



*Bringing faith to life*



A monthly publication to keep members and friends informed of the ministry of Faith.

July 2021

Vol. 72

Issue 7

3100 E. Evergreen Dr. Appleton, WI 54913 | 601 E. Glendale Ave. Appleton, WI 54911 • 920-739-9191 • [www.faitfoxvalley.org](http://www.faitfoxvalley.org)



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

“Happy New Year!” July 1, 2021 is the first day of the new “fiscal” year for our Congregation. And it is worth celebrating. Our staff, members and the Board worked diligently to move our congregation’s program, governance and financial processes and systems from a calendar year to the fiscal year. Kudos to all who made this transition smooth and effective.

Our Board of Directors has been at work on behalf of the members of the congregation to help make this transition by providing oversight, guidance, direction and counsel to co-lead Pastors Dan Thews and Aaron Rosenau. Members of the Board include: Bob Benz, Bill Bargholz, John DeVantier, Phyllis Klee, Dave Krueger, Dave Kuplic, Jodie Larsen, Chris Linn and Tim Schwan.

While our Constitution’s By-Laws require the Board meets “not less than quarterly”, the Board meets more often to carry out its governance accountabilities. For example, so far in 2021 our Board calendar included:

January – Conducted a 2021 kickoff meeting where we elected officers and made plans for 2021. The Board elected Bob Benz as Secretary, Jodie Larson as Vice-President and Tim Schwan as president. On behalf of the Board and the Congregation, I want to thank John DeVantier for his many years of faithful service as President. God has richly blessed the Congregation and Board through his leadership, love for Jesus and passion for ministry.

February – The Board formed three “Committees of the Board”:

Governance Committee: John DeVantier, Chris Linn, Dave Krueger: Lead the ongoing implementation of Policy Based Governance.

Performance Review/Evaluation Committee: Jodie Larsen, Bill Bargholz, Dave Kuplic: Lead the evaluation of the Board and Co-Lead Pastor’s performance.

Board Policy Committee: Bob Benz, Phyllis Klee, Tim Schwan: Lead the review and editing of the Board Policy Manual.

March – Board committees met.

April – Jodie Larsen led a strategic analysis of Faith’s mission by using a strategic tool called “SWOT Analysis” . . . the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to Faith’s ministries. This information was then used by Pastors Dan and Aaron in their strategic planning with staff. The Board then met in an “executive session” to complete an annual performance review of Pastors Dan and Aaron.

May – Agenda included preparing for the May 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Voter’s Meeting, planning the summer meeting schedule, and discussed how to approach gathering feedback from the members of Faith.

June – Committee Meetings.

Serving on the Board constantly reminds me how lovingly and richly God has blessed Faith Lutheran Church. My colleagues on the Board bring a richness of perspective, talent, experience, thought and expertise to the work of the Board. I see the passion, competence and caring of our Pastors and staff working together with our members, to carry out God’s mission in the world. On our website we proclaim that “we exist to bring people to Jesus Christ and to bring His love to our world. In Jesus, we have the greatest treasure the world could ever know. And it is our passion to share that treasure with our friends and neighbors, with our community and beyond.”

Please keep your Board in your prayers. We are accountable to you to ensure that we “Faith-fully” share “the greatest treasure the world could ever know . . . Jesus”.

*Board President, Tim Schwan*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

One of my greatest joys lately has been greeting people on the way into church – especially those who have come back for the first time since the pandemic rocked our world. To see the tears and to hear how much folks have missed worshipping together has made me realize how important worship is for all of us! Maybe one good thing to come out of these days is that we will never take for granted again the privilege, joy and gift worshipping is! That got me thinking... What else have I learned from life in a pandemic?? Here are a few of my random thoughts ...

**1. It is good to be confronted with the delusion of human independence and self-sufficiency.** It's only taken a single virus to shut us down. For a while it seemed like we were living in a ghost town: churches were shut down, businesses were shut down, restaurants were closed, families were separated from one another, friends couldn't gather anymore. It's been an amazing thing, and it reminds us that we were created to be dependent—dependent on the Creator. There is no such thing as human independence or human self-sufficiency. In fact, it reminds me that the progress, the move of grace in our hearts and lives, is not from dependence to independence but from independence to greater dependence on God. The more you grow in grace, the more you understand the wisdom of the Word; the more you understand your own heart; the more you understand the folly of this world; the more you run in joyful, submissive dependency on God.

**2. God's amazing power and glory shine brighter when we are weak and life seems out of control.** Isn't it amazing that although things, to us, seem out of control—and in many ways, humanly, are out of control—there is One who sits on the throne of the universe? He is the definition of everything that's wise, good, true, holy, righteous, and almighty, and he is in careful control of his world. We

don't always comprehend what that means, but there is one who rules the world, who is not afraid at moments like these, who is not weak, who is not confused, who has no mystery, and who never experiences surprises. We don't always know why he does what he does, but we know who he is and we know what he has promised his children.

**3. The greater global pandemic is not COVID-19. It's sin.** As this pandemic has spread from country to country until the entire globe was affected and shut down in an attempt to squash its power and its spread, we were reminded that there is an even greater, darker, more dangerous pandemic. It gets everyone—it gets everyone from birth. It is the deepest, darkest infection. It is the ultimate disease. It's called sin. It's more dangerous and more destructive than COVID-19 will ever be.

But this is what's amazing: there is a cure. God looked at his world in awesome mercy and love and decided he would not let us die from this disease. He sent his Son to live as we could not live, to die an awful death, and to rise again—conquering sin and death so that there would be a cure for the ultimate disease. The cure is found in the person and work of the Lord Jesus, through his amazing grace. Celebrate grace. Celebrate that something more dangerous and more deadly than this pandemic will ever be has been cured by the power of the grace of Jesus. What an awesome thing.

**4. Though we are separated from others, nothing can separate us from the love of God.** We have had to be separate from one another for a while – even on Sundays! I've missed our church family! I think we've all felt the remorse of our separation. That's why it's wonderful to remember that no pandemic—that nothing in all of creation—is able to separate us from God and his boundless love. In fact, in these moments God doesn't separate himself from us. He doesn't turn his back on us, but he draws near. He draws near to the weak. He draws near to the brokenhearted. He draws near

in love and grace, empowering us to face what we could not face without him. Your greatest friend, your deepest lover, your sweetest companion has no distance between him and you. What a beautiful thing that is.

**5. We are not alone.** Scripture reminds us that in these moments we don't have to shoulder these burdens alone. When we are weary and distraught, we have a place to go. Jesus welcomes us when we're weary to come to him and cast our cares on him. He will shoulder our burdens because he really does care for us. In these moments, it's tempting to doubt God's goodness, to doubt his wisdom, to doubt his power, to doubt his ability to control. And you see, what's deadly about that is when you doubt God's goodness, you quit running to him for help because you don't tend to go for help to someone you no longer trust.

Fight the lies of the enemy that would whisper into your ear, *Where is your God now? What is he doing now? Why isn't he here? Why doesn't he answer?* The Bible says God is near. He cares. He hears. He answers. Do not run away from him. Run to him. Sure, we're going to wonder, *Why?* And maybe those questions won't be fully answered here and now; but again, we know who God is, we know what he promised us, and we know that this moment points us to how much we need one who is greater than us, who has greater power than us, who has greater control than us, who directs things we can't direct, who is never weak, who is never tired, and who is never weary. Run to him with your burdens.

So... there will be a time—it's hard to imagine—where we will look back on these days as a brief moment of trouble as we are experiencing a perfect world, perfect bodies, perfect hearts, and a perfect relationship with God. Everything will be as it's supposed to be and function as it was meant to function—in peace and righteousness forever and ever. This scary  
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moment reminds us of the most precious truths of the gospel. Instead of focusing on the what-ifs, how about meditating on those promises of future glory? God bless you as you do that. Stay safe, be smart, and remember Jesus and the glories of his gospel of grace.

- Pastor Dan Thews



## IT'S NOT GOODBYE, IT'S SEE YOU LATER



Dear Faith Lutheran Church Members,

Nine years ago, my youngest daughter was going into first grade and after being a stay-at-home mom for ten years, I started looking for a job. I needed a job where the hours still allowed me to run my kids to and from school as well as volunteer. It seemed like a tall order. Then, one Sunday morning while I was in church with my three children, reading the bulletin during the sermon (haha), I read about a position open in the church office. It was part-time, 9:30-2:30 p.m., so I could run the kids and no Fridays, so I could still volunteer. It was perfect. One very nerve-wracking interview later, I became the new assistant office manager for Faith Lutheran Church.

I realize that you do not typically see a non-called member of church staff writing an article like this for the newsletter, but I was given the opportunity because July 1<sup>st</sup> will be my last day working in the church office. I say that with much sadness because there will be so many people that I will miss, but also with a tinge of excitement as I have been given the opportunity to move forward in my life with a new full-time job. Before I

leave, I want to express to you, the congregation, how grateful I am for spending the past 8 ½ years serving you in the office.

What many may not realize is that working in the church office is more than just answering phones and stapling worship folders. It is also listening to someone whose loved one just passed away or celebrating with a member whose grandson had just won a tournament. One of my first days on the job, I took a phone call from a member who was upset because her granddaughter had just been diagnosed with leukemia. It was then that I realized that the most important part of my job was to serve the congregation's needs no matter what they may be.

It is because of this that I feel like I have a second family at Faith Lutheran. So many of you have invited me into your lives with your honesty, openness, and love. This is a loving congregation. I want everyone who is reading this to know that. The members here have a lot of love to give, and they are incredibly open to passing that along to anyone who is willing to accept it. They embraced and accepted me no matter my faults.

I hope that you indulge me as I share some of my most impactful memories from my time here. I have a plant by my window that affectionately call the "Lee" plant. This plant was given to us by the family of long-time member Lee Hering after his funeral. It is housed by my window because Lee and I had a special relationship where I would always give him an enthusiastic hug whenever I saw him. This continued until a couple days before he died. Deb and I visited him while he was on hospice and as I leaned over to give him a hug, a previously unresponsive Lee, turned his head to meet mine.

I did not grow up in a very "huggy" family, but I have learned through my time here, that a hug can say so much more than words. Now, when I do not know how to help someone who is in pain who is at my window, I just offer to give them a hug. I think the most hugs I have given were to members who had loved ones who were suffering from dementia. I have learned a lot about that terrible condition from watching members struggle with it, to the toll that it takes on the loved ones taking care of them. One of the most notable was Joyce Knitt. Joyce's battle with dementia was long and arduous. Yet, Pastor Knitt continued to bring her to church for as long as he could. My last memory of seeing Joyce was during a prayer and healing service, Pastor Knitt brought her out to the commons because she could not sit in the sanctuary anymore. I happened to be at my desk at the time and came out to say hi to them. Even though Joyce was very deep into her dementia, when she saw me, she lit up. I knew she recognized me. She reached her hand out and I held it. She struggled to say words even though all that came out was gibberish. It was a moment that will always stay with me in my heart and another example that my job extended beyond the busy-work that is done in the office.

Besides being an assistant office manager, many of you know that I am also a musician. I would say that music is my passion. I am lucky that not only was I able to have the freedom in my schedule to perform, I also had immense support from members for my music. During my tenure here, I recorded a CD, put together lunchtime oboe recitals, played for funerals, played for worship services, and practiced in the sanctuary and music/media room. In fact, Carla Gast used to come early to Senior Bible Class just so that she could listen to me practice.

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In closing, I would like to acknowledge the staff at Faith Lutheran Church. I went through a lot of struggles in my personal life during the last 8 ½ years and the patience, understanding, caring, and forgiveness that the staff showed me, helped me to work through those struggles. Working here also gave me some emotional stability when things outside of work were not going well. I want to particularly thank my boss and my friend, Deb Luebke, who I have often said is the best boss anyone could ever ask for. From her, I have learned selflessness, strength, determination, and that it is ok to move forward in your life. She and I weathered many storms together both in the office and in our personal lives, and we became a stronger team as a result. I am going to miss that most of all.

Thank you members of Faith Lutheran Church. Thank you Faith Lutheran Church staff. It is hard to say goodbye to the everyday, but you will still see me around. - Jennifer Bryan

# *spiritual* MINISTRIES

## COMFORT DOG MINISTRY

### **Getting our Dog!**

We're expecting and finally have a date for the arrival of our new K-9 Comfort Dog! From August 8-11 members of our team who will serve as handlers and caregivers, and our Top Dog, Carrie Foster, will be in Northbrook, Illinois for training. And when they come home, they'll be bringing our Comfort Dog with them! It's great news!

Just like when families have a new baby the first few weeks after our dog arrives will be filled with tasks of getting acquainted and adjusting to new routines, schedules, people, and places. During this period our team will continue training with our dog, mostly behind the scenes, so, don't expect to see our little "bundle of joy" for a few weeks. After this brief period of adjustment, a trainer from Lutheran Church Charities (or LCC, the organization responsible for Comfort Dog Ministry) will visit to make sure our team is on the right track, and, if so, our dog will be officially "vested" and our team will be ready for service. We'll share more information about what that all will look like in the months ahead.

Thank you for your support of Comfort Dog Ministry at Faith. We look forward to the day when you can meet our dog. While we wait, please keep our team in your prayers.

### **You Can Help Us Get Ready for Our Dog – Dog Days of Summer Supply Drive**

As we prepare for our dog's arrival, we're pulling together the needed supplies – crates, dog beds, brushes, food, leashes, you name it. You can help by donating toward the purchase of something on our list. You can select an item to donate and we'll take your donation and use it toward the purchases of larger items.



For more information, visit the dog house display in the gathering area at either ministry center. There you can select an item to donate and leave payment in the dog house. Or find our list and purchase an item online at [www.faitfoxvalley.org/comfortdogsupplies](http://www.faitfoxvalley.org/comfortdogsupplies).

## STEPHEN MINISTRY



### **Ready? Set? Minister!**

Riding a bike. Using a new computer program. Ironing a shirt. Training is important whenever anyone learns a new skill. Training is important in Stephen Ministry too. Before Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers begin their work, they go through a lot of training. When they start their official ministry, they're ready.

A training class for Stephen Ministers is beginning this fall. To find out more about what this ministry has to offer, contact Pastor Adam Bridgman or one of our other Stephen Leaders (*Amy Cox, Joan Klaas, Mary Nimmer, Connie and Ken Place, Kris Smith, or Pastor Jim Wiebel*) today.

*Are life's challenges and struggles getting you down? Faith's Stephen Ministers are here for you! If you'd be interested in meeting, one-on-one, with a Stephen Minister contact Pastor Adam Bridgman for more information.*



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

There are still a few spots open for an incredible journey at VBS 2021: Treasured, August 2-5, 2021! Together we will discover that we are priceless to God. VBS is for students 3K (4 years old by Sept. 1, 2021)-Grade 6. **Register online at [faithfoxvalley.org/VBS](http://faithfoxvalley.org/VBS).**

**We need you in VBS!** There is a spot for you as a VBS Volunteer (and lots of spots still available)! **All high school and adult volunteers are welcome!** Please contact Becca Klemm ([becca.klemm@faithfv.org](mailto:becca.klemm@faithfv.org), (920) 739-9191) if you are interested in volunteering.

## Donate to VBS!

Help make our VBS awesome by purchasing needed items from Amazon. Simply purchase the item from the Amazon link provided at [faithfoxvalley.org/vbsdonaions](http://faithfoxvalley.org/vbsdonaions) and it will be sent directly to Becca at Faith Lutheran Church.

## Sunday School/Midweek Registration

Registration for the 2021-2022 Sunday School and Midweek year is now open! Sunday School is available at FMC and CMC for students 3K-Grade 8. Midweek is for 5K-Grade 6 students at FMC. Register online at [www.faithfoxvalley.org/Sunday-MidweekSchool](http://www.faithfoxvalley.org/Sunday-MidweekSchool). We are currently anticipating to be fully in person for Sunday School and Midweek starting this fall!

# CHILD CARE CENTERS



**3100 E. Evergreen Dr., Appleton • (920) 734-1414 • [www.appletondaycare.com](http://www.appletondaycare.com)**

Happy Summer to all! Here at Celebration, we can lay claim to the coolest summer project of all. Our new parking lot has afforded us diggers, dump trucks and concrete trucks ... oh my! I believe if we brought out their meals, some of our littles would camp out and watch all day! We are pleased to be venturing out on some fieldtrips in the community, unlike last summer. The heat brings about some challenges, but with sunscreen, water bottles and water play, we will make our outside time full of fun and adventure! Sending everyone joy-filled blessings! Kelly Zdanovec, Center Director



**601 E. Glendale Ave., Appleton • (920) 739-7772 • [www.faithchildcare.com](http://www.faithchildcare.com)**

Our summer program at Faith Child Care is in full swing! Even though the children are not going on as many trips as usual this summer, we have plenty of fun activities scheduled. The children and their teachers are working on decorations for Bridges of Appleton residents. They will be going to Bubolz Nature Center at the end of the month and will also be swimming at Erb and Mead Pools. In July, the children will be holding a Penny War throughout the Center and raising money for Saving Paws. Last July, we donated over \$300 to them!

At the end of July, Faith Child Care will be celebrating its 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary! We hope to enjoy a picnic with our families! On behalf of the staff and families of FCC, I want to thank Faith Lutheran Church for its ongoing support of our Mission. We have accomplished so much with your help through the years!

Faith Child Care is hiring a full time or part time teacher for our 1 ½ year old classroom. If you or someone you know is looking to work in child care or to work in a new field, please send them our way! They can apply directly with us by emailing a resume to [lori.jenks@faithchildcare.com](mailto:lori.jenks@faithchildcare.com) or call Lori 920-739-7772. Experience is not necessary.

# *school*NEWS



**3100 E. Evergreen Dr., Appleton • (920) 734-7772 • [www.celebrationlutheran.net](http://www.celebrationlutheran.net)**

Celebration Lutheran School (CLS) is seeking basketball coaches for its upcoming 2021-2022 school year. The season runs from November to the middle of February. Duties would include running practices or attending games on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Practices are scheduled to run from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m., and games will begin at either 4:30 or 4:45 p.m. and last about an hour. This is meant to be a fun program for all – not a pressure of winning.

CLS is also in need of a volunteer to help run our basketball program in the winter. This individual helps find volunteers for working the scoreboard and concessions, and sets up and takes down for games and practices.

If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please contact Sarah Seiske at 920-734-8218, ext 1213, or [sarah.seiske@celebrationlutheran.net](mailto:sarah.seiske@celebrationlutheran.net).

# important INFORMATION

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." - 2 Corinthians 9:7*

## Treasurer's Report for May 2021

	Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Total Budget
OFFERINGS:	\$149,481	\$699,294	\$760,773
OTHER INCOME:	11,141	56,838	56,425
TOTAL INCOME:	160,622	756,133	817,198
TOTAL EXPENSE:	138,364	795,507	826,709
VARIANCE:	22,258	(39,374)	(9,511)



**April & May Third Week Offering**  
\$2,466.15 will be given to support the mission of Vida Medical Clinic and Support Services.

### CHECKING & SAVINGS

WHAT WE HAVE—OUR ASSETS	\$2,086,229
DESIGNATED FUNDS—OUR LIABILITIES	\$2,054,449
VARIANCE (WHAT WE OWE)	31,780

## MAY 2021 RITES AND RECORDS

### Releases

Linda McLernon  
Joseph McLeronon  
Amanda McLernon

### New Members Received

Fred and Barb Pahl  
Ken and Pat Schoenike

### Baptisms

Hunter Isaiah Hosking  
Maxwell Todd Stanway  
Micah Bo Karl  
Turner Lee Gussert  
Corbin Jacob Sommi  
Lena Ann Sommi  
Tomek James Prentice

### Marriages

Anna Weber and Ryan Girouard

### Deaths

Terry Lee Koplitz  
Norris E. Bubolz  
Patricia "Pat" C. Boushley

## upcoming EVENTS

### BLUEGRASS WORSHIP

Faith is offering a Bluegrass-style worship service on Sunday, August 15, at 9 a.m. at the Celebration Ministry Center.

## FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, July 10, after 5 p.m. worship  
Celebration Ministry Center

We're planning a time for gathering and great food after worship. Watch the bulletin, website and Facebook for more details in the future.

## GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Thursday & Friday, August 5 & 6, Pathways Church, Appleton

Join fellow members and friends at a local simulcast of The Global Leadership Summit, broadcast live from Willow Creek Community Church. Hosted by Life Promotions, the Summit features outstanding, nationally known speakers delivering messages designed to help leaders from churches, businesses, and community organizations develop strong, Biblically-based leadership skills. Register today at [globalleadership.org/summit](http://globalleadership.org/summit) and use promo code GLS21ORG to get Faith's special rate.

# church COMMUNITY

## THRIVING IN BABYLON

### I Was Once Lost

(Part 5 of 5)

Written by Denis Ashauer

In this message I will be sharing the fifth and final threshold one must cross to become a follower of Jesus. The content of this message comes from "I Once Was Lost" by Don Everts & Doug Schaupp.

In the first threshold we discussed the foundation of building trust with those who are curious about our faith. The second threshold we looked at was moving that trust to curiosity by asking thought provoking questions. The third threshold was watching our friend grow from curiosity to opening up to change. The fourth threshold we discussed how seekers need to lean into the journey they are on to purposefully seek final answers with a sense of urgency.

Threshold #5 Entering the Kingdom "I just had the sense that I couldn't keep this up forever....I needed to make a decision or just drop the whole thing."

Letting people just slide causally and vaguely across the line sounds very postmodern-sensitive, but with such a laissez-faire approach we keep people from knowing there is a line to cross. With appropriate urgency and prayer we can help our friend see the great worthiness of committing their lives to God.

As we walk with our friend during this final step the time comes for us to ask God to lead our friend to a decision and commitment. Every farmer knows this: leave the fruit on the vine too long, and it will spoil.

As we journey with our friend through this final threshold we need to be aware that spiritual warfare is often heightened during these final moments of someone's path to faith because Satan is about to lose his grip on this person's soul. This can be an intense time of prayer for and with our friend.

I hope these past five messages have stirred your heart to walk a friend through the steps to committing their lives to God. How can I help as you walk the journey with someone who is seeking God? **Would you like to join in a small group discussion do go deeper into this discussion? Feel free to call me 920-739-9191 ext. 1123 with questions.**

## FAITH JUBILEE ORNAMENT

Have you been "COVID cleaning" at your home, and did you get through your Christmas ornaments? There is a friend of the congregation who wishes to have a Faith Jubilee ornament. If you have one in your collection and might be willing to part with it, call the church office at 739-9191.

## THIRD WEEK OFFERING



On the third weekend of each month, Faith is giving away all "loose plate" offerings to world mission partners, area charities and other non-profits. Offerings received July 17-19 will support the work of Children's HopeChest (CHC) in our sponsored village, Puerta Abajo, In Guatemala.

CHC connects communities in the U.S. and Canada with communities of orphaned and vulnerable children overseas. They believe holistic transformation happens when one community partners with another. The partnership between Faith and Puerta Abajo helps to meet the medical, physical, educational, emotional, and spiritual needs of more than 193 children in the village.

To learn more, visit [hopechest.org/carepoints/puerta-abajo](https://hopechest.org/carepoints/puerta-abajo).

Mission:  
Puerta Abajo

# ANY WAY I CAN SERVE (A.W.I.C.S.)

## Spiritual Gift of Exhortation/Encouragement

You are invited to join Jesus in His mission at Faith. God's plan and design is for us to use our gifts, talents, and time to help change the lives of others.

**1 Corinthians 12:4-6** <sup>4</sup>There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. <sup>5</sup>There are different kinds of service, but the same LORD. <sup>6</sup>There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. "Parakaleo" is a Greek word which, in original Biblical manuscripts, can be translated as "to call alongside", "to comfort", "to encourage" and "to urge". As someone with the gift of exhortation, you possess many of these qualities, your central motivational drive is to encourage believers to grow spiritually through disciplining, teaching and counseling. You present material that enables the Holy Spirit to promote change in other's lives.

As an exhorter you are a very practical person, a good counselor, and you are accepting of others. You are often filled with positivity, encouragement, hope and vision, and you bring an energetic and inspiring message, presence, and demeanor to any discussion. You are expressive and engaging in a group setting and you do not mind working one-on-one. You are enthusiastic and talkative and enjoy encouraging others.

While you can trigger motivation through encouragement and enthusiasm, you need to be careful not to let your enthusiasm interrupt people causing you not to hear their viewpoint.

Exhorters are not very interested in theology or doctrine. As an exhorter, you concentrate more on the practical aspects of the Scriptures. You likely place great importance on God's will and believe that His Word has the answer for every problem.

The gift of Exhortation is a teaching gift, but unlike those with the gift of teaching, your motivation is different. Your teaching revolves around telling people how to do things: how to live, how to solve problems, how to carry out God's work.

How can you bring your faith to life?

Your gift of exhortation/encouragement is best suited but not limited to serve in these areas:

New Member follow-up  
Leadership Trainer  
Camp Luther – Camp Counselor

Small group leader  
Women's or Men's Ministry  
Youth Ministry

As you progress in your spiritual journey and seek to do the work you are called to do, you can sometimes get stalled by not knowing how to proceed. If you are not quite sure of God's plan and design for you but have already seen spiritual gifts in your life. Then you are encouraged to take the next step and discover God's plan for you by taking the on line gift assessment at [freeshapetest.com](http://freeshapetest.com).

Once you have completed the 45-minute assessment, Call Denis Ashauer at 920-739-9191 ext. 1123 to learn more about where your gifts can be used in ministry at Faith for the benefit of the kingdom of God.

## library NEWS

July, the fireworks are going off as we celebrate the return to "normalcy", and the ability to spend time together. If you have Faith Library materials that you have finished reading or listening to, now is a good time to return them as we update the collection.

Do you know we have a large print section, both nonfiction and fiction, located to the left of the library computer? When searching for a title on the computer, look for call numbers beginning with LP. In nonfiction, you will find David Brinkley's *Brinkley's Beat: People, Places, and Events That Shaped My Time* (LP 070.4 Bri). Other authors include Bruce Feiler, *Abraham: A Journey To The Heart of Three Faiths*, LP 222.11 Pel, and Beth Moore's *The Beloved Disciple: Following John To The Heart of Jesus*, LP 225.9 Moo.

*Front Porch Tales: Stories of Family, Faith, Laughter and Fun*, LP 242 Gul, by Philip Gulley, would be good to share on your own front porch.

How about a fun summer LP fiction like *Sisterchicks Do The Hula*, LP 813.54, Gun, by Robin Gunn? Author Tracie Peterson writes excellent historical fiction. Her series includes *Golden Gate Secrets*, under LP 813.54 Pet GGS. When looking for titles in a series, check for letters like GGS at the end of the call number.

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In the regular fiction section, Lori Wick has also written historical series including *Big Sky Dreams*, F 813.54 Wic BSD, and *English Tea Garden* F 813.54 Wic EG.

On the children’s table, the board book, *The Story of America’s Birthday* (394.26 Pin), by Patricia Pingry, can be shared for Fourth of July with the entire family. A book with a message for children is *I Have Enough Stuff* (F 813.54 Hor), by Connie Beyer Horn in the H-J tote. In this book, a little boy wonders which stuff is the most important. He soon discovers that his most important “stuff” is his friendship with Jesus.

For our Intermediate readers, campers will love *Sydney and the Wisconsin Whispering Woods* (Camp Club Girls, F 813.54 Lit #14), by Jeanette Littleton, about a girl and her aunt, a park ranger, in the north woods of Wisconsin. We have eight titles in the Camp Club Girls series. Another series for summer is *Cinnamon Lake Mysteries* (F 813.54 Mac #1 Cl,) by Dandi Daley Mackall, with six titles in that series.

Enjoy visiting your Faith Library and checking out some items for your summer reading and viewing pleasure.



## YOUR SOURCE FOR FAITH YOUTH MINISTRY INFORMATION

### COMING THIS FALL

As our Faith Pastoral Team continues to expand re-opening plans for ministry activities throughout the summer, we are also working on several different plans for what our Education Ministry will look like in the Fall. We are currently working on plans for a return to 100% in-person ministry and educational opportunities in September. We are also considering alternate ways for you to participate in Faith’s educational opportunities. Until we finalize and announce what those plans are, we ask that you continue to register your child for the various educational opportunities - *Sunday School, Midweek, and Confirmation* - just as you would normally do. Regardless of what formats are offered, we do need to know how many students to plan for to ensure enough instructors, volunteers, and materials.

If you have any questions about our Middle School and High School Youth Ministry, please contact our Director of Youth Ministry, Mike Henning, in the church office or via email at: [mike.henning@faithfv.org](mailto:mike.henning@faithfv.org)

Thank you for your understanding.



### FAITH’S SUMMER WEDNESDAY YOUTH NIGHT (SWYN)

WHO	WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	<i>Parents: watch your emails during the summer for announcements concerning special activities.</i>
All students who have <u>completed</u> grades 7-12	July 7 & 21 August 4 & 18 6:30-8:00 PM or special times and/or locations as announced	Various indoor and outdoor games and activities and “His Word” devotional time.	Celebration Ministry Center (CMC) or other locations as announced	

## MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

## CHRISTIAN GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

It’s that time of year for summer vacations, sports camps/leagues, summer jobs, summer school, fun with friends, and many other summer opportunities. Faith’s Youth Ministry understands the busy schedules and other commitments students have. However, we also understand the importance of staying connected with a faith community. That is why, even though schools take a summer break, our Youth Ministry keeps on going. There are plenty of opportunities to engage in Faith’s Youth Ministry throughout the summer months - Camp Luther, Lifest, Timber Rattlers game and plenty of activities and opportunities for faith growth that will take place at both of our Ministry Centers. Keep checking the church bulletin, church newsletter, church website, and the F.L.Y. Appleton, WI Facebook group for dates, locations, and times for all of the SWYN ministry opportunities.

# *fly* CALENDAR

JULY 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 SWYN @ CMC 6:30-8:00pm	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 No SWYN	15	16	17
18 KBC	19 KBC	20 KBC	21 KBC SWYN @ CMC 6:30-8:30pm	22 KBC	23 KBC	24
25	26	27	28 No SWYN	29	30	31

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### August

4 & 18 - SWYN  
 11 & 25 - No SWYN  
 15-17 - 8th Grd Confirmation Retreat @ Camp Luther  
 25 - Freshmen FOUNDATIONS: Apologetics Student/Parent Orientation 6:30-8:30 p.m.

### September

8 - 7th & 8th grade Confirmation: FOUNDATIONS Orientation for parents and students.  
 12 - Sunday Morning Education Time Starts.

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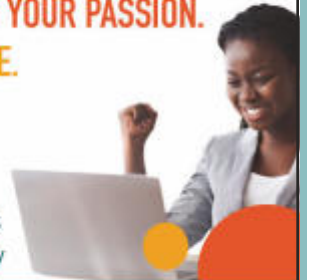
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### **NEWSLETTER INFORMATION**

Please send all newsletter submissions to Tracey Saari, [tracey.saari@faithfv.org](mailto:tracey.saari@faithfv.org). Consider receiving your newsletter electronically. You can make that preference change by calling the Church Office (739-9191). Deb will gladly help you make that change.

Newsletter articles are due by the second Sunday of the month for the following month.

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### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Friday, closed

### **CONTACT US**

Phone: 920-739-9191    [www.faithfoxvalley.org](http://www.faithfoxvalley.org)