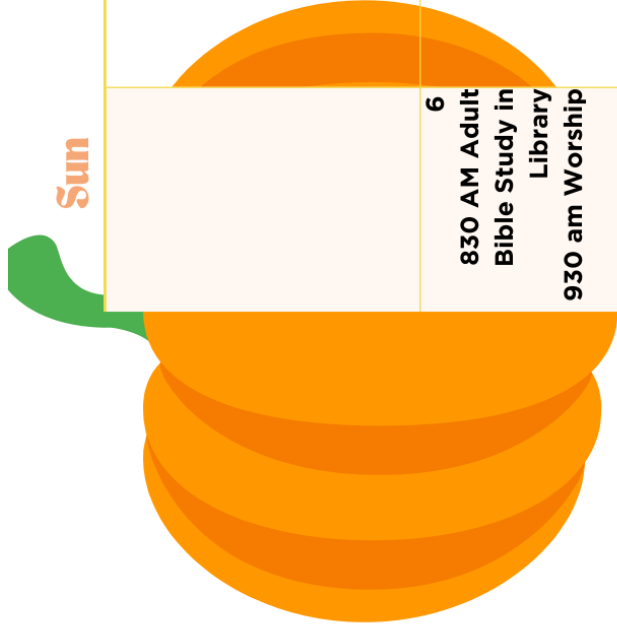


FAITH ALIVE

October 2024
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMC





October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 830 AM Adult Bible Study in Library 930 am Worship	7	8 11:30am Soulo Sisters @ The Senior Center 6 pm Online Study W/ Pastor Mark	9 9 am Finance meeting 10 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Education Meeting	10 7am Men's Bible study	11 730 pm AA Meeting	12
13 830 AM Adult Bible Study in Library 930 am Worship	14 530 pm Personnel Meeting	15 5:30PM Council Meeting 6 pm Online Study W/ Pastor Mark	16 10 am Bible Study 4:30 pm Property Meeting	17 7am Men's Bible study	18 730 pm AA Meeting	19
20 830 AM Adult Bible Study in Library 930 am Worship	21	22 6 pm Online Study W/ Pastor Mark	23 10 am Bible Study 4:30 pm Property Meeting	24 7am Men's Bible study	25 730 pm AA Meeting	26
27 830 AM Adult Bible Study in Library 930 am Worship & Luncheon after	28	29 6 pm Online Study W/ Pastor Mark	30 10 am Bible Study	31 7am Men's Bible study 6PM-8PM Trunk or Treat!!		

EMMA GARCIA

Hello, Faith Lutheran Family!

Some fun things are happening here in the Youth and Family @ Faith.

Here is a recap of the year so far:

May: The Garcia family moved to Great Falls, Communion class, Youth Game nights on Sundays

June: Senior Graduation, Youth Game night on Sunday, Movie night, Candy Salad, Faith yard sale,

July: Supporting our youth in the Fourth of July Parade, Vacation Bible School, Family swimming pool night, Emma became a member at Faith, Family movie night, Ice cream truck and hot dog roast/ water balloon fight, Cookie decorating service project for senior living homes in Great Falls,

August: Pool recreational night Emma God into the Master of Divinity Program to become a Pastor, youth bible study, Miniature Golf, back to school

September: Rally day, semi-annual meeting, Sunday school began, and National LCMC gathering. Emma was confirmed before the congregation!

October: National LCMC gathering, LCMC Youth Gathering, Trunk or Treat, Fall activities, Bibles for third and fourth graders! Confirmation Begins!

This is just the highlight of the last few months!

It was Pastor Fred's birthday on the 15th of Sept. Thank you Pastor for rising to the challenge and looking over the 3 churches you shepherd! Thank you for being a Mentor and friend to us all! Love, Emma, Tonja & Bob!



PASTOR FRED GRUNDMANN

In What Shape is Your Church?

One aspect of the Church is the way churches (the facilities of the Church) have been and continue to be constructed. Often, older churches were built in the form of a cross. Today, this design isn't as common for new churches. Many new facilities are created simply to be functional and less expensive. Prairie Peace was and is this way. If a family enters a larger, recently constructed church, it will probably be more "pie-shaped" in order to accommodate more people, its altar and lectern/pulpit being placed at the apex of this form. There are even "circle" churches being erected. The altar is in the middle. This continually reminds worshipers that our loving, atoning God dwells in the midst of His community, whose members are united by Him to each other "within the circle" and are to love, care for and serve one another.

After all, isn't this to be one of the primary activities of our Lord Jesus' people while they are here on this planet? To sacrificially love, care for and serve one another? This is why Prairie Peace, Valier and Faith Lutheran Churches were initially, so carefully created by our Living God. He always pinpoint- focuses our hearts, then and now, on the redeeming cross and vacated, promise-validating tomb of Jesus, His One and Only Son. God's Word shouts and reverberatingly echos throughout its pages this sacrificial care and "action-love" of the Creator of everything.

Therefore, I am awestruck by and adore Paul's Letters. Each one of all them is my favorite! How can this be? Because every situation I've pastorally encountered has an equivalent so masterfully addressed

by one of Paul's letters! Take Philippians, for instance. Paul loved this congregation like no other. One reading—or more—of this Letter will undoubtedly show you why Paul loved this Roman-colony congregation. During all His subsequent travels and trials, this parish was his greatest supporter with prayer, finances and even persons. Yet, Philippi's members had a problem! It appears that two women, whom Paul deeply loved, had a disagreement (or, disagreements), dividing the membership.

St. Paul spoke so, so gently to his beloved church's condition. He never even directly mentioned this heart-rending issue until the very end of the letter. Yet, the entire letter urged each member toward Christian unity, which was to have its sole origin in the visualization of Jesus' overwhelming humility. How Jesus humbled Himself so totally that He willingly died for us, even death on a cross, Paul wrote, to bring each of us to Himself forever!

This is the sacrificial love we're to have toward and with each other. Our Savior is the image of humility we're to adopt and live toward and with each other. Past grievances and actions—and in some cases, only notions—must be forgiven, even though they cannot be forgotten! They must never be held against one another! At all humbling costs, each one of us is to treasure the God-given gifts of all

who've been called and brought into the same God-generated household-of-faith through God's true gift of faith in the only true humble Savior ever born. (And, if there are those prone not to forgive, they had better read Matthew 6:14&15!)

PLEASE READ THIS NEXT SENTENCE CAREFULLY! God has called each of us into His Kingdom in order to be at Prairie Peace, Valier and Faith at this very moment in order to appreciate, respect, cherish and care for one another so His everlasting Kingdom at each location is stabilized by God the Holy Spirit working in and energizing our hearts through His Word so Matthew 28:18-20, the growth of His everlasting Kingdom, is fully realized. There are no ifs, ands or buts about this! Let's each one of us fervently pray that the Holy Trinity forms our hearts toward loving each other and working with everything we are and have to fulfill His eternal goals for us and all whom He's chosen. And, keeps us in this "shape"!

Pastor Fred

EMMA GARCIA

DEAREST FAITH LUTHERAN FAMILY,

IT IS MY PRAYER THAT THIS OCTOBER NEWSLETTER FINDS YOU WELL. IN CONSIDERATION OF MY AFFIRMATION, I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU WHY BEING A LUTHERAN WITHIN THE LUTHERAN CONGREGATION IN THE MISSION FOR CHRIST (L.C.M.C) IS TRULY REMARKABLE. AT THE HEART OF EVERY LUTHERAN BELIEF IS THE UNDERSTANDING THAT WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH. THIS GIVES ME, AND I HOPE IT ALSO GIVES YOU, THE ASSURANCE THAT OUR SALVATION IS A GIFT FROM GOD, NOT SOMETHING WE HAVE TO EARN. THIS ISN'T ALWAYS THE CASE WITH MAN, BUT WITH GOD, WE CAN COME TO HIM AS WE ARE, AND HE WILL NOT LEAVE US THAT WAY. WE, AS LUTHERANS, HOLD THE BIBLE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE WHEN IT COMES TO MATTERS OF FAITH AND LIFE. IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE GROUNDED IN GOD WORD, & TIMELESS TRUTHS FOUND IN HIS WORD; THIS STOOD OUT TO ME IN THE IMPORTANCE OF WHY I AM LUTHERAN. THEY SAY YOU ARE WHAT YOU CONSUME, AND I BELIEVE THAT THE BIBLE IS THE GREATEST LOVE LETTER WRITTEN AFTER THE VERY SACRIFICE THAT JESUS MADE, LAYING HIS LIFE DOWN FOR EVERYONE, EVEN THE ONES YOU DON'T LIKE. SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, I STEPPED OUT ON COMPLETE BLIND FAITH, GENUINELY TRUSTING GOD WHEN HE MOVED ME AND MY FOUR CHILDREN TO GREAT FALLS AS WELL AS BECOMING A MEMBER AT FAITH. TRUSTING AND KNOWING THAT HE WOULD PROVIDE AND CARE FOR US. FOR MANY YEARS, I HAVE PRAYED FOR COMMUNITY AND FELLOWSHIP, BUT IT IS DEEPER THAN THAT, A FAMILY NOT BY BLOOD BUT TO COME TOGETHER TO LOVE GOD AND EACH OTHER.

BEING PART OF A LUTHERAN CONGREGATION MEANS BEING PART OF A SUPPORTIVE AND LOVING FAMILY "COMMUNITY." WE GATHER NOT ONLY TO WORSHIP BUT ALSO TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER IN OUR DAILY LIVES WHILE SHARING IN BURDENS AND JOYS OF LIFE. I WAS TOLD HOW THE MEMBERS OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH CAME TOGETHER AND HOW THIS CHURCH WAS BUILT AND PAID OFF. GOD WAS THE TRUE GLORY IN THAT STORY, FOR HE TRULY GETS ALL THE GLORY. GOD IS AT THE HELM OF MY LIFE AS A LUTHERAN OR ANY OTHER ROLE I HAVE. WHEN I HEARD THE STORY ABOUT HOW A "COMMUNITY" CAME TOGETHER IN FAITH AND TRUSTING GOD, I KNEW THAT WAS THE KIND OF COMMUNITY I HAD BEEN PRAYING FOR. AS THE WORLD AROUND US CHANGES, GOD DOES NOT, NOR DOES OUR FAITH HAVE TO. WE, AS LUTHERANS, ARE DEEPLY ROOTED IN TRADITIONS, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE CANNOT ACCEPT TRANSFORMATION OR CHANGE. WE ARE CALLED TO LIVE OUT OUR FAITH THROUGH SERVICE AND MISSIONS IN OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY AND BEYOND. ONE OF THE MOST HUMBLING EXPERIENCES I HAVE HAD IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS IS GETTING INTO THE MASTER OF DIVINITY PROGRAM, TO NOT ONLY GET MY MASTER'S DEGREE BUT ALSO TO TAKE THE STEPS GOD HAS CALLED ME TO BECOME A PASTOR. I LEARNED THAT MANY PASTORS QUIT EVERY SINGLE YEAR BECAUSE, QUITE FRANKLY, OF THE CONDITION IN THE HEART OF THE CHURCH. BEING A LUTHERAN OF FAITH, GRACE, AND COMMUNITY IS A JOURNEY. THIS OCTOBER, I REQUEST THAT YOU REMEMBER WHY YOU ARE LUTHERAN AND SHARE THE GOOD NEWS WITH STRANGERS. IN WAR, IT IS SAID NO MAN IS LEFT BEHIND, AND GOD DESIRES THAT NO MAN BE LEFT BEHIND. WITH A GRATEFUL HEART, I WANT TO THANK GOD AS WELL AS THE CONGREGATION FOR ENTRUSTING ME WITH THE POSITION OF YOUTH AND FAMILY DIRECTOR AT FAITH AS WELL AS SENDING ME TO THE NATIONAL L.C.M.C GATHERING.

THANK YOU, AND GOD BLESS YOU,
EMMA LIANA GARCIA
YOUTH AND FAMILY DIRECTOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FISH FUNDRAISER FOR FISH

Town Pump has again selected FISH to be part of the "Be a Friend in deed, Help those in Need" campaign.

Town Pump will match every donation to FISH up to \$25,000 from Sept. 1st through Nov. 30, 2024!

Please consider a gift during those 3 months to reach our goal.

When sending your check, make it out to FISH and send your donation to FISH PO BOX 662, Great Falls, MT 59403.

Thank you for your support! FISH Board of Directors



LOVE DAY QUILTERS



PRAYER REQUESTS

Jim & Diane Lowry, Becca Thompson, Leona Wenaas, Robbie Stubbs, Nancy Radford, Monica Fournier, Joann Waldenberg, Sharon Cope, Fred Shauer, Elaine Tews, Sandy Rittenhouse, Dianne Buckle, The Family of Bob Brooks, Ernie Tordale & Family, & Glenice Brown



MEN OF FAITH



MEETING ON
WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 2ND
@ 6PM



1300 Ferguson Drive
Great Falls, MT 59404
Telephone: (406) 454-1309
Web: www.greatfalls.faith

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Permit No. 477

Change Service Requested

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Vacancy
Office Mgr/Secretary:
Bookkeeper:
Facilities Manager:
Youth & Family Director:

Pastor Fred Grundmann
Tonja Key
Robin Western
Bob Palmer
Emma Garcia



THIS IS THE JOURNEY OF FAITH.

OFFICE HOURS:

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

