



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: 507.331.6579

Address: 530 4th Street NW Faribault, MN 55021

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 8

August 2026

FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR...

Dear Trinity,

I've had a lot of people ask me over the last three months if we are doing well. I give the same answer to each person: we are doing great. Not only have we begun to find a place at Trinity and Faribault, but it is evident to me that God has decided to richly bless this congregation. Even though God does not need me or my family to care for this wonderful church, he has decided to place us here so that we could participate in what he is doing. What a great occasion for joy!

But not only has he placed me and my family here, but he has placed you here as well. Why? Because he wants you to become a participant in his work. In our Gospel reading for Aug. 2, Jesus and the disciples find themselves in a wilderness without any food except for five loaves and two fish. Plenty for them, but not nearly enough for the 5,000 men who have followed them out there, along with many more women and children. The disciples want to send the crowds away to scrounge for food wherever they can find it. But Jesus tells them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." The disciples have nothing to give the crowds on their own, but Jesus orders the crowds to sit, blesses the meager meal they do have, breaks the bread and gives it to the disciples. He breaks that bread again and again, until all the



thousands of people sitting on the grass have eaten their fill, along with twelve baskets of leftovers.

Even though Jesus didn't need his disciples to feed the crowds (he could have fed them any way he wanted), he made his disciples responsible for feeding them when he said, "You give them something to eat." He didn't need them, but he wanted to work through them to bless others. The disciples were not just servants of Christ as they fed the 5,000, they had become participants with Christ in his work. That is why Jesus said, "You give them something to eat."

Christ has gathered us at Trinity for the same reason. To make us participants in all the good things that he is doing here. The disciples who volunteered for VBS were not just serving Christ, they were participating in his work by feeding children the Bread of Life, the Gospel. The workers who remodeled the

church's rental house were not just repairing an asset the church owns, they were participating with Christ in blessing the person who will live there. When you plan a fellowship event, start the coffee pot, lead a Bible study, plan a blood drive, attend yet another meeting, what are you doing? Apart from Christ, you are wasting your time. But you aren't apart from Christ. You have been made a participant in Christ's work through faith. He turns to you and says, "They do not need to go; you feed them." And together, that is what he uses us to do.

What an occasion for joy!

Pastor Alex

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FROM THE LLB CHAIR...**August Already?
Where Has Summer Gone?**

It's hard to believe August is here already. Summer always seems to move quickly, but God has certainly been busy at Trinity. We've celebrated two baptisms of older children and welcomed five new members into our church family. What a blessing to see God at work in such meaningful ways.

We also wrapped up another wonderful week of Vacation Bible School. A heartfelt thank-you to Nancy and all the volunteers who give their time and energy each year. Your dedication makes VBS a success and a joy for our children.

Along with summer comes thunderstorms which brought hail along with it

**Summer
EVENTS**

earlier this summer. The hail damaged the roofs on the rental houses and some of the skylights on the church. We are grateful that insurance will cover the cost of the repairs, and new roofs and skylights will be installed soon.

As we move through the rest of summer, may we continue to look for the ways God is moving among us and through us.

Mitch M.

If you have a topic for me to address or a comment, please email me.

SERVING TRINITY & FLS

- Rev. Alex Slotter,
Senior Pastor
- Rev. Gatluk, Reat,
Sudanese Evang. Lutheran
Mission Church
- Noel Handberg,
Financial Coordinator
- Nancy Simonson,
Family Ministry
- Dustin Grund,
Property Manager
- Jennifer Kingland,
Office Manager
- Bill & Mary Jewison,
Custodians
- Joshua Baumann,
FLS Administrator
- Jeneen Michelson,
FLS Administrative
Secretary

Bible in a Year—August

August 1 – Isaiah 65, 66; Psalm 62; John 3

August 2 – II Kings 21; II Chronicles 33; John 4

August 3 – Nahum 1, 2, 3; John 5

August 4 – II Kings 22; II Chronicles 34; John 6

August 5 – II Kings 23; II Chronicles 35; John 7

August 6 – Habakkuk 1, 2, 3; John 8

August 7 – Zephaniah 1, 2, 3; John 9

August 8 – Jeremiah 1, 2; John 10

August 9 – Jeremiah 3, 4; John 11

August 10 – Jeremiah 5, 6; John 12

August 11 – Jeremiah 7, 8, 9; John 13

August 12 – Jeremiah 10, 11, 12; John 14

August 13 – Jeremiah 13, 14, 15; John 15

August 14 – Jeremiah 16, 17; Psalm 96; John 16

August 15 – Jeremiah 18, 19, 20; Psalm 93; John 17

August 16 – II Kings 24; Jeremiah 22; Psalm 112; John 18

August 17 – Jeremiah 23, 25; John 19

August 18 – Jeremiah 26, 35, 36; John 20

August 19 – Jeremiah 45, 46, 47; Psalm 105; John 21

August 20 – Jeremiah 48, 49; Psalm 67; I John 1

August 21 – Jeremiah 21, 24, 27; Psalm 118; I John 2

August 22 – Jeremiah 28, 29, 30; I John 3

August 23 – Jeremiah 31, 32; I John 4

August 24 – Jeremiah 33, 34; Psalm 74; I John 5

August 25 – Jeremiah 37, 38, 39; Psalm 79; II John

August 26 – Jeremiah 50 51; III John

August 27 – Jeremiah 52; Revelation 1; Psalm 143, 144

August 28 – Ezekiel 1, 2, 3; Revelation 2

August 29 – Ezekiel 4, 5, 6, 7; Revelation 3

August 30 – Ezekiel 8, 9, 10, 11; Revelation 4

August 31 – Ezekiel 12, 13, 14; Revelation 5

COMING EVENTS FOR FAMILIES

Rally Day service and registration for Sunday School will be September 13.

7-8th Grade Confirmation starts on Wednesday, September 16. More details to follow.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Badminton, bocce ball, corn hole, kubb and so much more. These are the types of games we play at our outdoor game night. All ages are invited! This is a whole family event. Bring a snack to share or a game to share if you want, or just come and enjoy. We will meet at the bottom of Peace Hill at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 15. This event is weather dependent so only come if you want to be outside. Hope you see you there!

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REPORT**

VBS report – On July 26-30 we

hosted Rainforest Falls VBS where we learned about the nature of God. God is our creator, our safe place, He knows everything, He loves us and showed that by dying on the cross so we can live with Him forever.



We had 67 children attend with 45% of those children being non-members. We raised over \$550 for Ruth's House. Thanks to the 48+ volunteers and for all those who purchased supplies, donated money, created the set and prayed. You are awesome!

KICKBALL

A Kickball event is being planned for Sunday, August 23, at 3:00 p.m.

Location to be determined.

Keep an eye open for more info!



Each gift has been recorded in the Trinity Lutheran Church Memorial Book located in the Church Office. We invite you to stop by the office and note the special donations given in love and remembrance. All gifts to Trinity Radio Club are recorded, then acknowledged by the Radio Club during their Sunday broadcasts.

IN MEMORY OF DARLENE ROSS:**Camp Omega**

\$25. by Duane & Diane S.

Human Care

\$50. by Robert & Ellen B.

\$20. by LeAnn F.

Special Memorials

\$2,442. by Family & Friends

IN MEMORY OF BARB TWEDT:**Faribault Lutheran School**

\$462. by the J.O.Y. Group



FLS Monthly



Upcoming Events

Thursday, August 13th

- BOD Meeting (Trinity) 6PM

Monday, August 17th

- Teachers report back to school

Thursday, August 27th

- School Orientation Night
5:00PM

Sunday, August 30th

- Back Pack Blessing (Trinity)
10:30AM

Tuesday, September 1st

- First Day of School
- Grades 5-8

Wednesday, September 2nd

- First Day of School
Grades K-4
- Opening Chapel @ 8:30am

Monday, September 7th

- No School / Labor Day

Wildcat Wow!

School Contact

(507) 334-7982

flsoffice@flsweb.org

From the Administrator

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." Colossians 2:6-7

Greetings from Faribault Lutheran School! I am excited about the opportunity to partner with you in sharing the love of Jesus with the students and families of Faribault Lutheran School. I look forward to working with you as the new School Administrator at FLS.

I have been in Lutheran education my entire life. I went to a Lutheran preschool and grade school. I graduated from Mayer Lutheran High School. I continued my education at Concordia University-River Forest, Illinois, and graduated with a Secondary Education degree in History and Geography.

My first call was to Lutheran High School North in St. Louis; I served there for 12 years. I taught history and geography and coached football and track. I earned my Master's Degree from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and participated in the SLED program. I also served on the administration team at Lutheran North as the registrar for a few years. My next stop for 12 years was at Zion Lutheran School in Mayer, Minnesota as the School Administrator. I participated in the Van Lunen Fellows Program through Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 2022-2023.

I met my wife, Katie, at Concordia, and we have four awesome children. Katie is a teacher and works at Cologne Academy. Our oldest son, Jack, is an electrician. Lucas is a sophomore at Concordia University, Nebraska and is studying to be a Lutheran art teacher and plays on the football team. Reid is a junior at Mayer Lutheran and plays football and basketball. Annalyse is a freshman at Mayer Lutheran and plays volleyball, basketball, and track.

I look forward to watching God's plan unfold at FLS. Please keep my family and me in your prayers as we begin this new chapter in our lives, and keep the FLS family in your prayers as we prepare for a new school year.

In His service,
Joshua Baumann

School Mission Statment

To empower and equip all students for Christian Discipleship and Academic Success in serving others for Christ and His church.

May School Board Minutes (5/7/2026)

Our Mission at FLS is to empower and equip all students for Christian Discipleship and Academic Success in serving others for Christ and His church.

Members Present: Eric Remold, Angie Swanson, Jen Jeno, Josh Malecha, Ann Drache, Sara Hewitt, Teasha Archambault, Debra Byrd

Members Absent:

Others Present: Chrysteena Saehler (until 1828); Tom Donlon (arrival at 1826-1905); Pastor Alex Slotter (until 1824)

Devotion/Prayer: 1754

Call Meeting Time: 1755

Approval of Minutes:

April Minutes: Josh motions to approve, Ann seconds- motions carried

Amendment Meeting Minutes

Public Discussion Time: none

Faculty Time: none

Principal Report:

A. Teacher Appreciation Week: May 4-8 is Teacher Appreciation Week across the country. The PTO has sponsored each day towards a children's book. We are very thankful for the teachers that we have at FLS.

B. PTO Spring Carnival: The annual PTO Spring Carnival will be held on Friday, May 8, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the East parking lot of FLS. This is a fun evening filled with different carnival games, fun crafts, and food. Join us for fellowship!

C. Outdoor Chapel: FLS will be hosting an outdoor chapel on Wednesday, May 13, beginning at 10:30. This will be at the green space at Peace Lutheran. It will be followed by a picnic lunch provided by FLS.

D. Spring Sing: In honor of America's 250th birthday, the Spring Sing will feature patriotic songs. Along with classes, singing, our tone chime and handbell groups will also be performing. The night performance begins at 6:00 PM on Thursday, May 14. The dress rehearsal will be on Thursday, May 14, at 1:00 PM.

E. Fun in the Sun: The annual Fun in the Sun Day will be held on Wednesday, May 27 at the green space at Peace Lutheran. This is a fun afternoon for all FLS that involves different yard games, water games, and a special visit from Kona Ice.

F. Graduation: Kindergarten graduation will take place on Thursday, May 28 at 1:00 PM in the Trinity sanctuary. FLS 8th graders will graduate on Thursday, May 28 at 6:00 PM in the Trinity sanctuary. There will be a reception following graduation.

G. Awards Ceremony: We will be celebrating the many accomplishments by our students from the past year on Friday, May 29, at 9:30 AM.

H. Closing Chapel: Closing chapel will be held on Friday, May 29, at 10:30 AM. Mrs. Saehler will be leading chapel. This will also be a send-off for our students to have a wonderful and safe summer break!

I. Chapel Schedule

a. May 6: Ms. Fuchs

b. May 13: 7th & 8th Grade (Chapel @ 10:30 AM)

c. May 20: Pr. Thormondson

d. May 29: Mrs. Saehler (Closing Chapel)

J. Upcoming School Events

a. May 7: School Board Meeting @ Peace Lutheran

b. May 8: PTO Spring Carnival

c. May 13: Outdoor Chapel @ Peace

d. May 14: Spring Sing

e. May 25: No School | Memorial Day

f. May 27: Fun in the Sun @ Peace

g. May 28: Kindergarten Graduation @ Trinity (1:00PM) | 8th Grade Graduation @ Trinity (6:00PM)

May School Board Minutes (5/7/2026)

h. May 29: Last Day of School | Closing Chapel | Noon Dismissal

Treasurer Report: none available at this time

Committee Reports: (Policy | Curriculum/Technology | Endowment/Financing)

A. Call committee

Minimal success with district documents

Active postings

B. Sports Coop

Survey was sent out to parents- only half responded

Another email to be sent by adm to update parents and encourage more feedback on surveys.

C. Lead Teacher Feedback

New Business

A. Administrator Update

Tom Donlon -interim administrator

Josh motions to offer the interim administrator position, Deb seconds motion carries

Pair with Dan Erdman with LCMS background

B. 5th Grade Teacher

Job posting active

Looking at couple candidates

C. TADS Financial Assistance

Josh motions to put total tads fund at 25%/per student with a max of \$5,000 total fund with the stipulation to participate in four FLS community events, Angie seconds- motion carried

D. End of Year Survey

Review questions

E. Scholarship Review

Josh motions to approve 11 scholarships from the scholarship funds, Ann seconds motion carries

F. Ms. Gare license

Board and new interim adm support

G. Called worker pay raise Josh motions, Ann seconds motions carries

Motion for pastors from Peace and Trinity discount Angie motions; Josh seconds motion carried

Old Business

Upcoming Events

Closing chapel- Build time into this at the end for recognition for Mrs. Meyer and Mrs. Saehler

1932: Josh Motions to move into executive session, Ann seconds- motion carried

2126: Josh motions to leave executive session, Ann seconds -motion carried

Meeting Adjourned Time: 2132

Next Meeting Date and Location: June 11th, 2026 | 6:00 p.m. | Trinity

Mark Your Calendars

**Faribault Lutheran School
Orientation Night is
Thursday, August 27,
5:00 p.m.**



Make a postcard PUZZLE

Summer is full of little moments that remind us that God is guiding each step. Like a puzzle, he brings every piece together in his time.

What you need:

- A postcard or printed picture
- Scissors
- Pencil (optional, for guiding your cuts)
- Envelope or small bag (for storing pieces)

What you do:

1. Flip your postcard over and lightly draw puzzle shapes or cut freely.
2. Cut the postcard into a mix of big and small pieces.
3. Mix up the pieces and try to put the picture back together.
4. Store the pieces in an envelope so you can use it again later.



Footsteps with God

Have you ever walked along the shore and noticed footprints in the sand? The poem *Footprints in the Sand* reminds us that God is always with us.

Unscramble each word and write it inside the footprints to see what Psalm 119:133 (NIV) says about our steps. (Hint: the bold letters show the first letter of each word.)



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Psalm 119:133 (NIV)

Answer: "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."

JUNE PASTORS' REPORT

Each month a Pastoral Report is prepared in the Church Office. Classes, meetings, appointments, worship services, visitations and communions are tracked and reported by each pastor. In each month's newsletter we will be including the most recent form on file (June 2026).

	Home Visits	Hospital or Jail	Office Visits	Pro-spect Calls	Shut Ins/ Others Com-muned Privately	Shut Ins/ Others Visited- No Communion	NH Worship Attended	NH Worship Com-muned	Worship Services	Classes Taught	Mtgs. Attend
Senior Pastor	8	1 ^(H)	many	0	13	0	38	24	17	16	many
Lay Members	0	0	0	0	1	0				0	~

Baptisms: 0

Confirmed: 0

Weddings: 0

Released/Removed: 0

Profession of Faith/Affirmation of Baptism: 0

Transfer In: 6 Rev. Alex & Ashlie S. (Alexander, Samuel, John, Leonard)

Transfers Out: 0

Deaths/Funerals: 1 Darlene Ross

Official Acts:



Rev. Gatluk Reat June 2026 Report: *Sudanese Evangelical Lutheran Mission Church*

Attendance

Week 1 – 50; Week 2 – 65;

Week 3 – 86; Week 4 – 145

Worship Services conducted in
Nuer & English in person and online.

Notes: Pastor 12 regular weekend services, 1 funeral service, 4 nursing home services. (Pleasant View Service cancelled due to COVID.) Classes: 4 Sunday Bible Classes, 4 Men's Bible Classes, 4 Adult Confirmation Classes, 4 Staff Bible Classes

Happy August Birthday!

Special Greetings to Trinity's Octogenarian and Nonagenarian members with August birthdays. We ask that you remember our fellow members in your prayers and help brighten their day with a card or visit.

Omitted from web version for privacy reasons. Please contact Jennie in the church office or pick up a printed copy of the newsletter for a list of this month's birthdays.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 7:40 Summer Choir 8:00 Worship Service –c 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Coffee Hour 10:30 Worship Service –c	3 8:00 Pie-makers 12:00 Bible Study 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 4:00 Sudanese Mtg. 5:00 FLS Committee Meeting 6-8:00 Church Directory Committee	4 9:00 Staff Mtg. 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 5:30 Memento Group 5:30-7:30 AHG Event (FH) Gym Floor Stripped and Waxed	5 2:30 New Perspective –c 6:00 Connection Practice (Schafer's) 6-8:00 Church Directory Committee	6 10:00 Prayer Group (Marilyn Steele's) 10:00 Bible Study (Realife Co-op) 7:15 Fellowship Committee	7 8:00 Men's Bible Study	1 5:30 Worship Service –c 8 9:00 Fall Conf. Mtg. 9:00 Sudanese Funeral Service 5:30 Worship Service
9 8:00 Worship Service 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Coffee Hour 10:30 Worship Service 12-5:00 Sudanese Prayer Service (Sanc.)	10 8:00 Pie-makers 12:00 Bible Study 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 6:00 Trumps' Bible Study (off site)	11 9:00 Staff Mtg. 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 5:30 Memento Group 6:30 LLB Mtg. Gym Floor Stripped and Waxed	12 1:00 Mill City –c 6:00 Connection Practice (Trinity)	13 10:00 Prayer Group (Marilyn Steele's) 10:00 Bible Study (Realife Co-op) 2:00 Human Care 6:00 FLS Brd. Mtg. (Trinity) 6:30 AHG Leaders' Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)	14 8:00 Men's Bible Study	15 5:30 Worship Service –c 6:30-8:30 Game Night (Peace Hill)
16 8:00 Worship Service –c 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Coffee Hour 10:30 Worship Service –c 11:30 Youth Committee Meeting	17 8:00 Pie-makers 12:00 Bible Study 2:00-8:30 p.m. Pictures Taken 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV <u>FLS Teachers Report Back</u>	18 9:00 Staff Mtg. 2:00-8:30 p.m. Pictures Taken 5:30 Memento Group 6:30 Elders' Mtg.	19 10:00 Milestone –c 2:00-8:30 p.m. Pictures Taken 3:30 Faribault Senior Living –c	20 10:00 Prayer Group (Marilyn Steele's) 10:00 Bible Study (Realife Co-op) 1:00 Women In Mission (Conf. Rm) 2:00-8:30 p.m. Pictures Taken	21 8:00 Men's Bible Study 2:00-8:30 p.m. Pictures Taken <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	22 10-4:00 Pictures Taken 5:30 Worship Service
Aug. 17-22: Church Directory Picture Taking (Narthex & Fellowship Hall)						
23 8:00 Worship Service 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Coffee Hour 10:30 Worship Service 3:00 Kickball	24 8:00 Pie-makers 12:00 Bible Study 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 6:00 Trumps' Bible Study (off site)	25 9:00 Staff Mtg. 5:30 Memento Group 6:30 Property Brd	26	27 10:00 Prayer Group (Marilyn Steele's) 10:00 Bible Study (Realife Co-op) 5:00 FLS Orientation Night (Gym) 6:00-8:30 AHG Open House (FH & Narthex)	28 8:00 Men's Bible Study	29 12-5:00 Sudanese Prayer Gathering (Fellowship Hall) 5:30 Worship Service –c 6:30 Youth Event
30 8:00 Worship Service –c 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Coffee Hour 10:30 Worship Service –c FLS Backpack Blessing 11:30 Confirmation Orientation mtg.	31 8:00 Pie-makers 12:00 Bible Study 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV					

LAY LEADERSHIP BOARD MINUTES - JULY 2026

Trinity Lutheran Church Lay Leadership Board Minutes 6:30 PM, July 14, 2026

Attendance: Pastor Alex, Mitch M., (Chairman), Dale K., Nura N., Penny R., Barb B., Carl V.

Absent: Brian F.

Guest: Josh B. (FLS Administrator)

1. Opening prayer and devotion led by Pastor Alex
2. FLS report
 - a. Josh introduced himself and provided an update on his first 3 weeks. He is identifying and reviewing needs of FLS.
 - b. Fifth grade teacher hired, all staff positions are filled. Josh is looking forward to more time with staff as school start nears.
 - c. Enrollment remains the same with the possibility of a few more new students.
3. Pastor Alex Report
 - a. Financial – giving remains strong
 - b. Possible renter vetted by a longtime member for 418 house, starting rent \$1,300/mo + utilities.
 - c. Attendance report – Will be encouraging increased use of friendship pads.
 - d. Sudanese report – Attendance is up. There is a need to review the arrangement of the financial accounts. Mitch will contact the district with concerns and questions.
 - e. Family Ministry – VBS has about 50 children enrolled, down from about 70 from 2025.
 - f. Wholistic Ministry - Discussion of ways to pull in members through all phases of life. Ministry around specific milestones such as baptism, confirmation, graduation, marriage, family, mature ministry ending with death. Pastor Alex is working to identify current gaps and coordinate a plan. The goal is to build spiritual maturity at each level and improve member retention.
 - g. Confirmation fall 2026 – standards are the same as last year, starts Sept. 16th.
 - h. Wedding Handbook – reviewed and updated, discussion followed with a motion by Carl to approve with a second from Dale, approved.
 - i. Advent Services – various service styles/options discussed along with meal times.
4. Executive session -
 - a. Barb motioned to transition to executive session, seconded by Dale
 - b. Nura motioned to exit executive session seconded by Carl
5. Property Board
 - a. The two rental homes received estimates for new roofs; Mitch will review the deductible detail with quoting company before scheduling the project.
 - b. The estimate for the re-surfacing of both parking lots from May will need to be updated considering time frame and oil price fluctuation. Discussion of accounts that could be used to fund this.
6. Directory Update
 - a. So far, about 130 of 200 active/semi-active TLC households have signed up.
 - b. A group has volunteered to help with the project with the leadership of Mike Young.
7. Calendar items
 - a. LLB meeting Aug. 11th, 2026 at 6:30pm
 - b. Rally day September 13, 2026
8. Meeting adjourned by Mitch, closed with prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Penny R.
LLB Member



We Invite You To Attend A Retreat With Faith Family Reunion

When children have left the church and faith in Jesus Christ, parents that are left behind often find themselves feeling isolated and alone. The feelings of guilt and shame can become overwhelming as they wonder what they did wrong, could have done better or what they failed to do. The end result makes parents feel as though they are living solo with the need to carry this burden on their own.

When: Saturday, October 17, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Where: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 2500 7th Ave NE, Owatonna, MN 55060

Sponsored by: the Faribault Circuit of the Minnesota South District of the LCMS

To Register: Call (507) 451-4125 OR click on QR Code to register online

Cost: Registration is \$15.00 per person and includes breakfast, lunch and retreat materials



[Click to Register](#)

During this time, we invite you to begin the journey of discovery together with us as we explore the notion that we might all share similar stories and that maybe you are really not alone on this road.

FAITH FAMILY REUNION RETREAT AT GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN, OWATONNA

Why is the subject of our kids leaving the church such a hard thing to speak about?

This is a question I often ask when I lead retreats. When we look around our congregations, this subject of kids leaving the faith is often hard to speak about, especially for parents. Parents often do not want to admit the deep pain and hurt that they experience day-in and day-out for fear of judgment on their parenting skills. Pastors or church workers especially worry what members of the congregation would think if they only knew—after all, they are supposed to be the leaders and have it all together. But really, have we ever seen a perfect family? When we look at accounts in the Bible, we do not have any examples of perfection except through the life of Jesus Christ.

So what are some responses from parents? I would like to share a few:

“I think it is so hard because as parents we believe we have failed. We wonder what we could have done or should have done. It is hard to admit this and scary to think that our kids might not go to heaven and that we are somehow responsible.” —Mother of a prodigal

“There is a growing movement that encourages children to choose estrangement from their parents in addition to leaving the church. This is so dangerous. We need to rally together as parents and loved ones to pray for them. It is time to take courage from God’s Word and presence with us to reclaim our children’s hearts for Christ.”

— Parents of a prodigal

When children have left the church and faith in Jesus Christ, parents that are left behind often find themselves feeling isolated and alone. The feelings of guilt and shame can become overwhelming as they wonder what they did wrong, could have done better, or what they failed to do. The end result makes parents feel as though they are living solo with the need to carry this burden on their own.

Faith Family Reunion encourages congregations to pull together like-minded parents that share similar stories to find they are not alone on this road. One way they do this is through a Faith Family Reunion Retreat where they address such questions geared toward parents as:

1. Are you a parent whose children have left the church?
2. Why is the subject of our kids leaving the church such a hard subject to speak about?
3. What are some of the feelings you experience as a parent? What are some of the common feelings that parents experience?
4. How has this experience changed you? Has it affected your faith?
5. Do you know why your kids left the church? If not, why not ask them? We want to encourage you to inquire once you feel comfortable doing so.

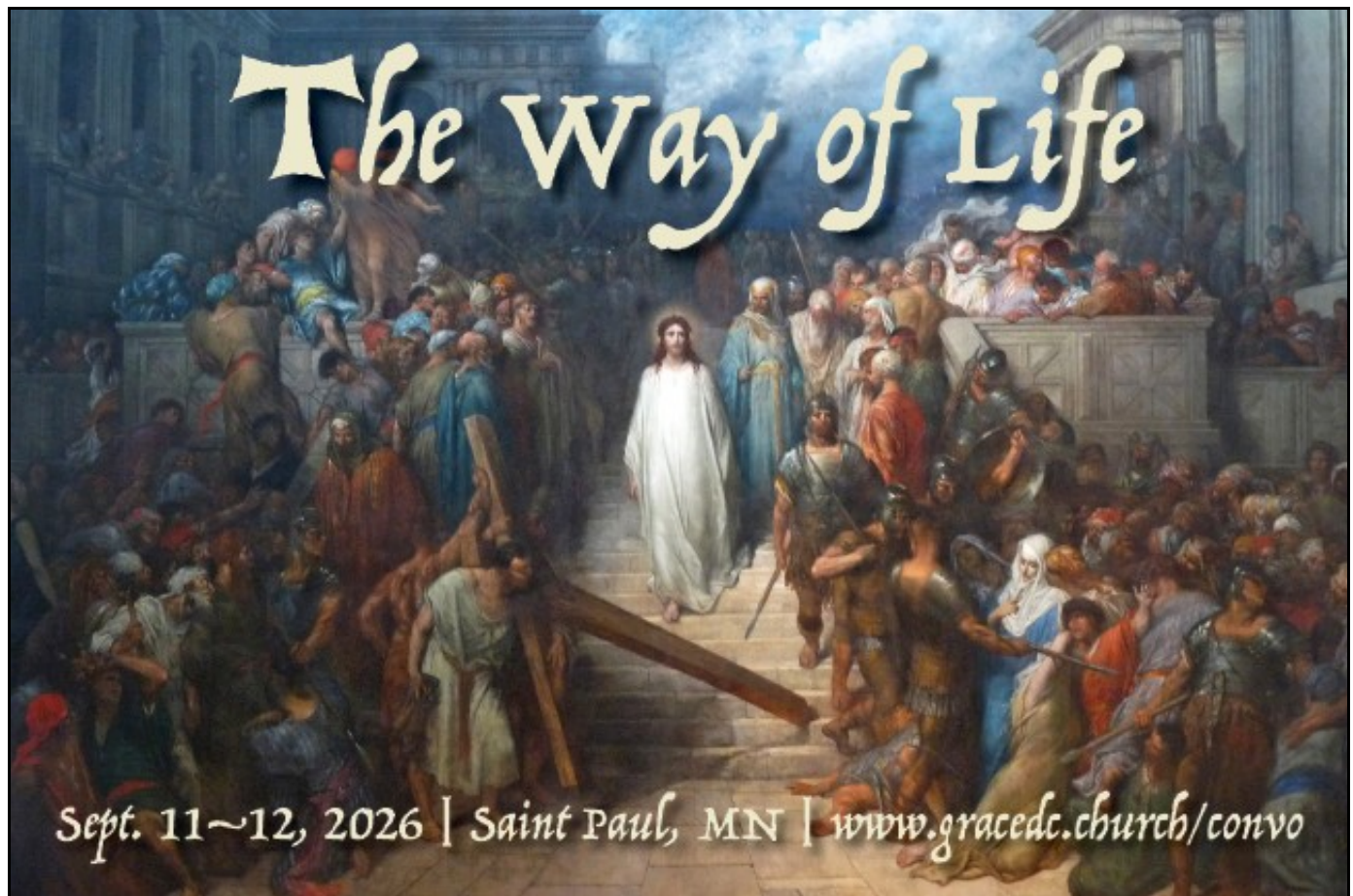
Who Is Behind Faith Family Reunion?

We are a family much like yours—a prodigal daughter returned to faith in Jesus Christ, her father, a retired LCMS pastor who has since gone home to the Lord, and her dear, loving mother, all with hearts for the hurting parents and their prodigal. During our retreat, we provide a warm, comfortable, loving, and non-threatening environment where you might feel the freedom to express yourself. Our hope is that this time together can break down the walls of shame and secrecy. We hope to create a community within the church family where one feels safe to open up a dialogue and begin the conversation with others. We do not tell you what to do or tell you what you could have done better, but rather offer you a time where you can hear from a prodigal that has returned to the faith, and be surrounded by other parents going through similar situations in life and perhaps also learning to be more comfortable with your prodigal to interact with them more freely and openly.

Faith Family Reunion’s goal is to have you leave with hope inspired by the Holy Spirit, realizing that you are not alone and maybe even form new friendships.

Good Shepherd Church is partnering with Faith Family Reunion to offer a retreat on “Letting Go | Let’s Talk About It On Being A Parent Of A Prodigal.”

The retreat will take place on Saturday, October 17, 2026 at Good Shepherd Church, 2500 Seventh Ave NE, Owatonna, MN 55060. For more information on Faith Family Reunion, visit [https:// faithfamilyreunion.com/about-us](https://faithfamilyreunion.com/about-us)



Registration is **OPEN** for **THE WAY OF LIFE** - a life ministry convocation featuring distinguished speakers and leaders in the pro-life movement.

Speakers include Allan E. Parker, Jr., President of The Justice Foundation and lead counsel for Norma McCorvey, formerly "Roe" of *Roe v. Wade* (from 2000 to 2012), and Sandra Cano, the "Doe" of *Doe v. Bolton* (until 2014), in their efforts to overturn the two landmark cases that brought legalized abortion on demand to America.

For the full list of speakers, event schedule, registration, and additional information, please visit <https://www.gracedc.church/convo> or use the QR code.

Registration Fee: \$50 (Standard) or \$25 (Student Rate) with
Optional \$10 Saturday Breakfast
Registration covers all speakers and lunch buffet on Saturday.

The registration deadline is September 3.

The event will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton St. Paul Downtown.
411 Minnesota St., St. Paul, MN 55101



Use the QR code above to register and to see
additional information about the convocation

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



530 4th Street NW
Faribault, MN 55021
Phone: 507-331-6579
Fax: 507-331-0986
School: 507-334-7982
www.trinityfaribault.org

Weekly Service Schedule - Saturday, 5:30pm
Sunday, 8:00am and 10:30am
Radio Broadcast: KDHL (AM 920)- Sunday, 8:00am
Consolidated Communications TV channel 10
& Charter/Spectrum channel 181,
Monday &/or Tuesday, 3:30pm

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LAST CHANCE: NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Photography for our new pictorial directory starts in just a couple weeks! Photography will be taking place August 17-22, 2026. If you haven't scheduled your picture already, we still have slots available and we want you to be included. You are an important part of our church family and our directory wouldn't be complete without you!

For participating, you will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait, as well as an updated church directory. The process will only take about 30-45 minutes, and you will have the opportunity to purchase family portraits.

You can schedule your appointment online at www.ucdir.com, click on photography appointment scheduling login, enter mn676 in the Church Code field, and 676mem in the Church password field, or contact Jennie in the church office, 507-331-6579, for assistance signing up. Printed signup sheets are available on the weekends at church.

Thank you for your commitment to the church—we appreciate all that you do to support and be a part of our church community.



**Be part
of the New
Directory**