



Faith Lutheran Church

Receiving and Sharing the Love of Christ
August 2022 Newsletter

WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU!

Please join us in August for Sunday School and Worship.

Sunday's schedule will look a little different for the month.

Sunday School for All Ages will be at 9:00am followed by worship at 10:15am.

All children and youth will meet in Room 6 for Sunday School on August 7 and 14.

Plans are underway for Rally Sunday on August 21. The Board for Christian Education will share more details on the new Sunday School year soon.

VBS

The hands and feet of our church body came together for VBS 2022! We started with Adam and Eve, exploring temptation and sin, with a foreshadowing of the Messiah. Through the week, we learned about Daniel and God keeping the lion's mouths shut because of Daniel's faith! We learned about Jesus' ministry here on Earth and about the day of His crucifixion. Our final night, we celebrated with great joy as we learned of His resurrection, and the day He will come again. Bible truths were taught and scripture was memorized.

Praise and worship were abundant, and the Good News was spread. Each volunteer brought their gifts and talents to share the Gospel. Faith Lutheran Church served dozens of Stephenville children with His Word. Young and old had a great time, and children were happy. Thank you to all the volunteers that made it all come together for His glory.

In His Grace,
Magan Estill

Church Council meets the third Monday of each month at 6:00pm in the narthex. Meetings are open to all church members.

Faith Fest Planning Meeting ~ Narthex

Thursday, August 4, at 6:00pm



Mission of the Month

Big Brothers / Big Sisters of Erath County

During the month of August, Faith is asking for your encouragement, prayers and financial support for our local Mission of the Month: Big Brothers / Big Sisters.

Changing Perspectives. Changing Lives

Since 1904, Big Brothers Big Sisters has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is incredible potential. As the nation's largest donor-and-volunteer-supported mentoring network, Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles"), ages 5 through young adulthood in communities across the country. We develop positive relationships that have a direct and lasting effect on the lives of young people.

How is this Accomplished?

Children (Littles) are matched with adult mentors (Bigs). Bigs and Littles are encouraged to get together at least two to four times a month for a total around 4 hours during days and times that work for both. It's not about spending a lot of money; it's about the time.

To Learn More about becoming a mentor or donating:

Contact Sarah Weaver at smcneal@bbbstx.org or visit the Big Brothers / Big Sisters' website at www.bbbstx.org.

Free-will Offering Envelopes are located on the large table in the narthex or on the Mission of the Month bulletin board.

Excerpted from www.bbbstx.org 2020 & 2022

Personal Bible Study Opportunity

Faith's Rally Sunday is scheduled for August 21, when we gather together (Rally) to kick off our various programs for next school year. It's also a great time to commit to a personal Bible study if you're not already in one. Here at Faith, several of us are doing one of two different personal, home based Bible studies. One of those studies is "A Longer Look at the Lessons". It is a great study of the Gospel, Old Testament and Epistle readings for each Sunday. The other study is "The Word in Song" which looks at the assigned Hymn of the Day for insight into the Scriptures. Each study is done by you on your own schedule during the week. The studies are sent to you via email early in the week prior the Sunday of interest. If you'd like to receive either of these studies, let Arnold Ramming know and he'll add you to the list of participants.



Caring Tip from Stephen Ministry

5 Ways to Be a Better Listener

Listening is one of the most powerful tools in any caregiver's toolbox. It's a skill all of us can continually sharpen, which enables us to provide better care for people who are hurting.

1. Be Intentional ~ Listening is not a passive activity. It's an intentional process of engaging with what the other person is saying. To listen well, you must enter into the conversation committed to listening rather than debating, instructing, or attempting to fix the situation. Deliberately set aside your instinct to share your own thoughts so you can focus on what the person in front of you is sharing. By committing to listening up front, you guard against less helpful ways of relating creeping into your conversation.

2. Be Attentive ~ Once you've committed to listening, work to listen actively and attentively. Strive to understand, not just hear. Pay attention to what the person says, yes, but also pay attention to what they don't say—their body language, their tone of voice, their facial expression, the words they choose. Listen for the feelings behind their words. Also, do your best to eliminate distractions that might draw your attention away from the other person—keep your phone on silent, put the appointment you have later in the day out of your mind, maybe even move the conversation to a quieter or less busy area. In other words, remove any barriers—whether internal or external—that might prevent you from focusing on listening. That way, you can truly be attentive.

3. Be Responsive ~ Letting the person you're talking to know that you're attentively listening is key to helping them feel cared for and encouraging them to continue sharing. The best way to do this is to be responsive to what they say. Some easy ways to communicate your attentive listening are maintaining eye contact, using nonverbal cues like nodding, and offering brief responses like "Mm-hmm." Asking questions is another great technique to use. So is reflecting what the person says—expressing in your own words your understanding of what they've just told you. For example, if someone says, "I can't believe they would do that to me!" you might respond, "It sounds like you're very upset with them." Short responses like these show that you're truly engaged in the conversation.

4. Be Non-Judgmental ~ Nothing shuts down a hurting person's sharing faster than feeling judged, so take care to avoid coming across as judgmental. Relate in an open, accepting manner and watch out for any behaviors or words that could inadvertently communicate judgment—facial expressions that suggest shock or disagreement, gasping, crossing your arms, or asking questions that begin with "Why?" As much as possible, avoid knee-jerk reactions and stay calm and encouraging. The more composed and non-judgmental you are in your responses, the safer the other person will feel.

5. Be Trustworthy ~ It's rare for any of us to express our deepest thoughts and feelings without assurance that what we say will stay between us and the person we're talking with. Letting a hurting person know that you'll keep what they share with you in confidence establishes a foundation of trust that facilitates sharing. You might briefly mention at the beginning and end of the conversation that you won't share anything the other person tells you. You don't have to overstate it—just a short reminder can be a real comfort. Holding what the person says in confidence honors the trust placed in you, and as a result, that individual is likely to see you as a safe person to talk to. This keeps the door open for additional caring conversations in the future.



LWML didn't have a business meeting in July, but we were busy supporting other ministries in the church. We provided a meal and helped to serve in the kitchen as well as registration during VBS. In addition, we collected \$113.40 in mites to send to Texas District for our mission project goals. Thank you so much for contributing.

We will meet on August 3rd at 6:00 at the home of Marlene Peiser to make plans for the 2022-2023 year. Please let Marlene know if you would like to attend.
Supper will be provided.

Blessings to all,
Marlene Peiser, President



Singing During Our Worship Services

submitted by Arnold Ramming, Music Director

Why do we sing during our worship services? What's the purpose of, or goal for, our singing? Who's the audience when we are singing?

We sing because God wants us to sing!

- "Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name." Psalm 30
- "All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name." Psalm 66

We sing to praise the Name of God and to thank Him for His wonderful deeds.

- "I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me." Psalm 13
- "Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the Lord; exult before him!" Psalm 68

In the above singing, God is the audience; we are singing to Him! Nowhere in scripture have I found God instructing us to sing perfectly. Psalm 98 encourages us to "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!" Again, in Psalm 100, we are told to "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!" So, in our Sunday morning worship, don't worry about whether your voice is "good enough". Just sing out to God with joy!

In her CPH Blog post "Congregational Singing and the Body of Christ" on June 28, 2022, Marie Greenway compares our voices in congregational singing to the various members of the body St. Paul wrote about in 1 Corinthians 12. Ms. Greenway points out "Just like every voice part in a choir, every singing member of a congregation matters. The sounds of dozens of voices raised together carry forth those strong melodies we love so much. Just like a body, each member contributes something to this one sound. Your voice is important. It allows you to uniquely contribute to the sound of your congregation.

"In this way, we act as the hand or eye or ear of the body. These are not the body itself, but they are all essential parts of the body. So, it is with our voices. You do not sing to gain prominence as a soloist within the context of congregational singing, but you contribute your unique voice as part of the larger body."

VBS 2022



Tree of Life

The Bulletin Board

August Bulletin Folders (by Sunday)

1st	Paula Hymer	4th	Lynann Simpson
2nd	Trudy Carlson		
3rd	Sue Angerhofer		



Serving in August:
Erika Barlow

Altar Flowers for August

08/07	Ramming Family
08/14	Simpson Family
08/21	Open
08/28	Simpson Family



(To donate flowers, sign up on the chart by the church kitchen)

No Brunch During August

With the temporary change to the worship schedule, there is no brunch on Sunday mornings.

Faith School uses plastic grocery bags, so bring your extras to the church kitchen.

August Anniversaries

08/01	John & Cindy Franz
08/03	Paul & Kim Mitchell
08/04	James & Diana Synatzske
08/14	Ed & Cathy Knoll
08/26	Cary & Donna Strohmeier
08/29	Tyler & Courtney Mitchell
	Charles & Lynann Simpson

Portals of Prayer

Printed copies of the new *Portals of Prayer* are available on the piano in the narthex.

Digital subscriptions are available for mobile devices and desktop computers through CPH at <https://www1.cph.org/portals/default.aspx>.

Portals of Prayer is also available through Apple's App Store and on Google Play.



Find a place to serve. Join Altar Guild, be a Reader, teach Sunday School, sing in the choir, or join the Meals on Wheels rotation.

Faith Lutheran's Elders

Everett Seider, Head Elder
Will Lansmon
John Quade
Ronnie Tate
Terry West

FREE Notary Public Service

Cindy Stafford – (254) 592-6630



Like us on facebook at
FaithLutheranStephenville



Church Information

3000 NW Loop, Stephenville, Texas 76401
254-968-2710

Website: faithlutheranstephenville.com


Email:
church.office@faithlutheranstephenville.com

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 8:30am – 5:30pm
(closed 12:30-1:30pm for lunch)
Friday: 8:30am – 12:30pm

From the Office – If you are not receiving weekly updates, Scripture readings and other church-related information, please contact Lisa Stroebel to be added to the church contact list. Thank you.

AUGUST 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 *Alex Cameron 6:00pm Board of Education Mtng~Libry 6:00pm Board of Evangelism~Narthex	2 *Sherre West 6:30pm Board of Stewardship~Room 6	3 6:00pm LWML Planning Meeting ~Peiser Home	4 6:00pm Faith Fest Planning Meetng~Nrthx	5 *Lee Barlow MOW~Pack	6 9:00am Faith School Lead Teacher Meeting~Narthex
7 *Magan Estill	8 5:30pm Faith School Board Meeting~Rm 9 6:30pm Board of Elders' Mtng~Lbry	9	10	11 *Lenor Thibodeaux	12 *Arnold Ramming MOW~Small	13
14 *Irene Kelly 11:30am Board of Trustees' Meeting 4:45pm Stephen Ministry Facilitator Mtng~Rm 9 5:30pm Stephen Ministry Supervision Mtng~Rm 9	15 *Trudy Carlson 6:00 Church Council Meeting~Narthex	16 *Larry Angerhofer	17	18	19 *Charles Simpson MOW~Simpson	20 *Brad Cogburn *Charie Carrasco
21  *Ronnie Tate	22	23	24 4:15pm Children's Music~Narthex	25 *Keith Fredrickson	26 *Martha Fredrickson MOW~Sparkman	27
28 4:45pm Stephen Ministry Facilitator Mtng~Rm 9 5:30pm Stephen Ministry Supervision Mtng~Rm 9	29 *Melissa Weber	30 *Jerry Hagen	31 4:15pm Children's Music~Narthex	August Worship Schedule 9:00am Sunday School for All Ages 10:15am Combined Worship Service No Brunch Faith School Chapel – Wednesdays at 10:00am		