

Faith Journeys

Faith Lutheran Church -- ELCA

September 2014

Pastor Joy's Message

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Rally—Picnic DAY
September 7, 9:30

The New "Normal"

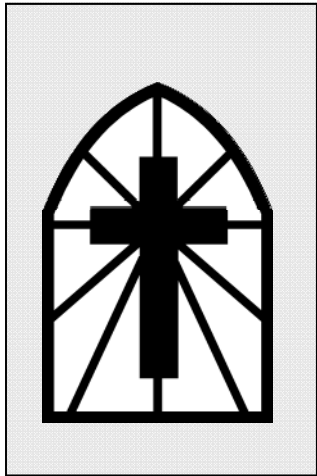
It is hard to believe that it is already that time of year again. That time of the year known as "back to school." That time of year when many of us need to get back into our "normal" routine. I don't know about you, but for me the summer flew by! I am pretty sure that I say this every year, but perhaps part of that this year was the fact that I had a baby and was away from the office for a few weeks. My "normal" routine has been nowhere to be found. Speaking of that sweet little guy - he is doing great! Thank you for all of your prayers and well-wishes during my pregnancy and since we have welcomed Silas into our family.

We also try to get back into a "normal" routine here at church. By that I mean that each year around this time we kick-off a new year of programming. We switch to two worship service times at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. (look for a revised bulletin design and attendance card in the coming weeks)! Sunday school and confirmation classes start back up. We begin to think about things like the stewardship emphasis, Advent, and the annual meeting. You know the "normal" routine and pace of ministry return.

Lately though, I have been wondering just what we mean when we refer to things in the church as "normal." Because when you think about it, we are always changing. Or at least that is the goal. Hopefully we are always welcoming new faces and ideas. Because as we each grow in our faith and develop a deeper relationship with Christ, we change, too. We are challenged as Christians to constantly be asking where we see God at work in this world and how can we get involved, and often times that means that the "normal" routine will change.

It is my hope that we can try many new things together in the coming months as we live out our mission of "Making Christ Known Through Lives of Faith." Trying new things can be intimidating, but let's do it together, OK? In the church, everything that we do is grounded in the one "normal" thing that will never change – our good and gracious God – and it is from that source that we find our courage and faith.

Thank you for your partnership!
Pastor Joy



From Your Youth and Family Coordinator

You God are my fortress, my God on whom I can rely ~Psalm 59:9-10



Do you ever feel the way this frog looks? Does your life ever feel so chaotic that you feel like throwing up your arms up in the air and scream, "I can't take this anymore?"

This is the clip art that I used for our VBS shirts this year. I used this certain spastic looking frog because this is what we look like when we don't **Fully Rely On God**. (Okay, maybe this is what I look like but you get the idea). When we don't fully rely on God or trust in him, our lives tend to get filled up with fear, stress, hopelessness, worry, anger, and/or chaos. We believe we can "do" this life on our own, but we weren't created to do so. God created us to be in relationship with him and that includes casting all our cares and worries upon him.

So how do we know that we can trust in God- that He is our fortress, our stronghold with whom we can rely? This is where we have to do a little work. We have to open up our Bibles to read God's living word. We need to re-read the stories from our youth: David and Goliath, Daniel and the Lions, Jonah and the Whale, and relate their stories to our lives today. There is a message in each of these stories and many other stories that have been given to us to learn from. Granted, we're probably not going to get thrown into a den of lions in the near future, but at some point we might get thrown into a situation that can be harmful to us and the only way that we can get through it is to pray without ceasing.

Now in good times it is easy to fully rely on God because we feel like we have things under control. This is when we need to be studying God's word, so when the storms of life come raining down on us with drops of fear, stress, worry and hopelessness, we can remember God's promises to us: *Pile your troubles on God's shoulders, he'll carry your load, he'll help you out. He'll never let good people topple into ruin.* ~Psalm 55:22. There will be times when we will feel our faith wavering, and find ourselves wondering where God is and why doesn't he care about our circumstances. If you remember, the disciples' faith began to waver during a storm they got caught in while sailing. They yelled out, "Lord save us! We are perishing!" Well, Jesus who was there in the boat with them (just awakened from a nap) said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then he got up and calmed the storm. To have faith, you must have trust in God that he will be with us through thick and thin. He is present in the good times and in the bad. We were not promised a life without hardship, but promised that God will be with us always. It is during these turbulent times that we must remember to fully rely on God- that he will go through the storm and be there when it finally calms.

If you ever need a reminder about trusting in God in all circumstances, just think green.

Council Highlights

In an effort to keep everyone as informed as possible, it was decided by the council to share information from our meetings in each newsletter. These will be brief “highlights” of current council happenings. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to speak with a member of council.

- ◆ Long-range planning for building maintenance is in the works. Large ticket items such as the replacing the roof and resurfacing the parking lot are in our future.
- ◆ Several landscaping issues, particularly the trees (trimming, removal, etc.) were brought to the council’s attention and are being looked into.
- ◆ The idea of a “wish/needs list” for those who give memorials to the church was discussed. Often memorials are given, but it is not specified how the money is to be spent.
- ◆ The lease has been signed to welcome Head Start to rent our space for another school year.
- ◆ Beginning at the August meeting, Laura Sawlsville will assume the role of council president. The council elected her to this position a few months back as Jeremy Groves has been serving an extended term to get the congregation through the pastoral transition. He will serve a Vice President until the annual meeting when elections are held for new council members.

September Sunday School/Confirmation

9/7: Rally Day—see page 11 for details.

9/14: Sunday school classes begin at 9:15 for children ages 3 yrs to 6th grade. There will be a parent meeting for all confirmation students with Pastor Joy at 9:15. Following the parent meeting, Pastor will meet with all 9th grade students in regards to their confirmation requirements.



9/21: Acolyte training & refresher for the 5th-8th graders at 9:15. All other grades will have regular class time at 9:15

9/28: 9:15 Sunday school and Confirmation class at 9:15.

Birthdays, Anniversaries & News

Birthdays:

09/01	Logan Ortega
09/02	Haley Bozinovich
09/03	Braden Payne
09/05	Cyndi Carter
09/06	Jessica Geer
	Michaela Hacaga
09/07	Bea Chaplin
09/09	Stephanie Geer
09/10	Sara Suneson
09/11	Lisa Dyer
09/12	Abigail Carlson
09/15	Betty Fike
09/16	Todd Haggstad
	Grace Valentine
09/20	Diana Arntzen
09/21	Steve Esterday
	Marilyn Primrose
09/22	Geneva Brune
	Doug Hopkins
09/24	Amanda Hayes
	George Primrose
	Carol Winterton
09/26	Jonathan Haws, Jr.

Anniversaries

09/02	Derek & Karen Good
09/03	Gene & Bea Chaplin
09/04	Gary & Mary Ann Tarvestad
09/05	Wally & Norma Brooks
09/09	Chris & Traci Sedlock
09/13	Doug & Laurie Gay
09/16	Steve & Eileen Liezert
09/17	George & Marilyn Primrose
09/19	Don & Patti LeRette
09/21	Mic & Tracy Brooks
09/27	Steve & Pam Schupbach
09/30	Mike & Lori Price

Flowers

9/7	N.Knapp
9/14	S. Liezert
09/21	V. Good
09/28	S. Haws

Weddings

Congratulations to Emily Duthie and Michael David who were married here at Faith Lutheran on July 11th.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Emily Bigelow on the arrival of her son, Tate Oliver. Grandparents are George & Kristin Bigelow. Great Grandparents are Richard & Linda Ohlinger.

Sympathies to those mourning the loss of a loved one.

Michael Bridges- father of Cayce Groves

Al Duthie-father of Al Duthie

Ellie Hynson- mother of Laurie Gay.

Harold and Bettie Helm on the passing of Harold's father.

Baptism

On August 3rd, we welcomed through Baptism, Natalie Olivia Spartz, daughter of Rob & Angela Spartz. Natalie's grandparents are Randy & Diane Monson. Her sponsor is Kristen Hipp.

On August 17th, Silas Donald Alsop, son of Pastor Joy and Jake Alsop joined our Faith Family through his Baptism.

Sponsors are Ali Fisher and Michael Alsop.

FASTBreak

The FASTBreak program will again be starting in the fall. We will be in need of mentors/tutors to help

Children in grades 2-5 with reading and math skill. Stay tuned for further information. Barb Harms

Calendar

Lay Ministry

Prayer Ministry

In Our Prayers

Our Family

Judy Carter,
Harold Helm & family as they mourn the loss of
his father; Mel & Betty Letheby,
Lois Rewerts, Diane Ruggerio

Our Friends

Marilyn Casey (sister in law of Nedra Knapp),
Keith Haggstad (father of Todd Haggstad),
Connie Hansen (mother of Angie Primrose),
Carl (brother in law of Susie Wittwer), Linda
Hammer, Marguerite (mother of Margo
Wilkinson), Tammy Sveta.



Thank You!

Ellie Hynson liked to laugh. We found this among her papers so it must have given her a chuckle:

"The burial service for the elderly woman climaxed with a massive clap of thunder, followed by a bolt of lightning, accompanied by even more thunder. 'Well', said her husband to the shaken pastor when it ended, 'she's there'."

We would like to thank the Faith Lutheran family for all the kindness during the 12 years Mom had been a member. Thank you to all who attended Mom's service and those who brought food and prepared the luncheon. Thanks to Pastor Joy for her visits and caring. Thank you to everyone who gave to Faith and Serenity House for memorials for Ellie.

Mom's involvement with church was always an important part of her life and she demonstrated this by keeping things clean and orderly being a caretaker of tradition. Her deep faith in God helped her carry on through Dad's illness and be strong throughout her own illness.

Ellie's Family

Budget

General Fund

	Revenues		Expenses		Actual Net Income/Loss
	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	
Month	\$13,549.08	\$15,097.00	\$19,767.96	\$15,172.00	-\$6,218.88
YTD	\$113,172.91	\$105,687.00	\$120,625.96	\$106,292.00	-\$7,453.05

Building Fund

	Revenues		Expenses		Actual Net Income/Loss
	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	
Month	\$6,830.00	\$4,436.00	\$4,463.00	\$4,774.00	\$2,367.00
YTD	\$34,031.00	\$31,056.00	\$31,241.00	\$33,420.00	\$2,790.00

M&M (Building) Fund Balance **\$12,774.47**

Thanks

Great Ladies of FAITH

Faith has been so blessed for many years to have had the Altar Guild gals under the able direction of Ellie Hynson right up until the time of her recent death. She was a wonderful organizer and her high standards of altar care and appearance will be with us well into the future.

We are doubly blessed to have Holli Duthie step into the leadership role that was carved out by Ellie. Thanks, Holli, for making this ministry your stewardship gift to the church.

School Days

Seeing the many school bags hanging on the pews in the church can bring back memories for many of us and our shopping for “school supplies”. We have such a great ministry going in our ability to help kids who would normally not be able to have a brand new box of crayons or even a pencil sharpener.

We are so grateful to Pat Esterday for taking on the responsibility of sewing all the bags that we will send to Lutheran World Relief this year and count her as one of the blessings we treasure at Faith Lutheran. Thanks, Pat, for all your hours with scissors in hand at the sewing machine!

New Members

Faith Lutheran would like to welcome newer members help you get to know them better.

Troy & Erin Rittschof & Chris have lived in the Esmond area for the past 8 years. Troy works for N Trac and likes deer hunting. Erin is a homemaker who enjoys her horses & farm animals. Chris is a third grader and likes farming.



Chris & Traci Sedlock, CJ & Shane have been in the Rochelle area for about 10 yrs. The boys are involved in Boy Scouts, Traci is a beautician and Chris works in the computer department at Kishwaukee Hospital. The family loves animals & fosters rescued Sharpei dogs.

Barb Cox moved to Rochelle in 1971 from Cleveland, Ohio. She retired as accountant from DeKalb clinic but still works there part-time. She loves to travel has visited Australia, New Zealand, Holland, the Panama Canal & Alaska. She has 2 adult children & 6 grandchildren.

Jeremy & Katherine Case, Julian & Kameron have been in the Rochelle area for 2 years. Julian is in 5th grade & Kameron in 2nd. Jeremy is a Boy Scout ranger. Katherine likes to read.

Mike and Jennifer Valentine, Emma, Grace & Olivia moved to Rochelle last October. Mike is the Principal at Rochelle Middle School and Jennifer is the librarian aide at Lincoln School. They have 2 older daughters, Ashley a teacher at Amboy, and Jessica at W.I.U.. All the girls like sports and like to sing (as does Mike). Emma is a freshman, Grace a 7th grader and Olivia a fifth grader. Mike likes to play golf & enjoys sports. Jennifer likes to freezer bake, read & garden.

Kenny Hill lives on a farm near Dixon, where he farmed for 62 years. He's retired & likes to play golf, cards & games. He has 3 children, 6 grand-children & 3 great grand-children.

Steve & Pam Schupbach & Andrew. We will introduce them in next month's newsletter as we were unable to reach them this month.

October Newsletter items are due to the office or Diana Arntzen by September 15.
office@faithlcrochelle.org or
darntzen63@gmail.com

Shawn e-mail: office@faithlcrochelle.org
Pastor e-mail: Pastor@faithlcrochelle.org
Michelle e-mail: Yandf@faithlcrochelle.org
815-562-7575



Thank you to DNA Communications for the donation of our phone and internet service.

Outreach



Rochelle Area CROP Hunger Walk
Sunday, Sept. 28th
Registration 1:30 at the
First Presbyterian Church
Walk begins at 2:00

What Does CROP Stand For?

When CROP began in 1947 (under the wing of Church World Service, which was founded in 1946), CROP was an acronym for the Christian Rural Overseas Program. Its primary mission was to help Midwest farm families to share their grain with hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia.

Today, we've outgrown the acronym but we retain it as the historic name of the program. CROP Hunger Walks are interfaith hunger education and fundraising events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by CWS local offices across the U.S.

CROP Hunger Walk is a chance for us in our community to walk together to take a stand against hunger in our world. Together we can raise awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting.

The local agencies that will be receiving a percentage of the funds raised are the Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, the Ashton Food Pantry, and the Rochelle Summer Lunch Program. Join us on Rally Day, Sept. 7th to help raise money (more info will follow). And make sure you join Faith's Team and walk with us on Sept. 28th!

If you have questions contact:
 Michelle Heinrich

OUTREACH MISSION FOR FAITH: Rochelle Food Pantry



September: Mac & Cheese, Canned Soup
October: Tuna & laundry Soap

Rally-Picnic-Service Day!



**Sunday, Sept. 7th
9:30am**

**Wear your favorite
team jersey!**



Sunday School & Confirmation Registration: Come register your child(ren) for the 2014-15 year.

Worship: The day begins with our 9:30 worship service. All new 2nd and 7th graders will receive new bibles. Sunday school teachers will be installed.

Picnic: Following worship (approx. 10:45) we will be having our annual church picnic. We will be providing the main dish- Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Hot Dogs for the kids, and lemonade. **Please bring a side dish to pass.**

Games: The Bounce Castle will be here! We will also have a hot game of Ultimate Frisbee, the winners will get a nice cool prize.

Service: We will be raising money for the Rochelle Area CROP Hunger Walk. A fun challenge will be given- stay tuned for more info.

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PICTURE PERFECT!

The 2014 church directory is well on it's way to being assembled, thanks to many hours of work by two of our best organizers: Cheryl Sparks and Barb Harms. They and their crew of helpers did a great job of lining up appointments and following through with the many details that are needed to ensure a good pictorial directory.

We thank them and all the folks who worked behind the scenes these last weeks making it all come together. We eagerly look forward to the finished product!

