



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Faith Matters

JULY 2026

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAYS— 9:00 A.M.
WEDNESDAYS — 6:15 P.M.

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FLC Vice Pres: Julie Hartman
FLC VP Elect: James Schuessler
Secretary: Mary Thomsen
Treasurer: Theresa Haupt



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Reflections on the Recent Synod Assembly Pastor Dan Lyman

As I write this on June 10th, it was just last week that we held our synod assembly for the East Central Wisconsin Synod (ECWS). The synod is a regional grouping of ELCA congregations. The ELCA is the largest Lutheran body, with more than 5 million members, and more than 10,000 congregations. Those congregations are sorted geographically into 52 synods, each with their own democratically elected leaders.

We, here in the ECWS, elected several people into offices at the assembly, among them the bishop, lay and clergy members of Synod Council, and treasurer. In other years we elect a layperson (not a minister) to be vice-president and to fill other positions. We also approve a budget.

The budget was okay. When I started in this synod 4 years ago, they had not yet sold the synod office building (which they did not need anymore) and so it was sort of a drag on the finances of the synod. But it was sold for an adequate price and the budget was put in order. They display good Lutheran thrift in the budgetary process. They are frugal, and yet when the Lord sends an inspiring good idea, the Lord also sends people to be inspired to make it happen.

Our bishop, Anne Edison-Albright had served a six year term in office and was re-elected at the assembly. In the first ballot you needed a large majority to win, 80% I think. She needed 162 votes to win on the first ballot and she got 160. So she was very likely to win on the second ballot, and she did. I like her and think she is doing a good job as bishop. Unlike other bishops who never visit, she has been out here to Faith four times. She came and spoke to our confirmation students, for instance. *Continued on next page...*



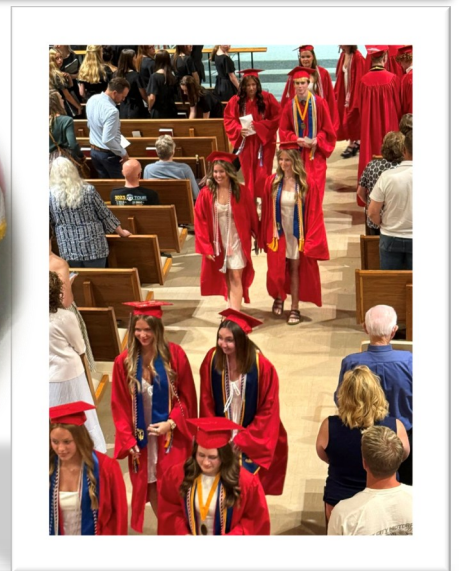
Baccalaureate Service May 31, 2026

I think she is doing a good job, and I am glad to see that wiser and more experienced people than I am also think she is doing well.

The assembly started on Thursday afternoon and went to Saturday afternoon. And every time we met, there was a worship service. Oh we sang good songs! We prayed really well written prayers. The sermons were excellent. The musicians were so talented. But I ran out of things to pray for. If the monastic life is constant prayer and worship, then I am not cut out for monastic life. An hour of worship on a Sunday morning, with a donut and fellowship afterward is what I am tuned for.

They showed us several videos about the things we support all around the world, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response and others. I saw quilts out there in the mission field and guessed that they could be from our ecumenical quilting group. If I had seen Green Bay Packer fabrics, I would have been absolutely certain that they'd spent some time draped over our pews.

It was a good meeting. Thank you for your prayerful support.



Striving for Justice and Peace in All the Earth
Reflections from the 2026 East Central Synod Assembly
By: Devin Zahringer, Parish Organist

This year, Faith Lutheran Church was blessed to be represented at the 2026 East Central Synod of Wisconsin Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Serving as voting members from our congregation were Pastor Dan Lyman, Youth Coordinator Bridget Valleskey, and myself. Together, we joined hundreds of Lutherans from across our synod for worship, learning, discernment, and the important work of the church.

The theme of this year's assembly, "**Strive for Justice and Peace in All the Earth**," invited us to reflect on how God calls us to live out our faith in service to one another and to the world. Throughout the assembly, we were reminded that the church is far greater than any



one congregation. Like branches connected to a vine, we are all connected through Christ and through one another. Our ministries, worship, service, and witness are strengthened when we work together as the Body of Christ.

One of the highlights of the assembly was hearing from Bishop Megan Johnston Aelabouni of the Rocky Mountain Synod. Her message challenged us to think deeply about what "just peace" truly means. She reminded us that peace without justice is merely "negative peace" the absence of conflict without the presence of fairness, healing, and reconciliation. True and lasting peace can only be achieved when justice comes first. Her words encouraged us to consider how we can seek justice in our daily lives, our communities, and within the church itself so that authentic peace may flourish.

The assembly also provided opportunities to experience a variety of worship practices and expressions of faith. Through worship, music, prayer, and conversation, we discovered new ideas and approaches that can enrich our life together at Faith Lutheran

Church. We return home inspired and eager to explore ways these experiences can strengthen our worship and deepen our connection to God and one another.

Another significant moment of the assembly was the election of our synod bishop. We give thanks to God for the continued leadership of **Bishop Anne Edison-Albright**, who was elected to serve another term. Her faithful leadership, vision, and commitment to the Gospel will continue to guide our synod in the years ahead.

As we reflect on our time at assembly, we are grateful for the opportunity to represent Faith Lutheran Church and to participate in the wider mission of the ELCA. We return encouraged, energized, and reminded that we are part of something much larger than ourselves. Together with congregations across Wisconsin and beyond, we remain connected through Christ, called to serve our neighbors, proclaim the Gospel, and strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Thanks be to God.



Finances

<i>Income - May 2026</i>	<i>Month</i>			
	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>YTD Actual</i>	<i>YTD Budget</i>
Envelope Offerings	\$ 27,347.00	\$ 21,998.75	\$108,605.00	\$ 109,993.75
Lent, Holiday Offerings	\$ -	\$ 833.33	\$ 4,693.00	\$ 4,166.67
Loose Offerings	\$ 124.80	\$ 166.67	\$ 714.77	\$ 833.33
Room Use - Utility Donations	\$ 55.00	\$ 166.67	\$ 665.25	\$ 833.33
Other Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
General Fund Income	<u>\$ 27,526.80</u>	<u>\$ 23,173.75</u>	<u>\$114,678.02</u>	<u>\$ 115,868.75</u>

Operating Expenses - May 2026

Administrative/Office Expense	\$ 2,967.62	\$ 1,365.00	\$ 9,437.67	\$ 6,825.00
Benevolence	\$ 2,202.15	\$ 1,853.90	\$ 9,174.34	\$ 9,269.50
Board Expense (Total from all 7 Boards)	\$ 2,426.60	\$ 6,576.67	\$ 25,927.62	\$ 32,883.33
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Personnel Salaries/Benefits ¹	<u>\$ 20,719.09</u>	<u>\$ 21,086.80</u>	<u>\$ 102,984.93</u>	<u>\$ 105,433.98</u>
General Fund Expense	<u>\$ 28,315.46</u>	<u>\$ 30,882.36</u>	<u>\$147,524.56</u>	<u>\$ 154,411.81</u>

**GENERAL FUND NET INCOME/
LOSS**

(\$788.66)

(\$32,846.54)

Year to Date General Fund Net Income: (\$788.66)

Income needed per week to meet our 2026 Budget \$ 7,126.70

Income needed per month to meet our 2026 Budget \$ 30,882.36

Liturgical Roles ~ Worship Responsibilities

Death..... Richard Christianson

Membership

Baptized 814
 Confirmed..... 555
 Families..... 101

Worship Attendance

	Sunday	Wednesday
5/17	178	28
5/24	78	27
5/31	69	28
6/7	72	38

Altar Guild Servers

Communion:

July.....(Committee #1)
 August..... **Bev Torrison, Chair** (Committee #2)

Lectors

7/5 Brian Ulness
 7/8 Kathy Mattern
 7/12 Stacy Wilker
 7/15 Larry Burzynski
 7/19 Joan Pritzl
 7/22 Lynn Burzynski
 7/26 Don Domrath
 7/29 Cheryl Duchow

Communion Servers

7/5 Brian Ulness
 7/15 Larry Burzynski
 7/19 Joan Pritzl
 7/29 Cheryl Duchow

Head Usher..... Lee A. Evenson

Acolyte Schedule

7/5 Dexter Valleskey
 7/12 Lauren Halverson
 7/19 Paden Hougen
 7/26 Sage Peterson

Sound Operator

7/5 Stefanie Kaderabek
 7/12 Loren Ulness
 7/19 Loren Ulness
 7/26 Erin Lenzner



Greeters

7/5 Julie Hartman
 7/8 Don & Nancy Christianson
 7/12 Ted Goman
 7/15 David and Theresa Haupt
 7/19 Earl and Barb Griffin
 7/22 Peytyn Peterson
 7/26 Mardell Huske
 7/29 Sherrie Pinkerton

Ushers

7/5 Austin McCulley, Stetson McCulley and Ethan Ulness
 7/12 Bonnie Gordon, Steve Ahrens, Wayne Huske
 7/19 Mark & Angie Ulness Family
 7/26 Lori Propson, John Robley, Brian Ulness

Video Operator/Live Stream

7/5 Jake Kaderabek
 7/12 Al Gilbertson
 7/19 Liam Cline
 7/26 Michael Lenzner

Projection

7/5 Stefanie Kaderabek
 7/8 Cindy Pederson
 7/12 Loren Ulness
 7/15 Susan Christel
 7/19 Mollie Junk
 7/22 John Schnell
 7/26 Erin Lenzner
 7/29 Trevor Pinkerton

If you have recently moved, gotten married and changed your last name, or would like to receive Holy Communion at your residence, please contact the church office with your updated information. Students going away to college who would like to receive a copy of *Faith Matters* should call the church office and provide their new address. You may call 920-775-4141 or email Christine at faith21@tds.net. Thank you.

Be light in the darkness — As fireworks brighten the sky with light and color, the church is called to display the Gospel's unique light in a dark world. Our word *dynamite* and the Greek word for *power* — as in, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you" (Acts 1:8) — share a root. Through God's power in us, we share Jesus — dynamically! — with others. —Heidi Mann

Crossways Camping Ministries

This past week, our 2026 Crossways Summer Staff are completing their milestones.

Training is done, and they have begun their first week of ministry, earned lifeguard certifications, stepped into new leadership roles, planned their first candlelight service, arrived at our camp property for the very first time, and, for some, returned for a fourth summer of serving campers.

Some of these milestones may seem small. **They aren't.**

Every one represents a young leader growing in confidence and faith. Every one represents a camper who will be safer, better cared for, and more known this summer.

This new season of milestones is just beginning.

This week, campers arrived with their own milestones ahead of them. Some will spend their first night away from home. Some will make a new friend. Some will discover they can do hard things. Some will experience God's love in a new way.

The staff milestones we're celebrating today make those camper milestones possible.

The Appleton Conference has a passion for partners doing ministry together. **Because they believe in the ministry that happens through camp, they have awarded Crossways a \$4,000 matching grant to support our Summer Staff Program.**

Summer is underway. Staff are serving campers. Milestones are happening every day.

But the truth is, we're not there yet.

We're still working to raise the funds needed to fully support this year's Summer Staff Program. These milestones don't happen without staff. **And staff don't happen without supporters.**

Your gift today will be doubled, helping equip the young leaders who make camp possible and ensuring more campers can experience the welcome, care, and community that happen here every summer.

Will you help us meet this generous match and close the gap?

P.S. The first camper milestones of the summer are already happening. Your gift today will be doubled through the Appleton Conference's \$4,000 matching grant and help ensure we can fully support the staff who make those moments possible.



Robyn Koehler

Believer in the Power of Camp
Serving as Crossways Chair of Operations

Make a Gift:

- Online: Donate now, with our secure online portal
- By Mail: Donate by check written for *Crossways Camping Ministries* to W8160 Cloverleaf Lake Rd, Clintonville WI 54929

Crossways is a 501(c)3 organization, and your gift is tax-deductible.

SHINE FOR Jesus



This easy and colorful craft helps kids remember that Jesus is their light—no matter where they go!

What you need:

- Clear plastic cup
- Battery tea lights
- Tissue paper squares (pre-cut)
- Glue stick
- Markers (optional)
- Stickers (optional)



What you do:

1. Use the glue stick to press colorful tissue paper squares around the outside of the cup.
2. Add a simple phrase like "Jesus is my Light" or use fun stickers to decorate.
3. Turn on the tea light and place it inside the cup.
4. Turn off the lights and let your lantern glow!

The Lord is my light
and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?

— Psalm 27:1, NIV

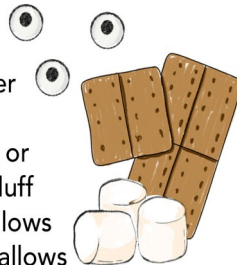


Sweet little sheep treats

Create adorable sheep using graham crackers, marshmallows, and a little imagination!

What you need:

- Graham cracker squares
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Mini marshmallows
- Large marshmallows
- Candy eyes or mini chocolate chips
- Black gel icing or mini Oreo cookie



What you do:

1. Spread white frosting or marshmallow fluff on each graham cracker square.
2. Stick mini marshmallows all over to make the sheep's wool.
3. Cut a large marshmallow in half and stick it near the top for the head.
4. Add candy eyes and a dot of black gel for the nose. Or use a mini Oreo cookie half for a more defined face.
5. Let kids decorate their sheep however they'd like!



Lesson tie-in

Use this treat to remind kids that Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

John 10:11, KJV

A HUGE CATCH

Make a catch of fish to show what happens when Jesus calls his first disciples.

What you need:

- Cardboard egg carton
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Darning needle
- Fishing twine
- Scissors
- Googly eyes or buttons
- Glue



What you do:

1. From the egg carton, cut out the 12 cups. From the lid, cut out two fish tails.
2. On a protected surface, turn the cups upside down. Paint the outside of each cup and both sides of the tails. Let dry.
3. Thread the needle with an arm's length of twine. Tie a knot at the end.
4. Thread the needle through the end of the tail. Tie another knot an inch from the tail.
5. Thread the needle through one upside-down cup. Pull the twine through until the cup rests on the knot.
6. Continue tying knots an inch above each cup and threading on another cup until you've strung six cups. Tie a knot above the last cup and leave a long string to hang the fish. (You can make two fish with each egg carton.)
7. Add googly eyes or buttons to the last cup to make a face.

Faith Lutheran Church Minutes—May 18 2026

Pastor's Report—Pastor noted that Devin has asked to preach and he will be doing so June 10 and 14. He presented a written report, noting his recent vacation days and that the youth led the April 22 and April 26 worship services and Pastor Kim Henning preached on April 29. He baptized Gianna Rachel Desamours on May 10. Recent visitations with communion were made to Linda Gilbertson, Don Johnson, Jerry Hoefner and Marilyn Robley. He also commented on the success of the church's participation in the Valders rummage sales. Chase Wilker gave a Temple Talk about Crossways Camp and a collection was taken for the camps. Another Temple Talk launched a new system for putting together personal care kits. He also commented on weekly meetings with Sue and Devin on creative worship planning and noted that seven youth were confirmed on May 17. The Baccalaureate Service was planned for May 31 for Valders graduates.

New Business

- a. Wednesday night head usher—We don't have anyone assigned on Wednesdays and there have been times when doors weren't opened early and other issues. There is no formal organization of the duties. It was suggested we ask someone who comes early to open the doors and give them a key. Another suggestion was to list those who usually do the ushers' duties so they can communicate about who will be there. We may not need an usher, just someone to oversee things and put the money away. The people who usually do the work without being asked will be contacted to see if they can make a schedule and have a list of duties.
- b. Crossways Sponsorship Gift Consideration—The recent special offering raised about \$250. Pastor would like to see the church give at least \$500. Last year, Chase Wilker worked there as a counselor and we sponsored him. We will commit to no less than \$500 and try to raise as much as we can through further collections. It was stressed that we need to continue letting people know about the church budget shortage so they understand the church can't do the sponsorship without collections and that we should announce what was collected and what was given last year. Motion to put the need before congregation for the next three weeks and then have another collection. Motion passed and carried.
- c. Live stream operators and projection: With the new system, people need a cheat sheet with instructions. Because the projectionists often don't know what's coming up in the service, it was noted that they need to look at the bulletin ahead of time and rehearse so they know what buttons to push. Need to have a resource person to get the equipment ready. It was suggested we ask Carter Lenzner and one other person. Microphones are also a consideration, especially when we need extras to be ready. Sue will talk to possible resource people. Tanya offered to help make tip sheets for people to follow when working upstairs. It was stressed that we need to do training and write the instructions down in plain English. Sue, Devin and Pastor have begun meeting to go over services and bulletins.
- d. Pay for Devin to preach: Motion was made and carried to pay up to \$100 per sermon if he asks for payment.
- e. Joy Madson retirement gift: Motion made and carried to give Joy a gift card of \$50 to OT's, for her many years of being a money counter on Monday mornings.

Council representative reports:

- a. Treasurer's Report—Terry—A written report was presented showing a net loss of \$5,780.78 for April ; 27% of members was the average attendance. In response to a question, Joan noted that staff members are paid in different intervals, so that's why it looks over budget when a month has three payroll periods.
- b. Stewardship—Joan noted that they discussed fundraisers at their board meeting. Members wanted more concrete ideas from the council and were concerned about up-front expenses, such as for having a carnival. Discussed doing an Oktoberfest event with a silent auction, food, activities, games. Another idea would be to do a carnival-type event as the final event of VBS, but carnivals need a lot of people to help. Also discussed was a stewardship drive. Joan suggested we should work harder at getting a mission to support to attract more interest in the stewardship drive. Example: stewardship kits and things that the women's group did in the past; things to help people in need: Mercy Ships; etc.
- c. Lay Ministry—Jennifer—Candelabras' are being painted. Discussed volunteers doing children's sermons. Questions have come up again about "Catholic" vs. "catholic" in the creed. Pastor can answer if people have questions, and it's addressed in the June newsletter. The board is still discussing doing the Last Supper for Maundy Thursday and stripping the altar at the start of Good Friday service.
- d. Evangelism—Ted—The board discussed having welcome items like coffee mugs instead of just folders. Website verification needs to be sent, and a letter for new members will be discussed.
- e. Fellowship—Sue—Fellowship time will add things like fruit and veggie trays. They recently got a donation of ice cream and Confirmation Sunday had a cake. Will plan senior appreciation dinner in September and probably have it catered.
- f. Church Properties—A Japanese lilac tree was planted in honor of Sue Riesterer near the Onkka bench.
- g. Christian Education--The board continues to work on VBS plans.
- h. Youth & Family Ministry—51 children are registered for VBS so far.
- i. Climate Survey—Jim presented a summary sheet, noting that 91 surveys were returned, which is outstanding. Will have the comments portion ready to discuss next month.

We adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:12 p.m. Next Meeting – June 15 Devotions Ted –Submitted by Mary Thomsen, secretary

Celebrating Your Birthday!

JULY

1. Tiffany Jandrey
3. Mary Thomsen
Emily Schwoerer
4. Rand Harris
Gloria Scharenbroch
5. Barbara Griffin
Jeffrey Ahrens
Anders Sorenson
Lauren Halverson
6. Mark McCulley
7. Mark Zutz
Dorene Schneider
Ashley Reinertson
McKenzie Ott
Kinsley Wittmus
Forrest Newberg
8. Sharon Naidl
Lee A. Evenson
Tammy Karstaedt
Michelle Schwoerer
10. Taylor Wittmus
Katherine Thomsen
11. Dean Behnke
Nathan Wenzel
12. Dianne Hougen
Donald Schreiner
Robert Pinkerton

13. Keith Lippert
Judy Rusch

14. Joy Madson
Lori Propson
Chloe Cigler
15. Paul Franz
Tommy Spindler
16. Theresa Haupt
Westen Schisel
Cash Zutz
17. Bree Wenzel
18. Jesse Duchow
Mike Shimek
19. Ava Ulness
Joshua Duchow
Paden Hougen
20. Eric Nelson
Jared Zutz
Isaac Petska
Tyler Miller
21. Ariana Herrick
22. Susan Christel
24. Richard Lodel
Mardell Tienor
25. Ben Stalvey
26. Macy McDonald
27. Brian Ulness
Cheyenne Saunders
Trevor Wittmus
Luke Evenson
Michelle Koehler
Alyse Fuller
28. Tyler Madson
Samantha Hammel

29. James Schuh
30. Dane Ott
Kohen Goehring
31. Rolyn Jorgenson
Nancy Christianson
Kerry Schnell
Brynlee Meidl
Jack Miller

AUGUST

2. Cathleen Luckow
Matthew Berge
Caleb Boll
3. Maelyn Miller
4. Stephanie Mitnacht
Callie Wenzel
5. Myrna Lippert
Aubrey Hill
Hadley Beckman
6. Tammy Meyer
Taylor Zucchi
7. Thomas Madson
Scott Zucchi
Mary Reichardt
Reggie Kranz
8. Guy Valleskey
Hunter Spindler
Carver McCulley
9. Mark Ulness
Hunter Griffin
10. Cheryl Domrath
Matthew Brill
Kylee Griffin
Edyn Peterson

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:00 Jazzercise 6:15 Worship with Holy Communion	2 8:00 Quilting	3	4 
5 Holy Communion 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Hour Kids leave for Confirmation Camp	6 9:00 Women's Bible Study <i>Office Closed</i> 6:00 Boards of Lay Ministry and Evangelism	7	8 9:00 Jazzercise 6:15 Worship	9 8:00 Quilting	10 Newsletter info due Kids return from Camp	11 9:00 Second Saturday Bible Study
12 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Hour	13 9:00 Women's Bible Study	14 6:30 Card Making	15 9:00 Jazzercise 6:15 Worship with Holy Communion	16 8:00 Quilting 6:00 Book Club	17	18 9:00 Open Pantry
19 Holy Communion 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Hour	20 9:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Board of Stewardship 6:30 Council	21 9:00 Senior Christians at Riverview Restaurant in Kiel	22 9:00 Jazzercise 6:15 Worship	23 8:00 Quilting	24	25
26 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Hour	27 9:00 Women's Bible Study	28	29 9:00 Jazzercise 6:15 Worship	30 8:00 Quilting	Please note that there may be changes in what is printed between the time <i>Faith Matters</i> is published and the time you receive it. Arrival time depends on where you live. It can take 5-8 days for you to receive it from the post office.	

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St. Gregory's School, 212 Church Street, St. Nazianz

Al Anon
Meets at 7:00 p.m. Mondays
404 S. 29th Street, Manitowoc
and
Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.
443 Manhattan Street, Chilton