

Arms of Faith

May 2023

Dear Faithfuls,

“To know, to grow, and to show Christ to all people” has been the mission statement of Faith Church for years. For *years*. It’s been the mission statement for so many years that no one can quite name the year that it was first used.

The Session has prayerfully come to realize that as this congregation is evolving and changing, it is time for a new mission statement, one that will guide us into the future that God intends for us.

So, this letter is a **SAVE THE DATE** article – you know, kind of like brides and grooms do for their wedding date. Please save these three Sundays: **September 10, October 8 and November 12, 2023.**

Here’s what will happen, briefly:

September 10, following worship, we will enjoy a meal together and celebrate our past.

October 8, following worship, again, we will eat together and assess our present. November 12, following worship – guess what? We’re Presbyterian, so we will have lunch together and embrace the future that God is calling us to.

Once we have celebrated the past, assessed the present and embraced the future, a team of Faithfuls will write a new mission statement for Faith Church.

In the coming months, you will be hearing more about this new focus on mission. In the meantime, those that pray, please keep praying “Come, Holy Spirit, Come!”

Peace,
Becky



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May 2 Colleen Hunt
May 2 Coleman Mavity
May 3 Emily Kasprzak
May 4 Phil Westerfield
May 5 Raymond Glesmann
May 7 James May
May 8 Julie Bosserdet
May 9 Judi Crick
May 13 Sally Frick
May 14 Dottie DeBoer
May 19 Nellie Gray
May 23 Kathy Pfeffer

Session Highlights

This month's discussion of *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You Are Going* was the chapter on Clarifying Purpose – Who Do We Choose to Be? The elders talked about what we as a congregation might have to surrender, in order to move into the future; the ways in which we still want to hold on to the past; and what our core values might be. The elders also told a few stories of when they were proud to be part of Faith Church. Please ask an elder about those stories – or tell an elder your story of when you were proud to be a member of Faith Church.

Decisions and actions that the session took:

Gave a new name to the former library: **Gathering Room**. The library materials will move to Room 10 on the lower level, and the Gathering Room will be a place for children to be during worship if the pastor is too boring for them, and for other small gatherings during the week

Agreed to participate in the La Vista Prayer Walk on May 24 (please see elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.)

Determined dates for congregational gatherings for determining a new mission statement (please see the pastor's page)

Received an update on the parking lot and its needed repairs
Approved creating a Tech Committee to address hardware and software needs

Will you please pray for your elders as they faithfully lead this congregation in ministry and mission. Your elders and the clerk of session are: Peter Svoboda, Shayla Hall, Matt Kasprzak, Tracy Kristensen, Doug Bogenhagen, Jim Willett, Bob Meyer, Al Zimmerman, Terri O'Brien and Joe Seda.

The following is an email we received from a person who attended the Clothing Giveaway.

I wanted to extend my thanks and gratitude to your church for this event. My family has been going through challenging times for several months. I finally was blessed with a promising new career and needed a some clothes to look my best and boost my confidence. I was able to get a few outfits that were perfectly suited for my new job. Thank you so much for your generosity and support to those of us in need. It means a lot to me and my family.

*Warm regards,
Paige Poag.*



Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who sorted, donated, and helped with the Clothing Giveaway. We served 87 people. We got so many appreciative comments.

The next Give-away will be May 20th. We are shortening the hours to 9:00-11:00am. We will be sorting May 3rd and 17th, from 9:00-11:00am.

A shout out to First Presbyterian in Bellevue. They are having a rummage sale, and we were invited to come the last half hour of the sale to get any items we can use for the Give-away.

On the Clothing Give-away door, there are donation slips and flyers to give to friends, neighbors, etc to explain what we do.

Dates for future Giveaways are June 24th and July 15th.

Thanks again for your continued support.

John & Terri O'Brien
and the Mission and Evangelism Team

La Vista Prayer Walk

The La Vista Prayer Walk will be held on May 24, 2023, at 7 p.m. It will begin and end in the La Vista Middle School parking lot. Prayer walkers will walk around the big block that goes past the park, the fire station, city hall, City Centre and Faith Church. Stops will be made at seven locations to pray for schools, residents, recreation, La Vista's Salute to Summer, city government, commerce and finally churches and ministries. The walk will take about 90 minutes. Two vans will be provided for those who cannot walk the entire route. Water will be provided. At each location a volunteer will pray. Along the route participants will either pray or fellowship with each other. A brochure will be given to each participant with suggestions for what to pray.

Members of Faith Church are invited to walk and pray! Let us show the city of La Vista that we are people of prayer, who are supportive of our community.

Your Session

Clerk of Session - Joe Seda	
Discipleship	Shayla Hall
Facilities	Matt Kasprzak Jim Willett Doug Bogenhagen
Fellowship	Tracy Kristensen
Human Res	Bob Meyer
Mission & Ev	Terri O'Brien
Support	Peter Svoboda
Worship	Al Zimmerman

You might recall that Session approved giving money to three churches to help fund youth mission trips. Following are letters from two of the churches.

Dear Friends at Faith PC,

Thank you so much for your generous and loving gift to our Youth Mission trip. These events are so important and life changing. We appreciate your partnership! Your congregation and the future youth of your church are in our prayers!

Blessings,

Shelli Dart

Director of Youth Ministry

Hello!

Thank you so much for the generous donation toward our youth mission trip this summer at Hope! We received the check and will deposit this week. As of right now, we have 15 kids registered for our mission trip in June to Lake Okoboji, IA. There we will stay and work at Lakeshore Center which is a Presbyterian camp, doing grounds clean up and some remodeling in several of their buildings.

Thank you again so much and we are blessed by your generosity!

Mike Geiler, Pastor



The windows are installed at Sadzi.
We thank you all, at Faith, for your hand.

Helping Hands to the Rescue

Congregation members – Do you have jobs at home that you cannot do on your own (cutting up limbs, small electrical or plumbing jobs, yardwork, etc)? For help, contact the church office, and we will check with our Helping Hands Team.

The Faith Church Helping Hands Team is in need of a coordinator for 2023. Anyone interested in filling this need please contact the church office.

If you would like to join the Helping Hands Team, please let us know and we will add you to our list of helpers.

Sightings

In addition to being the church Treasurer, **Marc Wagoner** brings many talents to our church: tremendous IT knowledge and skills, electrical knowhow, bell ringing, singing in the choir, and when someone asks him to help, he says 'yes.' We are grateful for multi-talented Marc!

Every Monday or Tuesday, one of our Faithfuls comes to the office and counts the offering with Ranae. It's an important ministry and internal control for faithful stewardship. So, a big thank you to **Ruth Tresemer, Bill Neubert, Joe Seda, Sharon Fleming, Meg Dorsee, Rod Bosserdet, and Ann Tresemer.**

Debbie Kippley gave the Children's Moment on the Sunday after Easter, when the pastor was on vacation. It was an engaging moment for the children. And, Debbie also led a group of artists in creating a wilderness mural during Lent. That mural now graces the upper level hallway – thank you, Debbie and artists!

Thank you to all who wrote cards of encouragement to the middle school teachers, and a special thanks to **Terri O'Brien** for organizing the card writing!

Doug Bogenhagen has been grass seeding, and mulching and tree trimming – all to ensure that our church grounds will be lovely for the summer.



Palm Sunday Brunch
April 2nd



The Lunch Bunch
Mama's Pizza
March 3rd



LUNCH BUNCH

Anyone of any age gathering together for fellowship.

Fun and lunch on Friday, **May 5th**, 12:00 noon at **Chili's** in LaVista (8373 Barmettler in City Centre)

We need your suggestions and ideas on where to go for our lunch next.

Contact Sharon Fleming at

402 709-2103 or sfleming43@aol.com by May 3rd for your reservation and if you need a ride.

Camp Calvin Crest

Come and Be Restored

Students Need a Church Camp Experience

Camp Calvin Crest is our Christian Summer Camp and Retreat Center. They offer several camping experiences for elementary, middle, and high school students throughout the summer. Elementary students can attend a day camp or overnight camp. Summer camp can deepen a student's faith or encourage them to embrace it. Presbyterian Woman and the Discipleship committee have scholarship money to help you send a child, grandchild, niece, or nephew to camp. It might be overwhelming to enter into a new experience alone. So we can also scholarship a friend.

www.calvincrest.com

Great Exercise & Great Fellowship

Join us for  **Pickleball**
Mondays 6:30 pm
Thursdays 1:00 pm



Join us for  **Volleyball**
Sundays 1:00 pm



If you are interested and want more info, call the church office.

Psalms Bible Study on Sunday Morning

The book of Psalms is filled with praise, thanksgiving, comfort and even lament. Join Janine Yates on Sunday mornings, at 9:00 am in Room 9, to explore this wonderful book of the bible.

Streaming Sunday Worship Service 10:00am

We continue to broadcast the worship service on Facebook. If you do not have computer access, you may listen to the service by calling 1-844-855-4444 and entering access code 716966#.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 2px solid #0070C0; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am </div>	1 6:30 pm Pickleball	2	3 7:00 am Campus Life - FLC 10:00am Yesterday's Kids 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	4 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC Team Meetings 4:00pm Worship mtg 5:30pm Discipleship - 9 6:30 pm Mission/Evang - 8 7:00 pm Fellowship - 7:00 pm Facilities - FH	5 8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue 12:00 pm Lunch Bunch	6 1:00pm Omaha Christian Social Group - FH
7 9:00 am Psalms Study 5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC	8 5:45 pm Book club 6:30 pm Pickleball	9 7:00 pm Deacons' meeting	10 7:00 am Campus Life - FLC 10:00am Yesterday's Kids 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	11 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC 6:30pm Stephen Ministry 7:30pm Support Meeting	12 8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue 3:00 pm Graduation party - FH	13 8:00am Men's Breakfast 1:00pm Omaha Christian Social Group- FH
14 Mother's Day  9:00 am Psalms Study 5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC	15 6:30 pm Pickleball	16 11:30 am Pwv - Lunch at Farmhouse Cafe	17 10:00am Yesterday's Kids 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	18 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC 7:00pm Session meeting	19 8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue 9:00 am Clothing Giveaway set up	20 9:00 am Clothing Giveaway 1:00pm Omaha Christian Social Group
21 9:00 am Psalms Study 5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC	22 6:30 pm Pickleball	23	24 10:00am Yesterday's Kids 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 9:00 am	25 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC	26 8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue	27 1:00pm Omaha Christian Social Group- FH
28 9:00 am Psalms Study 5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC	29 6:30 pm Pickleball	30	31 10:00am Yesterday's Kids 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal			