

FAITH LIFE TOGETHER

A Letter From Our Council President

BY PAM HANSON

Greetings Faith!

Another month has come to an end, which means teachers and students are all back to school and we are gearing up for all the activities that come along with that. August just seems a little bitter-sweet to me.....especially this year. The end of this season leaves me feeling like summer went too fast. I didn't get everything done I had hoped to. However, I look back at the things that did happen this summer and my heart swells with emotion. So much has changed for so many. It is easy to think of the negative things, however, I refer to a Bible verse my mom circled in the Bible she gave me several years ago and I refer to it often: Philippians 4:8 " Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and dwell on the fine, good things in others. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about." I am reminded that it is not my circumstances that direct my attitude toward things, it IS my thoughts. So, I am going to remain positive in all the circumstances that are in front of us. We have many ups and downs this year as a church. Some may say it has been a little bitter sweet. I would like to highlight the true and good things that are happening at Faith!

1. Currently (as of 8/28) our flood giving is right around \$133,000.00. The balance after we have paid around \$6,000.00 worth of bills is right around \$127,000.00.
2. A generous donor committed to purchasing the chairs in the sanctuary and the Son room!
3. Many committees have formed to participate in the rebuilding of Faith Lutheran. They have been so generous with their time and commitment to doing the best they can for our church.
4. Our Sunday school is starting in September!!! Children will be learning about God in our building! We even celebrated 3 baptisms all while under construction!
5. So many people have stepped up and continue to volunteer time, food, prayer, hospitality and money. We are so thankful for the gifts that everyone has shared.
6. Our executive team, church council and project committees have been dedicated to our work as leaders of the church. It is not an easy job and I am thankful to work with some of the most dedicated, faithful servants!
7. Since the flood, we have not missed one week of worship! We thank our staff, technology team and pastor for being faithful, flexible, problem-solvers!
8. We have an insulated building and will be ready for the cool weather ahead. Our duct work and heating/cooling units will soon be cleaned, insulated and repaired, ready for the season ahead.
9. We have many bids coming in for carpet, front door, drywall, kitchen cabinets etc...and we will prioritize those as our budget allows.
10. Most importantly we continue to trust that God is with us in every step we take. He will not let us walk this path alone or in the dark. I am so grateful that His love for us never ends.

Sincerely, Pam Hanson

Dear God, Thank you for giving us each other to lean on when things become difficult. Give us wisdom to make good decisions. We praise you for all that you have done for us and we pray that we use these gifts to glorify you and grow your kingdom. Amen!

Life Without a Landlord

BY PASTOR BEN UNSETH

Home ownership is fantastic...until something goes wrong. I have been in my home for one month, and the kitchen sink is clogged. The water comes out of the faucet just fine, but then it doesn't go anywhere. After an hour or two, it disappears...except for the scum it leaves behind in the sink.

I simply stare at it. That doesn't accomplish anything.

Nathan McKenney crawled under the sink, and I told him I did not have a wrench to loosen the pipes. No problem for him. Nathan gripped the pipes and unscrewed them. Then he torqued the garbage disposal barehanded, and removed it. We took them outside and blasted the clogs out with the hose and a nozzle.

Nathan put it all back together and tightened the joints. We turned on the faucet...and the water backed up again.

Yesterday I picked up a 15-foot snake at Bomgaars. This morning, Jacob Weeks reported that he used the full snake, and the water still backs up.

I hoped to give you a report of how one of us was successful. Nathan used his God-given skill to take apart the drain pipes barehanded.

I used my ability to buy the snake.

Jacob applied his talent to snake the drain.

Now it's time to call a plumber. Every problem needs a gifted person to solve it. As we explore Exodus this month, we get to watch Moses the shepherd, gifted and called by God to solve an immense problem—to set God's people free!

Each of us is gifted and called by God to serve him—in our relationships, in our neighborhood and in our church. We are not able ourselves to solve every problem. That's ok. God has someone else who is.

Today, for me, that someone is the plumber. Time for me to make a phone call.



Upcoming Dates for Sunday School

September 8

Sunday School begins for preschool - elementary students

September 22

Sunday School begins for older youth and adults



Register today!

Scan the QR code or follow the link to sign your child(ren) up today! All children are encouraged to have an updated registration form in their file.



<https://bit.ly/FLC-SS-register>

Building Report

BY PROJECT MANAGER PAUL BEHRENS

August flew by very quickly. A couple projects which have been completed this past month is the skirting around the outside perimeter cut off and replaced, done with many volunteers. What a great group to get to work with, we had a long day but finished it up on a Saturday. Ymker Insulation was then brought in and the spray foam was applied. Now our entire outside perimeter is spray foamed which seals, insulates and helps prevent rodents from moving in. We are trying to get rebates through a couple different companies to help with costs. Sunday school rooms carpet adhesive was all removed and the floors sealed so when we are ready to put the new carpet down it will be ready to do. Estimates have been acquired on repairing the Hvac systems along with cleaning the duct work and insulating the outside of the ducts.



Currently it is insulated on the inside but this all needs to be removed. Outside insulation will be more efficient and won't cost much more. The north exterior sliding door is being replaced with double manual doors along with all the glass. Going with manual doors on the north side will improve our comfort especially in the winter as the doors will not be open so long and also maintenance will be mostly eliminated. The south sliding door will stay in tact, so we continue to have an inviting entrance and also handicap accessibility. Appliances for the kitchen have been purchased and estimates are being put together for the cupboards in the kitchen. Carpet color and pattern along with chairs have been picked out and are ready to order when we are ready. We have had many individuals working on all these projects, many hours away from family, jobs and weekend fun have been given up to rebuild our Faith church. We have fun working together and have yummy lunches. I would like to invite all to come join us, there are many different areas we are able to work in and room for all! Thanks to all our volunteers, I cant help but think God is proud of you all!

God Is With Us

BY WORSHIP DIRECTOR
GLORIA MCKENNEY

As we have continued flood cleanup and restoration, it has occurred to me that someone going through this can take one of two outlooks: they can look everything around them touched by flood waters, or they can look at everyone around them helping clean up. It is certainly true that we have lost much, and others have lost even more. It is easy, and perhaps even natural, to look at the church with the eyes of what is missing. The bottom half of all the walls. Sanctuary chairs. A proper altar. Even the worship platform itself is only a skeleton, the mini grand in storage, and the printers currently unable to print bulletins for us each Sunday.

But if you take a moment to adjust your thoughts, you can look around at this same building and realize who has been here throughout the process. A dozen people (including a couple of friendly kayakers) helped to save what they could as the flood waters swiftly rose around them. Countless people volunteered their time, talents, and even skid loaders to start the demolition process. Strong teen boys helped break desks, pop locks open, and scrape carpet squares off the floor. Skilled men and women helped to powerwash items and redo the outside tin, and will help with rebuilding and insulating walls, reconstructing the stage, and countless other projects.

Many people have been involved throughout the process, and a few can even say they have been here most of the work days thus far. But only One has been here each step of the way: as this church was founded, as the flood waters rose, as the world waited for waters to recede. As neighbors, friends, and strangers joined hands to toss flood soaked items and tear apart walls. As donations started to come in toward the Flood Relief Fund, and as faithful volunteers stepped up to lead us through the rebuilding process. You may have guessed this One is God, and you would be right. God has been here since before the church existed, was here as the water rose and fell, and is here now as we figure life out again. God has not left, and will never leave us. When you look at the devastation you may ask “where is God in all this?”. But if you look closer, you’ll see God is with us. To quote The Afters in their song aptly named ‘God is With Us’, God is ‘right here where He’s always been. He never left and He never will. Where is God? God is with us.’

In the time of Moses, God dwelled in the tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant. If the Ark of the Covenant went missing, God went with it. If the tabernacle was destroyed, the only way to worship was also taken away. But praise be to God, we now live where Jesus has torn down the temple veil and sent the Holy Spirit to be with us.

Where is God? God is with us.



Join the next Pop-Up Choir!

We will be singing ‘Raise Your Hands’ by Heather Sorenson for the Worship Service on October 27. Practices will be at 10:30am on Sundays, beginning September 29. Sign up on the sheet by the entryway or online at <https://bit.ly/FLC-pop-up>

Courage Through Faith

BY KIM WILSON

Greetings to all Friends in Christ and all who wish to know Him! As we live, we find our Faith tested in many ways. We may experience loss, pain, suffering, and other negative events as we move forward in life. Some challenges may be extraordinary, overwhelming, and complicated. Others may be incidental, bothersome, and irritating. At any level, there is always a sense that life can be difficult. As Christians, we know these trials must be dealt with through faith and with courage to overcome them.

When Jesus taught us in the Lord's Prayer to pray 'to lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil' (Matthew 6:13), He knew we must often remind ourselves that He is always with us to deliver us. Through this petition, we know there is relief when negative events, emotions, and behavior enter our hearts and minds and try to rob us of our Joy and well-being.

We know our God, (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is here to give us peace and calm if we will accept it. Psalm 34:17 tells us "When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles." One may ask, "Am I one of the righteous?" When my faith seems to leave and I am a hot mess, "Am I still righteous?"

Feeling hopeless and/or struggling with anxiety and depression are natural responses when life takes a turn to the worse. We find, in our human condition, we are ill-equipped to face life's difficulties on our own. Thankfully, God sees our weakness and invites us to seek Him for help. We find, time and again, in the Bible that the Lord is a "very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1) In John 14:1, Jesus tells us, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me."

As each day unfolds, let us, as Christians, remember Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 4:6-7. "So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body, we are away from the Lord for we walk by faith, not by sight." The distance we may feel from God is ever-changing. Reminding ourselves that negative thoughts and feelings are temporary is essential as we retain our hope and strengthen our faith.

Be encouraged as God's people and encourage others to trust in our Lord and Savior, especially during difficult times. Share James 1: 2-4: "Count it all joy, when you meet trials of various kinds for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." God has a plan as He rescues us each day from adversity. May the Lord guide you and keep you close. For all God's children, we can believe:" And we know that for those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28) To God be the Glory!

Women's Bible study will not meet in September because of the Clay County Fair. In October we will continue our study of Luke.

As you enjoy the fair or encounter the many people in town that week, let Christ's light shine through you as you are patient and kind. Remember, "You may be the only Bible some people read."

Thrivent cards in action!

Dave and Linda Susie were able to purchase hundreds of clearance notebooks, erasers, pencils, and crayons replacing lost items in the flood for Luther World Relief school kits. They, and we, are thankful for this program!

Hands On Mission Day is held the first Wednesday of each month, and is currently held at Dave and Linda Susie's home at 1514 W 13th St in Spencer. You can help pack the school kits and contribute to other mission projects at their next meeting on October 2nd!



September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to...



9.2 Shirley Parks
9.2 Christine Piercy

9.4 Lauren Rouse
9.4 Shawn Sembach

9.6 Justin Lee
9.6 Cindy Drefke

9.7 Jared Hansen
9.7 Betty Ricklefs

9.8 Dylan Harris

9.9 Jacob Heikens

9.10 Marcia Klett
9.10 Tracy Coleman Wigen

9.11 Andre Enge

9.12 Harper Stykel

9.13 Parker Gilley/Harrington

9.14 Rory Schuster
9.14 Sydney Schwartz
9.14 Diane Van Kleeck

9.15 Lisa Blazek
9.15 Dean Vos

9.17 Barb Enge

9.18 Larry Clark

9.20 Rachel Slmington

9.21 Bev Hummel

9.22 Sheryl Lee

9.24 Isaac Storley

9.26 Julie Williams
9.26 Brayden Yungbluth

9.27 Steve Johnson

9.30 Nancy Heckathorn
9.30 Keith Van Kleeck
9.30 Ellie Spieker



Happy Anniversary to...

9.5 Kent & Marci Sandven

9.10 Adam & Leah Kreutner

9.12 Chris & Carolyn Christofferson

9.16 Eric & Syndee Patten

9.16 Mark & Rhonda Vreeman

9.16 Brad & Lori Krei

9.18 Shawn & Crystal Meislahn

9.19 Mark & Lauriann Heilman

9.19 Eric & Cindy Tigges

9.21 Eli & Sara Franker

9.25 Shawn & Mary Sembach



August 14, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Pam Hanson at 7:04 PM.

Members present were: Emily Hoppe, Kris Behrens, Dave Susie, Justin Spieker, Pam Hanson, Pastor Ben, Gloria McKinney, Nancy Ketcham, Barb Solberg, Ross & Beth Brockshus, Pete Crew, Jared Hansen & Jolene Hansen.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pam Hanson. Devotions were given by Nancy Ketcham.

Prior months minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve made by Pete Crew. Jared Hansen seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Prior months financial statement – Undesignated giving was around \$30,000 (inc the sale of the bus). Expenses were around \$27,000. YTD is almost \$205,000 and last year was approximately \$207,000. YTD expenses are decreasing so catching up on the shortage. Pete Crew motioned to approve. Beth Brockshus seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Flood relief funds received in July were around \$72,000. This gives us approximately \$115,000 available for flood repairs.

TREASURER'S REPORT – As of the end of July we have received \$114,406 and \$3,000 in Thrivent cards towards flood relief.

PASTOR BEN'S REPORT – Pastor has been working on getting the church back in order with what he can do. Crosswinds is having the ILCC soccer students involved in their church, so Pastor is focusing his energy into working with young adults in our congregation. Having just purchased a home, he will lead a weekly Bible study there along with a meal together, and occasionally community service work. Jacob Weeks & Nathan McKenney will be living there to start with. The Pastor from Hope Church has a list of names of people that have reached out and need some assistance (Stephen's Ministry?). Let Pastor know if you would like to follow up with someone from this list.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Pam Hanson) -

TECHNOLOGY REPORT (Lance Storley) – RDI checked out the system and not much was damaged. A subwoofer was on the floor but otherwise, in pretty good shape. Lance is going to add/move some outlets on the platform per RDI recommendation.

COUNCIL REPORTS

- Evangelism (Eric Tigges) –
- Missions (Kris Behrens) – The Missions group is meeting next week. Looking at other Mission opportunities to support as they have been the same for quite some time. In January, will talk about another International Mission trip.
- Worship (Pete Crew) –
- Stewardship (Emily Hoppe) – Nothing to report.
- Discipleship (Barb Solberg) – Starting back up in September – look for a date in the future.
- Children's Ministry (Kirby Fueston) – Blessing of the back packs, presentation of Bibles will happen the last Sunday of August. Sunday school will start September 8. Working on a plan for where/how this will be held.
- Youth Ministry (Matt & Steph Essick) – Will start this up after Clay County Fair. More to come. Confirmation orientation will be August 28. Trinity will be sharing confirmation classes with us.

August 14, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes - cont'd

COUNCIL REPORTS (continued)

- Caring Ministries (Ross & Beth Brockshus) – The group is meeting with potluck the end of this month.
- Fellowship (Lee & Nancy Ketcham) – Fellowship is going great. Nancy is helping when she is available. Nancy is having people ask about providing meals for the work days. Will get a sign up sheet for people interested in doing this. Greeters are wondering where to write the attendance down so Gloria will make a sheet up and put on the front table. Pastor will mention at the Sunday services to sign up for donuts/bars/cookies on Sunday morning. Will also mention food sign up for the work days.
- Music & Creative Arts (Jared Hansen) – Nothing to report.
- Properties () –

OLD BUSINESS

- Bus was re-sold and \$4,000 was made and donated to Faith's General fund – it has been removed from our insurance and off of our property prior to the flood.
- Technology fundraising on-going – we are not touching these funds.
- July 28th Congregational meeting – spending cap of \$175,000 was approved. Anything over that will require another Congregational meeting.
- Paul Behrens, project manager for Flood Repair – Paul is forming a committee to help him make decisions on the various things that need to happen.
- Properties position & technology help – still looking for someone. The nominating committee will need to start looking for replacements for Eric (Evangelism), Kirby (Children's Ministry) & Pete (Worship). They will also need to look for a Vice President.

NEW BUSINESS

- Goals, priorities & steps to repair building; bids for work; Grants/funds/insurance – the tin is finished on the outside of the building. Starting in the middle of next week, they will begin spray foaming. Items will need to be moved out of the rooms to get to the outside walls (storage & discipleship rooms). We have gotten a sample chair in to look at and they were very happy with those. We don't want to order them until the drywall is done. The carpet has been picked out. They are doing carpet squares for the Sunday school rooms & offices. The platform & aisle runner will be done with carpet (no pad). They are going to get a bid to have someone grind the concrete and polish it. The toilets are here but can't put them in until the drywall is done. The AC unit needs some insulation work done. Estimating this to be around \$12,000 and this doesn't include the cleaning of the duct work. Wondering if this is something we can do ourselves?? We got a quote from the door company to replace the north & south entrance doors. They quoted around \$600 to replace the glass but we feel like there would still be some mold in there. New doors would run approximately \$10-12,000 each. We are getting quotes for different style doors as well. The door company has said that the current style doors are not efficient. Looking at doors that have the handicap button to open the doors and were quoted \$13,000 per door. We also have to be concerned about following codes (ADA) & making sure the open wide enough. We would like to get these installed before winter. Denison Drywall bid is signed & it will run us around \$38,000. We will be doing wainscoting behind the altar area (north end) and we will do that ourselves. Kitchen appliances have been purchased. The Thrivent cards paid for most of that and we purchased them at Menards to get the 11% rebate. We are continuing to get several Thrivent cards. They spray foam will run about \$8,600. The copy machine works for copies but having some issues with the printing. Dave & Linda Susie have been working on this.

August 14, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes - cont'd

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

- Life Kids 5013c- They have decided to put LifeKids on hold for a year. They have had their 5013c revoked so they are no longer tax exempt. During COVID, the IRS wasn't sending the reminders out regarding the documentation that were required. They are trying to get it reinstated, there is a substantial fine to pay but could potentially get the fine waived. Cheryl is technically an employee of Faith Lutheran & we do their payroll. Cheryl is a "for profit" employee & this could impact our applying for grants, FEMA, etc. Cheryl has accepted a teaching job at Spencer Schools for 1 year. Once we get more information from LifeKids, we may have to take some action on this.
- Work days – Gloria sends those out via email, text and will add Facebook.
- 2025 budget – We are starting to work on this. We aren't sure what the insurance will look like for 2025. We are looking at possibly changing the deductible which is currently at \$5,000. The Exec Team are working on getting several quotes to keep it in check with our giving.

Concerns and/or Celebrations

Andrea, Abbey & Lori are in Madagascar on a Mission trip. There aren't any roads and they do a lot of riding. They will be back around the 21st.

Spencer Family Church has decided to disband.

Becky is having surgery on the 20th on her back/neck.

Beau Hoppe is having gallbladder surgery on Friday.

Closing Prayer was given by Justin Spieker.

Adjournment – Pete made the motion to adjourn. Jared seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolene K. Hansen, Church Council Secretary



2024 Giving and Flood Relief Report

2024 BUDGET: \$420,894.00

	August	Year to Date
General Giving	27,210.00	\$259,582.10
Flood Relief Fund		\$153,711.41