

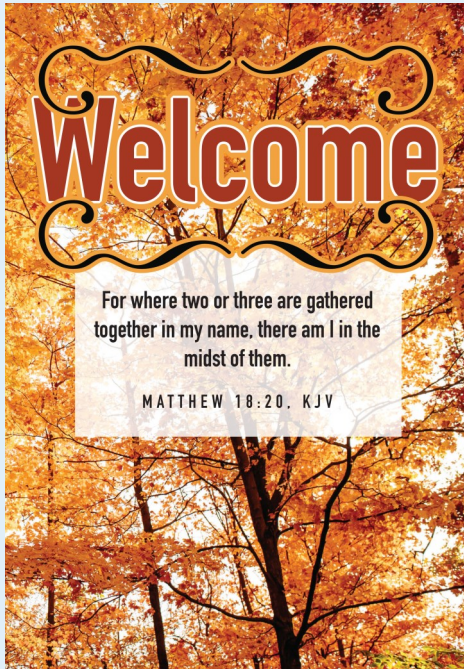


Messenger

Faith Lutheran Church

September—2025

volume 65 . issue 9



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a message from senior pastor, Jacob Heine

What does this mean?

I have long-loved Luther's question from the catechism. It is simple. There isn't anything fancy about it. It is a straightforward question. The words themselves, even in the original German, aren't unique or special. They say what they say: *What does this mean?*

And yet, they are deeply profound. They require you to dig deeper, wonder more, and use critical thinking skills. They are words that can make you stop in your tracks and say to yourself, or others, "how does this impact me and what will I do with this information?" They say something deep: *What does this mean?* Luther knew what he was doing when he placed these simple, yet profound, words into the catechism for us.

I feel like I get this question often as a pastor. Definitely while teaching or preaching, but also in general conversation and ministry. Sometimes these aren't the exact words used, but they can come in the ways such as "tell me more about" or "help me understand." I often times appreciate this when I know people are trying to get a bigger picture.

As we continue to journey through LCEF's Ministry Clarity process we will be unpacking More; asking as Luther did, "*What does this mean?*" regarding the guiding statement that was developed during the first part of the year:

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

During September we are going to dedicate time in worship unpacking these words. We will see how this is not something new for Faith Lutheran. These are thoughts and ideas that helped shape, mold and make this congregation what we see now. In some ways, it is a simple and straightforward statement.

We will also see how these words move us toward the future. This is a statement that helps define us and guide our ministry as we continue to work in God's Kingdom. Through this statement we will look at all that we do and what we need to do. Then ask that other simple, yet profound, question: *What does this mean?*

In Christ's Hands,
Pastor Jacob

.forCHILDREN.

.forYOUTH.



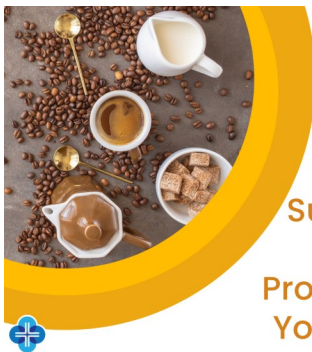
WOW will kick-off on **Wednesday, Sept 3!** Join us for dinner at **5:15pm** (hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, potato salad, veggies & ranch, ice cream sundae bar) followed by classes for all ages.

- **Pre-K through 4th grades:** Classes with Activity Stations
- **5th-6th grades:** Bible Study led by Eric Boling & Dave Wodtke
- **7th-8th grades:** Confirmation led by Called Staff
- **9th-12th grades:** Bible Study led by Ray Moran & Justin Campbell
- **Adult Bible Study:** Journeying with Jesus led by Pastor Heine

Join us every
Wednesday
Sept—April.

We will end the first night of WOW with a foam party, bonfire and s'mores On the Green.

Jr Youth host coffee fellowship on **Sunday, Sept 7 & 28** at 8:30am. All proceeds go toward Jr Youth trips.



Junior Youth Coffee Fellowship

Sunday, Sept. 7 & 28
8:30am

Proceeds go to Junior
Youth Summer trips!

Sr Youth host coffee fellowship on **Sunday, Sept 21** at 8:30am. All proceeds go toward Sr Youth trips.



SENIOR YOUTH COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY, SEPT. 21
8:30 AM

Jr Youth Retreat registration is open for fall retreat happening Nov 21-23 at Camp Wood YMCA, located in Elmdale, KS. This retreat is FREE to attend (cost is generously covered by Spiritual Life) but registration is required.



Kansas District Youth Gathering registration is open for all high school students interested in attending. The Gathering is Nov 14-16 at Rock Springs 4-H Camp. Registration forms are due back to Heather with \$150 deposit by Sunday, Oct 5.



JUNIOR YOUTH Nerf Night

FRIDAY, SEPT. 26
6-9PM

OCTOBER MYSTERY EVENTS: SAVE THE DATE



MYSTERY EVENT

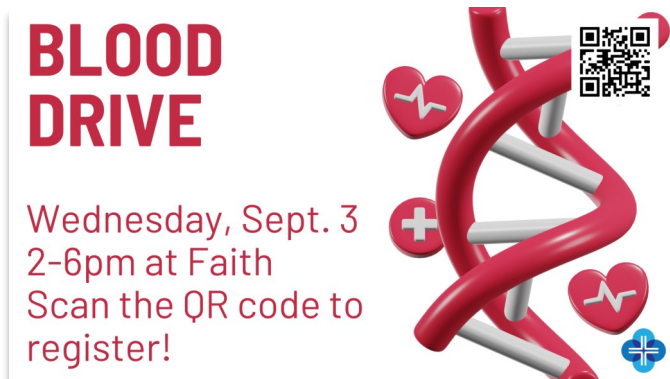
Friday, Oct. 10
6-9pm



Saturday, Oct. 11 | 6-9pm

.forEVERYONE.

Blood Drive: The Community Blood Bank will be hosting a blood drive here at Faith on **Wednesday, Sept 3**. Scan the QR code to register or call the church office for more information.



Welcome Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies from Lutheran Hour Ministries. Dr. Lakies will present during the 9:30am education hour Sunday Sept 7. At 6pm, he will do a follow-up session and we will end outside On the Green. Enjoy fellowship, snacks, dessert and bonfire to end the evening. Don't miss Faith's Annual Rally Day this year!



Join Pastor Heine every **Wednesday night** in the Fellowship Hall starting at **6pm**. Journey through the incredible places of Scripture — uncover their powerful significance and discover how they shape our faith and transform our walk with Jesus.



Guided Spiritual Retreat registration is open for all adults ages 21 and older. This retreat will be led by DCE Heather on Friday, Oct 3 through Sunday, Oct 5 at the Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City. For additional information and to register, go to faithlutherantopeka.com



SAVE THE DATE for our annual Gary's Berries event.

Tickets go on sale in the church office on Sunday, Sept 21 for \$10/ticket (almost half of gate price). Join us at the Corral for hotdogs, chips, water and s'mores. *Tickets are limited so act fast!*





Greetings in Christ!

Since I became a member at Faith Lutheran Church, our congregation has consistently supported and promoted educational opportunities that strengthen our faith and enable us to share God's saving grace with others. Often, these opportunities arise when we are in small groups together, where we can ask about a church topic using Luther's Catechism question, *"What does this mean?"*

Each Fall and Spring, our small groups dedicate 8 weeks to reading and discussing a book together, usually covering one chapter each week. We aim to start these focused small group studies leading up to Advent or Lent. Additionally, our fall topic traditionally centers on church doctrine, while the spring topic typically features stories from Scripture.

This year marks the 1,700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, commemorating 1,700 years since the First Council of Nicaea convened in 325 AD, where the original version of the Creed was written. The Nicene Creed encapsulates the entire Good News of the gospel into a short and rich summary. As you know, we recite either the Nicene or the Apostles Creed every Sunday in worship, and it is an important confession of what we

believe about what the Scriptures say regarding God, His creation, the Son becoming a man, God's salvation of people, and how God gives us life.

I am excited to share that our fall study will focus on a new book titled *"Worshiped and Glorified: A Study of the Nicene Creed"* by Pastor Timothy Winterstein. This is an easy-to-read book that will remind and teach us how the Creed was developed and why it remains important for Christians today.

Our book discussions will begin on Oct 5, with reading and discussing one chapter each week until Advent. As the start date approaches, sign-ups will be available for those interested in joining a small group. We are always looking for small group leaders, prayerfully consider leading a group during the 8 weeks. If you need to find a group, want to join a new one, or are interested in leading, please contact me.

Books will be available as we approach Oct 5. Please consider joining a small group to discuss why we continue to recite the Nicene Creed in our worship service and why it is important for us to do so.

In Christ,
Pastor Jeff

update from our treasurer. . .

July 2025

- Total donations for the month were \$81,195 and total expenses were \$89,834, resulting in a net negative balance for the month of (\$8,640).
- Year-to-date donations total \$675,421 and year-to-date expenses total \$708,003, resulting in a net YTD negative balance of (\$32,582).
- Donations for the month were \$7,254 higher than 2024 and year-to-date donations are (\$1,575) less than 2024.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS
In the Fellowship Hall

- Sunday, Sept. 21 at 9:30am or
- Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 6pm

***Sunday school offerings for the months of September and October will go to support LCMS Disaster Relief.
—Christian Service Team*



DOORSTEP

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

August was Faith Lutheran Church's month to help stock Doorstep's pantry and provide volunteers to work in the clothing room. As usual, Faith members stepped up, volunteering and giving generously.

From January—July, Doorstep provided food assistance to 1,715 households, 4,290 individuals, and giving 95,835lbs of food.

Doorstep can provide this assistance because of our donors and funders who believe in neighbors helping neighbors, giving where they can. We are so grateful for every donation, large or small, and we appreciate our donors who join us in this 59-year mission.

PUTT OUT HUNGER

Golf Fundraiser and Food Drive



Shawnee Country Club

Friday, Oct. 3rd 2025

\$320/Team

Sponsorship Packages Available

4-Person Scramble

Shotgun Start @ 9 AM

Light Breakfast & Lunch

Raffle Prizes

**Sponsorship
deadline: Sept. 5**

**Registration
deadline: Sept. 19**

**The team that
donates the most
food gets a prize!**

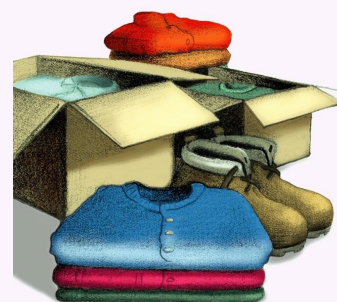
Scan to sign up!



Doorstep Clothing Room Needs

Our neighbors will be needing gently-used fall clothing soon. Here are a few items to get you started: boys jeans & shorts (sizes 4-18), boys shirts (sizes 2-10), girls & teens jeans & shorts & leggings (sizes 5-14), boys & girls shoes (all sizes, especially for school-age kids).

Other needed items include: feminine hygiene products (pads & tampons), diapers (sizes 5 & 6), bed sheets & comforters (twin & queen).





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

DEBORAH CIRCLE will not meet in September due to the Topeka Zone meeting so our next circle meeting will be **Oct 21**. We still have some adult clothing covers to give away so if you know someone who would like one, please contact Brenda Perry.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet at **9:30am on Sept 10** in the church parlor. Shirley Martin & Pam Boetcher will host and Jan Rankin is the topic leader.

EVE CIRCLE had a very busy August! They cleaned the kitchen and sanctuary, then hosted the Sunday Sundae event — all in one week! They will meet **Sept 8 at 7pm** at church. Connie Crowder is hostess and Sandra Dickison is topic leader.

HANNAH CIRCLE will be making a meal with Ronald McDonald House on a Sunday in September. If you'd like to join us, please contact Karen Brumleve mamacobra1@gmail.com or Claire Banion clairebanion@gmail.com for more information.

The **Sunday Sundae** event was well attended. The women enjoyed creating sundaes, hearing an open devotional, playing bingo with prizes, and fellowshiping with other sisters in Christ. The Sundae attendees were very generous, gifting Doorstep with at least 225 personal products. Thrivent grant money received will be used to purchase more personal care items for Doorstep.

Faith Lutheran LWML is excited to be hosting the Topeka Zone Rally on **Saturday, Sept 20** and has been busy planning all the details. The theme for the day is based on Phil 4:6, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Pastor Heine will be leading the Bible study on this theme. The Gifts from the Heart gathering is for Midland Care Meals On Wheels. Supplies are being collected for "Holiday Gift Bags" of gloves, hats & scarves, notepads, travel size toiletries, and assorted games (puzzles, coloring books, playing cards, crosswords, etc.) Someone from their organization will be presenting on their offered services. A servant event is planned assembling food and water kits for the homeless. All women from Faith are invited to join whether a member of an LWML Circle or not. It's a great opportunity to meet with women from other churches in the Topeka Zone and find out what LWML is all about.

Contact Karen Peterson, peterway2.kp@gmail.com, if attending for a lunch count.

Mites are being collected for Lutheran Special School, Kisumu, Kenya. The goal is \$5,000 to purchase 10 computers used by special needs students for daily lessons, communication, music, Bible stories, and to spread the love of Jesus. Our Mite Box will be out on the **first Sunday of every month** and we appreciate receiving whatever "mites" you can give.

Lutheran Women in Mission
TOPEKA ZONE FALL GATHERING

SATURDAY
20
SEPTEMBER

9 AM REGISTRATION & SERVICE PROJECT 10 AM EVENT BEGINS

Lunch to follow for \$8

Faith Lutheran Church
1716 SW Gage, Topeka

Please RSVP by
Sept 5 to Karen
785.554.4045



LWML women playing bingo at the Sunday Sundae event.



SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship	1 <i>Church office closed</i> Labor Day	2 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Spiritual Life	3 11:00am Care Card Making 2:00pm Community Blood Drive 5:15pm WOW Meal 6:00pm WOW Kick-off 7:30pm Praise Team rehearsal	4 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	5	6 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club
7 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 9:30am Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship 6:00pm Faith Speaks: Chad Lakies (LHM)	8 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm Scouts	9 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm LLC 7:00pm Praise Team rehearsal	10 9:30am Ruth Circle 5:15pm WOW Meal 6:00pm WOW	11 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	12	13 8:00am MOST Ministry 9:00am Breakfast Club
14 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship	15 7:00pm Scouts	16 10:00am Bible Study	17 11:00am Care Card Making 5:15pm WOW Meal 6:00pm WOW 7:30pm Praise Team rehearsal	18 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	19	20 8:00am LWML Zone Rally 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club
21 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 9:30am Town Hall Meeting 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship	22 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm Scouts	23 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Town Hall Meeting	24 5:15pm WOW Meal 6:00pm WOW 7:30pm Praise Team rehearsal	25 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	26 11:30 **Saints Alive After 55 6:00pm Junior Youth Nerf Night	27 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club
28 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship	29 5:00pm LWML Exec Meeting 7:00pm Scouts	30 10:00am Bible Study	1 11:00am Care Card Making 5:15pm WOW Meal 6:00pm WOW 7:30pm Praise Team rehearsal	2 8:00am Scrapbooking	3 8:00am Scrapbooking	4 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club

**Saints Alive After 55 (formerly known as Senior Saints) will now meet one Friday a month.
 If interested, contact the church office to receive emails about group events.

MISSION POSSIBLE DAY

For one day only, on September 16, help make God's mission possible by donating toward the LWML Mission Grant Goal. Donate online at lwml.org/givingday. A matching gift will double the impact for the first \$10,000 donated! (If you choose not to donate online, you may mail your contributions to LWML at 801 Seminary Place Suite L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. Please note "Mission Possible" or "Giving Day" with your contribution.)

Join us on this special day to make an eternal impact through the mission grants we support. The LWML Mission Grant Goal funds mission grants from organizations serving the needs of people around the world while sharing the Gospel message.

FOR YOUR HEALTH...*Suicide Prevention*

a message from our Parish Nurse Pat Schultz, RN

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. There have been advertisements on TV regarding this very sad disease and ways to raise awareness and spread hope. Mental health disorders, including suicide, are truly a disease, not unlike diabetes or heart disease, that requires recognition, treatment and compassion. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), one conversation asking someone how they are really doing and being ready to truly listen, can save lives. And that's because no one has to face this mental health issue alone... help exists...healing is possible...and all it takes is for one person to start a conversation.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, these are some options to know:

- ...Call or text 988 immediately to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline 24/7.
- ...Chat with the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988lifeline.org
- ...Know the warning signs and risk factors of suicide
- ...Be prepared for a crisis
- ...Read NAMI's guide, "Navigating a Mental Health Crisis"

Some tidbits to remember are: "Talking about suicide isn't harmful, silence is. One honest, caring conversation can save a life." Or, "Silence can cost lives, and a conversation can save a life." Studies show that people who are having thoughts of suicide feel relief when someone asks about them in a caring way. Opening up about your mental health journey...good, bad, or messy...creates space for healing.

Statistics show that:

- One in twenty U.S. adults have serious thoughts of suicide each year
- About one person dies by suicide in the U.S. every 11 minutes
- 79 percent of all people who die by suicide in the U.S. are male
- Although more women than men attempt suicide, men are four times more likely to die by suicide
- In the U.S., suicide is the second leading cause of death among people ages 10-14 and among people ages 15 to 24, and the 11th leading cause of death overall.

According to the CDC and NIMH, nearly 46,000 lives were lost to suicide in 2020. Comments or thoughts about suicide are known as suicidal ideation. These thoughts and/or comments can start small and can be easily unnoticed, such as thoughts or comments like, "nothing matters," or "who cares?" But without help these thoughts and comments can turn into more explicit and dangerous thoughts and actions.

The following are some additional warning signs of suicidal ideation: increased alcohol and/or drug use; aggressive behavior; withdrawal from friends, family, and community; dramatic mood swings; impulsive or reckless behavior. Additional suicidal behaviors can include: collecting and saving pills or buying a weapon; giving away possessions; tying up loose ends, like organizing personal papers or paying off debts; and saying goodbye to family and friends. Suicidal behaviors are a psychiatric emergency and require immediate action. Seek immediate help from a health care provider, call or text 988, or solicit help from a licensed mental health professional.

A mental health emergency is no different than a physiologic health emergency. NAMI has created a resource called, "Navigating A Mental Health Crisis: A NAMI Resource Guide For Those Experiencing A Mental Health Emergency." This guide can be very helpful for a person suffering with mental health issues and for a person living with or helping a person suffering with mental health issues. This guide can be downloaded and printed from the NAMI website.

It is important to remember this...If you have a friend or family member who struggles with suicidal ideation let them know that they can talk to you about what they are going through. And always remember to be open, kind, caring, compassionate and non-judgmental. Don't argue or try to convince them their feelings are not accurate. Use active listening techniques such as reflecting their feelings and summarizing their thoughts. These techniques help them feel heard and validated.

Let's view suicide as an unnecessary cause of death and take steps to help those who struggle with this disease to overcome any stigmas or roadblocks that can keep them from enjoying this life that Jesus has given us. There is one step we can all take, and that is to **START A CONVERSATION** and to **BE THE DIFFERENCE**.



September Birthdays

Russell Atchison	1	Harrison McCallister	13	Maddyn Grist	22
Darlene Harvey	1	Grace Thacker	13	Steve Hennessey	22
Chloe Moran	1	Lizzy Thacker	13	Jennifer Johannes	22
Carmiya Ray	1	Michele LeMoine	15	Eva Brunkow	23
Melinda Landman	4	Wayne Peterson	15	Elaine Eggold	23
Aubrey Maxwell	4	Robbie Timm	17	Erin Schwant	23
Jackie Vincent	4	Brownie Wilson	17	Wanda Hipsher	24
Connie Gerhardt	5	James Dunton	18	Jan Hoover	25
Jerald Morlock	5	Ben Hale	18	Cale Neddermeyer	25
Isabel Gateley	6	Nathan Leonard	18	Kay Dittmer	26
David Schwartz	8	Sheamus McGuigan	18	Maggie McClintock	26
Bob Kuhn	9	Jeannette Driscoll	19	Kim Savage	26
Rebecca Gateley	10	Phil Gutierrez	19	Patrice Thomsen	26
Steve Hale	10	Sara Hale	19	Shelly Mahon	27
Clarene Wilms	10	Eddie Kolterman	19	Mack Nelson	27
John Barrett	11	Andrew Marstall	19	Nancy Rhone	27
Angie Decker	12	Hunter Ramsey	19	Ava Andrews	28
George Hogg	12	Kerri Smith	19	Gayla Hoyt	29
Darrel Savage	12	Jennifer Steere-Offermann	19	Hannah Kamprath	29
Kelsie Burdick	13	Kent Biel	20	Jan Masenthin	29
Brogan Guffey	13	Lydia Spellman-Roberts	21		
Renaе Hansen	13	Kent Anschutz	22		

Gary & Sherrie Dick	2	Kent & Lori Biel	20
Dean & Karlea Landman	2	David & Sara Hale	20
Chelsie & Clint Livingston	2	Amy & James Dunton	22
Lillian & Gary Rexford	5	Phyllis & Donald Toombs	23
Barb & Paul Bowers	6	Katie & Koty Mize	24
Allen & Judy Corzine	7	Carissa & Kevin Robertson	24
Jessica & Derek Pfrang	10	Erin & Zach Snethen	27
Brandon & Megan Decker	15	Kim & Tim Rollenhagen	29
Susan & Cliff Sheets	16	Lindsey & Tommy Guffey	30
Ron & Ann Shelton	16		





"This was a great moment! First time we have had lunch altogether inside as a school. We are so thankful for this new home." —Beki Alters, Ignite Founder & Principal



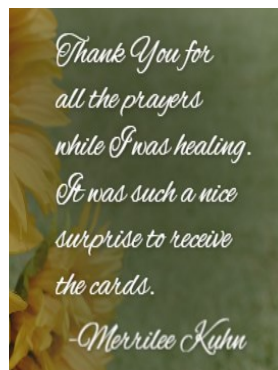
Official Acts

Baptism:
8/3 Grady Lane Grist, son of Lane & Erinn Grist

Funeral:
8/29 Marita Gabler

Transfer In:
8/18 Jarrod & Eileen Wertzberger, Caroline from St. John Lutheran Church in Alma

Welcome new members: Mark & Kay Neuer



If you would like to submit something for this publication, please email it to Lacey by the 3rd Monday of the month.

October Messenger deadline: Sept 15



**FAITH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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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

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)