



"Together in Christ's love, we joyfully serve, actively witness, and dedicate ourselves to caring, teaching, and growing through the Word."
Faith Lutheran Abilene

May 2021

“This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.” 2 Samuel 22:31



Greetings Faith Lutheran Family and Friends,

David's Song of Deliverance in 2 Samuel 22 is beautiful. It is also hard to pick out just one verse when there are so many that are worthy to adorn front covers of Church Newsletters. Yet, this one captures much of what the chapter is about—Trusting God, through His Word, gives refuge to all.

King David was wearied for quite some time—King Saul was perusing to murder him. The King had become corrupt with the power of the throne and sought to end any threat to his kingship! On top of a bloodthirsty King, King David had several other enemies—the Philistines, the Amorites, the Jebusites, his own self-centered sinful decisions regarding Bathsheba and Uriah, and his son, Absalom, who desired to take the throne by force! Whew, what burdens and sorrows!

The world sure has changed since King David's time, but weariness is still exists! We become weary from the burdens that we must face. Where is there refuge—safety and relief? Insert 2 Samuel 22:31!

Today, many people try to find refuge from within themselves or from possessions. King David found refuge outside of himself; he found refuge in God alone! Though King David would not see in his day the God who is a shield and refuge, he came, suffered, died, and rose from the dead. Jesus, the Christ, shielded us from God's wrath and punishment for our sins. “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”—graciously offering forgiveness, life, and salvation!

**Jesus, refuge of the weary,
 Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
 Fountain in life's desert dreary,
 Savior from the world above:
 Often have Your eyes, offended,
 Gazed upon the sinner's fall;
 Yet upon the cross extended,
 You have borne the pain of all.**

LSB #423 Text: Public domain

While we face weariness, we have “This God” who remains “a shield for all those who take refuge in him.” This God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit cares for you both in this life and the life to come! He comes to you bringing refuge through the same means time and time again—His Word and His Sacraments.

If you, a friend, or family member, has been without the refuge of God's Word and Sacrament—please reach out to an elder or to me.

God Bless,

Pastor Barlau



Questioning of the Junior Confirmands will be held *Friday, May 21st* starting with a 5:00PM church service. All members of the congregation are welcome to attend.

“Change??? Lutherans’ Don’t Change!”

Covid-19 has caused many churches to swallow those words for the sake of caring for our neighbor—the Common Cup was tabled, the water fountain sealed off, coffee and fellowship sidelined, etc.



We are thankful that it looks like we are “on the horizon” of relief from the pandemic! Over the following months at Faith, you may have noticed or will notice some things come back (some with adjustments) to our life together in worship and fellowship.

The Common Cup will be an option again to receive the Blood of Christ. It has always been a safe option—Churches during the time of the Bubonic Plague continued to use the Common Cup with not one breakout or illness stemming back to its use. There have been many scientific studies on the common cup that prove it being a safe way to receive the Sacrament. We will be using a small cloth soaked high proof alcohol to wipe the cup after each use. If you would like to receive the Common Cup in lieu of the individual cup please indicate to Pastor Barlau when He comes with the Cup after you have received the Body of Christ that you would like to partake.

Coffee and the water fountain are again an option that is available. Coffee right now is being served to you rather than self-serve in the past. The Board Evangelism welcomes your help in serving coffee after service, please contact the Church Office to sign-up for a Sunday.

As we move forward with bringing back or adapting practices at Faith, know that these decisions are made with care and thoughtful deliberation. I and the Church council covet your prayers, patience, grace, and words.

~Pastor Barlau

December 2020 Graduates

Congratulations! God-speed as you begin a new path in your life.

* **High School graduate: Elizabeth Juhl:** Graduated Abilene High School in December 2020. Sarah Sulanka is a parent.



* **College graduate: Madisyn Riffel:** Obtained her Bachelors of Science in Nursing degree from Fort Hays State University in December 2020. She currently works as a registered Nurse with her BSN in Labor & Delivery at the Salina Regional Health Center. Laird & Shawna Riffel are parents.

2021 Vacation Bible School → GOD'S WONDER LAB: Jesus Does the Impossible

is the theme for this year's VBS → Monday, June 7 through Thursday, June 10 mornings 9:00 - 11:30, with a closing program on Thursday evening, June 10th from 6 - 8pm.

PLEASE NOTE: VBS registration link: <https://forms.gle/ANpXNzn6JJin7eej7>.

We invite students in grades PK - 5 to participate in Vacation Bible School.

Please speak to Heide Rippert if you would like to help with VBS!



***Summer Sunday School** begins **Sunday, June 6th!** We are looking for people to help with summer Sunday school. This year, we will have all students (PK-8th grade) rotate in three stations: *snack, bible story, bible activity*. We will need three (3) helpers each week. Helpers can be a member of our congregation,

High School through age 155, with a desire to spread the word of Jesus to our youngest church members! The sign-up sheet is on the parament cabinet.

** **Rally Sunday** will be **August 15th** and third grade students will receive their Bibles.

****Men of Faith** will meet **Saturday, May 1st, 8am**, in the church basement for breakfast and Christian fellowship.



****Fellowship Breakfast** meets at Joe Snuffy's, **Thursday, May 6th 8:30 am**. Any questions call Gertie, 785-571-7153.



Faith LWML - TAKE YOUR MOTHER/DAUGHTER/SISTER to LUNCH DAY!

All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us for our annual Mother/Daughter Luncheon **Saturday May 8th at 11:30** at the Coachlight Restaurant in Longford. We have a room reserved and there is a wide variety of tasty, home cooked type meals available on their menu. We will meet at 11:00 at the church to carpool and caravan to Longford. A sign up sheet is on the parament cabinet or you can contact Elizabeth Wischer (785-342-4809) or Laura Knaus (785-280-3712) with your name and number attending by May 6th. Bring your Mother and daughters of all ages to join in the fun and games. (Remember even if you were blessed with sons instead of daughters- you are still a Mother and a Daughter - so you are included!!)

LYF Announcements

May 2nd 2021, Servant Event Meeting will be held after Sunday School! All those attending LYF's Servant Event at Camp Luther this year (May 30 - June 4) are strongly encouraged to be present to receive information on packing and how we will be serving.

If you cannot be present please contact Pastor B!

May 16th head out to Brown Park after Sunday School for Ultimate Sub Sandwiches, Frisbee, & Garbage Ball! What is garbage ball???—Come and find out! If it rains we will stay at church for Sandwiches and a few games of Sardines! ~Pastor B~



- 2 - Dave Graves
- 3 - Gary Gibbs
- 5 - Bella Schmersey
- 7 - Caelyn Biggs
- 8 - Caedyn Biggs
- 12 - Trenton Haslouer
- 17 - Killian Backhus
Ryenne Feeney
- 18 - Aiden Soliday
- 20 - Mike Aufdemberge
- 22 - Taylor Dean



31 - Cara Maddy

- 22 - Maddilyn Jenne
- 23 - Laura Wilson
- 24 - Larry Brake
Camden Depew
Justin Soliday
Eli Tichenor
- 27 - Gabriel Rahe
- 28 - Elizabeth Juhl
- 29 - Kiersten Bauer
Briannah Feeney
Marie Schultze

May Anniversaries



- Mike & Laurel Manning 5-1-1998
- Rick & Laura Wilson 5-2-1994
- Zach & Christina Kraus 5-5-2012
- Trent & Marisa Stahl 5-8-2011
- Nate & Rachel McKee 5-11-2019
- Gary & Joyce Minson 5-12-1973

- Gerald Riffel & Janet Johnson 5-12-2012
- Mark & Jeanie Cameron 5-17-1997
- Tyler & Heather Savery 5-23-2015
- Joe & Ellen Basso 5-26-1973
- George & Pat Taplin 5-28-1964
- Larry & Carolyn Herrs 5-31-1975



Official Act for April 2021:

Baptism: Garrett Michael Bulk on April 3rd, 2021.

Women's Book Club will not meet in May. Please contact Karen Schoenbeck (785-479-7013) if you would like more information about this group and find out about upcoming meeting times and place.



From our choir director, Laura Fortier:

Come join in praising God in the same way King David did! Let's us raise our voices and sing to the Lord.

Looking for singers of any level. I would love your voice no matter what. Men! I need your voices too! We will have choir twice a week after Easter when we go to one service again! I will meet on Sunday after Bible study and Wednesdays at 4:30.



Worship in the Park – SAVE THE DATE -



Sunday, June 20th – 9 AM Worship at the Eisenhower Park in Abilene followed by a short Sunday School lesson time. We will gather for worship under the trees by the picnic shelters where we normally eat (close to the sand volleyball pits). Bring your lawn chair or a blanket and wear comfortable clothing! Please bring a dish to share and your own table service for the picnic following Sunday School, approximately 11:00-11:30. Chicken and water to drink will be provided by the evangelism committee.

In case of inclement weather, worship will be held at the church – Faith, Abilene at 9am

Pregnancy Service Center Annual Baby Bottle Campaign

Dr. James Braaten, Executive Director of PSC (Pregnancy Service Center of Salina) will be speaking here at Faith after worship on Sunday, May 2nd explaining about PSC and the baby bottle campaign. You may recall participating in past years. There will be empty baby bottles to fill and also an option for online giving. Please check the narthex area for further information. The fundraising campaign will begin on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9 and will end on Father's Day, Sunday, June 20.



April Church Council & 2nd Quarterly Voters' Meetings

Faith Council meeting was held on Thursday, April 8, 2021. Preparations for the upcoming April 25th Quarterly Voter's Meeting were made. A Faith congregation member family will be handling the mowing and trimming this growing season. Sponsoring their efforts monetarily will be welcomed. Sunday, April 25th Voters' Meeting was held after morning worship with 38 voters present. Several changes in Faith's Operating Manual were approved. Heide Rippert was appointed to fill the 2021-2023 term of Chair of the Board of Christian Education.



Faith Yard Maintenance

As you recall, a request went out to the congregation in late March to sign up to mow and trim or donate to pay for a local mowing service. There was limited response. At their April meeting the Council voted to accept the offer from a Faith member family with kids to handle the entire season of mowing & trimming at \$50 a time. Please consider sponsoring a week or two (or month!) in addition to your regular giving to keep our church yard beautiful. Any amount would be helpful. Just mark your envelope or check for "mowing."



**** LCMS Kansas District News ****To keep up with the events of the District, please go their website at www.kslcms.org. If you are a Facebook user, the page to follow is, "Kansas District LCMS."



Faith Lutheran has a "prayer chain."

To begin a prayer request call Kathy Minneman (785-819-2167) or Pastor Barlau (785-263-1842). If you would like to be added as a caller to the prayer chain, please speak with Kathy.



Faith Lutheran is on "Facebook." Like us and follow us.



www.faithabilene.org

Faith Lutheran is on YouTube. Search for "Faith, Abilene."



A **GriefShare group** began Thursday, March 25, at Community Bible Church, 1400 N. Cedar Street, Abilene, and continues through June 17, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help rebuild your life. We know it hurts, and we want to help.

It doesn't matter how long ago you lost a loved one, you are always welcome at GriefShare. For more information contact Teresa Weishaar at 785-280-1568 or the Community Bible Church office at 785-263-4025.



Together In Mission – Faith Lutheran Church proudly supports Rev. Daniel Conrad and Rev. Jacob Gaugert -missionaries to Mexico and Africa. Please keep them in your daily prayers

<http://www.faithabilene.org/mexico-and-west-africa-missionary-support.php>



FAITHful SERVANTS for the month of **May 2021**



Elder: R. Sanders

Organists: K. Gilchrist

Altar Guild: S. Panzer & C. Krause

Church Service	Acolytes	Lectors	Ushers	Bulletin Bureau
Sunday, May 2 - 9:00am	C. West J. Westendorf	J. Kuntz	M. Gustin & J. Holland	E. Basso
(Wed) May 5 - 5:45pm				
Sunday, May 9 - 9:00am	G. Panzer R. Fortier	G. Minson	B. Hageman & B. Minson	M. Rippert
(Wed) May 12 - 5:45pm				
(Thurs) May 13 - 6:30pm	M. Jenne G. Panzer		M. Aufdemberge	Office
Sunday, May 16 - 9:00am	G. Rahe	E. Panzer	G. Minson & L. Brake	K. Gilchrist
(Wed) May 19 - 5:45pm				
Sunday, May 23 - 9:00am	C. West	Tim Rahe	M. Gustin & D. Minneman	J. Graves
(Wed) May 26 - 5:45pm				
Sunday, May 30 - 9:00am	J. Westendorf	Tom Rahe	B. Minson & L. Westendorf	J. Schenck

NOTE: A master assignment list reflecting any changes will be posted in the upstairs office/cry room.

Your Support is Appreciated!



Faith Lutheran Youth collect aluminum cans (please place behind the wooden fence) and ink cartridges/cell phones (please place in the church narthex). Monies raised go to help our youth group. Since September '03, the LYF group has collected 8812 lbs for \$3334.48 and mailed in ink cartridges/cell phones for a total of \$1038.46. Thank you for recycling!

Dillons Community Rewards (DCR #KA839)



Faith Lutheran is signed up as an eligible non-profit to receive rewards every time you shop. If you have a Shopper's Plus Card, please enroll your number in Rewards. In your browser type in www.dillons.com/communityrewards and sign in using your new or existing online account. Click on "Enroll now." Enter "Faith Lutheran Church – Abilene" or our organization number **KA839** and click on "enroll." Monies received benefit our "Mercy Fund."

**19 households' use resulted in \$80.80 donated to FLC the 1st Qtr 2021. A total of \$2,172.24 has been now been received!

**Please note that Faith Lutheran Church is not endorsing Dillons nor encouraging you to shop there. We are asking you to please take advantage of this reward offered.*



Faith Lutheran collects Auburn Pharmacy bottle caps for the "caps-to-cash" program. Please put the caps in the plastic bucket located in the church narthex. Each cap redeemed receives 25 cents that is placed into our church "Mercy Fund." \$1,104 has been collected!

BEST CHOICE



Faith Lutheran Women in Mission collect *Best Choice* and *Boxtops for Education* labels! The collection box is on the parament cabinet. It may seem like a small thing, but we were able to receive \$300 in the past year from sending in these labels. That money was then used to support our various mission projects.



Boxtop for Education labels are given to Immanuel Lutheran Preschool, Junction City, for their use.



If you are a member of Thrivent, please consider directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Faith Lutheran Church – Abilene, KS. All proceeds benefit both the "Youth Group" and the "Contingency Fund."

Online:

1. Visit [Thrivent Choice – www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com)
2. Click on "log in" at the top right of your screen and enter your MyThrivent user ID and password. (If you haven't registered on Thrivent.com, click on "register now" to register for full access.)
3. Look for your designated Choice Dollars on the right side of the screen.
4. Click on "Direct Choice Dollars" in the Thrivent Choice® box on your MyThrivent page.
5. Search the catalog of organizations to find Faith Lutheran Church – Abilene, KS.
6. Click on "Direct Choice Dollars Now" to direct your designated Choice Dollars to FLC – Abilene, KS.

By Phone:

1. Call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."
2. When prompted, say, "Choice Dollars."
3. Say or enter your Social Security number.
4. Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or press 2 to hear the Thrivent Choice program terms and conditions.
5. A representative will then work with you to direct Choice Dollars to FLC – Abilene, KS.



Consider using smile.amazon.com/ instead of just amazon.com. The sign-on is the same and so are all the products. Type: "**Faith Lutheran Church, Abilene, KS**" as the charitable recipient of .05% of your purchases, and hit the search button. Faith Lutheran Church, Abilene, KS will appear for you to select. Amazon will send a check quarterly of all of our Faith-Abilene designated purchases. You only need to designate once, and every time you use the smile.amazon.com portal to make a qualified purchase, you are donating to Faith.

MAY 2021

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Read the Bible in 2 years! By reading the verses printed at the bottom of Monday-Saturday, you will accomplish reading the Bible in 2 years. “Search the Scriptures, because they are these which testify about Me.” John 5:39						
2	5th Sunday of Easter 9 am Worship w/Lord’s Supper 10:15am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 11:15am Choir Practice 11:15 LYP Meeting	3 5pm Elders Amos 7	4 Amos 8	5 4:30pm Choir Practice 5:45pm Wednesday Worship Service 6:30pm Pastor’s Confirmation Class Amos 9	6 6:30pm Board 7:00pm Council Obadiah 1-21	7 Jonah 1-2	8 11:30am LWML Mother/Daughter Luncheon Jonah 3-4
9	6th Sunday of Easter 9 am Worship w/Lord’s Supper 10:15am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 11:15am Choir Practice	10 Micah 1-2	11 Micah 3-4	12 4:30pm Choir Practice 5:45pm Wednesday Worship Service 6:30pm Pastor’s Confirmation Class Micah 5	13 <i>The Ascension of Our Lord</i> 8:30am Fellowship Breakfast 6:30pm Ascension of Our Lord Worship Service Micah 6	14 <i>May Calendar items due tomorrow</i> Micah 7	15 Nahum 1-3
16	7th Sunday of Easter 9 am Worship w/Lord’s Supper ~ 1 st Communion & Adult Confirmation 10:15am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 11:15am Choir Practice 11:15am LYP @ Brown’s Park	17 Habakkuk 1-2	18 Habakkuk 3	19 4:30pm Choir Practice 5:45pm Wednesday Worship Service Zephaniah 1-2	20 Zephaniah 3	21 5pm Questioning Service for Jr Confirmants Haggai 1-2	22 Zechariah 1-2
23	The Day of Pentecost 9 am Worship w/Lord’s Supper ~ Confirmation Sunday 10:15am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 11:15am Choir Practice	24 Zechariah 3	25 Zechariah 4	26 4:30pm Choir Practice 5:45pm Wednesday Worship Service Zechariah 5	27 Zechariah 6	28 Zechariah 7	29 Zechariah 8
30	The Holy Trinity 9 am Worship w/Lord’s Supper 10:15am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 11:15am Choir Practice LYP Servant Trip to Camp Luther	31 Zechariah 9-10	1	2	3	4	

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH – 1600 N. BUCKEYE – ABILENE, KS – PH. 263-1842 – www.faithabilene.org

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