



Faith Abounds!

A Monthly Publication of Faith Lutheran Church

July/Aug 2026

In the Bible fire symbolizes God's visible presence, as when God spoke to Moses at the burning bush, and led the Israelites with a pillar of fire at night. Presiding Bishop Curry tells us the church still has fire.

THIS CHURCH STILL HAS FIRE

Not all memories come flooding back because of photographs. Sometimes they can be a song, a word or phrase, or even a smell. For me, it's barbecue. One whiff and, in an instant, I'm transported back to my youthful summers with barbecues across the street in the park, with sights of fellowship, family reunions and church gatherings. That smell has a way of lingering. It settles into your clothes, into your skin. Even after the fire has died down, it stays with you. Fire does that often. It marks you, sticking with you longer than you expect.

I remember a story about a matriarch, simply known as Auntie. She considered herself a barbecue grill master. One day, the family gathered at her home for a summer holiday. As always, additional guests and food arrived after Auntie retired for the day. A family member thought he might help. He lifted the lid of the grill and noticed that nothing was cooking and the charcoals were dead. He went inside and prepared the meat and came back out with charcoal, lighter fluid and matches. And like that, Auntie suddenly appeared.

"What's going on?" she asked.

He explained the situation and his desire to help.

Auntie didn't do any more talking. She raised her hands, lowered her face into the grill and breathed into the coals. Poof, embers glowed again.

She said, "Still got fire."

We just came through the Easter season, having celebrated Pentecost a short time ago. I see Pentecost not as a polite holy day but one just as important as Christmas and Easter. The Spirit isn't arriving on a quiet night or shouting "Alleluia." Instead, we read that the Spirit arrives like a violent wind, resting tongues of fire on the disciples. It's a day when everything changes.

Here is the good news: the Spirit isn't wrong. This church still has fire. Lay leaders still have fire. Rostered ministers still have fire. Congregations still have fire. Synods still have fire. And the churchwide organization still has fire.

Pentecost isn't a spectacle, it's a transformation. It's when the disciples, men and women alike, become bold witnesses, when the church is born—not as an institution but as a movement. The Spirit sets these people out on a new calling, grounded in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

I imagine that wherever the disciples traveled after that day, the memories came back whenever they felt a strong wind or met up with people around a tall fire. They felt it whenever they were afraid or uncertain. And, just like that day when the Spirit first arrived, they remembered that God breathed into them a new life, constantly renewing their calling and leading them to act boldly. They lived out Jesus' call. They fed the hungry, housed those who needed a place to sleep, clothed the poor, bringing peace where peace seemed impossible.

That calling hasn't diminished, even if it feels harder to hear, especially as phrases like "post-Christian" grow in popularity, implying we can keep the values of Christ without Jesus himself. The church where the Spirit flew in to breathe new life is replaced by a movement that dismisses empathy as weak, where disagreements are hardened into threats, and peace feels naïve.

Sometimes, even in this church, we can feel like the coals have gone cold. But Jesus' call to the disciples is the same call he has for us today: "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Jesus is telling us to care for the world. Live in right relationship with God and one another. Not through swords or bombs, not through dictates and orders, but through love and compassion.

When I go back several verses in that same chapter, I see the Beatitudes, God's invitation to grace and love. Blessed are the poor in spirit. Blessed are the meek. Blessed are the merciful. Blessed are the peacemakers. I read these words and I can almost see the Spirit leaning into the grill, breathing into what we thought was finished, and saying, "Still got fire."

And here is the good news: the Spirit isn't wrong. This church still has fire. Lay leaders still have fire. Rostered ministers still have fire. Congregations still have fire. Synods still have fire. And the churchwide organization still has fire.

Yes, we're going to make mistakes, and I will make mistakes, but we still have that fire burning inside us to be the peacemakers in a world desperate for peace.

The question isn't whether the fire exists. The question is whether we are willing to tend to it.

A message from the ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry. His email address is bishop@elca.org.

Readings for July

July 5--Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12--Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19--Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26--1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Readings for August

Aug 2--Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

Aug 9--1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

Aug 16--Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Aug 23--Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

Aug 30--Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

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)



Serving Us in Worship for August

We will email the Servers for August by the end of July.



Serving us in Worship for July



Assisting Minister (Reader)	Ushers	Offering Counters
July 5—David	July 5—Susan	July 5—Holly/Roger
July 12—Ginny W.	July 12—Russell	July 12—Jennifer/Debbie
July 19—Paul	July 19—Ella	July 19—Nancy/Susan
July 26—David	July 26—Roger	July 26—Jennifer/Roger

Streamers	Altar Guild	Coffee Hosts	Deacons
July 5—Roger	July 5—Susan	July 5—Ginny W.	July 5—David
July 12—Jennifer	July 12—Ginny W.	July 12—Jody & Bruce	July 12—Stan
July 19—Roger	July 19—Susan	July 19—Nancy	July 19—Roger
July 26—Jennifer	July 26—Ginny W.	July 26—Debbie	July 26—David

July/Aug Birthdays



Happy Birthday to...

July: 8—Suzanne
22—Bruce
26—Amanda
Aug: 11—Gay
15—Jody
28—Serenity
31—Kityra

Happy Birthday!

May God bless you on your birthday, and always.



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

On July 18, 1976 Pastor Nancy Winder was ordained into Word and Sacrament ministry. She was the first woman ordained in what was then the North Pacific District and the fourteenth woman ordained in the American Lutheran Church.

But Nancy and those thirteen women were not the first. We remember all the women who came before them. In scripture we remember Mary, the mother of Jesus, Elizabeth, Mary and Martha, Mary Magdalene, Phoebe, Priscilla, Junea, Lydia, and all the unnamed women including the Samaritan woman at the well who ran to proclaim what she had seen and heard, becoming the first to declare Jesus as Lord.

Along with these women in scripture, we also remember the countless women in these last 2000 years – Hildegard, Katie Luther, Argula von Grumbach, Maria Stewart, Phoebe Palmer, Catherine Booth, Margaret Wold, and so many others who were called by the Holy Spirit to preach, teach, proclaim, lead, and serve. We give thanks for the myriad of gifts that God has poured out through women for the sake of the church and the life of the world.

I am so thankful for the many women in our lives who passed on their faith to us. The women who taught Sunday School, prepared the altar, made meals, visited those who were sick, and marched against injustice. The women theologians, mystics, and writers. The women who, in countless ways, proclaimed through word and deed the good news of Jesus.

Thank you to our sisters in Christ. Thank you for the ways you have lived out your faith in every vocation. Thank you to the women who have gone before us, to the women serving today, and to the women who continue to say yes to God's call – including those called into ordained ministry.

I wonder, do you remember the first time you heard a woman preach? The first time you heard an alto or soprano voice chanting the liturgy or saying the words of institution? I remember. I was twenty years old. Seeing and hearing someone who looked like me, who had a body like mine, made the gospel come alive in a way I hadn't experienced before. Truly, it changed my life.

This is why I grieve what is happening to some of our sisters in other denominations. In recent weeks, the Southern Baptist Convention voted at its annual assembly to further restrict women from teaching, preaching, and pastoral leadership. This means women ordained ten or twenty or fifty years ago may now find their callings denied by the very churches they have faithfully served. So many women – chosen, loved, called, sent – women with fire in their bellies to preach the gospel may no longer do so. Not by God, but by their denomination. Their silencing is not only a tragedy for them; it is a tragedy for the whole Church.

So today there is an urgency to remember, celebrate, and publicly proclaim, that women are called by God. Just as the Spirit came to Mary, who sang of the mighty brought down from their thrones, just as the Spirit sent Mary Magdalene to proclaim resurrection to the apostles, just as Lydia helped birth a community of believers, the Spirit has called and continues to call women in every age.

So, in joy, thankfulness, and celebration, let us give thanks for the women of the past, present, and future who continue to proclaim, teach, lead, and serve. For, as we read in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, "Since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart ... For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord."



July 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Goodbye June... Hello July!!	1 (Office Closed) 11:30a-Worship Plan Mtg. (L) 12:30p-Bible Study (FH) 7-9pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	2 (Office Closed)	3 (Office Closed)	4
5 10:30a-Worship Service (S) 3-7pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	6 (Office Closed)	7 Office Hours 10am-2pm**	8 (Office Closed) 7-9pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	9 (Office Closed)	10 (Office Closed)	11
12 10:30a-Worship Service (S) 3-7pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	13 (Office Closed)	14 Office Hours 10am-2pm** 10:30am-Finance Mtg. (O)	15 (Office Closed) 11:30a-Worship Plan Mtg. (L) 12:30p-Bible Study (FH) 7-9pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	16 (Office Closed) 4-6:30pm-Interfaith Cooking Class (FH)	17 (Office Closed)	18
19 10:30a-Worship Service (S) 12pm-Council Mtg. (L) 3-7pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	20 Office Hours 10am-2pm**	21 (Office Closed)	22 (Office Closed) 7-9pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	23 (Office Closed) 4-6:30pm-Interfaith Cooking Class (FH)	24 (Office Closed)	25
26 10:30a-Worship Service (S) 3-7pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	27 (Office Closed)	28 (Office Closed)	29 (Office Closed) 11:30a-Worship Plan Mtg. (L) 12:30p-Bible Study (FH) 7-9pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	30 (Office Closed) 4-6:30pm-Interfaith Cooking Class (FH)	31 (Office Closed)	

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



August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:30a-Worship Service (S) 3-7pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	3 (Office Closed)	4 Office Hours 10am-2pm**	5 (Office Closed) 7-9pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	6 (Office Closed) 4-6:30pm-Interfaith Cooking Class (FH)	7 (Office Closed)	8
9 10:30a-Worship Service (S) 3-7pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	10 (Office Closed)	11 Office Hours 10am-2pm** 10:30am-Finance Mtg. (O)	12 (Office Closed) 11:30a-Worship Plan Mtg. (L) 12:30p- Bible Study (FH) 7-9pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	13 (Office Closed) 4-6:30pm-Interfaith Cooking Class (FH)	14 (Office Closed)	15
16 10:30a-Worship Service (S) 12pm-Council Mtg. (L) 3-7pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	17 (Office Closed)	18 Office Hours 10am-2pm**	19 (Office Closed) 5:30pm-Madison Adv. Mtg (FH) 7-9pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	20 (Office Closed)	21 (Office Closed)	22
23 10:30a-Worship Service (S) 3-7pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	24 (Office Closed)	25 Office Hours 10am-2pm** 10am-Newsletter Articles Due	26 (Office Closed) 11:30a-Worship Plan Mtg. (L) 12:30p- Bible Study (FH) 7-9pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	27 (Office Closed)	28 (Office Closed)	29
30 10:30a-Worship Service (S) 3-7pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	31 (Office Closed)	28 Office Hours 10am-2pm**	29 (Office Closed) 7-9pm-Fountain of Truth (S)	30 (Office Closed)	31 (Office Closed)	