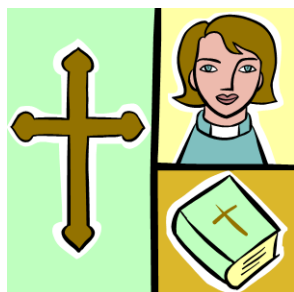


## LETTER OF FAITH

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2021

MINISTERS: ALL THE PEOPLE OF FAITH



### **Thoughts from the Pastor**

*"Give thanks to GOD.*

*Call out his name.*

*Ask him anything!*

*Shout to the nations, tell them what he's done,  
spread the news of his great reputation!*

*<sup>5-6</sup> "Sing praise-songs to GOD. He's done it all!"*

*Let the whole earth know what he's done!*

*Raise the roof! Sing your hearts out, O Zion! Isaiah 12:4-6a (The Message)*

*Thanksgiving. A day of the year? The singular Thursday federal holiday? The day before Black Friday? A time to feast sumptuously? Or a state of being? As Christians we're called to live in a state of thanksgiving because we have so much to be thankful for.*

*We have the promise of eternal life and salvation through Jesus Christ, a promise that is "most certainly true." What is this worth to us? Everything! We don't have to fear what will happen to us, because "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39*

*We live in The United States of America. They say that the worth of a country is measured by how many people want to come into it. The cultural diversity of America is a shining testament to our worth as a country. Nearly all of us have our roots in another country and our ancestors believed that America was the place that they wanted to be. Throughout our short history as a nation, we have had a spirit that is reflected in Emma Lazarus' poem that is engraved at the base of the Statue of Liberty, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

Faith Lutheran Church

108 West Eighth Street

Morris, MN 56267

320-589-2970

[www.faithlutheranmorris.org](http://www.faithlutheranmorris.org)

Interim Pastor Vicki Toutges

Office Manager Connie Tschetter

[faithful@hometownsolutions.net](mailto:faithful@hometownsolutions.net)

Youth Director of Fusion Ministry

Heather Black

Pianist Rita Lambert

Director of Music John Kleinwolterink

Custodians Ryan & Cassie Snyder

Website Anne Mitteness

### **Faith Lutheran Mission Statement:**

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

Remember to check the website for future happenings at Faith. If you know someone who does not have access to the website remember to share information with them.

If you have questions, please call the church office at 589-2970.

*Pastor Vicki's Letter Continued—*

*We have our church family, the living, breathing body of Jesus Christ in this world. There are people to talk to, to hug, to listen to, to help us and to be helped. Isn't this the essence of our existence? We were made to be in community with each other. Unfortunately, technology has at the same time connected us better through the internet and cell phones and yet isolated us from human contact. With tablets going strong and thumbs texting at light speed many people live in a world that revolves around themselves. We know better. We know that our lives are a great and wonderful gift from God. We know that the world doesn't revolve around us, that we are called to look outside ourselves to help the needy and comfort the sick.*

*Thanksgiving. A state of mind. a state of being. A purpose in life. A joy unbounded. And, when everything else is considered, thanksgiving is the only thing that we can give back to God that God hasn't first given to us. Thanksgiving. Prayer. Helping others. Reaching out to the sick and suffering. Giving of your time, talents, and treasures so that the living body of Jesus Christ in Faith Lutheran Church might do the good work of spreading the Gospel.*

*May you and yours have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving, Pastor Vicki*

### **Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service—Wednesday, November 24 at 7:00pm**

The Sunday School Students will sing at the Worship Service



The Worship and Music Committee invites you to join us in the Fellowship Hall for pie after the service

The Restoration Center is able to receive some clothing again.

The things they particularly need are men's jeans and warm pants, long underwear, skull caps, winter coats and clothing, and suitcases with wheels.

Hygiene Kits (men's) for Central Lutheran

We will be compiling kits to deliver in December for the Restoration Center.

Items needed:

Socks

Toothbrush

Toothpaste

Soap bar

Shampoo

Shaver

Shaving Cream

Wash Cloth

Hand Towel

### **Worship Services on the Morris Public Access Channel**

(if you have one of the two cable services of Federated or Mediacom) will be on  
**Tuesdays at 11:00** and  
**Thursdays at 1:30**

### **Church Council Meeting November 14 (Sunday)**

10:00 Following the Worship Service

### **Burgers, Beverages and Blessings**

No 3B in November and December

See you in January

### **Radio Broadcast—Daily Devotions Sponsorship**

The daily devotion radio broadcasts (Monday—Friday) on KMRS and KKOK are \$90.00 per week—if you would like to help with this ministry please call the church office and let us know. Any amount is appreciated. Thank You!



### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

We are collecting items and monetary donations for the Christmas Child shoe boxes. Shipping fees are \$9.00 for each box – if you would like to help with this, we would appreciate the donation. Donations can be brought to the church.

*Thank You for supporting this ministry!*

*If you have questions,  
please contact Kathy  
Bahr or Susan Uphoff*



### ***Mission:Stitch***

#### **JOIN US FOR MISSION: STITCH!**

Tuesday afternoons in the lounge at Faith Lutheran Church

**TUESDAYS beginning at 1:30**

Come when you can, stay as long as you feel like it. We are tentatively planning on 1:30-4:30 but the ending time could change if people want to stay a little later. You do not need to be present for the whole time. This group is open to anyone. You do not have to be a member of Faith Lutheran – invite your friends, family, anyone who is interested in joining us.

Questions—talk to Anita Stoker

### **November—Food Shelf Donations**



During the month of November, we will collect non-perishable items for the food shelf. Bring your donations at any time and place them in the grocery cart in the narthex.

\*Cash donations—make a notation on your check or bring to the church office.

**Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.  
Thank You**

### **Do Days**

Will meet on **Tuesdays November 2**  
and **November 9** at  
**9:00am**

Bring a sack lunch

**All are welcome**

*No experience necessary*



## Sr. High Fusion Youth: Youth in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade



Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> Sr. High Fusion 6:30-8pm @First Lutheran  
Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> Sr. High Fusion 6:30-8pm @First Lutheran  
Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> Sr. High Fusion 6:30-8pm @First Lutheran  
Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> No Fusion! Have a Happy Thanksgiving!!

## Element Schedule: Youth in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade



Wed, November 3<sup>rd</sup> @6-7:30pm: Element at Faith Lutheran Church (Note the location change)  
Wed, November 10<sup>th</sup> @6-7:30pm: Element at First Lutheran Church  
Friday-Saturday Nov 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>: Element Retreat to Luther Crest (see website for more details and to sign up)  
Wed, November 17<sup>th</sup> @6-7:30pm: Element at First Lutheran Church  
Wed, 24<sup>th</sup> November – NO Element – Have a Happy Thanksgiving!!

Please Check out Fusion's updated website for more information. [www.fusion-ministry.com](http://www.fusion-ministry.com)

Join us on social media Facebook@fusion56267 and Instagram@fusion56267



## If you are in 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> sign up today!!

Cost: \$450 per person

(\$150 Registration due at signup)

We will be doing various fundraisers to help raise the funds to go on this trip!

We will be going with the organization called YouthWorks! In Louisville, we will doing a variety of service opportunities, including working with local organiza-

tions that serve children in the community, spending time with the elderly, getting hands-on with work projects, and serving the homeless. Students may serve all or part of the week at a food pantry, clothing distribution center, park beautification project, soup kitchen, children's program or minor home repairs. In the evenings, explore this beautiful city by playing at Waterfront Park, attending a local church service, visiting Churchill Downs, the home of the Kentucky Derby, and spending time with newfound friends. YouthWorks has partnered with this community since 2008.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Heather Black!

We look forward to serving on this amazing adventure!!

To sign up, contact Heather Black @320-349-0103 or [heatherblack.fusion@gmail.com](mailto:heatherblack.fusion@gmail.com) or sign up online on the Fusion website [www.fusion-ministry.com/mission-trip](http://www.fusion-ministry.com/mission-trip)



What: ELCA National Youth Gathering

When: July 24-28, 2022

Where: Minnesota

Who: Students in Grades 9-12

For More Information—Please contact Danielle Lesmeister or Amy Swanson

Registration deadline is approaching so if you are interested—please talk to Danielle or Amy or call the church office for a registration form.

There are so many people in our congregation who have attended as students and/or chaperones who have great memories. Plan to attend!

#### **ELCA Youth Gathering Overview**

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

#### **WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?**

We have all thought about that question. Let's take time to celebrate our life's work. The Celebrate and Share Committee is designating **Sunday, November 21 as Vocation Sunday**.

We will be recognizing our vocations in the following ways:

We invite everyone to wear their work uniform to worship.

We also encourage our youth to dress up depicting the career they might choose. During sermon time, a few members of our congregation will be sharing work stories and how God has worked through them in their careers. Please join in the fun as we celebrate how we live out our faith in daily life.

#### **Luther Crest Summer 2022 Camp Registration**

Registration for Summer Camp 2022 will open on November 1, 2021.

You will be able to register your camper on their website at [www.luthercrest.org](http://www.luthercrest.org).

***Reminder – Faith Lutheran Church will pay half of the registration fee (on the lowest fee for the camp) for members of Faith – one camp per child per year.***

**Early Bird Deadline is February 14th**

# Book Club

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

**November date is Monday, November 29.**

***All are Welcome.***

**November the book will be “I Shall Not Hate” by Izzeldin Abuelaish. The book is about a Gaza doctor’s journey on the road to peace and human dignity.**

**If you have questions, talk to Karen Uphoff. Bring book suggestions to the Book Club meeting.**

**Happy Reading!**

## Gatherings for Widows and Widowers

Please join us for fellowship with others who are experiencing life as a widow or widower. Gatherings for Widows and Widowers will meet for lunch, 12:00 noon, at **Common Cup on Sunday, November 7.** Order and purchase your lunch. For questions, please call Pedersen Funeral Home 320-589-3220.

**Please note the change of location. Due to staffing shortages, Old #1 is closed Sundays.**

## Noisy Offering Sunday

**November 14<sup>th</sup> will be the next time**

The second Sunday of each month will be Noisy Offering Sunday – remember to bring your change to church for the children to collect in buckets.

The October amount collected was **\$158.23**  
Thank You to Everyone who contributed!

## November Daily Bible Verses

1. I John 2:10	11. Isaiah 41:13	21. I John 4:16
2. Ephesians 2:8-10	12. Romans 8:33,34	22. I Timothy 4:8
3. II Peter 1:10,11	13. Matthew 18:19	23. John 15:10
4. II Corinthians 3:18	14. Psalm 140:13	24. Joel 2:28
5. Psalm 112:1,2	15. I John 4:10	25. Psalm 6:2
6. James 4:6-7	16. I Corinthians 15:58	26. Deuteronomy 31:6
7. Psalm 50:23	17. Galatians 3:26-28	27. John 4:24
8. Psalm 1:1-3	18. Habakkuk 2:4	28. James 1:25
9. Philippians 4:8	19. II Corinthians 1:9,10	29. I Peter 2:24
10. Proverbs 24:24,25	20. Psalm 5:11,12	30. Psalm 5:12

## 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)***



## October 2021 Update

Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson

ELCA Global Personnel



*Support our Missionaries* A portion of the letter we received from the missionaries we help sponsor in Tanzania—Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson

*The Outreach Committee has an annual financial commitment to support our missionaries in Tanzania, Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson. Because we have been unable to hold our fundraisers for this purpose, we are seeking monetary donations from the congregation. Please bring your donation to the church office. Thank you for supporting this ministry!*

Dear Faith Lutheran Church,

**A story of survival.** The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) is a place where survival is on the heart of each mother and father, doctor and nurse. And that is the story of Jackeline's newborns. Each little one who finds themselves in the unit has a team of nurses and doctors-- *a family*-- that is doing all they can to ensure the baby's survival.

We have once again been in a whirlwind of activity and will try to get you caught up on recent months! We were able to travel back to the States this past summer to receive our COVID vaccines, attend a Global Mission Summer Conference virtually (for us, this was in a loft at Jodi's parents at the lake!), and spend time with extended family. We were also able to visit a few churches that were in a close proximity to us and were meeting in-person. We were especially grateful for time with our parents. It was also a special time for our children to reconnect with their grandparents. They have been a source of love and support for us for all these years.

And finally, the most recent update, I (Jodi) have finally received my renewed Tanzanian Work and Resident Permits, after considerable time! Thank you for the many prayers offered up for this need. I am happily back again at Selian Lutheran Hospital, and look forward to new collaboration with my Tanzanian colleagues.



**A Minnesota Classic.** This past summer, we asked our kids for their top choice for family vacation... and it was unanimous- the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of Minnesota was calling. Grateful for this time in the wilderness, disconnected from devices and the call of work, we paddled, portaged, laughed, and slept under the stars with the sound of the wind in the pines. And yes, there was the flipped canoe and lost fishing poles (that was the men), and the epic battle of the waves and wind on the last day ("Mom, don't freak out, we're ok!" said Caedmon, as we battled some serious waves). All in all, a successful trip that was filled with all the beauty that comes from water and sun.

As the fall leaves begin to show their colors in the Northern Hemisphere, we are seeing the "blossoms of spring" appear around Arusha as the jacarandas burst into purple. No matter what hemisphere we are in, the beauty of creation is all about us. We always give thanks for your partnership in our work, as we seek to strengthen our healthcare colleagues and improve health outcomes for children and families, extending grace into the lives around us.



With joy and perseverance, Jodi and Steve

## Faith Lutheran Church Council Highlights

October 10, 2021

Members Present: Pastor Vicki, Connie, Lynnae Lina, Mike Nordquist, Mark Torgerson, Nancy Olson, Todd Hodenfield, Tony Reimers, Matt Solemsaas, Eric Meichsner, Vicky Dossdall

Members Absent: Liz Spohr, Lisa Loew, Nichole Mahoney

Vice President Lynnae Lina called the meeting to order.

Pastor Vicki—Opening prayer

Pastor Vicki Report—handout. She is working with the 9th Graders for Confirmation. It has been difficult to get the students together. Anne Mitteness helps with the stoles and furnishes all the materials. She has contacted the nursing home and assisted living facilities to check on current status for visitation. October 11 and 12 Pastor will be attending the Fall Theological Conference on-line which gives her 10 CEU's. Vacation days will be the week following Christmas as well as Sunday, December 26th.

Connie's Report—attached to agenda. A vaccination booster clinic will be held on October 12th at the church. The office continues to be a busy place with people coming and going. She reports that the church has good support during this time of transition.

Fusion Report—attached to agenda. We continue to have questions concerning Element. We were told that some parents are considering taking their children out of this program. Danielle Lesmeister and Amy Swanson will join us for our council meeting in November. We were told the students have no workbooks and have asked Connie to order a set for us to view.

Ministry Reports:

Congregational Life—no meeting

Outreach—no meeting

Worship and Music—choir is up and singing. There are 8 new bell ringers.

Memorial/Endowment—no meeting

Property & Safety—no leaks after roof repair.

Education—Sunday School has started with a few changes to work around the small class sizes. Teachers have come forward.

Celebrate and Share—meeting next week

Women of Faith—There will be no meatball supper. Concerns were not finding enough help this year.

Secretary's Report—MMSP

Treasurer's Report—Offerings have been good. We are ahead in giving and doing well. MMSP

Old Business:

On-line Worship service is still going well. 13-16 views on Sunday with 140 views during the week.

New Business:

Covid Guidelines have been posted. PLEASE STAY HOME WHEN SICK

The transition team has submitted the MSP to the Synod. The Synod is in transition due to new staffing. The Call Committee will meet on October 18 with Pastor Duane Bruns joining them. He is a representative from the Synod office and will be working with the Call Committee at Faith Lutheran.

Confirmation Sunday which is October 31. There will be two services that day. 9:00am and 11:00am

Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held at 7:00pm with the Sunday School singing. We will hopefully be served pie afterwards.

Advent Services will be held this year.

Adjournment and Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Dossdall, Council Member filling in for Lisa Loewe



Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA  
108 West Eighth Street  
Morris, MN 56267

PERMIT #130  
US POSTAGE  
NON-PROFIT ORG  
MORRIS, MN 56267

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**

<b>Interim Pastor</b>	<b>Vicki Toutges</b>	
<b>Office Manager</b>	<b>Connie Tschetter</b>	<b>faithful@hometownsolutions.net</b>
<b>Youth Director of Fusion Ministry</b>	<b>Heather Black</b>	
<b>Pianist</b>	<b>Rita Lambert</b>	
<b>Director of Music</b>	<b>John Kleinwolterink</b>	
<b>Custodians</b>	<b>Ryan &amp; Cassie Snyder</b>	
<b>Website</b>	<b>Anne Mitteness</b>	

**Congregational Church Council**

<b>Liz Spohr —President</b>	<b>Lynnae Lina—Vice President</b>		
<b>Lisa Loew—Secretary</b>	<b>Mark Torgerson—Treasurer</b>		
<b>Vicky Dosdall</b>	<b>Todd Hodenfield</b>	<b>Nichole Mahoney</b>	<b>Eric Meichsner</b>
<b>Mike Nordquist</b>	<b>Nancy Olson</b>	<b>Tony Reimers</b>	<b>Matt Solemsaas</b>

**Church Office** (320) 589-2970      **e-mail:** faithful@hometownsolutions.net  
**Website**      www.faithlutheranmorris.org (Worship Services can be viewed on the website)