



Faith Abounds!

A Monthly Publication of Faith Lutheran Church

June 2026

June 2026– From the Pastor's Desk

On the night he was betrayed Jesus gave a new commandment to his disciples, that they (us) love one another just as he has love them (us). And I have been thinking about this as I scroll through online posts – what does it mean to love as Jesus loved?

Throughout the Gospels we hear the command to love – love God, love our neighbor, even love our enemies. But on that night Jesus said to love as he has loved. I wonder what does the love Jesus offers look like? Caring for our neighbor? – Working for justice? Speaking truth to power? Advocating for the oppressed? Yes – but I think it's so much more.

Jesus loved his disciples even when they failed. They often didn't get it – I think of Peter declaring Jesus is the Messiah and then in the next breath failing to fully understand who Jesus is. Still, Jesus loved him – even knowing that he would deny him three times. I wonder if we too can love one another even when the other fails?

Food for thought,
Pastor Pam

Council Notes:

At the May council meeting we reviewed where we are at with getting the mold taken care of in the basement. It has all been treated and we are ready to move forward to sheet rock and paint the area. It was decided to hire our handyman to complete this.

The electrical that was done earlier this year has finally had the final inspection done and passed.

Discussion was held on where we should hold the Annual Meeting, we will go over to the Fellowship Hall to conduct the meeting. Hope to see you all there.

Ella

Faith Lutheran Church

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The newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church is published each month for the life of the people of God at Faith Lutheran and our community.

Office Staff: *Suzanne Gabbard—onsite Tuesdays
Pastor Pam Karas—onsite Tuesdays
and Sundays*

Office Days/Hours: *Tuesdays 10am–2pm
(Please note office hours may vary)*

Sunday Morning Worship:
10:30am- Worship Service (online and in person)

Faith Lutheran Church Council

President, Ella Tuininga

Vice-President, David Myers

Secretary, Ginny W.

Treasurer, Mary Larson

Nancy Sunde, Ginni Hull, Diane Scott,

Pastor Pam Karas

Council minutes are available in the office: if you would like them emailed to you, call or email the office.

Contributions To Date 2026

(Yearly Goal \$70,000)



**Happy
Fathers
Day**

Readings for June

June 7--Hosea 5:15—6:6; Psalm 50:7-15; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 14--Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35—10:8-23

June 21--Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-10-18; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

June 28--Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

What is the Bible? Some say the Bible is a book that dropped down from heaven completely written. Some say the Bible is nothing but a bunch of stories from long ago that don't matter. Neither of these are accurate. Instead, what we as Lutherans believe, is that the Bible is a sacred and holy book because through its 66 books – the stories, poems, history, laments, letters, and more – the Bible points us toward Jesus. Jesus, the One who reveals God's grace, mercy, justice, and love for the world.

As Lutherans, we understand that the center of the Bible is always Jesus. Martin Luther famously said that when we read scripture, we should ask, "Does it show Christ?" In other words, does this verse or passage reveal God made known in Jesus? Does it move us toward peace, wholeness, reconciliation, forgiveness, and love? Or is it being twisted to justify oppression, cruelty, and exclusion? Luther believed that faithful people do not simply quote isolated verses. We are to wrestle with scripture honestly and faithfully always through the lens of Jesus.

Luther also insisted that scripture must interpret scripture. No single verse stands alone. Every verse and passage and book is meant to be in conversation with the broader arc of scripture – with the prophets, the gospels, the letters, and, especially, with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This means we read the Bible seriously, but not literally. We pay attention to context, history, genre, and the larger witness of God's love. When a verse seems to pull us toward harm or violence, we are called to read the passage again, asking whether the interpretation is consistent with God as revealed in Jesus.

I chose to write on how to read the Bible because, quite frankly, what the bible is and biblical interpretation matters deeply right now. I see scripture being selectively quoted by people in power to dehumanize and scapegoat vulnerable communities, glorify wealth and power, and distort sacred texts into slogans. Verses are being lifted out of context while the broader witness of Jesus' life is ignored.

Earlier this year, I watched a recruitment video for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that opened with helicopters flying overhead and the words from Matthew 5:9 on the screen: Blessed are the peacemakers. What followed were images of heavily armed men in tactical gear carrying weapons, breaking down doors, and carrying out violent raids against immigrants. I could not help but notice how far this imagery stands from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, the very place from which that verse is taken.

On the eve of the 250th anniversary of this country, I pray that we would reject the misuse of scripture and instead read scripture faithfully so that we might follow Jesus more closely. I pray that we would acknowledge our own complicity, resist the temptation towards power or fear, care for those who are vulnerable, and stand up and speak out truthfully and prophetically.

Let us return to the prophets who call for justice and care for the poor. Let us return to the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus blesses the meek, the merciful, and the peacemakers. Let us return to the cross, where God rejected violence and domination as the final word. Let us rejoice in the resurrection, where hope, mercy, and love rise again even in the midst of fear and despair. Let us read scripture faithfully and let us follow Jesus.



Serving us in Worship for June



Assisting Minister (Reader) June 7—Paul June 14—Mary June 21—David June 28—Ginny W.	Ushers June 7—Ella June 14—Roger June 21—Russell June 28—Ella	Offering Counters June 7—Nancy/Susan June 14—Holly/Roger June 21—Jennifer/Debbie June 28—Nancy/Susan
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Streamers June 7—Roger June 14—Jennifer June 21—Jennifer June 28—Jennifer	Altar Guild June 7—Susan June 14—Ginny W. June 21—Susan June 28—Ginny W.	Coffee Hosts June 7—Mary June 14—Diane June 21—Jennifer & Stan June 28—Ben & Paul	Deacons June 7—Roger June 14—Stan June 21—Stan June 28—Roger
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June Birthdays



Happy Birthday to...

- 16—Angela
- 19—Pastor Pam
- 21—Paul
- 24—Liam
- 26—June



Please continue to hold the following friends in prayer....



We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.

2 Thess 1:3


We pray for our friends and family who are sick, have loved ones who have passed, or those in need of comfort.

If you have prayer concerns please contact Pastor Pam at 425-870-5335 or the church office at 425-353-4758. For the confidential prayer chain: contact Ella at (425) 231-2072 or email: getuininga@gmail.com



June 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 7 10:30a-Worship Service (S) 12pm-Council Mtg. (L) 3-7pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	1 (Office Closed)	2 Office Hours 10am-2pm** 10:30am-Finance Mtg. (O)	3 (Office Closed) 11:30a-Worship Plan Mtg. (L) 12:30p-Bible Study (FH) 7-9pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	4 (Office Closed)	5 (Office Closed)	6
7 10:30a-Worship Service (S) 12pm-Council Mtg. (L) 3-7pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	8 (Office Closed)	9 Office Hours 10am-2pm**	10 (Office Closed) 7-9pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	11 (Office Closed)	12 (Office Closed)	13
14 10:30a-Worship Service (S) 3-7pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	15 (Office Closed)	16 Office Hours 10am-2pm**	17 (Office Closed) 11:30a-Worship Plan Mtg. (L) 12:30p-Bible Study (FH) 5:30pm-Madison Family Adv 7-9pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	18 (Office Closed)	19 (Office Closed)	20
21 Father's Day 10:30a-Worship Service (S) 3-7pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	22 (Office Closed)	23 Office Hours 10am-2pm** 10am- Newsletter Articles Due	24 (Office Closed) 7-9pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	25 (Office Closed)	26 (Office Closed)	27
28 10:30a-Worship Service (S) 3-7pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	29 (Office Closed)	30 Office Hours 10am-2pm**				

** Office hours may vary - please call office before arrival. (425) 353-4758