



Faith Lutheran Church & School

2111 Lower Roswell Road, Marietta, GA 30068-3377

770-973-8877 www.FaithMarietta.com

Interim Pastor Ken Wagener Principal Amy Kurtz

KennethCWagener@gmail.com Amy.Kurtz@faithmarietta.com

Vaunda Noerenberg, Traditional Worship Reid Stevens, Contemporary Worship

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST LABOR DAY WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

8:15 AM



JESUS THE CARPENTER... AT WORK TODAY

God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TODAY TO THE GLORY OF GOD by Lin and Bob Greene in honor of Norma Palmer’s Birthday (September 3).

At the beginning of the service all are asked to sign the attendance card located in the pew racks and place them in the offering plate during the collection. So that we may better serve you and send you more information, guests, please print your address and telephone number on this card.

THIS WEEK AT FAITH!

HAPPY LABOR DAY! The doctrine of vocation is Luther’s theology of the Christian life. It has to do with how Christians are to live in the world, how they exercise their faith, and how their ordinary lives are charged with meaning. More specifically, vocation addresses how God works through human beings. He gives us our daily bread through the vocation of farmers, millers, and bakers. He protects us by means of the governing authorities. He grants healing by means of the medical vocations. He creates works of beauty by working through artists and musicians. He creates new life and cares for children by means of mothers and fathers. God is at work in all of the people who do things for us—the ones who built our houses, made our clothing, prepared our food, picked up our trash, designed the technology that we enjoy, worked in the factories to manufacture what we need, gave us services to make our lives easier—and He is at work through us. Luther goes so far as to say that vocation is a “mask of God,” that behind us in the things that we do for others, God Himself is hidden.

WE BELIEVE GOD’S WORD... ON THE LORD’S SUPPER

We believe that in the Sacrament of Holy Communion Christ gives His true body and blood under the form of bread and wine for the assurance of the forgiveness of sins. We believe Jesus is truly present in the Sacrament, and as we come in faith to receive it, we receive Him. The Bible teaches that those who eat without recognizing the Lord's body, eat and drink judgment on themselves (*I Corinthians 11:27-29*). Those baptized and believing Christians who share our confession of faith in Jesus Christ are welcome guests at the Altar. The Pastor would be glad to answer any questions relating to our faith or practice. Anyone not confirmed or communing is welcome to come and receive a blessing.

Also Happening This Week (Sept 1 to Sept 7, 2024)

Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Create in Me - Ladies’ Crafts

Our Discipleship the past weeks:

Worship	8/4/24	8/11/24	8/18/24	8/25/24
9:00am	136 (128)	150 (145)	147 (134)	145 (137)
Sunday School	17	Call Update	Rally Day	Call Service
Monthly Budget	\$44,200	\$44,200	\$44,200	\$44,200
Giving MTD	\$13,316	\$22,619	\$31,331	\$38,974
Weekly Giving	\$13,316	\$9,303	\$8,712	\$7643

ORDER OF WORSHIP

AS WE GATHER

Mark 7:14-23: So many of the Pharisees and teachers of the law in Jesus' day were preoccupied with rituals and ceremonies instead of worshiping the only true God from their heart. Our hearts overflow with the truth of God's saving grace as we believers share the Good News of Jesus with people who are still living in spiritual darkness.

Please stand

OPENING HYMN

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

LSB 807

1 When morning gilds the skies,
My heart, awaking, cries,
 "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
When evening shadows fall,
This rings my curfew call:
 "May Jesus Christ be praised!"

4 Ye nations of mankind,
In this your concord find:
 "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
Let all the earth around
Ring joyous with the sound:
 "May Jesus Christ be praised!"

2 When mirth for music longs,
This is my song of songs:
 "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
God's holy house of prayer
Hath none that can compare
 With "Jesus Christ be praised!"

5 Sing, suns and stars of space,
Sing, ye that see His face,
 Sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"
God's whole creation o'er,
Both now and evermore
 Shall Jesus Christ be praised!

3 No lovelier antiphon
In all high heav'n is known
 Than "Jesus Christ be praised!"
There to the_ eternal Word
The_ eternal psalm is heard:
 "May Jesus Christ be praised!"

Text: Public domain

INVOCATION AND CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for self-examination

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

KYRIE

LSB 152

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: ♪ Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: ♪ Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: ♪ Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: ♪ Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: ♪ Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LSB 154

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

People: ♪ Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:

We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: ♪ **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, the source of all that is just and good, nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9

¹“Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the just decrees that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. ²You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you. ...

⁶Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ ⁷For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? ⁸And what great nation is there, that has statutes and just decrees so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

⁹“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children’s children.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

INTROIT

Psalm 51

Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

People: **and renew a right spirit within me.**

Pastor: Cast me not away from your presence,

People: **and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

Pastor: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

People: **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 6:10–20

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Please stand.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 7:14–23

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

People: **♫ Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁴[Jesus] called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.” ¹⁷And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) ²⁰And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²²coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Elder: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

(A time of silence for personal prayer.)

Elder: Heavenly Father, be near us with Your Word and Spirit. Guide and lead us, that we may not stray from the way of Your commandments nor forget the wonderful blessings that You have given to us. Direct us always with Your Word of truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Elder: God of all knowledge and wisdom, grant us to know You and Your love. Bless our teachers and students, our parents and grandparents, and helpers in our School, that we may grow up into You. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Elder: Almighty God, look with compassion on our nation and all who bear public office. Give them wisdom, courage and integrity. Destroy and hinder in our common life whatever is not pleasing to You, and bless and prosper whatever accords with Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Elder: We pray for everyone in need of Your mercy today *[including ...]*. Strengthen them with Your Word of grace, that they would look to You for comfort in the midst of suffering and pain. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Elder: Lord God, heavenly Father, we offer You our thanks and praise for Your servants who have finished their course in faith and now rest from their labors. Bring us with them to the unspeakable joys of Your new heavens and new earth at the day of our Savior's glorious appearing. Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Please be seated.

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

For your convenience, we now accept gifts via Venmo or PayPal.



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A Prayer During the Offering: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Deuteronomy 4:6 – “Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’”

There is no wiser, more fulfilling life than a life lived according to the Word of God. We should be encouraged by this when the world tempts us to think that the Word of God is harmful to us. Our Father loves us, so all His Word is meant to bless us. We may have to suffer for upholding the Word of God, as St. John the Baptist did. But the cross the Lord has for us to bear will be far better than any we would create for ourselves.

Please stand .

OFFERTORY

LSB 159

♪ **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**

**I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and will call on the name of the Lord.**

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

People: ♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PEACE OF THE LORD

LSB 163

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

Please take a moment and share the Peace of the Lord with those around you.

LAMB OF GOD

LSB 163

♪ Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

We examine ourselves before partaking our Lord's Supper.

"O LORD, WE PRAISE THEE"

LSB 617

♪ 1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish: O Lord, have mercy!
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need: O Lord, have mercy!

- 2 Thy holy body into death was given,
 Life to win for us in heaven.
 No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
 May this feast thereof remind us! O Lord, have mercy!
 Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
 That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.
 All our debt Thou hast paid;
 Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mercy!
- 3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor
 That we follow Christ our Savior
 And live together here in love and union
 Nor despise this blest Communion! O Lord, have mercy!
 Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
 Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
 Give Thy Church, Lord, to see
 Days of peace and unity: O Lord, have mercy!

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"I COME, O SAVIOR, TO THY TABLE"

LSB 618

- 1 I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
 For weak and weary is my soul;
 Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
 To satisfy and make me whole:
Refrain

Refrain

Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
 Be for my soul the highest good!

- 2 Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning
 That sinners may salvation see
 Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;
 So I, a sinner, come to Thee.
Refrain

- 3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
 Because I have a sinful heart,
 Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,
 For Thou my faithful shepherd art:
Refrain

- 4 Weary am I and heavy laden;
 With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
 Receive me graciously and gladden
 My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
Refrain

- 5 What higher gift can we inherit?
 It is faith's bond and solid base;
 It is the strength of heart and spirit,
 The covenant of hope and grace.
Refrain

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♪ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
 Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
 He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
 with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

People: Amen.

SENDING HYMN "O Christ, Who Called the Twelve"

LSB 856, v 5 and doxology

♪ 5 O Christ, th'apostles' Lord, The martyr's strength and song,
 The crucified and risen King To whom the saints belong:
 Though generations pass, Our tribute still we bring,
 Our hymns a sacrifice of praise, Our lives an offering.

All praise be to our God, The Lord who reigns above;
 Creator, Savior, Guide and Friend, Who rules His world in love.
 All praise be to our God, God Father, God the Son,
 And Holy Spirit, ever blessed Eternal Three-in-One.

SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace to serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

Now, our God, we give You thanks, and praise Your glorious name.

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. -- 1 Chronicles 29:13-14

Upcoming Fall Events

NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND TIMES

STARTS TODAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:45 a.m. Bible Class and Sunday School

11 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Connect-to-Disciple Bible Study Sundays, Sept 1, 8, 15 and 22

Making disciples is the purpose of the Church on Earth given to us by our Lord and Savior Jesus.

Making disciples of people who are lost and perishing is the desire of His heart.

Sept 1: Our Call to Make Disciples

Sept 8: Our Role: Planting & Watering

Sept 15: The Challenge: "Lost People"

Sept 22: Light Triumphs Over Darkness!

This Bible Study/Prayer Time is for all members and friends. Please join us!

Women's Bible Study,

Sunday, September 1, 2024, 9:45 a.m., LWML Room

All women are invited as we study the powerful book of Acts! We'll learn how the Story of God continues through the powerful work of the Holy Spirit transforming the lives of the apostles and those they witness to about Jesus the King. **Come and See** how we too can live the story!

The Wednesday Gathering, Wednesday, Starts September 4, 2024

What? Informal Gathering on Wednesdays

Where? Faith Lutheran Church and School.

When? Starts at 5:30 with light supper.

Who? Members, friends and community.

Why? Fellowship, Learning, Support, Outreach,

and more rolled into a strategic and intentional initiative to bring us together, to bring unchurched people to our facility and ministry circle, and to work toward "making disciples" for the Lord.



Special Wednesday Gathering Presentation, 9/11

Chris Bradshaw leads a timely presentation, "Just War: Can Christians Conscientiously Employ Violence?" on Wednesday, Sept 11, 2024, in the sanctuary. After a light supper (5:30 p.m.), adults and youth are invited to gather to reflect on "the great thinkers" on how we live with and respond to evil and violence in our world. A retired US Navy Commander, Chris and his wife Martha and family are members of Faith Lutheran Church and School.

Youth Confirmation (7th and 8th Graders)

Starts September 1 and continues each Sunday // 9:45 a.m., Conference Room

Youth Confirmation is a two-year introduction to Lutheran doctrine for 7th and 8th graders.

Confirmation flows from Baptism into Christ's death and resurrection;

- ✓ is the responsibility of parents... in partnership with the entire congregation
- ✓ involves a variety of people, relevant topics and approaches
- ✓ culminates in the public affirmation of faith in Jesus and commitment to His Word.

Parents: Please come with your Confirmand, Sunday, Sept 1, 9:45 Conference Rm

SCHOOL IN PRAYER Friday, September 6, 2024, 9 a.m.

All Faith Members are invited to gather to pray for our School, our faculty, and our precious children and their families! SCHOOL IN PRAYER is a monthly opportunity to gather with our teachers and students to ask God's mercy, blessing, protection, and healing upon our ministry, our community and nation, and everyone at Faith Lutheran Church and School. We'll gather on the First Friday of the Month, 8:45 a.m., in the Conference Room. We'll then proceed to the classrooms to unite our hearts and voices in prayer. Please see or contact Sandy Skrabanek (678-462-4366).

First Communion Introduction Sundays, September 15 and 22, 2024 9:45 a.m., Conference Room

This introduction is for parents and their baptized children (ages 8-12, Grades 3-6) to prepare for receiving the Lord's Supper prior to Confirmation. Candidates for admission to the Lord's Supper will learn and/or review the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. They will also explore the Gospel and the Sacraments. Confessing their sin and trusting in their Savior, they will be invited to receive the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of their faith in Christ and their love for others.

We the People: Citizens of Two Kingdoms

Church and State Bible Study, Sundays, Sept 22 – Nov 24, 2024, 9:45, Cafeteria

Dr. Greg Walton and Jon Wareham lead the study of God's Word on the timely topic of Christian life in both Church and State.

Adult Membership Course: GodConnects Sundays, September 29 - November 24, 2024 9:45 – 10:45 a.m., Conference Room

Whether you have questions about Christ or want to deepen your faith in God and His truth, **GodConnects** will explore what the Bible says about the Christian faith, and how God's love in Jesus gives purpose, direction and meaning to your life today and forever. **GodConnects** is a video-based course designed for those who are interested in learning or reviewing the foundations of the Lutheran Church. At the completion of the course, participants are invited to be received into membership at Faith Lutheran, Marietta, Georgia.

"I Am a Trust from You, Lord!"

God has entrusted me with life, body and soul, and all my material and spiritual blessings. By faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, I will care for, honor, and freely and gladly share His gifts.

A Pastor-Elect at Faith... Rev. Eric Longman

Thanks be to God! At our Special Voters Meeting, Sunday, August 25, Faith Lutheran Church and School elected Pastor Eric Longman to serve our ministry as pastor. On the second ballot, Pastor Longman was elected pastor, and the assembly ratified the selection by making it a unanimous decision.

Want to know a little about our pastor-elect? Here's part of the synopsis shared at the Call Service.

Education: BA from Georgia State university - 1992

Master of Divinity (M. Div.) from Concordia Seminary St. Louis – 2015

Family: Wife – Donna, homemaker. They have one son (27) and one daughter (29).

Previous occupations: Small business owner/Web Design and Hosting, also was a project manager.

Currently serving: Holy Trinity Lutheran, Rogers, AR • Is serving as Senior pastor at current church.

Size of present congregation (2023): Baptized - 508 Communicants - 420 Avg. worship - 225 **School:** ECE

Specialized training and development: Trained and experienced in disaster response.

Preaching and Worship

- Has both traditional and contemporary services. Enjoys preaching in a variety of ways to keep worshipers engaged. They combine to one service several times throughout the year.
- Sermons are based on either the readings in the three-year lectionary or based on topics.
- Uses a statement in their bulletin to explain beliefs around communion. Communion is high point of the service.

Christian Growth

- Their congregation growth focuses on outreach and community building.
- Encourages members to be tied into the Word with Bible study and participating in church ministries. Evidence of their engagement is seen in the increase in church attendance/membership by 80 members over the past four years.
- In his personal study he studies Scripture, often in the original languages, has devotions, and intentionally prays through the membership list.

Leadership and Administration

- Recruits leaders by getting to know the people – what they are excited about, what their gifts are. He reaches out personally to ask for help to plug them in where they can thrive. Listens to their interests and asks them to pray about the request. Starts with small tasks to get their interest and supports them as they grow.
- Adept with the visioning process and reinforcing what his leadership develops as vision of ministry in their church.
- Able to bring people together who are in conflict and help them work together to resolve the issues.
- Leadership style is as a servant leader.

Pastoral care and People Skills

- Provides whatever counseling is needed. Enjoys hospital and home visits because they allow him to be with people in the best and worst of times. Doesn't take anyone's problems lightly but welcomes the opportunity to pray with them as soon as asked and not always wait for later.
- States his door is always open.

- Gets to know the church members when moving to a new church. Relationship building is key to a strong ministry.

School Involvement

- It is important to him to be present on campus and visible to the students, parents, and staff.
- At previous congregation, he greeted the students and parents in the morning and evening and was involved in chapel. He served as the sole pastor at that time.
- The principal is responsible for the school. His role is to be a resource, be aware of what is going on with the school and support them with what they need to thrive. It is vital to have a close relationship with the staff and principal.

Discipleship and Ministry Development

- They are starting discussions to renovate their building for easier navigation and be more visible to the community.
- In addition to Sunday adult and youth/children classes they offer a men's fellowship program and a men's ministry.
- Loves to lead Bible studies for people of all ages.
- Intentional about helping people think through issues in context of our relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
- Describes himself as oriented to both outreach and congregational unity.
- Feels his experience as a police officer during college gave him the ability to relate to many different types of people.

Community Involvement

- Has always been able to reach out to the community and be visible.
- Experienced with business and budgets when owning his own company prior to becoming a pastor.
- He has local ties to our area and is familiar with our church. Was a member and elder at Rivercliff before becoming a pastor. His wife's parents were members of Faith before they passed away. His father lives in Gainesville, GA.

Next Steps in the Process

(From the Florida-Georgia District, LCMS, "Calling a Pastor: A Manual")

1. Our Faith Leadership has worked carefully to prepare the Call Documents for Pastor Longman.

He has likely received the documents and started his deliberations of the Call. It's a first step along the way.

2. Pastor Longman and his family will be invited for a post-call visit with all expenses paid by the congregation. Our leadership will schedule and announce opportunities to meet with our pastor-elect (and family) and get to know him.

3. Let's keep Pastor Longman and Donna (and family) in our prayers and be prepared to do all within your power to assist him in his decision. The Florida-Georgia District servants will do the same.

4. Typically, most pastors will deliberate on a call from 2 - 4 weeks. Sometimes it takes a bit longer... but know that pastors take seriously both their current Call and the new Call as they seek God's will.

"God is the One who establishes the relationship between pastor and people. However, we too, have a part in this. It takes work. It is a partnership. Pastor and people consider each other as joyful partners in the Gospel and in the mission of the church, each making contribution to God's work according to their calling and ability and measure of faith." – Florida-Georgia District President James H. Rockey