

Faith Lutheran Church

FAITHLINES

FROM PASTOR CODY

- Cody Blust, Pastor
- Pat Hoar, Secretary
- Rebecca Keck, Music Director
- Shelley Grubb, Bell Choir
- Steve Conrad, Gardens
- Will Melick, Grounds
- Randy Peck, Custodian

The most
important
things in life
aren't things



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In June, we will once again celebrate the first Fridays of the month. Traditionally the month of June is dedicated to celebrating different decades in history with this year being themed around the 1950s. As we prepare for the First Friday, I find myself needing to research the decade to fully understand not only the theming of the event, but also the decade itself. During my research of the decades, I am reminded of the importance of learning from history both in the world and in the church. Church history is the story of where the Spirit has led the believers throughout time. We see how the church

has changed and grown as the world has changed. We can see how the church has served its communities and also where the church needed to be reformed. We can see how the church has attained a deeper, more mature understanding of the God we love.

Studying History and Church History are vital to learn where we have been but also teach us how to improve for the future. We can learn from the examples of the past and use the lessons gained there to help us to grow and continue to work within the mission of the Kingdom. We learn how to serve our neighbors better. We can see where we have failed to share God's love and seek ways to better share God's love. We can learn how to be Christians in our current context through seeing how believers in the past adjusted to the challenges that they faced. We are able to learn from the past to work towards a future where all people have what they need and everyone knows that they are worthy of love. As we seek to serve the Kingdom of God may we be humble enough to learn from the believers of the past to strive for a better future.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

The second quarter daily devotional books Portals of Prayer and Christ in Our Home are available in the rack by the entrance door.

EUCHRE

We will be having Euchre on June 19th at 6:00 pm at the Eastern Star facility, Iris Section. Come join us. Please bring a snack to share.

JESUS CALLING

We will meet Monday, June 1st, at 11 am. Cheryl Johnson will be our leader for Week 7, pages 168-191 of "Peaceful Rest." Bring your lunch for a time of fellowship following the study. I would like to suggest we meet in the Library room. Polly

MISSION ENDOWMENT GRANTS

This year we had \$15,514 (4% of all Endowment Funds per guidelines were tapped to distribute), then 10% (\$1,551) was tithed to Southern Ohio Synod leaving \$13,963 to distribute in grants.

The following grants were approved and distributed at worship on May 10th:

| | |
|--|---------|
| *Faith Lutheran Preschool | \$2,400 |
| Hope Now Furniture Bank | \$2,000 |
| Stone Garden Chapel | \$1,000 |
| Salvation Army Summer Day Camp | \$1,000 |
| Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio | \$1,000 |
| Community Garden (Raised Beds) | \$ 750 |
| Summer lunch program through Central Christian Church | \$ 600 |
| Lions Club of Mount Vernon | \$ 500 |
| Lutheran World Relief | \$ 500 |

| | |
|--|--------|
| Danville Schools Summer Tutoring | \$ 500 |
| Over The Rhine Learning Center | \$ 500 |
| Starting Point | \$ 500 |
| WELCA/Lutheran World Relief School Kits | \$ 400 |
| Soap Project | \$ 400 |
| Praisestock 2026 | \$ 400 |
| Navajo Lutheran Mission | \$ 400 |
| Wycliffe Bible Translators | \$ 300 |
| Harvest Dinner | \$ 300 |
| Salvation Army Bike Night | \$ 263 |
| Faith Women (Personal Care Kits) | \$ 250 |

*The grant to Faith Lutheran Preschool was designated the Lawrence Zeigler gift.

Thanks to all who submitted proposals. Again we get to touch lives in the name of Jesus!

Becky's festive organ playing on Easter.

BOOK CORNER

Barton, William E., *The Soul of Abraham Lincoln*, George H. Doran Co., New York, 1920; 407 p.

Though the subject of Lincoln's religious beliefs, and whether or not he was truly a Christian, appears in virtually every biography of Lincoln, there are not many works specifically on that topic. Though written originally over one hundred years ago, this book is a thorough, faithful, and surprisingly relevant treatment of this topic. Barton was a Christian minister who wrote many other works about Lincoln, and so was qualified to place this specific topic within the total context of Lincoln's life. He takes the broad view of defining Lincoln's Christianity and comes to a clear, well-reasoned conclusion that Lincoln grew in that regard during his presidency, if not to formal worship and membership. This is a must-read on this topic.* (p. 136)

When Abraham Lincoln was a young man, he wrote a message about his Christian faith that his friends thought would get him in trouble as a "doubter," or even atheist. It was eventually destroyed, but brought up in at least one early political campaign, and he denied being a "doubter." With only one year altogether of formal education combining all his years of attendance in school, Lincoln, by the time he was president, could quote the Bible from rote better than most preachers, and often sought church worship sites for the quality of preaching by the minister, perhaps to learn more about speaking technique than content. He never belonged to a church, but he and his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, purchased seats both in Springfield, their home, and in Washington, D. C. We know that there were Christian references in both of Lincoln's inaugural addresses. This book is a must-read for those interested in this topic, and is more likely available on Amazon or at used book stores....DK

*taken from Peet, Tom, and Keck, David, *Reading Lincoln, Third Edition*, Amazon, Publisher, Columbia, South Carolina, 2023; 799 pp.

THE COMPOSERS' CRAFT

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine (Leaning on the Everlasting Arms)

Taking a break from English composers and lyricists, we take a look at a favorite hymn, seen frequently in American hymnals of many Protestant denominations. The music and the lyrics for the refrain for this piece were written by Anthony Showalter (1858-1924). Showalter asked Elisha Hoffman (1858-1924) to write the rest of the lyrics.

Anthony Showalter was born to John Showalter and John's wife Susanna Miller, and was married to Lucy Caroline Walser of Texas in 1881. He was first taught music by his father, and was educated in public schools. His music instruction included playing the organ. Showalter attended George Root's National Normal in Erie, Pennsylvania, and later Horatio Palmer's Normal in Meadville. He taught singing schools as early as age 14, and continued teaching in normal schools starting at age 19. Showalter later studied music in England, France, and Germany. His over 130 music books published sold over a million copies, published a music journal, and was elder at his Presbyterian church. Later, he owned his own publishing company was inducted into the Southern Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame.

Elisha Hoffman was born to a Presbyterian minister, in Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania, and became a minister himself. He attended Union Seminary in Pennsylvania and was ordained in 1868. At one time he served as pastor in a parish in Ohio, as well as neighboring states. He worked for eleven years at a publishing house in Cleveland. He wrote over 2,000 gospel songs in his career, often reflecting times in his life that were challenging. Hoffman edited over 50 songbooks, with his songs helping to define the hymns in Protestant churches in his time....DK

BIRTHDAYS

06/02 Alison Matulich, Robert Van Horn
 06/06 Candace Finnell, Becky Thomas
 06/08 Marrisa Hoffman-Ulmer
 06/09 Pastor Cody Blust, Kerri Sponsler
 06/10 Julie Falk
 06/11 Jim Harder
 06/12 Melissa Elkins
 06/17 Cheryl Johnson
 06/18 Cheryl Myrda
 06/21 Ann Dice, Kelley Morey
 06/24 Jennifer Ballard
 06/25 Linda Gehrisch, Ben Snow
 06/27 Keven Curran
 06/28 Ken Fischer
 06/29 Kelly Hoffman



ANNIVERSARIES

06/04 Pastor Art & Corrine Lund
 06/07 Phil & Lyn Gasbarro
 06/10 Ken & Holly Fischer
 06/15 Will & Martha Melick
 06/18 Dave & Pat Hoar
 06/19 Ben & Peggy Snow
 06/26 Andrew & Becky Matulich
 06/28 Frank and Kathy O'Hare
 06/29 Katie & Dominic Delmatto
 Gregg & Grace Maxwell



PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS



Greetings to everyone,

In April Holly Fischer and I attended the Together in Christ: Discipleship Day held by the Southern Ohio Synod, and I attended a session entitled "Reimagining How We Can Be Church to Our Neighbors" led by Rev. Matt Byrd. He opened the session by asking what came to mind when we hear the word "church?" Not surprisingly the unanimous response was 'a building' and a picture of a classic white clapboard church with a steeple appeared on the screen. The session went on to explore how this mindset limits our ministry by only focusing on what happens inside our buildings. As I thought about this after the session, a sports analogy came to mind. Worship services, classes and Bible studies are the practice field and locker room. They are where we grow in our knowledge of God's love and grace, receive support from one another, and learn how to reach out to others, but it's not where the game is played. The game is played after we leave the building and share God's love with people outside of our walls. Thanks to each of you for the contributions you make to our ministries and mission. I'll see you at practice on Sundays!

In Christ's Love,
 Sally Berger
 Council President

SUMMER MUSIC

Please consider offering your musical talents this summer. Vocalist and instrumentalists are invited. You may play for one or both services each Sunday from May 31 to August 30. Please contact Becky Keck - RLkeck @columbus.rr.com or at Sunday worship. I would love to get you on the calendar! Please contact me with any questions.

ELCA NEWS

ELCA Awarded Grant for Total Inclusion!

April 20, 2026

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has received a generous grant for ongoing support of Total Inclusion!: Widening the Welcome at ELCA Outdoor Ministries. The program, a collaboration of the ELCA churchwide organization and the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Network (LOM), equips and empowers outdoor ministry organizations as they move toward more intentional welcome of all youth, including those who historically have been marginalized in the church especially youth of color, youth with disabilities and youth who identify as LGBTQIA+.

SOUTHERN OHIO SYNOD NEWS

The Bridge

Pastor Chad Huebner

(Ohio University, Athens)

An interesting fact about Christ Lutheran Church in Athens is that it was formed from a campus ministry rather than the other way around. The Lutheran Student Association at Ohio University first began meeting in 1945 and has maintained a presence on campus in some form or another ever since.

Participation and programming have changed throughout the years, but the desire to help students grow in their faith and wrestle with tough questions has always been at the core. In the early 2000s, Lutheran Campus Ministry was renamed "The Bridge" and continues its mission of "connecting people to people, people to faith, and faith to life."

The pandemic was particularly brutal for participation in campus organizations, and it has taken several years to begin to grow again.

Thanks, in part, to the generosity of the Southern Ohio Synod, today, we have two paid student peers and a strong core of students who participate in weekly meals, monthly brunches, retreats, and a variety of learning and service activities throughout each semester. We are grateful for your prayers for our ministry and students.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for living into our Synod mission. We are indeed stronger and better together as we join Jesus in the restoration of the world.

Pastor Chad is happy to share more information about The Bridge!

Freedom from back pain.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

The Faith women are still collecting for the ELCA Good Gifts projects: The amount of \$200 for the community garden has been achieved, \$600 is still needed for the computer. If you would like to donate for this project, a donation container will be located on the little table across from the stacked table cart in the Fellowship Hall. Your good gift will be a good gift for people who need them.

FIRST FRIDAYS

The First Friday season will begin on June 5th. Faith Lutheran will once again be part of the First Friday events with a booth on Main Street. We are looking for volunteers to help out with the events doing things like setting up, talking to people or running games, and cleaning up our booth after the event. There is a sign-up sheet by the church kitchen volunteers are asked to sign up on. If you have questions, please reach out to Pastor Cody or Kaitlyn for more information.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

On **June 17th, 2026** Faith Lutheran and Shepherds House will be hosting a joint Vacation Bible School for Preschool through 2nd Grade. **The VBS will be held at Faith Lutheran Church from 10AM to 2:30PM** and we will be learning about the Fruits of the Spirit! The day will include time for crafts, games, music, story time, and lunch. More information including volunteering opportunities and registration forms will be available soon in the bulletin.

TO KNOW AND SHARE GOD'S LOVE

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others for with such sacrifices God is pleased ". Hebrews 13:6. The big word here is sharing. Why would we want to keep all the good news to ourselves? We really need to share our life in our church with others. If you won the lottery, wouldn't you want to share it with family and friends? In order for this congregation to grow WE need to add to our church family. " JUST ONE ", that's all you have to bring into our church. One new member per family this year. In order to do that, you MUST invite.

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICE TIME CHANGE

On **June 7th**, we will begin our summer schedule of worship at 8:00am & **10:00am**.

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The joy of adult children.

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We're on the Web!
FLCMTV.org

Our Mission Is To Know and Share God's Love



Worship Sunday 8 & 10:30 am
Sunday School 9:15

Being raised by a loving mother.