

The Follower

"Come, follow me." Matthew 4:19



A monthly newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church

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August 2025



August 23, 9:00 - 1:00

See p. 5



FROM THE DESK OF

Pastor Greg

So thankful. That's what is running through my heart and mind.

It's been such a blessing to be away for a time. I had the opportunity with Diana to visit the country of Costa Rica, a big trip for us to be sure. We saw and heard myriad species of birds and animals. We Had time to decompress and breath. We saw God's creation from ziplines and the back of horses and hanging bridges and river boats. We enjoyed the wonder of language reading books and talking with locals. And we had time together and were refreshed. I am thankful for the time away.

It's amazing to think about all that has been happening here. We've had a speaker share about a group that is genuinely concerned about those who are hungry around the world (Food for the Poor). We passed a significant budget for this next fiscal year that steps out in faith and seeks to build up our entire ministry. We filled up not one but TWO Dragon Boats and paddled them successfully, and showed our greater community a bit of who we are in the process. We saw people take up the slack and lead when Pastor and Deacon had to be away. And *some* of us (me) humbly bragged (a little) about our faith community to others in foreign countries (Costa Rica)... because I am so thankful for everything that God is doing in our community.

It's a JOY to know that God is working all things for the good of those who are in Christ Jesus, our Lord. He allows us respite and nurture to fill us up. He presses us to rely on one another to keep moving His work forward. He draws us back together when we've vacationed and travelled and seen amazing things. And He continues to give us purpose, equipping us for the days to come, preparing work for us to do in His Name. I'm thankful for the work we get to do together. I'm thankful for the time away, and thankful to get back. I pray that we joyfully watch for what we can be thankful for... next.

I'm thankful for the opportunity to discover,
together.

In Christ,
Pastor Greg

thankful
&
grateful

Worship Service Times

Sunday Worship Services

Traditional - 8:15 am

Contemporary - 10:30 am

Holy Communion is served on the
1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of each month.

Livestream available at:

<https://faithlutheranlacey.online.church>

You can also dial in using your phone

1 (571) 317-3122

Access Code: 326-609-037

3M's Fellowship

The 3Ms are a group of **More Mature Members** and friends, ages 55+.

The group normally meets in the Community Center weekly on Thursdays at 10 am to share in fellowship and study God's Word, however, they will meet in the church during the season of Lent.

For more information, contact Jim Nordness at 360-923-0289 or leave a note in his church mailbox. You may also call the church office at 360-491-3552.

Pinochle



Don't forget Pinochle, monthly on the third Thursday. We are always looking for more people to come. If you have friends who play but are not members, please invite them. The more the merrier. We bring a snack to share and eat around 11:30, then we play from 12 -2 or so. Plan to come join the fun! Our next game is on August 21 in the Community Center Cypress room.

Threads of Faith



Threads of Faith typically meets the *second Saturday* monthly to work on quilts.

We'll see you Sat, Aug. 9, 9 – 11 am!

Contact Barbara Eriksen with questions at 360- 915-3333.



August 3

Set up: Monica Materiale, Rachel Wilson

Refresh: Rachel Wilson

Clear: Erin Holmquist

August 17

Set up: Marie Koehler

Refresh: Robyn Hofstad

Clear: Robyn Hofstad

August 31

Set up: Monica Materiale, Rachel Wilson

Refresh: Rachel Wilson

Clear: Erin Holmquist

Office Reminder

As a reminder, please inform the church office anytime you have changes to your address, phone number, or email address. This way we can keep our records current and we can be sure you are getting the information we send out. Please call or email the office at 360-491-3552 or faithlutheranlacey360@gmail.com.

Care Warriors on a Mission

You, as a congregation, are important to us! We want to support you in prayer and help when needed.

Would you kindly notify your family to please contact us when emergencies or even scheduled surgeries, medical procedures, etc. come up so we can be of service as an extension of God's kingdom?

Church office, 360-491-3552; Glenn Dunnam, 360-791-4175 or SuAnn Denning, 360-790-8982.

Sunday Bible Study

Please join our Bible study, Sundays @ 9:30 in the Cypress room led by Erin Holmquist. We are delving into the history, Bible references and meaning of six familiar hymns. This study will run through mid-August.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

August Birthdays

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Frances Elhardt | Aug 1 |
| Hannah Klumb | Aug 1 |
| Clodene Bergt | Aug 3 |
| Henry Wilson | Aug 5 |
| Dave Caruso | Aug 6 |
| Don Glitschka | Aug 6 |
| Shoh Schulz | Aug 7 |
| AnnMarie Staidle | Aug 11 |
| Orion Staidle | Aug 11 |
| Michael Kramer | Aug 12 |
| Melissa Howse | Aug 13 |
| Ann Caruso | Aug 14 |
| Shirley Juhlin | Aug 14 |
| Mark Gabel | Aug 16 |
| Sarah Zander | Aug 16 |
| Justin Bevers | Aug 17 |
| Sharon Humphrey | Aug 19 |
| Claudia House | Aug 24 |
| Gus Lawson | Aug 24 |
| Madilyn Lewis | Aug 25 |
| Cherry Pedrick | Aug 25 |
| Ty Cronquist | Aug 27 |
| Zahne Cronquist | Aug 27 |
| Terri Gilbert | Aug 28 |
| Marylou Potter | Aug 28 |
| Jerry Hadley | Aug 29 |
| Chris Read | Aug 29 |
| Zac Bache | Aug 31 |



August Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Mark & Connie Dougherty | Aug 6 |
| Floyd & Mistina Venesky | Aug 8 |
| Glenn and Debbie Klumb | Aug 8 |
| Gil & Kim Lensegrav | Aug 9 |
| Mark & Julie Roberts | Aug 13 |
| Robert & Mary Burnett | Aug 15 |
| Jerod & Kaitlin Staidle | Aug 18 |
| Michael & Becky Kramer | Aug 21 |
| Adam & Lisa Elmhorst | Aug 26 |



Don't see your name or birthday/anniversary up here? Contact the church office 360-491-3552.

60th Dedication Anniversary

2025 marks the 60th anniversary of Faith's dedication. Please plan to join us Sept. 7 @ 12:00 pm.

Altar Guild Needs You!

Altar Guild is looking for a few extra hands. We would love to have you join us!

If you are interested in joining us or would like more information, please contact Robyn Hofstad at robynhofstad@yahoo.com or call, 360-561-8244.

Voters' Meeting Recap

Connie Dougherty, President

We had a nice turn-out for the July 20th congregation meeting, after an enjoyable potluck with lots of good food. Thank you to all who contributed to the meal and gave up weekend time for the meeting! If you attended, please share the facts presented with others you speak to.

I was glad to see so many members present. I know that summer meetings are difficult to fit in and several of you were on vacation – including Pastor and Diana – but the budget timing makes a summer meeting inevitable. We can't predict certain parts of the budget until we are nearing the end of our fiscal year, and the new budget year begins August 1.

Did you miss the meeting? Here's a summary of what took place:

- We made several members official voting members: Juan and Jennifer Martinez, Sharon Mayer, Jon and Marie Sandberg, Gabe and Pamela Strand, Jordan and Gillian Haynes.
- We passed the church budget, which was balanced by raising our expectation of member giving by about \$40,000, to meet predicted expenses.
- We passed the school and childcare budgets. The school has some room for growth - please pray that families that need us, find us and enroll.
- I gave an update on several projects. Watch for a short video version of my comments to come via email, along with some extra handouts that were distributed at the meeting.

I want to give special thanks to Rodney Olson, Principal Ann Ashe, Childcare Director Julie Miller, and the entire School Board for the tremendous amount of work that went into making the budgets as accurate as possible.

Please reach out if you have questions.

Back-to-School Needs

North Thurston Education Foundation is a community-based nonprofit dedicated to supporting the students and staff of North Thurston Public Schools by meeting basic needs, enriching learning experiences, and removing barriers to student access.

In the 2023-24 school year, the district served over 14,500 students. Nearly half (6,449) qualified for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program, and more than 1,000 were identified as homeless. At NTEF, we work to ensure that every student, regardless of their financial situation, has the opportunity to succeed in school and beyond.

The Forgotten Back-to-School Needs

When we think of school supplies, we often think of backpacks and pencils – but basic hygiene items, socks, and underwear are just as essential. By providing these often-overlooked essentials, we help students start the school year with dignity and the comfort they deserve.

July 1 – August 29

Currently seeking donations of full-size:

- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Body lotion
- Sanitary pads (thin & regular)
- Deodorant (men's and women's)
- Laundry pods
- Tissues and toilet paper
- Liquid dish soap
- Girl's and boy's socks & underwear



ntef.org

Drop Off Locations (during business hours)

Vert Chiropractic: 4444 Lacey Blvd SE Lacey

4th Dimention Computers: 3315 Pacific Ave,
Ste B2

Cafe Elite: 130 Marvin Rd SE, Ste 130

Lacey America's CU: 8308 Quinalt Dr NE

1st Security Bank: 601 Woodland Square Lp SE

Lacey Hops n Drops: 4739 Avery Ln SE

Keller Williams: 676 Woodland Sq Lp. SE Ste 122

Her Space: 6020 Pacific Ave SE, Ste M

For more information contact Deanna East,
360-628-3281 or deanna@ntef.org

Campus Cleanup Day

Every year, the Faith Lutheran Ministries and community come together for a workday to clean up the campus facilities in preparation for the upcoming school year. We generally have a great turnout and get a lot done, and we hope you will join us this year to continue that tradition!

Saturday, August 23, 9 am – 1 pm.

We will trim trees and hedges, pull weeds, paint, clean, make repairs, pressure wash, and much more! All ages are welcome, so bring the family! Dress for the weather, and for getting work done. We will work rain or shine, hopefully the weather will cooperate!

If you have tools and experience for specialized jobs like trimming trees and hedges (chainsaws/hedge trimmers), edging (edgers), pressure washing (pressure washer), concrete patching, or making minor repairs, please let Campus Manager Matt Koehler know in advance for planning purposes. You can email or call him at mattkoehler@flschool.org or 360-951-0521.

Lunch will be provided, and any hours you work will count toward school volunteer hours. RSVP to Matt Koehler would be helpful so we have a headcount for lunch, but it's not required to participate. We hope you can join us; it's a great way to meet others in the Faith community and have a lot of fun!



FLY at NYG

On Friday, July 18, nine of our youth and four adult chaperones flew out to attend the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA. For four days their experience included worship in the form of soul pumping music, topic sessions & Bible studies, recreation activities, sight-seeing, a swamp tour with alligators, and a Sunday worship service with Communion alongside 20K other LC-MS Lutherans.

Thank you so much for your support prior to the trip and your prayers for safety and faith during. We are happy to be home.



From Our Principal

While we cherish the summer season, we are also looking ahead with excitement to the upcoming school year! Our classrooms are being prepared, our teachers are praying and planning, and we are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school.

This year our school theme will be, “Let’s Make a Joyful Noise!” based on Psalm 98:4... “Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music.” We will focus our year around the joy of the Lord! We want every student to know how deeply loved they are by their Creator – and to experience the joy that flows from that truth each and every day at Faith.

Welcome Mr. Bunnell

We are thrilled to announce the newest member of our faculty, Mr. Eric Bunnell.

Mr. Bunnell will be teaching our 5th grade class each morning and then will take on the role of PE teacher for the entire school each afternoon. He comes to us with a BA in Education with a PE and Health endorsement.

Welcome to our amazing FLS community!



Dates to Note

8/20 Teachers return to campus
8/28 Open house
8/28-29 Childcare Closed

Faith Lutheran Ministries Rebranding

When an organization is growing and succeeding in its mission, strategic changes follow. We’re excited to share that we are updating our logo and ministry colors as part of a refreshed visual identity for the new year. God is doing great things among us – including growth and a deepening collaboration across our four ministries here at Faith. We believe this new logo reflects not only our strong heritage, but also our vibrant future and rebranding as Faith Lutheran Christian School. This new design aligns with a unified visual identity across all Faith Lutheran Ministries – including the School, Childcare, Church, and Community Center. By using the same icon and color palette across all our ministries, we are reinforcing the connection between our programs and presenting a cohesive message of faith, excellence, and community to everyone we serve.

This meaningful update comes at a perfect time, as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of Faith Lutheran Church. As we look back on six decades of ministry and forward to the next chapter, our updated logo symbolizes growth, unity, and continued commitment to our mission. We are grateful to share this moment with our families, staff, and community and we thank you for being part of our story.

Thank you to Adam Elmhurst, Nick Cronquist, and Lisa Elmhurst for their work on this project.

2025-26 Enrollment

Enrollment for the 2025–2026 academic year continues. Our Junior Kindergarten class is currently full and has a waiting list, while our Kindergarten class is nearing capacity.

We look forward to welcoming both returning and new families in the fall and appreciate your timely attention to the enrollment process.

[Flschool.org](https://flschool.org) or 360-491-1733

Summer Office Hours

Faith Lutheran School Summer Office Hours:
Monday – Thursday, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm.
Closed Friday.

25-26 Faculty & Staff



Gregory Strand
Pastor
pastorgreg@flschool.org



Ann Ashe
Principal
administrator@flschool.org



Jenn Bache
Financial Administrator
j.bache@flschool.org



Julie Miller
Childcare Director
j.miller@flschool.org



Matt Koehler
Campus Manager
mattkoehler@flschool.org



Shelby Williams
Administrative Assistant
office@flschool.org



Becky Albert
Church & Community Center
Administrator



Julie Roberts
Hot Lunch Specialist



Zoe Miller
Preschool Teacher
z.miller@flschool.org



Tasha Samuelu-Luuga
Preschool Aide



Marie Koehler
Pre K Teacher / Preschool Aide
m.koehler@flschool.org



Kristi Gorman
Pre K / Recess Aide



Christine Humble
Jr K Teacher
c.humble@flschool.org



Chelsey McNeese
Jr K Aide



Heather Kravitz
Kindergarten Teacher
h.kravitz@flschool.org



Susi Green
Kindergarten Aide / Art Teacher
s.green@flschool.org



Jessica Lever
1st & 2nd Grade Teacher
j.lever@flschool.org



Amanda Meyer
1st & 2nd Grade Aide



Jodi Grubb
3rd & 4th Grade Teacher
j.grubb@flschool.org



Amy Suelzle
3rd & 4th Grade Teacher
Music Teacher
a.suelzle@flschool.org



Eric Bunnell
5th Grade / PE Teacher
e.bunnell@flschool.org



Diana Strand
Middle School Teacher
d.strand@flschool.org



David Milnes
Middle School Teacher
d.milnes@flschool.org



EAGLES
FAITH LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Giving is a *Breeze*

The Church uses a software program that deals with social needs of the Church. This software is called Breeze. It allows for an easier way of getting information out to the Church members as a whole as well as small groups.

One aspect of this software is it has a modular that we can track church contribution.

To establish your on-line giving using the Breeze on-line giving program, follow the link:

<https://faithlutheranlacey.breezechms.com/give/online>

Please be aware the Breeze on-line giving bank transfer feature does include a processing fee of 1%. The processing fee for credit cards is 2.9% plus a small transaction fee. Faith will absorb these fees but you have the option to give back both the transfer and credit card processing fees by simply checking the box. Upon doing so, the fees will be added to your donation.

If you have any questions, please contact either Veronika Dunnam, financial secretary at financialsecretary@faithcampus.org or Becky in the church office.

Texting is a *Breeze*

With this software, we have an extended opportunity to communicate with you through text messaging. We are able to generate messages through the app directly to your phone. These messages are legitimate and not spam or fraudulent. Please make sure your information is up to date with the church office so you don't miss important notifications.



Text to Give

To donate by text, a donor simply:

1. Text the amount they'd like to give to **(360) 732-8020** (e.g. \$50). Remember to include a space between your dollar amount and your keyword. If a user submits \$50Missions, they will receive a "Sorry, not sure what you meant" error message. The proper format must be \$50 Missions in order for the command to be received properly.
2. If a person has donated by text before, they'll receive a text in response confirming that their gift has been received successfully and they're done.
3. If it's the first time a person is donating by text, they'll be sent a message that says, "It looks like you are a new giver; to begin: (link provided). It will be a link to the church's online giving page. Clicking on the link they will be asked to supply their payment method (credit card, debit card, or bank account). This payment source will then be linked with their phone number so that, in the future, all they will need to do is text in the amount. (They will not need to re-enter their payment information.)"
4. If the donor didn't specify a fund by keyword, donations will automatically go to the default fund in Breeze. **Example giving by keyword: \$50 missions** Note: *Donors can only give to one fund at a time.*

We've made giving easier! Scan the QR code with your mobile device for instant access to Breeze Online Giving.





August 2025

Faith Lutheran Church & School

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|--|---|-----|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 8:15a Traditional w/HC 9:30a Gather & Grow 10:30a Contemp w/HC | 4 | 5 | 6 6:30p Praise Team | 7 10a 3M's Bible Study | 8 | 9 9a Worship Collab. Meeting 9a Threads of Faith |
| 10 8:15a Traditional 9:30a Gather & Grow 10:30a Contemporary | 11 6:30p Life Group | 12 | 13 6:30p Praise Team | 14 10a 3M's Bible Study | 15 | 16 |
| 17 8:15a Traditional w/HC 9:30a Gather & Grow 10:30a Contemp w/HC | 18 | 19 | 20 6p Council 6:30p Praise Team Welcome back Teachers | 21 10a 3M's Bible Study 11:30a Pinochle | 22 | 23 9a  |
| 24 8:15a Traditional 9:30a Gather & Grow 10:30a Contemporary | 25 6:30p Life Group | 26 6p FLC Meeting | 27 6:30p Praise Team | 28 10a 3M's Bible Study FLS Open House | 29 | 30 |
| 31 8:15a Traditional w/HC 9:30a Gather & Grow 10:30a Contemp w/HC | | | | | | |

August 2025



Community Center

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| <p>3</p> <p>9:30a Gather & Grow</p> <p>11a Casa de Alabanza</p> <p>12p Cristo Vive</p> <p>12:45 Lacey Outreach</p> <p>4p JA1 Church</p> | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| <p>4</p> <p>9:30a Gather & Grow</p> <p>11a Casa de Alabanza</p> <p>12p Cristo Vive</p> <p>12:45 Lacey Outreach</p> <p>4p JA1 Church</p> | | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| <p>10</p> <p>9:30a Gather & Grow</p> <p>11a Casa de Alabanza</p> <p>12p Cristo Vive</p> <p>12:45 Lacey Outreach</p> | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| <p>17</p> <p>9:30a Gather & Grow</p> <p>11a Casa de Alabanza</p> <p>12p Cristo Vive</p> <p>12:45 Lacey Outreach</p> <p>4p JA1 Church</p> | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| <p>24</p> <p>9:30a Gather & Grow</p> <p>11a Casa de Alabanza</p> <p>12p Cristo Vive</p> <p>12:45 Lacey Outreach</p> | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| <p>31</p> <p>9:30a Gather & Grow</p> <p>11a Casa de Alabanza</p> <p>12p Cristo Vive</p> <p>12:45 Lacey Outreach</p> <p>4p JA1 Church</p> | | | | | | |