the robin
In every human soul.

Bold little beauty,
Bedecked with thee,
Nature forswears
Antiquity.

—Emily Dickinson



Faith Lutheran Church		2025
STAFF		
Interim Pastor		Pastor Dorthy Nielsen
Office Manager		Carol Armstrong
Organist/Pianist		Cheryl Blum
Custodian		Hart's Janitorial
CHURCH COUNCIL		
President		Gordy Gamet
Vice President		Terry Virnig
Secretary		Mary Sabatka Gamet
Treasurer		Janice Lee Virnig
Financial Secretary		Alice Weber
Education/Youth		Vacant
Evangelism & Mission		Dick Olsen
Fellowship & Social		Peggy Preston
Property Management		Terry Virnig (Acting)
Stewardship & Resources		Vacant
Worship & Music		George Hunt
Mission Endowment		Carol Olufson



Financials as of 4/28/25.

Undesignated Income: \$4,414.97

Budgeted Undesignated Income: \$5,416.66

Net Undesignated Income: (\$1,001.69)

Total Expenses: \$4,794.46

Total Net Income: \$2,363.54

Church Announcements and Events

5

Men's Breakfast—8:30am

Tuesdays, Ongoing

Men's group meets for breakfast every Tuesday at 8:30am at either Sweetwaters Restaurant or Brick & Mortar Restaurant (alternating weeks). All men are welcome!

May 6 & 20 at Brick & Mortar

—

May 13 & 27 at Sweetwaters

Prayer Chain:



We are asking those who are part of the prayer chain to lift up the concerns of Faith Lutheran congregants on a weekly basis and to pray for other concerns as they are shared. This can be as simple as taking a few seconds to ask God to be with those listed, lifting each one up by name. Peggy Preston will be heading up the prayer chain. **If you are interested in being on the prayer chain, send her an email: pegprestonn@aol.com**

Quilting and TOPs

Wednesdays @ 9am



Wednesday mornings are a busy time at Faith Lutheran Church. We have quilters working to create comforting quilts that are donated to bring people warmth, privacy and shelter. If you are interested in joining them, there is always plenty to do.

TOPs (stands for The Old People, though age is not requirements for the group) are busy working to keep our church property maintained and our grounds clean. If you have able hands and a willing heart, the TOPs will always welcome some help.

Food Collection for F.I.S.H. of Albany



We are collecting non-perishable food items FISH of Albany. Donations can be placed in one of the baskets in the parking lot entryway.

***** Please check expiration date markings -FISH cannot accept foods past their marked expiration dates.***

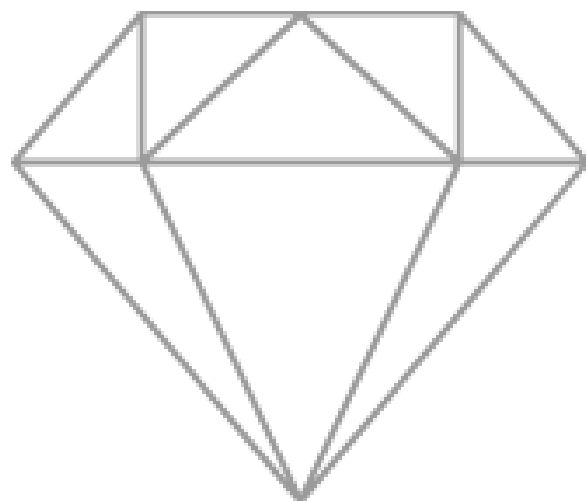


Mary Martha Circle

This is a Bible Study for women. We meet on the **second Tuesday of each month @ 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall**. If you would like more information, please call: Karen Glenn at (541) 928-4729 or Shirley Karstens at (541) 967-8309.

Save the Dates!

Faith Lutheran Church *75th Anniversary*



***You are invited to join in the Diamond
Anniversary festivities!***

**Celebration Dinner on Saturday
August 16, 2025**

**Reception on Sunday after Worship
August 17, 2025**

****More details will be included with the invitation
coming in June 2025.**

Worship Leaders Team 2025				
May	4	11	18	25
Assisting Ministers	Janice	George	Shirley	Carol O.
Altar Prep	Jon A	George	Jon A.	George
Ushers	Dick	Dick	Dick	Dick
Sound Technicians	Terry	Gordy	Jon A.	John B.

Seeking Volunteers!

Our friends at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church are seeking our help with their Wednesday Evening Free Meals ministry. They requested 2 to 4 persons who would be willing to help with cooking and/or serving meals for the community. Please call Jen Hibbs at 541-231-4441 for more information.



Thank You!

Many thanks to everyone who supported our annual rummage sale. Proceeds from this year's sale will help fund Faith Lutheran's 75th Anniversary celebrations..



May 2025 Worship Schedule

May 4	10:30am	Worship
May 11	10:30am	Worship
May 18	10:30am	Worship
May 25	10:30am	Worship



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	2 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	3
4 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming	5 7:00pm Boy Scouts	6 Men's Breakfast at Brick & Mortar 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	7 Church Office Closed 9:00am Quilters & TOPs 6:30pm - 8:00pm AEC	8 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	9 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	10
11 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming 3:00pm - 7:00pm AEC	12 12:30pm - 3:00pm Modern Travelers 7:00pm Boy Scouts	13 8:30am Men's Breakfast at Sweetwaters 12:00pm Council Meeting 1:30pm Mary Martha Circle 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	14 9:00am Quilters & TOPs	15 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	16 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	17 9:00am Circle of Friends (Fellowship Hall) 9:00am - 12:00pm Scouts (Library)
18 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming	19 7:00pm Boy Scouts	20 Men's Breakfast at Brick & Mortar 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	21 9:00am Quilters & TOPs 6:30pm - 8:00pm AEC	22 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	23 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	24
25 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming 11:15am Fellowship Meeting 3:00pm - 7:00pm AEC	26 7:00pm Boy Scouts	27 8:30am Men's Breakfast at Sweetwaters 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	28 No Quilters	29 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	30 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	31

Prayer List

*PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE
NEEDING STRENGTH, GUIDANCE AND HEALING:*

Tim Berg	Olivia Hunter	David
Brenda Carroll	Nicholas Glass	Margaret Rowland
Sandy Hina	Chuck	Mitch Mueller
Linda Gail Voet	Carol Olufson	Melba Wright
Noah Holman	Vanessa Munro	Karen Glenn
Gigi Douglas	Jim Preston	Dawn Gregg
Stephanie Bauthman	Virginia	Billy Tamblin
John Busher	Gabriel	Monica Johnson
Julie Shaw	Frank Perry	

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND:

Sangsau Tran

OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS TO THOSE WHO MOURN THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES:

A Prayer for Every Day



Almighty and Everlasting God, thank you for this new day and all of the blessings it brings. Be with me and guide me as I go about my daily tasks and responsibilities. Grant me the strength and resilience to face whatever challenges may come my way, and help me to be a source of love and support for those around me.

I pray for your protection and care for all those in need, and for your wisdom and discernment to guide me in making good choices. I trust in your love and care for us all, and am filled with the peace of knowing that you are with me always. Amen.

Puzzle!

Unscramble the names of these biblical mothers. Look up the verse if you need help. Then use the letters on the numbered blanks to complete the message below.

VEE (Genesis 3:20)

6 11

NNAHAH (1 Samuel 1:20)

14

RBAHEOD (Judges 5:7)

18 3

KREEHAB (Genesis 27:5)

16 5

EHLA (Genesis 30:14)

1

CLEHRA (Genesis 30:22)

7 12

MOIAN (Ruth 1:22)

10 17 13

RAAHS (Genesis 17:19)

8

AMYR (Matthew 2:11)

2

ZEBLEHATI (Luke 1:13)

9 15 4

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
 13 8 14 G F F G 18
 15 4 16 10 17 3

Answers: Eve, Hannah, Deborah, Rebekah, Leah, Rachel, Naomi, Sarah, Mary, Elizabeth.
 A mother's love is a gift from God!



A NOBLE EXAMPLE

Proverbs 31 describes a God-honoring woman. How are the women in your life like her? How can you follow their example?

Directions: Use the word bank to complete all the Bible verses. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Proverbs 31:30, NIV.



WORD BANK

bread, household, women, laugh,
children, clothed, speaks, husband, tongue



She is _____ with strength and dignity;
she can _____ at the days to come.

She _____ with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her _____.

She watches over the affairs of her _____
and does not eat the _____ of idleness.

Her _____ arise and call her blessed;
her _____ also, and he praises her:

"Many _____ do noble things,
but you surpass them all." Proverbs 31:25-29, NIV

Charm is _____eptive, and be_____ty is fl_____eting; but a
woma_____ w_____o f_____rs the Lo_____d is to be prais_____d.

Proverbs 31:30, NIV



May

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2025

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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