



Messenger

F a i t h L u t h e r a n C h u r c h

October 2023

volume 63 . issue 10

a message from senior pastor, Jacob Heine



Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross. For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the earth—and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ~Philippians 2:5 – 11

Every organization needs to have Core Values that help guide and direct decisions and all that they do. Faith Lutheran Church is no different. We have our Core Values that help to guide and direct all that we do and the decisions we make. Over the next few months I want to take the opportunity to highlight these values and why they matter to us.

We begin with the most important of all the values we could have.

Core Value #1 – Christ Centered

Sometimes we are guilty of taking this value for granted. We have the attitude, of course Christ is our center. However, any time we assume something we can forget to make it a priority and then other items can become more important to us.

Christ is the reason we exist. He sent out His disciples to begin the Christian Church. He gave them the teachings to found His church on. He gave His life so we could have forgiveness of sins and rose from the dead so we can have life with Him forever. He comes to us in worship and in the Sacraments. Christ is the center of our worship and the object of our praise. All that we do and all that we are about is glorifying Christ.

This means that we prioritize Christ in our worship, congregational activities, meetings, interactions, and in everything. In every way we strive to make Christ known, in all that we say and do. When we discover we have placed something else as the most important thing, we ask for forgiveness and re-establish that most important person in all things – Jesus Christ.

Our other Core Values both flow from this and point to this. Christ, who gave all so that you could have all is our center and is the most important of all that we value.

In Christ’s Hands,

Pastor Jacob

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From our Director of Music & Worship Arts

Make no mistake about it: the most important musical group in the church is the *congregation*. Worship is for ALL of God's people to lift up their voices (whether musically gifted or not) in a unified chorus and sound of praise and adoration to God. However, here are some reasons for having an intentional Music Ministry (choir, bells, praise team) in church...

1. It encourages excellence in worship.
2. It provides opportunities for many members to serve—especially in an entry-level way.
3. It helps promote teamwork.
4. It offers multi-generational fellowship.
5. It teaches the art and discipline of music when these opportunities are harder to find... for free!

Do any (or all) of these reasons create a little curiosity about Faith's Music Ministry opportunities? If so, check out our non-audition vocal Choir (Thursdays at 7:15pm in the church balcony) or Praise Team vocals or band (Wednesdays at 7:30pm in the sanctuary). It's not too late to come to the Beginner Bell Training on Thursdays at 5:30pm in the sanctuary thru Oct. 12.

Direct any questions to Linda Meyer, Director of Music & Worship Arts.

MOST MINISTRY

At the last Supper with his disciples, Jesus said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35. The ministry of MOST (Men of Service and Truth) is designed to be one way for the men of Faith to answer this command. Serving with a team of men, they identify and understand others life situations with compassion, they show love in regular committed ways, and they willingly sacrifice time and work in showing this love. In practice, a team of men are assigned care receivers with whom they will build caring relationships through service and repair projects around the house and through spending time with them. The second

Saturday of each month, the teams gather for breakfast and devotions before going out that morning to perform yard work and to maintain the care receiver's property through repairs and improvements to the interior and exterior of their homes. **MOST's mission is to minister the love of Christ to widows, single moms, or other distressed persons who are members of Faith first and then to others of our community.** If you're a man interested in learning more about this ministry or if you're someone needing the help of this ministry, please contact Assistant Pastor Martin (785-230-3034 or pastormartin@faithlutherantopeka.com). "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." Gal. 6:9-10.

Update from our treasurer. . .

MONTHLY FINANCIAL RESULTS

- Donations for August were \$73,973 and expenses were \$100,902 resulting in a **net** balance for the month of (\$26,929).
- YTD Donations are \$698,976 and expenses are \$766,906 resulting in a net YTD **negative** balance of (\$67,930).
- YTD donations are \$32,920 **below** 2022 and \$146,472 **below** projected.
- YTD expenses are \$67,944 **higher** than 2022 but \$84,118 **below** budget.



Ladies' Fall Tea

Melanie Hutchison will be speaking to us about how her 6-month trip to India turned into a 12-year adventure helping indigenous women make a living crafting.

Sunday • October 8th, 2023
2PM • Fellowship Hall

LWML
Lutheran Women of Mission



Gary's Berries

Saturday, Oct. 21 | 5-9pm
Tickets available in the church office (\$10/ticket)!
Free hotdog dinner & s'mores in the Corral!



NOODLE DINNER

Sunday, Nov. 5
11am-1pm
In the Fellowship Hall

\$10 Adults **\$5 Kids** **FREE Under 5**

Quilt Raffle!

LWML

2023 Education and Worship Survey

Through the month of August we asked the congregation for some brief feedback so that we can continue serving those who call Faith Lutheran their home congregation. We wanted to share some of the results with the congregation.

We had 177 members participate in the survey. 125 members indicated that they intended to attend the 8:00am or 10:45am service going forward. 44 indicated that they preferred a different option (8 participants skipped this question). There was not, however, a general consensus as to when a different option would be best. 107 participants indicated that they would attend the 9:30am dedicated education hour "Frequently" or "Sometimes" with 22 indicating they would not attend (48 did not answer this question – it should be noted that those who indicated they desired a different

worship choice skipped this question as they indicated they would most likely not be present for that option). By far, the vast majority of respondents understand and agree that education is important. The challenge is in making worship accessible to all.

The staff and leadership are in the process of evaluating the best option for a future traditional worship service, talking with volunteers, and making plans. We hope that more information will be available to share in the next few weeks. We thank everyone for responding to the survey and having patience as this process is worked through. Certainly there are no perfect solutions to any situation, but as we evaluate needs and how we can serve those who are here as well as reach out to those that do not know Jesus Christ as Lord we rejoice that God continues to give us options and opportunities!



5th Sunday Potluck
Sunday, Oct. 29
12:15pm
Fellowship Hall



TRUNK OR TREAT

Saturday, Oct. 28
4:30-6:30pm

At Faith
FREE Hotdog dinner!

Care Cards Join friends at church every-other Wednesday in room 206 to make 4"x4" Care Cards. All materials are provided and no experience is necessary. Card making days this month are Oct 11 & 25. Finished cards are placed in a box at the Care Card Center near the church's front entry - to be sent to members who need to know people CARE about them. Please write a note to the person(s) whose names appear on the white board at the Care Card center.

Quilters Needed Our Monday morning quilters are in need of more help. Please consider joining them on 2nd & 4th Monday mornings here at Faith. Upcoming quilting dates: October 9 & 23. No experience necessary. We are now meeting in a room in the South Campus building. Questions? Contact Anne Johnson, 408-8004.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 LWML Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Worship	2 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3 10:00am Bible Study 11:30am ASL Classes 1:00pm Hale Small Group 6:30pm Spiritual Life	4 5:15pm WOW 7:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal	5 5:30pm Beginner Bell Training 6:00pm ASL Classes 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 6:30pm Divorce Care class for Teens 7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	6 7:00pm Casting Crowns at TPAC	7 8:00am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Senior Youth Nerf Night
8 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Worship 2:00pm LWML Fall Tea	9 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 10:00am Bible Study 11:30am ASL Classes 1:00pm Hale Small Group 6:00pm LLC	11 11:00am Care Card Making 5:15pm WOW 7:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal	12 5:30pm Beginner Bell Training 5:30pm Christian Service Team 6:00pm ASL Classes 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 6:30pm Divorce Care class for Teens 7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	13 Junior Youth Retreat	14 Junior Youth Retreat 8:00am MOST Ministry
15 Junior Youth Retreat 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Worship	16 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 10:00am Bible Study 11:30am ASL Classes 1:00pm Hale Small Group	18 5:15pm WOW 7:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal	19 11:30am Senior Saints 6:00pm ASL Classes 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 6:30pm Divorce Care class for Teens 7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	20	21 8:00am Men's Bible Study 5:00pm Gary's Berries
22 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Worship	23 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24 10:00am Bible Study 11:30am ASL Classes 1:00pm Hale Small Group	25 11:00am Care Card Making 5:15pm WOW 7:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal	26 6:00pm ASL Classes 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 6:30pm Divorce Care class for Teens 7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	27 9:00am Scrap-booking	28 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Scrap-booking 1:00pm Noodle Making 4:30pm Trunk-or-Treat
29 Reformation Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Worship 12:00pm Reformation Potluck	30 7:00pm Boy Scouts	31 10:00am Bible Study 11:30am ASL Classes	1 5:15pm WOW 7:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal	2 6:00pm ASL Classes 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 6:30pm Divorce Care class for Teens 7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	3	4 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Hannah Circle



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Wanda Barrett	2
Arlyn Brunken	2
Brayden Long	3
Betty Hartner	4
Luke Robinson	4
Eileen Rohberg	4
Drake Dunton	5
Matthew Hubka	5
Hudson Kirkeminde	5
Archer Greene	6
Larry Jordan	6
Matt Caleb	7
Melissa Hullon	7
Lillian Rexford	7
Darrell Wehmeier	7
Ariah Durkes	8
Glen Berry	9
Delena Brackman	9
Barb Khalil	9
Claire Ledbetter	9

Sharon Lowe	9
Susan Athey-Sheets	10
Liz Bolz	10
Jeff Lane	10
Sadye McClintock	10
Sydni Meehan	10
Jenni Moss	10
Easton Reetz	11
Harry Strader	11
Eldred Wenger	11
Leah Dittmer	12
Anna Straub-Meier	12
Connie Tarvin	12
Richard Bruenger	13
Jeremy Mulyck	13
Joanna Bradshaw	14
Theodore Morlock	14
Sandra Sweet	14
Sam Greene	15
Pam Bass	16
Michelle Boling	16
Stephanie Saunders	16
Kia Hale	17
Jacob Oltmanns	17
Julie Haverkamp	18
Duranna Crouch	19
Brooklyn Horn	20
Isaac Wilson	21

Jessica Atchison	21
Rod Bleich	21
Keith Mazachek	21
Zachary Mize	22
Ashley Brown	23
Nikki Hernandez	23
Marian Bolz	24
Tracy Kutscher	24
Karen Tardiff	24
Marilyn Thomas	24
Norma Williams	24
Norbert Wodtke	26
Gary Dick	27
Mark Kemp	27
Amber Long	27
Shirley Martin	27
Adam Krohe	28
Evan Marichal	28
Madison McCormick	28
Ron Moss	28
Kimberly White	28
Kayla Riddle	29
Leland O'Shea	30
GR Marchant	31
Cash Pfrang	31

Heather & Troy Myers	2
Ron & Judy Moss	3
Gary & Rebecca Robinson	5
Ed & Kathy Thomason	5
Matt & Sarah Caleb	6
Amanda & Gary Vines	6
Kevin & Tamara Maxwell	9
Brandon & Audra Durkes	10
Joel & Christina Genrich	12
Ashley & Jordon McCallister	14
Mark & Sharon Stuewe	14
Greg & Jennifer Harris	15

Cindy & Tim McCormick	16
Darrell & Jeannette Wehmeier	18
Karen & Wayne Peterson	22
Bryan & Sarah Falk	23
Damon & Tanya Moran	23
Amie & Jerald Morlock	25
Jan & Rob Hoover	26
Lucas & Bryanna Nelson	26
Mike & Mary Jennings	30



.CHILDREN. .YOUTH. .FAMILIES.

Heather McCormick, director of youth & family ministry

YOUTH

Junior Youth Junior Youth will lead coffee fellowship on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 8:30am. All proceeds go towards junior youth summer trips.

Junior youth will be on retreat on Friday, Oct. 13 through Sunday, Oct. 15! Registration forms are due back to Heather by Sunday, Oct. 1.

Senior Youth will have a Nerf Gun Night on Saturday, Oct. 7 from 6-10pm! We will have dinner, compete in a number of Nerf gun battles and challenges, do a devotion, and have dessert. *All Nerf guns are provided, however if students would like to bring their own, they may.

Senior Youth will lead coffee fellowship on Sunday, Oct. 15 at 8:30am. All proceeds will go towards senior youth summer trips.

All Youth Faith will be hosting a **Divorce Care class** for Teens! Is your family or a family you know going through a separation or divorce? Are your teens struggling or simply needing some guidance? Join us for this FREE faith-based class at Faith (1716 S Gage) starting on Thursday, Oct. 5 at 6:30pm. Register your teen here: <https://forms.gle/W8yEoSdkQH9XHgze9>

FAMILY LIFE

Gary's Berries: Faith's Annual Gary's Berries event will be on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 5-9pm! Join us at the Corral for a hotdog dinner and s'mores! Tickets are available in the church office (\$10/ticket) while supplies last.

Trunk-Or-Treat: Join us in providing a safe environment for children to trick-or-treat! Trunk-or-Treat will be on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 4:30-6:30pm in Faith's parking lot. A FREE hotdog dinner will also be provided! Sign-up to decorate your trunk here: <https://forms.gle/T2MzK9ALNjdmmMY86>

Calling Senior Saints!!! Join us on October 19 for lunch and a trip to the World Famous Topeka Zoo. We will meet together for lunch and a small devotion outside and then spend some time walking through the zoo.

Details: Lunch with devotion at 11:30am followed by entry and time in the zoo. Lunch and entry fee provided by the church.



*Oh come, let us sing
to the LORD;
let us make a joyful*

October is a busy month for LWML with LWML Sunday on October 1st, the Topeka Zone meeting at Vassar on October 7th, and our Fall Tea on October 8th. All women in the congregation and your friends are invited to join us for the Fall Tea. Our service project for the day will be to assemble hygiene kits for women at Topeka YMCA Center for Safety and Empowerment's domestic violence shelter and to collect from those who attend the Tea, some urgently needed household items for the shelter. Attendees are encouraged to bring a household item such as paper towels, toilet paper, disinfectant products, trash bags, Kleenex, Standard-size pillows and pillow cases, antibacterial hand soap refills or rubbing alcohol. A Thrivent grant has been approved for purchase of the hygiene products.

Deborah Circle met Sept. 19. Caryn Sheets led the topic. No circle meeting in October due to the Fall Tea.

Eve Circle met on Sept. 11. Following devotions and refreshments the business meeting included discussion and sign-ups for LWML Sunday, October 1, and the Noodle Dinner in November.

Eve Circle has invited Melanie Hutchison to speak at the LWML Fall Tea on Oct.8. Melanie is a talented fabric artist and teacher. She will share some amazing, and often frightening, stories from her 12 years in India, living in villages, cities and slums. Melanie set-up Training Centers and taught sewing skills to women rescued from the streets - enabling them to earn money to support themselves and their children.

Hannah Circle is hosting the Fall Tea, so please meet in Fellowship Hall at 1PM on Oct. 8 to set up for the event and a brief meeting.

Ruth Circle will not meet in October. We look forward to attending/participating in LWML Sunday and the Fall Tea.

Mission • Outreach

Christmas Parade Float Faith is preparing a float for Topeka's Annual Miracle on Kansas Avenue Christmas Parade, December 2. Our next meeting is October 3 at 5:30pm. Please reach out to Hannah if you are interested in helping with this project.



Chelsea Irwin, Missionary in the Czech Republic visited during Word on Wednesdays (WoW) September 6th. She gave a great presentation about her life as a missionary and the joy of sharing the Gospel.



WU Outreach Momentum is building as we seek to establish a Lutheran Club at Washburn University. Please direct any Washburn University students to DCE Hannah Elsey; she would love to visit with them!

Sunday School Donations

As you know, the mission field includes our own backyards and neighboring communities. We are partnering with the LCMS Kansas District to help with the growth and outreach ministry needs in the Manhattan KS area which is experiencing rapid population expansion; our Sunday School offerings for September and October will aid in the calling of a full-time faithful pastor dedicated to meeting the area's needs.



Fall Fest Recap A team from Faith had a great time on September 16 at "Topeka Fall Fest." It was a delight to interact with over 300 people and invite them to Faith Lutheran Church.

Dreaming of Christmas: Do you have fond memories of Christmas at Faith? Is there a part of the Christmas season that you most look forward to? DCE Hannah would love to visit with you about your favorite Christmas traditions and how you might be involved in outreach efforts this Advent season. Please see DCE Hannah for more information!



DOORSTEP

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Since April 2023 the need for food assistance has drastically increased! Doorstep has already spent \$25,000 on food purchases this year to keep the pantry stocked and our neighbors fed. This is \$15,000 over what was budgeted, and we still have three months left in 2023. We have provided 12,000 – 14,000 pounds each month to households in need, and since April we have received an average of 1,800 – 3,000 pounds of food each month. This is a big difference.

Dry Beans ~ Egg Noodles ~ Canned Milk ~ Powdered Milk ~ Oatmeal ~ Tuna ~ Chicken Noodle Soup ~ Vegetable Soup ~ Cream of Mushroom ~ Canned Fruit ~ Boxed Potatoes ~ Peas ~ Boxed Pastas ~ Spaghetti O's ~ Ravioli ~ Spaghetti ~ Macaroni & Cheese ~ Pork N Beans ~ Pancake Mix ~ Hand Can openers

We know everyone is struggling, just as we are to keep our shelves stocked to provide a full food order to our neighbors in need. Please give where you can...

Also needed: Hygiene Items for Health Kits ~ Full sized items only please.

Shampoo ~ Conditioner (2+1 ok) ~ Bar Soap ~ Deodorant ~ Toothpaste ~ Toothbrushes ~ Combs ~ Brushes.
Towel Sets: Bath, Hand & Washcloth.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

1716 SW Gage Boulevard
Topeka, Kansas 66604

785.272.4214

office@faithlutherantopeka.com



FaithLutheranTopeka.com

Follow us on:

FACEBOOK INSTAGRAM YOUTUBE

LEAD STAFF

Jacob Heine, senior pastor

PastorHeine@faithlutherantopeka.com

Martin Albrecht, assistant pastor

PastorMartin@faithlutherantopeka.com

Jeff Lane, vicar

JeffLane@faithlutherantopeka.com

Heather McCormick, dir. of youth/family ministry

DCEHeather@faithlutherantopeka.com

Hannah Elsey, director of mission & outreach

HannahElsey@faithlutherantopeka.com

Linda Meyer, director of music & worship arts

LindaMeyer@faithlutherantopeka.com

SUPPORT STAFF

Sharon Lowe, admin assist/publications

SharonLowe@faithlutherantopeka.com

Jason Wills, facility manager/admin coordinator

JasonWills@faithlutherantopeka.com

Debbie Siegel, bookkeeper

Bookkeeper@faithlutherantopeka.com

AUXILIARY

Pat Schultz, RN, parish nurse

TiredMomPLS@aol.com

Jessica Atchison, SS & WOW superintendent

JessicaKidMin@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Fri 8:00am to 4:30pm (closed 12-1pm)

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00* - Traditional Worship

10:45* - Contemporary Worship

* also live-streamed on Facebook, YouTube

EDUCATION

Sundays for all ages: 9:30am

WOW Wednesdays: 5:15-7:30pm (Sept-Apr)

The Messenger is mailed monthly to all members. Next edition deadline is

October 18 to the church office.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Topeka KS 66604

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Christian Service Team has determined
2023 Sunday School /Mission Outreach
offering will include:

October - District Mission (Church
plant)

November & December -

Sunshine Connection

