

## LETTER OF FAITH

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2023

MINISTERS: ALL THE PEOPLE OF FAITH

## HAVE WE STRETCHED YET?

One of the rules that we have at our home is that there is “no slime allowed.” I’m convinced, no matter how careful someone might be with slime, once it’s stretched out, there will be a mess. The last thing I want stuck between our couch cushions or pressed onto the carpet is ooey, gooey, stretchy slime! Sometimes stretching makes a mess.

Back in January, here at Faith Lutheran folks were given an opportunity to pick a “star word” in worship. These words were meant to serve as a guide and inspiration for our lives. At random, the word “**STRETCH**” was chosen as a word for our congregation. As I have gotten to know you and you have gotten to know me, it seems a fitting word for our year.

I celebrate the ways I have seen Faith Lutheran *STRETCH* already in 2023:

- You’ve *STRETCHED* in how we deal with trash by adding organics recycling. We are slowly learning: Food waste and some paper products (including paper towels) go in the organics recycling. Paper, bottles, and boxes go in regular recycling. All other waste (or when we aren’t sure) goes in the garbage. This may feel little, but it’s one thing we can do together to care for God’s good creation.
- You have *STRETCHED* yourself by learning a few new hymns! They maybe weren’t perfect the first time, but they’ve gotten better. Way to go.
- You’ve *STRETCHED* yourself by passing the offering plates again.
- You have *STRETCHED* in your giving, supporting many special projects. For example, during Christmas in July \$1,807.47 was collected. This will be used for service projects nearby and far away. Wow! Thanks
- You have continued to *STRETCH* in supporting Fusion Youth Ministries, as an extension of our congregation’s mission. Fusion is a vibrant, difference making, ecumenical ministry. It is bigger than any one congregation can do alone. This fall, 60+ kids will gather on Wednesday nights Element. They will grow in relationship with Jesus and each other. The weekly senior high gatherings will also be transitioning into meeting on Wednesday nights this year. Please continue to pray for this ministry.
- You are *STRETCHING* in our understanding of what it means to “Live Out Our Faith” during our sermon series this fall. Thanks for your playfulness and participation.

Faith Lutheran Church

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320-589-2970

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Youth Director of Fusion Ministry

Heather Black

Pianist Rita Lambert

Director of Music John Kleinwolterink

Website Anne Mitteness

Custodians Ryan & Cassie Snyder

### Faith Lutheran Mission Statement:

*“Faith Lutheran is a  
community of believers  
living out our faith in  
daily life.”*

### Council Members:

Zach Arnold

Vicky Dossdall

Molly Fluegel

Brent Gausman

Chris Hopkins

Lynnae Lina—President

Tom Loew

Jenny Maras—Secretary

Eric Meichsner

Mike Nordquist—Vice President

Nancy Olson

Liz Spohr—Treasurer

Pastor Emmy's Letter Continued—

Even though *STRETCHING* slime and ourselves can sometimes be messy, I think we have more *STRETCHING* to do as Faith Lutheran Church.

- How might we *STRETCH* out in love toward others, especially those who have felt pushed aside or unwelcome in other churches?
- Can we *STRETCH* ourselves not only to support special projects, but to give generously to Faith Lutheran's general budget as well?
- How might we *STRETCH* ourselves to make our church building an even more welcoming center for ministry?
- Are there expectations or things from the past God might nudge us to *STRETCH* and let go of?
- Do we need to *STRETCH* in our understanding of being a good neighbor?

Living in community can sometimes be messy. Certainly, *STRETCHING* in our sense of mission and ministry can be messy. Know though, that it is my delight to be *STRETCHING* with you, Faith Lutheran Church. God's been up to some good things in your ministry over these many years and there is certainly more good things in store. Let's keep *STRETCHING* together and see if we can join in what the Holy Spirit is up to next.

Grace and peace,  
-Pastor Emmy



Fellowship Event featuring F.A.R.M. Haiti on **September 30** beginning at **5:30pm** with a **light meal**, and a **presentation at 6:00pm**. Area churches will be invited to attend as an outreach from Faith. A great opportunity to come and learn about the mission of Mary Anderson Harris, her husband Rod and their Haitian worker, Jhanson!

September 10  God's work.  
Our hands.

# Church Without Walls Sunday

9:00 am  
Mini Worship

9:15 am  
Service Projects, including short projects for families with little ones.

Check our website for full project list.

11:45-12:15  
Pork Chop Lunch at Eastside Park



Free will donation to support Fusion Youth Ministries.  
To go containers available



# September

Happy Fall!!

## Rally Sunday September 17th

9:00 Worship Service

10:00 Sunday School

Fellowship Hour

*Welcome back to Sunday School!*

We are so excited for a new year of learning about God! Join us on Rally Sunday, September 17th at 10:00 am for Sunday School with an added treat!



## Do Days will be starting again on Tuesday, September 5th.

Join them on Tuesdays at 9:30—bring a sack lunch. No experience necessary. Come when you can and help make quilts—you do not need to know how to sew.

## MISSION: STITCH!

Join the group for stitching—beginning on Tuesday, September 12 at 1:30. Bring your projects; come when you can; stay as long as you can. Every Tuesday. If you have questions, talk to Karen Uphoff. Thanks



## Items for the Restoration Center at Central Lutheran

They are always in need of men's clothing, socks, underwear and shoes. Also suitcases with wheels that work. Some of their clients are beginning to be able to move into apartments so they can use items such as bedding, towels, silverware, dishes, etc. Thank you for your generosity to this project.

**If you are going to the cities and could take a load to Central Lutheran please let us know – Thank You**

## LIVING OUT

OUR FAITH



In August we began a Series entitled "Living Out Our Faith." This series is inspired by some brainstorming that our congregation did in a worship service one Sunday morning.

Our Sunday morning gatherings will be centered around these themes.

Below are the themes and dates:

September 3 | Try to Walk in Someone's Shoes

September 10 | Love Your Neighbor – Church Without Walls Sunday—Short Worship Service followed by Service Projects

September 17 | Forgive

September 24 | Don't Judge

October 1 | Be Kind

October 8 | Point People to Jesus

October 15 | Go to the Sick

## Congregational Transitions

### Baptism

July 16 Archer Michael Picht  
Parents - Tanner & Morgan

August 7 Madelyn Marie Hennen  
Parents—TJ & Megan

August 13 Ruby LaVonne Koehntop  
Parents—Brandon & Andrea

### Funeral

August 31 Madelyn Marie Hennen

Throughout the week, Faith Lutheran Church shares a daily devotion through our local radio station. Radio Devotionals can be heard Monday through Friday on KMRS (1230 AM or 107.7 FM) at 1:05 p.m., KKOK (95.7 FM) at 2:35 p.m. and can be found on the YouTube link on the website. You can help support this ministry that stretches out into our community to share the good news of Jesus. Donations in support of this ongoing ministry are needed. Donate to support a day (\$18), a week (\$90), or a month (\$360).

Gatherings for Widows and Widowers

Please join with others who have experienced the loss of their spouse, partner or significant other for a wonderful time of fellowship and conversation. *Gatherings* for Widows and Widowers will meet for lunch, **12:00 noon**, at **Old #1** on **Tuesday, September 12**. Order and purchase your lunch, and enjoy the company of others.

For questions, please call Pedersen Funeral Home at 589-3220.

**Come join us for a Book Club at Faith Lutheran Church on the last Monday of each month at 1:30**



***All are Welcome***

September 25 "The Paris Daughter" by Kristin Harmel  
 October 30 "Murder on the Red River" by Marcie Rendon

Please bring book suggestions so we can plan a few months ahead.

If you are interested in joining the group, please come to Book Club. Maybe you have a book to suggest.

**Happy Reading!**

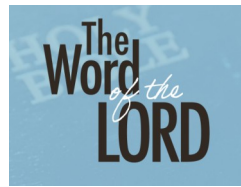
Attention 9-12th Grade Students

The ELCA Youth Gathering is next summer, July 16-20, in New Orleans. Learn more at

[/lca.org/YAGathering](http://lca.org/YAGathering)

Please talk to Pastor Emmy ASAP if you are interested in learning more. A deposit will be due September 15th.

September Daily Bible Verses



1. Psalm 32:6,7	11. Matthew 24:35	21. Luke 24:33,34
2. Proverbs 29:1	12. Matthew 24:43, 44	22. Romans 6:22,23
3. I Peter 5:8-10	13. James 4:6-7	23. James 3:17
4. Jeremiah 3:22	14. John 17:3	24. I Peter 4:12,13
5. II Chronicles 20:21	15. I Peter 5:6,7	25. Ephesians 1:7
6. Psalm 29:2	16. John 16:24	26. Malachi 3:10
7. II Corinthians 5:17	17. Romans 6:22	27. Psalm 29:11
8. Jeremiah 6:16	18. Psalm 138:6	28. Philippians 1:9,10
9. I Peter 3:10	19. Daniel 12:3	29. Philippians 1:6
10. Psalm 146:5-9	20. Luke 24:32	30. Psalm 139:13,14

YOUR PRAYERS  
NEEDED

-Pray for our ongoing ministry as we join with our brothers and sisters in ministry from South Africa. Pray for the churches of the South Eastern Diocese of South Africa.

-Pray for Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson and their children who are serving in Tanzania.

Psalm 119:105

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.* (NRSV)

# 2023-24 Element: 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Info & Important dates to remember!

**Sept 13<sup>th</sup> @6pm:** Element Parent Information Meeting at First Lutheran Church (*At least one parent and the youth involved must attend!*) *You will get the complete schedule for the year and lots of information at this meeting!*)

**Sept 20<sup>th</sup> @6-7:30pm:** Element Student Kickoff at First Lutheran Church

**Sept 27<sup>th</sup> @6-7:30pm:** Element at First Lutheran Church



Hi Parents, Grandparents & Caregivers of our 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders!

We are excited to start up a new year of Element. We have been prepping and praying for this new season!

Just a little info for those who may not be familiar with Element: Element was created specifically for the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders in our churches! Element is a joining of Confirmation and Fusion Youth. Learning the elements of your faith in a fun and engaging space! This has been a collaboration between the pastors of Faith Lutheran, First Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, Federated, St. Johns/Kongsvinger of Donnelly, and Heather Black (Fusion Youth Ministry Director). Our goal is to teach the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders to learn and experience the elements of a Christian life. To believe, know and experience God, connect with others, serve others in love and live out our faith daily! In 2023-24 we will be using the curriculum by LeaderTreks specifically written for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders called Herd!!

Thanks so much for your time!! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to email or give me a call: [heatherblack.fusion@gmail.com](mailto:heatherblack.fusion@gmail.com) or 320.349.0103. Check out our website [www.fusion-ministry.com](http://www.fusion-ministry.com). Have a great rest of your summer and I look forward to seeing you all in September!

Heather Black  
(Fusion Youth Ministry Director)

*We are here to learn the elements of a Christian life*

*Believe, Know and Experience God—Connect With Others—Serve Others in Love—Live Out Faith Daily*





# 2023-24 Sr. High Fusion Wednesdays 7-8:30pm

Dear Parent, Grandparents, or caregivers of our 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders!

I am really excited about our upcoming year of Sr. High Youth Ministry with Fusion! When we started Fusion, one of the goals was to build a strong ministry to our older youth as well as to our jr high youth. When Element is over at 8<sup>th</sup> grade, we truly do miss seeing those students that tend to not come back!! I strongly believe that having a weekly time for our youth to gather together; to connect with each other and God; to explore their faith, grow their faith & live it out in their daily life; to share to love of God together through acts of service & mission trips and just have a safe place to be a teenager is a vital!

*As a parent that's what I desire for my kids, and I hope that is something that you desire for your kids.*

We are trying something new this year. A new way to do ministry, more student led discussions and a new night to meet. We are excited to see some new faces as well as those who already love being a part of Fusion! All are welcome.

If you have a youth in the 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade range, we would love to see them come on a Wednesday evening! (even if they haven't come before.) And as always, youth are welcome to bring a friend or two!

Thanks for taking the time to read this letter! And if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me @320-349-0103, [heatherblack.fusion@gmail.com](mailto:heatherblack.fusion@gmail.com) or check out our website: [fusion-ministry.com](http://fusion-ministry.com).



Heather Black  
Director of Fusion Youth Ministry

September 20	7:00-8:30pm
Sr High Fusion Kickoff at First Lutheran Church	
September 27	7:00-8:30pm
Sr High Fusion at First Lutheran Church	





Thank you for your ongoing support of the ministry of Faith Lutheran Church, through offerings to our general budget.

**This summer, because of your generosity...**

- We partnered with area churches to welcome 50+ youth for Vacation Bible School, led by staff from Luther Crest. The Holy Spirit showed up in the sounds of laughter, songs, Bible reading, skits, munching on lunches, and more. Seeds of love were scattered and nurtured!
- Luther World Relief provides aid and support, in places like Turkey following a devastation earthquake in February 2023.
- Folks who aren't easily able to make it to worship received Holy Communion in the places they call home. They also had access to worship through the gift of technology.
- Kids from church and the neighborhood enjoyed a safe and fun playground.
- Community organizations and families had a comfortable place to meet and celebrate.
- Ninth Grade Confirmation Students were given resources to having faith conversations with an important adult in their life.
- Lutheran Campus Ministry at UMM welcomed a new Campus Ministry Coordinator, Garret Colson to walk with college students in our community.

**Please consider a one time or reoccurring gift to support our ministry.**

- Donate in the offering plate on Sunday.
- Drop off/mail to the church office
- Give online at [www.faithlutheranmorris.org](http://www.faithlutheranmorris.org)
- Stop in the church office to set up electronic withdrawals through Simply Giving/Vanco.

Give Now



Faith Lutheran Church	
2023 Budget for Mission	\$317,156.22
<u>July 2023</u>	
Year to Date Expense	\$173,437.27
Year to Date Income	<u>\$153,334.63</u>
Difference	—\$20,102.64

**Christmas in July**

What a GREAT time we had in July with the “Christmas in July” giving and treats during the Fellowship Hour on July 16.

This is what was collected:

Where needed	\$711.25
School Kits	\$330.00
Christmas Shoe Boxes	\$215.00
Health Kits	\$200.00
Ministry Gift Bags	\$175.00
Noisy Offering	<u>\$176.22</u>
	<b>\$1,807.47</b>



Note—the Noisy Offering will be used where needed—this was collected at the Outdoor Worship Service in July.  
Thank You to all who donated!

## Faith Lutheran Church Council Highlights

August 13, 2023

**Faith Lutheran Mission Statement** "Faith Lutheran is a community of believers living out their faith in daily life."

**Congregational Theme Verse** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

*Ephesians 2:8-10*

**Members Present:** Pastor Emmy, Mike Nordquist, Liz Spohr, Zach Arnold, Eric Meichsner, Chris Hopkins, Brent Gausman, Jenny Maras, Lynnae Lina, Nancy Olson

**Members Absent:** Tom Loew, Connie Tschetter, Molly Fluegel, Vicky Dossdall

**Guest(s):** None

**Call to Order:** Lynnae Lina

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Emmy

### REPORTS

**Pastor's Report:** A summer goal has been to make 1-on-1 visits with shut-ins, which has been successful. She is developing a 10-11 week series with themes from the brainstorming of the congregation. Ninth grade students will work on confirmation events this fall with students from First Lutheran due to no interim pastor at this time.

**Connie's Report:** Written Report Shared

**Fusion Youth Update:** Heather is organizing for the fall and continues to train staff well. Both Element & Senior High Fusion will be on Wednesday evenings, held primarily at First Lutheran. The summer trip went extremely well, with a celebration planned for Wednesday, August 16, 2023.

### Ministry Reports:

**Congregation Life** (Jenny & Lynnae) - September meeting is scheduled, with planning for a Fall Luncheon & Bingo and special mail for our freshman college students.

**Outreach** (Chris) - September meeting with planning underway for a fall welcome event.

**Worship & Music** (Mike & Liz) - No Recent Meeting

**Memorial/Endowment** (Eric) - No Recent Meeting

**Property & Safety** (Zach & Brent) - Tim has been in contact with the city regarding the damaged tree in the boulevard due to a recent storm. The city will remove the tree and plant grass. Evidence of bats still exists.

**Education** (Vicky & Molly) - Upcoming meeting to plan Sunday School

**Celebrate & Share** (Tom & Connie) - Christmas in July and planning for Church Without Walls Sunday

**Women of Faith** (Nancy) - No Recent Meeting

**Secretary Report** - MMSP

**Treasurer's Report** - MMSP

### OLD BUSINESS

**Facility Improvement Committee** The Sunday School hallway still needs to be finished, pending the ceiling needs. No water issues have been reported. Quotes/Estimates and timeline will continue to be explored

**Organics, Recycling, Trash System** The program is going well and people are learning the process.

**Values** Pastor Emmy led a discussion/activity surrounding values. Value statements have been helpful for Pastor Emmy and in creating language for who we are as a congregation and goal setting.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Tree & Landscaping** Current needs either have been met or include: mulch, weeding, grass seed and trimming. These list items will continue to be monitored this upcoming fall to prepare for winter by the Property and Safety Committee. What does our outdoor appearance say to the community?

**Chartering Organization for Scouts** The Scouts Unit has previously been chartered through First Lutheran Church; they have agreed to be released from being the charter organization. The Executive Committee and Pastor Emmy have been in touch with Brenda, the regional scout representative. There is an application for a charter. Charter organization provides Institutional Head (Pastor) and Chartered Organization Representative. In addition, the unit would need the following from the chartering organization: a meeting space, small amount of storage space, and help with some recruitment. Annual paperwork needs to be completed through the charter. The scout trailer will be stored offsite. Insurance, references, and background checking is all done through Scouts of America. Overall goal is to get the troop up and going again beyond the pack. Lynnae made a motion to approve Faith Lutheran begin the paperwork process to become the chartering organization for the scout unit, with Chris seconding.

**Next Council Meeting:** Sunday, September 10, 2023 - 8:00 am. The earlier time is to accommodate for "Church Without Walls" Sunday

**Adjournment & Lord's Prayer**

*Respectfully Submitted, Jenny Maras - Council Secretary*



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Morris, MN 56267

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MORRIS, MN 56267

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dates to Remember:  
September 10—Church Without Walls  
September 17—Rally Sunday

Faith Lutheran Church 108 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Morris MN (320)589-2970 [www.faithlutheranmorris.org](http://www.faithlutheranmorris.org)



### Our Vision

Faith Lutheran is a community of believers living out their faith in daily life.

### Our Mission

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Faith Lutheran Church is a community of believers striving to:

invite and welcome people to faith in Jesus Christ

nurture and equip people with a living faith in response to God's love

send disciples into our prairie communities and beyond in Christ's service

### Congregation Theme Verse

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." Ephesians 2:8-10