

Following Faith August 2025

Friends of Faith,

In these summer days, I'm always wondering: what sustains us and what gets us through? Perhaps it's because my kids are home all summer and the weeks drag on, and it can feel like something needs to change (i.e., let's get these learners back to class!).

But my wonderings find a home in the church. Maybe it's not always an easy answer, but there's company and respite here. Take our recent Jazz Vespers during July's Artown as an example. There was new music and prayers written by our folks and performed for—and with—the community at the close of the day. We talked about how vespers are evening prayer times when our minds, hearts, and bodies can transition from busyness to rest, or perhaps from striving wonder to assured faith.

And we did transition, and it was good. (Just like God said sabbath would be!)

We're hearing this in Sunday worship too. As the world grows busy and full of unrest, needing God's peaceful presence, we gather for worship and hear Jesus say: "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." And we get to rest in that promise for a while.

Those nights in July weren't just another item on the Artown schedule—at least not for me. Being in the room with friends and strangers, with candles and great music and prayers and slow intention... it felt like the kingdom is a way of being. It's a posture of our hearts, and it IS available to us here and now. It is with us, though sometimes it feels hidden. But we can find it, even when it's dark.

I felt it with us in evening prayer, and I believe it's with us this summer and in our world: God's pleasure to give and comfort, God's good presence that is peace, the balm of being together and retelling the stories that save us again and again.

We are sustained and we make it through, +Pr Shaun



Reno NV Artown-2025



Jazz Vespers in Reno is a series of unique services that blend the ancient Christian tradition of Vespers (evening prayers) with the contemporary musical style of jazz.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Through the end of the second quarter of this year, our activities are as follows:

Total Inflows	\$	112,855.17		Total Outflows	\$	88,996.67
General Offering	\$	94,334.74				
One-time Giving	\$	10,000.00				
Designated Giving	\$	8,434.05				
Interest Income	\$	86.38				

While we are covering our expenditures, we are not achieving our giving goals at this halfway point in our year. Our budgeted goal for giving through 6/30/25 was ~\$101,800, which means we missed the mark by ~\$7,500. Let's see if we can make some progress narrowing the gap in the following months!

Below is our Financial position as of June 30, 2025:

Assets		Liabilities and Retained Capital	
Bank Accounts	\$75,159.15	Current Liabilities	\$16,586.56 ¹
MIF - Salaray Support	\$21,850.67	Retained Capital	
MIF - General	\$25,655.64	Unrestricted (Undesignated)	\$80,799.50
		Restricted Funds (Designated)	\$25,279.40
Total Assets	\$122,665.46	Total Liabilities and Retained Capital	\$122,665.46

¹ This amount is primarily the loan for the roof but also includes some small credit card balances that are off-cycle from a month-end reporting perspective.

As expected, our bank account balance is down about \$10,000 compared to last quarter due to payment of Kitchen Renovation expenses.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Erica Wilfrid. Thanks!



OUTREACH NEWS

Through our Sierra Pacific Synod, we've partnered with the Lutheran Salvadoran Synod of El Salvador* to sponsor children's education. Your generous donations of \$4,575, combined with \$409.89 from our Outreach budget, allowed us to send \$4,984.89—enough to sponsor approximately 11 children for a year of school! What an incredible gift—thank you all!



Locally, we're excited to support Elmcrest Elementary as the new school year begins. Here's how you can get involved:

- ❖ **August 5: Teacher Breakfast** – We provided breakfast for teachers preparing for back-to-school.
- ❖ **August 8: Back to School Night** – Join us to meet families and support the school community.
- ❖ **October 23: Trunk or Treat** – We will hand out candy and toys to kids at this fun event. Bring your own or use our supplies!

New to our community? We'd love for you to join us! For more details or to participate, talk to **Pastor Shaun** or **Judi Hein**.

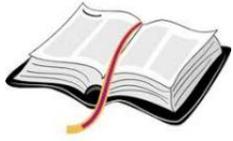
The Salvadorian Cross was used from: <https://lutheranworld.org/news/salvadoran-cross>

*A fact you may not know about El Salvador: It is the **smallest country in Central America**. At just over 8,000 square miles (21,000 square kilometers), El Salvador is about the size of the state of Massachusetts. It is also the only country in Central America without a Caribbean coastline.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FAITH

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY



Join us every Tuesday from 1:30–2:30 PM for a Bible study session! We'll dive into the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday's Worship Service, sharing insights and growing together. All are welcome—come learn with us!

SHARED HARVEST

Thank you to everyone who donated last month! Here are the items requested for August:



28 boxes of cold cereal

56 cans of vegetables

42 powdered milk packets

28 jars of peanut butter

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch is taking a break in August but will be back on

Wednesday, September 3rd, at 12 PM! Join us for a delightful potluck lunch and warm fellowship on the first Wednesday of each month. Bring a dish to share and come connect with friends old and new! We may have a speaker. Everyone is welcome!



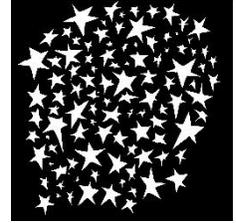
Sunday August 24th Annual Fellowship Picnic

The Fellowship team is providing all the food to celebrate God's children, showing appreciation for every member of our church family, will follow Worship Service. **No Kid's Place or Adult Forum.**

IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

August 10th - 9th Sunday after Pentecost

In the gospel we hear about a master who serves his slaves at table. This will happen for us, when Christ welcomes us, forgives us, speaks with us, and serves us bread and wine. Join us in the Master's company. Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.



August 17th - Rally Day! Blessing of Learners!

Children come, families come, and all who are back to school for the fall should bring backpacks and bags to be blessed!

Luke 2 is unlike any other chapter in the Bible in that it tells only stories of the *young* Jesus: as a newborn, as an infant, and as a twelve-year-old. In all three stories, the child is placed at the *center* of people's worshiping hearts; long before Jesus was an adult, he was honored, cherished, and loved. Though the parents of Jesus experience parental anxiety over Jesus' disappearance, the religious elders in the temple are not bothered by this child at all! We are blessed, at all ages, in our life-long learning and we also give thanks and blessing especially to our young learners today.



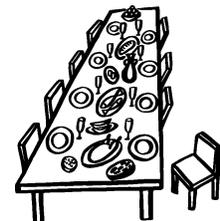
August 24th - 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's Day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

***Annual Fellowship Picnic is on this Sunday too!**

August 31st - 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.



Thanks,
Pr Shaun

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:30 am Worship No Kid's Place 11:00 am Adult Forum	4 ACA 5:30 - 7:45 pm	5 Bible Study 1:30 pm	6	7 Grief Support Group 10:30 am Scouts 7:00 pm	8	9 Worship Team Meeting 10:00 am
10 9:30 am Worship No Kid's Place 11:00 am Adult Forum	11 ACA 5:30 - 7:45 pm	12 Bible Study 1:30 pm	13 Finance Meeting 12 pm Memory Care Support 1:30 pm 4-H WhipStirs 6:30 pm	14 Scouts 7:00 pm	15	16
17 9:30 am Worship 10:50 am Kid's Place 11:00 am Adult Forum	18 ACA 5:30 - 7:45 pm Council Meeting 6:00 pm	19 NARFE 11 am Bible Study 1:30 pm	20	21 Grief Support Group 10:30 am Scouts 7:00 pm	21	23
24 9:30 am Worship Annual Picnic! 	25 ACA 5:30 - 7:45 pm	26 Bible Study 1:30 pm	27	28 Scouts 7:00 pm	29	30 
30 9:30 am Worship 10:50 am Kid's Place 11:00 am Adult Forum						

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

Pastor: Shaun O'Reilly

775-747-3246

President: Sonja Dresbach

775-750-9250

Vice President: Matthew Rhiley

775-843-6650

Secretary: Ben Pesis

775-220-6732

Treasurer: Erica Wilfrid

609-933-8003

Eric Weldon

775-354-4247

Sharon Scagliotti

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Church Office: 775-747-3246

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Please send any prayer requests to the Prayer Team at:

prayers@faithlutheranreno.org

As you may have heard, the Faith Lutheran Church Office will now be open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This change welcomes our new Administrative Assistant, Ginny Carr. She's excited to join the Faith community and looks forward to getting to know everyone. Ginny is currently taking online courses in Data Analytics. She loves the outdoors, especially cycling, mountain biking, and hiking with her husband, Daniel, whom she recently married in June.

