

Faith Ev. Lutheran Church

714 N Grand Avenue

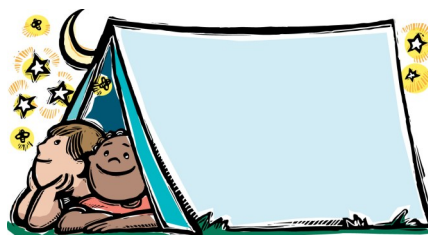
Pierre, SD 57501  
605-224-2216

# 2025 July/August Newsletter

## Circuit Bible Camp

**Circuit Bible Camp** will take place again this summer! The dates for Circuit Bible Camp are: **July 7-9**. Students who are finishing 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us for Circuit Bible Camp, which takes place July 7-9. We will be traveling to Hot Springs and taking in some of the local natural sights. This includes hiking, swimming, and eating outdoors. Packing list includes: Bible, clothes for 2 days (plus extra just in case), toiletries and towel, swimsuit, shoes for hiking, and an outdoor game if you have any.

Registration costs, which includes meals, and campsite stay is \$80 for the three days to cover expenses. Faith is offering \$40 scholarships to any of our youth looking to attend camp to help offset costs.



You don't want to miss this wonderful summer opportunity to grow in faith and in friendships!



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!

*Do Good!*

## VBS

### Vacation Bible School (VBS)

VBS is scheduled for **August 3-7**.

Check bulletins for updates as the time for VBS nears.

The Boards are providing meals for everyone from 5-6 pm. VBS will be in session from 6-8 pm.

Sign up will be online and you should look for updates online thru Remind App and Facebook.

Thanks

**\* \* \***

## Speech for the Speechless

Have you ever found yourself speechless? It may have been a surprise (hopefully pleasant but not always the case). Maybe a teacher called on you to provide an answer. Maybe an answer was exactly what you wanted but life only left you with questions. It could be that some hardship has robbed you of your words. How can you possibly communicate, put into ordered words, an experience that seems so order-less?

The Psalms give a wealth and breadth of human experiences. Within these one hundred fifty poems, nearly every human possibility is explored. From the depths of soul-crushing despair to the heights of extolling God's goodness, and from the vastness of the universe to the intimacy of our inner life (our thoughts and feelings), the Psalms put into words what we sometimes cannot express.

First of all, read the Psalms. Make them a part of your Bible reading habit. Start with the first one and read through to the one hundred fiftieth one. Pick them up at random. The order really is not the primary concern. Read the Psalms. Even if you cannot identify with a particular one (because mercifully that experience is not one of your own), your eyes might be widened to how God's people follow the paths he has prepared for us. Maybe you can more fully appreciate another Christian in their own unique journey.

Second, join me as we explore these Psalms in more detail. On our church YouTube page (if you watch our livestream you are in the right place), I have several studies each week. Currently, I am going through (most of) the first fifty Psalms. Watch them in your spare time (which I realize may not be as much as you would like). Already, I have been struck by what the speaker is wrestling with, where he goes with his anger, his sadness, his joy, or his longing. I feel like I am right next to him, walking with him through some of the same experiences.

Expect the Psalms to surprise you, delight you, challenge you, and so much more. Much of God's Word is his communication to us. The Psalms are some of those few moments when people are talking to God, pouring out their souls because of the burdens they carry. Yet the Psalms will unrelentingly drive you back to God, our refuge, our shield, our shepherd, our king. When you are speechless, these one hundred fifty prayers may give you exactly the right words to tell God what you are thinking and feeling.

*Pastor Sam*



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# COMMUNITY - GROWTH - GRATITUDE

*"Let the desert and its towns raise their voices; let the settlements where Kedar lives rejoice. Let the people of Sela sing for joy; let them shout from the mountaintops." Isaiah 42:11*

Community. When I think of the word "community," my hometown pops into my head. Others may think general thoughts of city, the public or society. Maybe even common interests. Faith Lutheran is made up of a community of believers. Inside that community are other entities, separated by duties, responsibilities, functions and assignments. One of these is our Music Community.

*Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;  
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the Gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,  
Calming storms, and feeding thousands with the very Bread of peace.*

Our music ministry just finished up its "season," so to speak, before the summer months set in. Over the past nine months or so, we've managed to convene our choir, the largest of our ensembles, about three times; whereas, the choir used to sing an anthem at least once a month, if not more. We've gone to short-term commitments. We've made do with small ensembles. I could not muster a full bell choir; we made do with smaller bell groups. Thankfully, we have a small pool of vocal and instrumental soloists and utilized some outside help to form additional instrumental ensembles.

*Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong, gentle, word;  
Praise the One who drove out demons with the piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;  
From this Well comes living water, quenching thirst in ev'ry land.*

Some time ago, I read an article about current directions in church music. Dr. Michael Burkhardt, internationally-known composer, choral clinician, organist and hymn-festival leader, was asked what trends he thought would affect church music in the coming five-to-ten years. Surprisingly, or not surprisingly, these are his answers:

Increasing passivity and disinterest in music making and participation;

Continued and increasing use of sound track accompaniment and full recordings as a substitute for the real thing;

Continued and increased displacement of the centrality of worship by higher prioritization of other life activities.

It's disappointing to read something like that, and it takes away from the worship experience. It's a real challenge to recruit voices and approach people to take part in a music ministry. Believe me, I have heard every excuse in the book, ranging from 1) I'm too busy; 2) I've put my time in; 3) my family activities are my priority; 4) I'm not sure what I'm doing that



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# COMMUNITY - GROWTH - GRATITUDE

weekend (but whatever it is, it will no doubt take priority), and incredibly, one lady once said to me, "I need to talk this over with my cat! She's not used to me being gone Sundays."

That's not to say that family and other responsibilities aren't important, because they are. However, God also called us to be servants, and the faithful serve God among the faith community as long as they're alive. I've seen choirs disband -- here in our community and in my home church, where my dad sang into his 90's. It was important to him. When we use our gifts together, our community benefits. However, if you don't use your (musical) gifts, others get cheated.

*Let us praise the Word Incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place.*

*Jesus died and rose victorious that we may know God by grace.*

*Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done;*

*Let us praise the true Redeemer, praise the One who makes us one.*

Community is one way we can surround and defeat our personal enemy, Satan. In our current climate and culture of "It's all about me; my needs and ambitions," we need to walk and work with others. To experience growth, the community must be nurtured. What better way of expressing your love and declaring gratitude to your Creator than by singing His praises!

I am humbly and extremely grateful for those individuals who willingly make time in their schedules to be part of Faith's music ministry. It is encouraging when someone says, "Yes, I think I can make that work!" Please be intentional about thanking those who said, "Yes!" this past season:

**Vocal music:** Helen Kiepke, Laura Streich, Laura Mehlhaff, Sheridan Hansen, Emma Iverson, Pamela Cronin, Carolyn and Cassandra Ryckman, Cathy Handschke, Marlis Doud, Kaylee Blauert, Gail Ferris, Tim and Jan Larson, Scott Fuerst, Andrew Wulf, Noah Wulf, Jerry Wulf, Ken Shelbourn, Jeff Hallem, Peter Iverson, Randy Hartmann, Tiger Duinkerjav, Nathan Benson, David Zuercher, Mike Vasilie, and Rodd Bauck.

**Instrumental/Bells:** Andrew Wulf, Kit Schmidt, Megan Bauck, Tiger Duinkerjav, Gage Ruhlman, Kaylee Blauert, Dustin Ortbahn, Clare Swanson, Noel Clocksin, Carlene Barber, Lori Billet, Pamela Cronin, Pam Warriner, Phyllis Douglas, and Stacy Cwach.

**Organists:** Jeanne Schweigert, Noel Clocksin, Judith Miller, Tim Larson, Jodi Hartmann, and Carolyn Ryckman.

*"Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God,  
how pleasant and fitting to praise Him! Sing to the Lord  
with thanksgiving, make music to our God on the harp!"  
Psalm 147:1&7*

Karen Lindbloom



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## WOMEN'S AUGUST FUN NIGHT

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Monday August 4<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm

Old Mesa's Diner

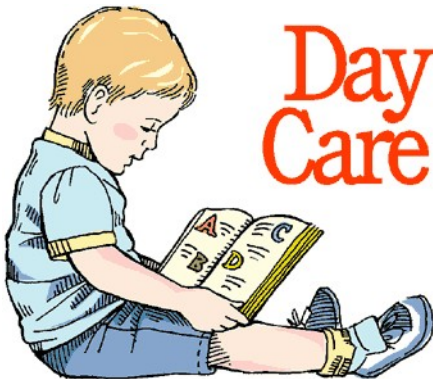
1601 N. Harrison Ave.

Join us for a fun night of fellowship!

Taco bar and dessert

Sign-up sheet to be out soon!

Cost will be on sign-up sheet.



We are in full swing of summer and the older children are really enjoying being out and about in the community. Our younger preschool students get to enjoy being outside of the building as well, just not as much. We are enjoying our high school staff being with us this summer as all three of them will be heading off to college in August. We hope to keep enrollment the same come this fall, maybe add 5 more with God's grace that all the full-time staff stick around.

We have new faces and names on the many Boards here at Faith Lutheran so I want to make sure everyone knows we have an open-door policy and any of you can come take a peek and ask questions if you would like to. May God steer us in the right direction and help us all fulfill our positions to the fullest.

May God Bless you all and We hope you enjoy your summer!

Thanks,

Mandy Vogel/Kim Jensen

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# FOREVER YOUNG

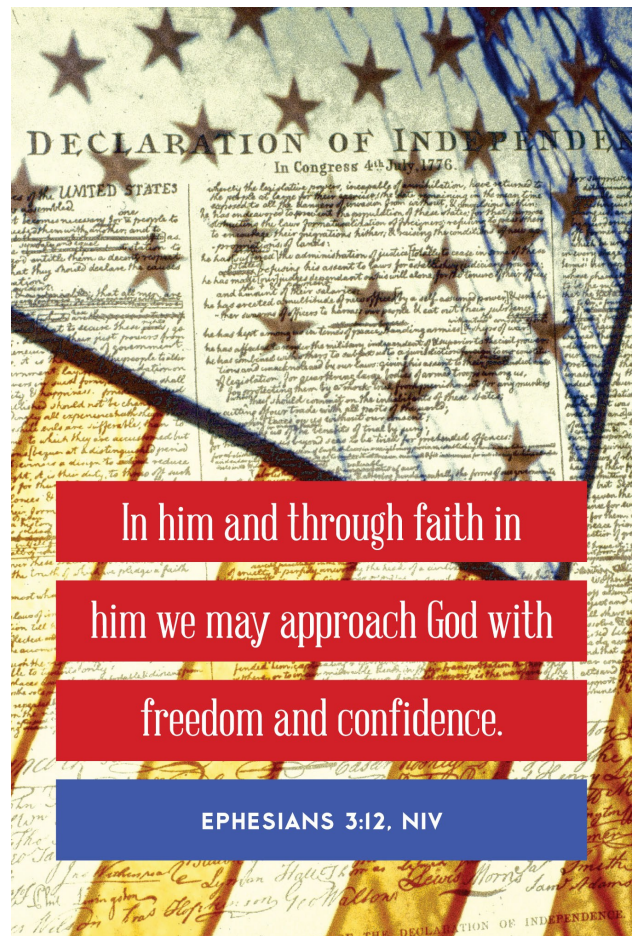
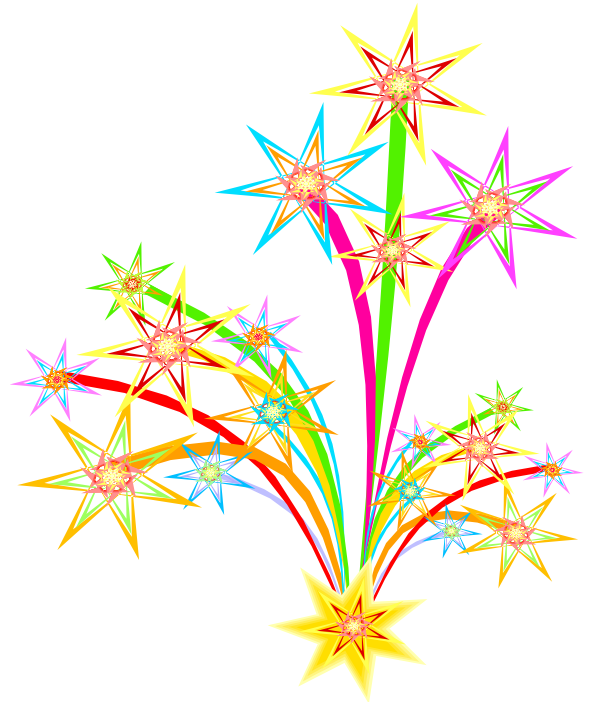


Our Forever Young Gatherings for **July 17** will be hot dogs (furnished) and picnic foods. **August 21** will be the normal pot-luck meal. Third Thursday of each month at noon.

Forever Young is for those who are 55 years old and older, semi-retired or retired. Bring a friend or any visiting family members. All will be welcomed. If anyone is interested we may play some bingo!



The deadline for any articles for the September newsletter need to be emailed to [faith@faithluth.com](mailto:faith@faithluth.com) by August 15 at noon. **Thanks!**



*Do Good!*



## Diaper Derby Results

Diapers ???

Wipes ???

These were distributed to PARS,  
Birthright and Missouri Shores.

Thank You for your  
generosity!

\* \* \* \* \*

Results not available at time of  
printing. Check bulletins.



## Official Acts

### Baptisms

Lainey Ann Banuat 6/22/2025

Josie Lee Erickson 7/6/2025

Haven Mae Erickson 7/6/2025

Aubrie Marie Hartmann 7/6/2025

Regan Reed Ogren 8/3/2025

### Weddings

Brevin Kaiser & Brianna Kusler 7/26/2025

Katelynn Axtell & Alec Pickard 8/9/2025

Kaycee Carter & Michael Merriman  
8/23/2025

### Buriel

Wayne Allen Lindbloom 5/19/2025

### Funerals

Robert 'Bob' Cook 6/13/2025

Marvin Olson 6/16/2025



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Saturday, October 18

# Country Fair

**9:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
**at Faith Lutheran Church**

**We've started working on our annual fall bazaar.  
Take some time this summer to help us get ready!**

## Make Items for the Arts & Crafts Booth!

Place them in the coat closet in the Narthex and label "Crafts".

## Gift Baskets

We need new and lightly-used, good quality baskets, plus small gift items. Watch upcoming church bulletins for a list of gift needs. Leave in the Narthex coat closet by Sept. 30th.

## Homemade Goodies

We'll need TONS of homemade pies, breads, cookies, bars and candies of all types. Pick a cooler day and start baking items that you can freeze and bring for Country Fair!

## Homegrown Produce & Canned Goods

Be sure to set aside some homegrown produce and canned goods for our "Lutheran Market" booth!

Questions? Call: Dawn Koch (605) 222-8964 -or- Kathleen Monfore  
(605) 280-5945



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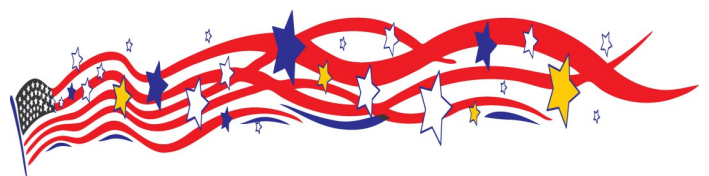
## Motor Coach Bus Trip to Medora, ND – August 11 to 13, 2025.

JOIN US for the BIG little Vacation, for under \$500. THREE-DAYS, TWO-NIGHTS. Bus fee, \$55. Other individual costs include shows, evening dinners, lodging all estimated at \$300 per person for double occupancy (single rooms will be about \$150 higher).

Further details to come.

Depart on Monday morning, August 11, via the Scenic 1804 Drive to Bismarck. Evening at Medora, Teddy Roosevelt Show with Dinner! Lodging in Dickinson. Tuesday: Roosevelt National Park Tour, Lunch, then a free afternoon to shop and tour Medora, or join outdoor activities. Evening, Pitchfork Steak Fondue and The Medora Musical. Overnight stay. Return Wednesday, via the Enchanted Highway and Petrified Wood Park at Lemmon SD.

If you are interested contact the church office as there may be cancellations as time gets closer.



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## Faith Lutheran Youth Page

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Midweek & Sunday School  
Parent's Meeting for  
Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>!!!**

There will be a parent's meeting **Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>** for parents of Sunday School and Midweek students in grades 2-8. At least one parent or guardian is expected to attend. The parent's meeting is 6:00 p.m. at Faith in the church sanctuary. Youth are not required to attend, just one of their parents or legal guardians. This is an opportunity to ask questions, meet teachers, see rooms, and cover expectations for the year.

**Midweek will begin Wednesday, September 10.**

**RALLY DAY** – **Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>!** September 7th is 1st day of Sunday School and Rally Day. There will be a lunch and games after the 11 o'clock service. We will welcome back all members, young and not so young, for another year of Christian education and growth. **First day of Midweek will be Sept. 10th.** More details to follow. Check bulletins in the coming weeks for more information.

**DESPERATELY SEEKING:**  
Vacation Bible School teachers/helpers. If you love children and have some time, you might be just right for teaching/helping with Vacation Bible School. Please contact one of the Board of Education members.

**Ellen Blauert 605-295-4850**

**Amy Hatheway 605-530-1244**

**Mark Koch 507-649-0430**

**Jessica Paul 605-222-8738**



**Teachers Needed:**  
The Board of Education will be recruiting teachers and substitutes for Sunday School, Catechism (Midweek) and Vacation Bible School for the 2025-2026 school year.

Please pray about this opportunity to teach the children of our congregation. Please contact one of the Board members above if you are interested.



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