



*As a vibrant family of believers, Faith Lutheran shares
God's saving grace to equip the next generation.*

Messenger

August—2026

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a message from senior pastor, Jacob Heine

In St. Lorenz Cemetery in Frankenmuth, MI there is a tombstone with my name on it. Literally. It reads:

Hier ruhet
In Gott
Jacob Heine
Geb. 11 Dec. 1820
Best. 11 Nov. 1884

Whenever I am back in Michigan I like to take a picture with it. My family thinks it is a little strange. It makes me smile and reminds me of where I come from. Jacob was my Great-Great-Great Grandfather. In the spring of 1854 he came to America with his wife, Elisabeth, and infant son, Jacob Friedrich (Fred). They came from Oberschefflenz, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. In October this year, while I am on my sabbatical, I will be traveling to Germany to visit where my ancestors came from. This is part of my heritage. I will also be visiting other places that are part of my heritage as well including the beaches of Normandy (where my grandfather on my mom's side landed D-Day +3), Wittenberg, London, and Rome. Some of these are part of my spiritual heritage, others are part of my ancestral heritage.

My sabbatical, beginning later this month, will have three areas of focus: **Rest** (see June's newsletter), **Restoration** (see last month's newsletter), and **Heritage**.

Our values, traditions, cultural, and stories that we receive from the previous generations matter. To know where we are going, we have to know where we have been. Those who don't know history and where we have been are doomed to repeat the mistakes of the past. And in order to honor the past, we must ensure the future.

All these cliches are actually really important. They remind us of who we are, where we came from, how we got to be the people we are, and gives us a framework for how we move forward into the future. This is even been a big part of our congregation as we have been working through the Ministry Clarity process. Being a vibrant family of believers who shares God's saving grace in order to equip the next generation. We have to know what to hand down to the next generation. That is our heritage. The values, traditions, culture, and stories that have made us who we are and give us the frame for our future.

I am excited for the opportunity to learn about my heritage, both my ancestral and my spiritual. To know more about my family and faith will make me a better person, and give me more to hand down to those I love in my family and in the vibrant family of believers. Who knows what new things I will have to share when I return.

While I am gone, I hope you learn more about your spiritual heritage as a Lutheran and Christian, as well as more about your own family. Who knows what new things you will have to share with me when I return. And in all of this, whether in your presence or in my absence, we are connected as the vibrant family of believers. You will be in my prayers and I can't wait to see you when I return!

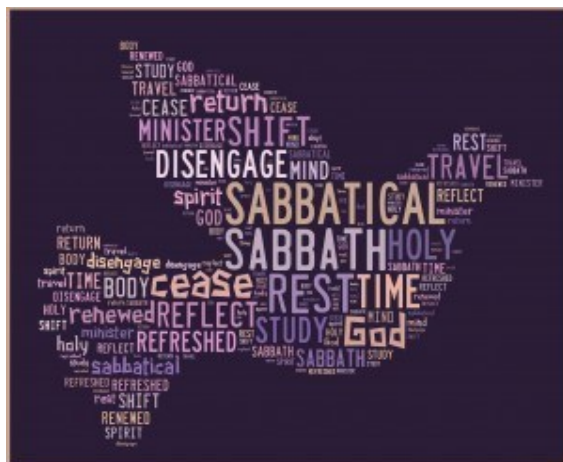
(see more Sabbatical information on page 2)

WHAT TO DO WHEN PASTOR IS ON SABBATICAL

From Aug. 24 to Nov. 17, Pastor Heine will be on his sabbatical. This is an intentional time of rest and restoration.

The word sabbatical means to stop or cease. In this case, Pastor will be stopping his pastoral work for a time to rest and be restored in Christ so that he can come back strengthened and ready for the wonderful ministry we have together.

During this time Pastor will not be present with us. He will not be looking at email, answering phone or text messages pertaining to work items, or be at worship and Bible calls here at Faith Lutheran Church. *Please contact the church office* for direction to who can help you with items you might need that Pastor Heine would typically



be your contact for.

However, Pastor will still be around the community for much of his sabbatical time. You may see him out shopping, running, and generally just doing any normal activity. Please know that you can absolutely come talk to him, ask him how he is doing, encourage him and let him know you are looking forward to seeing him when he returns. You do not

need to pretend he doesn't exist. Only understand that he is taking a break to rest and be restored.

You still matter greatly to him. He will be praying for you and looking forward to seeing you, whether before his return or when the sabbatical concludes.

Job description available from the church office! Contact Pastor Heine if interested!

WE ARE HIRING

This up to 20 hour/week position serves the church by supervising the care and maintenance of the buildings and grounds of Faith. If interested, submit a cover letter and resume to PastorHeine@faithlutherantopeka.com

FACILITIES & GROUNDS MANAGER



Dear members and friends of Faith Lutheran Church...

I cannot express enough my gratitude for the wonderful thoughts, prayers, and gifts that were given to me in honor of my 20th Ordination Anniversary. God has been truly good to me over the years, and I am grateful for how this congregation has chosen to honor their church workers, me included. St. Paul is right when he tells us it is God's will that we pray, praise, and give thanks. I do all of these for you! Thank you! ~ Pastor Jacob Heine

To my church family at Faith,

A heartfelt thank you to my wife Barb, to Pastor Martin and Pastor Jeff, and to the church members for your prayers and kinds words of support during my extended cancer radiation treatments. God is good! ~ Rod Bleich

AUGUST IS DOORSTEP MONTH



DOORSTEP
Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Support Doorstep's Food Pantry

Throughout August, the Christian Service Team will be handing out plastic bags for food donations after each worship service.

Simply take a bag home, fill it with the *nonperishable* food items suggested on the list, and return it to the Doorstep table in the church lobby before the end of the month.

Last year, Faith donated a record-breaking **1,597 pounds of food** to help stock Doorstep's pantry. This year, let's work together to beat that record and make an even greater impact for our neighbors in need!

Thank you for your generosity and for helping ensure local families have access to food.

SUGGESTED FOOD LIST

FRUIT COCKTAIL

MIXED VEGETABLES

MIXED BEANS

EGG NOODLES

CANNED PEACHES

CANNED PEARS

PEANUT BUTTER/JELLY

VEGETABLE SOUP

DICED TOMATOES

PANCAKE MIX

PANCAKE SYRUP

TUNA HELPER

WANT TO VOLUNTEER ?

Join us in serving our community by volunteering in the Clothing Room during the month of August. Volunteers help sort and organize clothing donations and assist clients with their clothing needs. Volunteer opportunities available:

- **Every Thursday in August:** 8:45am - 1:45pm
- **Monday, August 17:** 8:45am - 1:45pm

Whether you can serve once or several times, your time and kindness make a meaningful difference. We would love to have you join us!



.upcoming events.



Let's celebrate the end of summer and kick off a new school year together! Bring the whole family for an afternoon of swimming, fellowship, laughter, and food as we gather for our Back-to-School Bash!

This is a great opportunity for families to connect with friends, meet new faces, and relax before the busy school year begins. **FREE ENTRY** when you tell them you're with Faith. Dinner provided!

As a new school year begins, we invite all students, teachers, school staff and anyone who serves in our schools to bring their backpacks, book bags, or work bags to worship on **Sunday, Aug 9 at all services.**

Together, we will pray for God's protection, wisdom, strength, and guidance over all who learn, teach, and serve in our schools. May God watch over them throughout the year, keep them safe, and bless them as they grow, encourage, and inspire others each day.



What is a Spiritual Retreat?



What would it look like to step away from the busyness of everyday life and spend intentional time with God?

Our 48-hour Spiritual Retreat offers adults a welcoming, small-group experience focused on deepening their faith and strengthening their relationship with Christ. Led by Pastor Jeff, the retreat provides opportunities to explore time-honored spiritual disciplines, including meditative Scripture reading, developing a meaningful prayer life, practicing quiet reflection, and discovering new ways to connect with God.

Along with guided teaching, participants are encouraged to share their own experiences, learn from one another, and enjoy unhurried moments of rest, renewal, and reflection.

**Our next Spiritual Retreat is coming soon: Aug 7-9
at Milford Lake and will be led by Pastor Jeff**

A modest registration fee includes all meals and lodging. Get ready to pause, refresh your spirit, and grow in your walk with Christ.
Scan the QR code or contact DCE Heather or the church office for more information and to reserve your spot.

Join us on **Sunday, Aug 23 at 6pm**
for one of our favorite church
traditions... the congregational Picnic!

ALL food and drinks provided.

Meet at **Lake Shawnee Shelter #1** for an evening filled with delicious food, great conversation, laughter and time together. Whether you've been part of our church family for years or you're just getting to know us, this is a wonderful opportunity to connect and enjoy a summer evening with friends. Optional: bring a lawn chair.



Word On Wednesday (WOW) Returns

A graphic for the WOW Kick-Off event. It features a blue and white color scheme with a hexagonal window showing a church interior. The text "WOW Kick-Off Sept 9" is prominently displayed. A list of activities is provided: 5:15pm: Dinner, 6-7:30pm: Classes, and 7:30-8:30pm: Bonfire, S'mores & Bubbles. A small blue cross icon is next to the "WOW" text.

WOW Kick-Off Sept 9

- 5:15pm: Dinner
- 6-7:30pm: Classes
- 7:30-8:30pm: Bonfire, S'mores & Bubbles

Our midweek **WOW** program has something for everyone and kicks off on **WEDNESDAY, SEPT 9.**

- **5:15pm DINNER** - Menu: hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie/dip, chips, ice cream
- **6-7:30pm CLASSES for ALL AGES:** PS-5th grade bible time & activities; 6th grade Bible study; 7th-8th grade Confirmation; 9th-12th grade Bible study; Adult Bible class led by a variety of guest leaders

On the first night, we'll wrap up the evening '**on the green**' with a bonfire, s'mores and bubble machine—a fun way to end the night together!

Everyone is invited and invite a friend or two!
Then come back every Wednesday!

Join us for an inspiring evening as Faith Speaks welcomes *Erick Sorensen*, for a special presentation on **Saturday, Sept 12, at 6pm** with **optional dinner served at 5:00**

Erick is in charge of Church Partnerships in the Development Department at 1517, and has various podcasts on Scripture. 1517 is an organization dedicated to proclaiming and defending the Good News that, through Christ alone, you are forgiven and free. Erick's engaging presentation will explore the heart of the Gospel and a message of grace, offering encouragement and hope for believers and seekers alike.

We encourage you to bring your family, friends and anyone who would be encouraged by this powerful message.

A graphic for the Faith Speaks presentation by Erick Sorensen. It features a portrait of Erick Sorensen on the left and a large cross in the background on the right. The text "FAITH SPEAKS PRESENTS" is at the top right, and "ERICK SORENSEN FROM 1517" is in the center. Below that, it says "SATURDAY, SEPT. 12 | 6PM". A small note at the bottom says "*OPTIONAL DINNER AT 5PM, FREE WILL OFFERING!".

FAITH SPEAKS PRESENTS

ERICK SORENSEN
FROM 1517

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12 | 6PM

*OPTIONAL DINNER AT 5PM, FREE WILL OFFERING!



Come find your community at Faith's MomCo.

Motherhood is complicated - mom friends can help. Join us for support and encouragement in your motherhood journey - through study of God's Word, mutual sharing, crafts, food, fellowship and so much more.

We will meet **every other Tuesday**,
beginning Aug 25, 9-11am.
Childcare will be available.

Scan the QR Code for more information.



Looking for Vendors...

OKTOBERFEST

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Saturday, Oct 3

10am - 3pm

Contact Maggie at
margaretc@princeofpeacetopeka.org



2026-27 MUSIC MINISTRY season begins next month...

If you love making music, Faith has many opportunities to put that love into practice! Starting after Labor Day, our choirs will begin rehearsing for the fall into the Christmas season. Join now! It's fun!

CHOIRS begin rehearsals Sept. 10

- **Alleluia Ringers Handbell Choir** - Thursdays, 6:00-7:00pm. Meets in the sanctuary. Bell ringing technique can be easily taught in rehearsals, but it is vital that you can read music (especially counting and rhythm). This choir usually rings in both our styles of worship about once a month. Regular and substitute ringers are needed!
- **Adult Choir** - Thursdays, 7:15-8:30pm. Meets in the choir loft. This 4-part (SATB) choir is *always* needing more voices! No need to audition, just have the love of singing. The choir usually sings twice a month in both styles of worship, plus in special festival services such as Christmas and during Holy Week/Easter.
- **Save the date:** Faith's annual Christmas concert featuring all our Music Ministry ensembles is Sunday, Dec. 13 at 4pm.

Get involved in Music & Worship Arts ...

- **Praise Team/Band** - Our music team for the 10:45 Modern Worship is always looking for more members... Singers (lead or harmony) and band musicians (guitar, keys, drums, bass) are scheduled around availability (you do not need to commit to every week). Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:30pm (after WOW) prior to your scheduled Sunday. Anyone is welcome to sit in on a rehearsal to see what is involved.
- **Tech Team** - Every worship service needs technicians to work in the tech booth running sound, screen, or cameras. Training will be given and an optional stipend is available. If any of these positions interest you, please contact Linda.
- **Instrumental** - Do you play an instrument but don't have a group to connect with? There might be times when our choir selections need a specific instrument such as flute, oboe, brass or strings.

If you have questions or need more info, contact
Linda Meyer, director of Music & Worship Arts
lindameyer@faithlutherantopeka.com

. youth .

"What Is Youth Coffee Fellowship?" You ask

Our youth meet downstairs in the kitchen at **8:30am on Sundays** when they host Coffee Fellowship. They help prepare and serve coffee, set out cups and other essentials, arrange rolls and scones, and warmly welcome the congregation as everyone gathers for fellowship before Sunday School classes. Youth participation on these Sundays is important, as **all funds raised support our youth trips**. Thank you for helping make this ministry a success! Questions? Please see DCE Heather McCormick.

JUNIOR YOUTH COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, Aug. 2
8:30am



SENIOR YOUTH COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY, AUG. 16
8:30 AM



BREAKFAST CLUB

Saturdays at 9am

Join us at Hanover
Pancake House

Young Adults Age 16+

WINDOW WELL PAINTING



Junior + Senior Youth

Our kick-off event all our youth is
Saturday, Aug 22 from 6-9pm at Faith.
Dinner will be provided.

*Note: This is NOT a parent meeting
as we have done in years past...
The parent meeting is Wednesday, Sept 9 at 6pm.*

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 9

WOW RESUMES!

Dinner + Activities from 5:15-7:30pm

Including Confirmation Class for grades 7-8



*Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise
to the rock of our salvation!*
Psalm 95:1

HANNAH CIRCLE will meet **Monday, Aug 3 at 5:30pm** in the Parlor downstairs at church.

EVE CIRCLE met July 13 with 10 members present to assemble care bags for 23 homebound members. Using Thrivent funds, the care bags included devotionals, puzzle books, lotion, snacks, etc. The next meeting is **Monday, Aug 10 at 5pm** to clean the kitchen and go out for dinner.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet **Wednesday, Aug 12 at 9am** in Room 206/208 adult ed room at church.

DEBORAH CIRCLE met July 15 to clean the kitchen. The next circle meeting will be held in September.



IMMANUEL COMMUNITY OUTREACH ASSOCIATION

The Argentine community in Kansas City, Kansas, faces significant economic and social challenges including limited access to affordable hygiene services, housing insecurity, and a lack of supportive educational and social resources. The Immanuel Community Outreach Association (ICOA) is requesting funding for a lower cost laundromat with wrap-around services to meet spiritual, educational, physical, and emotional needs. The laundromat will include dedicated space for Bible studies, pastoral care, Stephen Ministry, and other faith based gatherings. The project aims to improve access to affordable laundry services while serving as a hub for social and educational support.

\$10,000

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS



LWML MITE BOX

Our first mission grant for 2026–2028 has been awarded to the Immanuel Community Outreach Association (ICOA) in Kansas City, Kansas.

Please consider supporting this meaningful outreach through your mite donations the first Sunday of the month.



Judson Schmitt	1	Heather McCormick	10
Amelia Stiers	1	Willard Welch	10
Christina Genrich	2	Logan Glinka	11
Jennifer Jones	2	Stephanie Hennessey	12
Nannette McGuigan	2	Kim Strube	12
Sarah Ramsey	2	Tracy Adams	13
Charlotte Campbell	3	JoJo Pera	14
Rylynn DeMers	3	Jean Stock	14
Deb Hale	3	Shirley Pryor	15
Dani Campbell	4	Kathleen Weber	15
Robert Haley	4	Debbie Domingo	16
George Henley	4	Julaine Garcia	16
Thomas Greene	5	Leonard Beckerman	17
Kenny Riddle	5	Rebecca Robinson	17
Connie Wright	5	Jan Zillinger	17
Alfred Charay	6	Terri Bynum	18
Cynthia Barrett	7	Carissa Robertson	18
Olivia Riddle	7	Norma Startup	18
Trenton Rollenhagen	7	Callum Ramsey	19
Marjorie Van Camp	7	Byron Jones	20
Emily Lehman	8	Cathy Atchison	21
Heather Myers	9	Tyler Rollenhagen	21
Colin Robinson	9	Luke Tenbrink	22
Loren Thowe	9	Paige Carpenter	24



August BIRTHDAYS

David Hale	24
Gail Sawyer	25
Anne Johnson	25
Tammi Pierce	26
Hayden Saunders	27
Betsy Thompson	27
Stephanie Abbott	28
Linda Laird	28
Roger Offermann	28
Dwight Cater	29
Kathy Summers	29
Roselen Erb	30
Jessica Saxton	30
Delmer Kruse	31
Pat Schultz	31
Mary Shaw	31
Raylan Watson	31



August ANNIVERSARIES

Richard & Marilyn Bruenger	2	Mike & Melinda Landman	17
Tom & Kay Dittmer	2	Sherri & Randy Forbes	19
Tyler & Claire Banion	4	Art & Karen Tardiff	19
Thad & Marlee Carpenter	4	Nels & Shannon Huesers	21
Erika & Luke Yoder	5	Phil & Rebecca Gutierrez	22
Lisa & Randall Haag	6	Robert & Angie Carlson	23
Jim & Lynn Janousek	7	Anne & Greg Johnson	25
Lance & Kerri Smith	10	Christina & Casey McClintock	26
Kelli & Kevin Duermeier	12	GR & Josie Marchant	27
Altee & Chrissy Reetz	14	Rich & Barb Mesloh	27
Kenny & Jane Schepmann	14	Fred & Connie Crowder	28
Pr. Jacob & Theresa Heine	15	Gary & Faye Ideker	29
David & Kim Knowland	17	Brian & Rose Brunkow	30
		Amanda & Matt Crawford	30
		Howard & Mary Ann Graham	30



AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship	27 9:00am Quilting 5:00pm LWML Exec 7:00pm Scouts	28 10:00am Bible Study	29 11:00am Care Card Making 7:00pm Praise Team rehearsal	30	31 11:30am Saints Alive 6:00pm Sr Youth Bonfire	1 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club 3:15pm Back-to-School Bash
2 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship	3 5:30pm Hannah Circle 7:00pm Scouts	4 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Spiritual Life	5 7:00pm Praise Team rehearsal	6	7	8 8:00am MOST Ministry 9:00am Breakfast Club Guided Spiritual Retreat
9 Backpack Blessing 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship Retreat	10 9:00am Quilting 5:00pm Eve Circle 7:00pm Kitchen Clean Scouts	11 10:00am Bible Study	12 9:00am Ruth Circle 11:00am Care Card Making 7:00pm Praise Team rehearsal	13 Ignite Hybrid School first day (every T, Th)	14	15 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club 9:00am LWML Sanctuary Cleaning
16 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship 2:00pm LWML Ice Cream Social	17 7:00pm Scouts	18 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm LLC	19 7:00pm Praise Team rehearsal	20 8am Scrapbooking	21 8am Scrapbooking	22 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club 6:00pm Jr & Sr Youth Window Well Painting
23 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship 6:00pm Congregational Picnic	24 <i>[Pr Heine's sabbatical thru Nov 17]</i> 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm Scouts	25 9:00am Mom Co. 10:00am Bible Study	26 11:00am Care Card Making 7:00pm Praise Team rehearsal	27	28 11:30am Saints Alive	29 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club
30 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship	31 5:00pm LWML Exec Meeting 7:00pm Scouts	1 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Spiritual Life	2 7:00pm Praise Team rehearsal	3 8am Scrapbooking	4 8am Scrapbooking	5 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club



June 2026 ... FLC treasurer update

For the Current Month

Total General Fund Donations	137,037
Operating Expenses (excluding net rental property income)	97,651
Net Balance for the month	\$ 39,386

Year-To-Date

Total General Fund	667,768
Operating Expenses (excluding net rental property income)	582,919
Net YTD Balance	\$ 84,849

Donations

Current month compared to the prior year MTD - Over (Under)	\$ (11,253)
YTD compared to the prior year - Over (Under)	\$ 73,542



OFFICIAL ACTS

BAPTISM

7/19 Arthur Edwin Banion

FUNERAL

7/24 Edie Snethen

TRANSFER OUT

6/25 Carolyn Onek
Faith Lutheran Church
Jefferson City, MO

happening at Faith



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JessicaKidMin@gmail.com

Pat Schultz, RN, parish nurse

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00* - Traditional Worship

10:45* - Contemporary Worship

12:15 - Traditional Worship

* also live-streamed on Facebook, YouTube

EDUCATION

Sundays for all ages: 9:30am

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



**Junior Youth enjoy
YMCA Camp in Missouri**



**Senior Youth take
on Colorado**



Celebrating Pr Heine's 20 years in ministry



Yay for our DCE Heather!