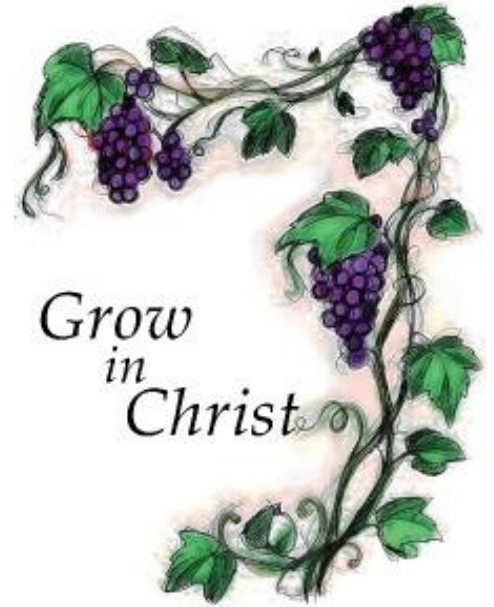


The Grape Vine

*Faith Lutheran Church
Lake Hanska Lutheran Church*

September 2026

Happenings in & around the Parish



Operation Christmas Child

It's that time of year again!

Time to start collecting school supplies and hygiene products for our Operation Christmas Child boxes. Items needed include notebooks, pencils, colored pencils, toothbrushes, wash cloths, ivory soap, Beanie Babies, coloring books, and jump ropes. Any of these are appreciated. We can no longer send toothpaste or Elmers glue.

Bring your contributions to

Faith Lutheran Church

and there will be a collection table
in the entryway.

Packing of the boxes will be on Wednesday,
November 4th at a time to be announced.
We would love to have you come and help.



Along with school starting in just a few days,
Wednesday J.A.M. will also start on September 9th. at Faith
If anyone is interested in supplying snacks for the students,
we would be very appreciative.

Homemade cookies are always welcome
as are fruits (apples and oranges are really popular),
chips/crackers, and cheese sticks.

Donations can be left in the kitchen at Faith.
Thank you for all your support of this program!

CHANGE OF TIME

**September means time changes
Faith**

will be every Sunday at 9:00 AM

Lake Hanska

will be every Sunday at 10:30 AM

Join Us For Worship!

If you are searching for a church home or are currently a member,
we want to extend a warm welcome to you.

Faith & Lake Hanska observe the "Open" communion policy -
for all people in Christ are welcome at our Lord's Table.



And just like that summer is over and fall begins later this month. Where does the time go?

There are two standard definitions of Fall – one is the meteorological fall which begins on the 1st of September and covers September, October, and November. The other is the one we most associate with -the astronomical fall which in 2026 begins at 7:04 PM on the 22nd of September.

Whichever definition you relate to fall usually means the ramping up of activities in the church. J.A.M begins on September 16th, and confirmation starts up on the 30th. Both are exciting times to teach and share the message of God's love to our youth.

Also, this year we are planning on bringing back some traditions that fell by the wayside during the pandemic. Some will be for both congregations; some will be at only one. Things like new member Sunday – we have many people who have been faithfully worshipping with us, but we have never recognized them as members. We also want to bring our reputation of being the church that gives out bibles with a Sunday where 3-year-old, 3rd graders, and over 80 youth receive a bible.

The traditional Harvest Festival at Lake Hanska may look different this year as the musical group from years past is not available anymore. We also will feature one Sunday a month through the fall to revisit the themes and animals featured in our outstanding vacation bible school.

As you can see there is a lot to feature this fall, but one thing that doesn't change with the season is our coming together as a faith community to worship and commune each Sunday. As a reminder we change service times in September through the end of the year. Faith will worship at 9:00 and Lake Hanska gets to sleep in and worship at 10:30.

Personally, I will be at another S.A.M. retreat the 13th-15th and at the SW MN Synod Fall Theological Conference the 27th-29th. Just as J.A.M. and confirmation are opportunities for learning with our young people – these two events are energizing and very helpful in my learning curve. I continue to be thankful for the chance to serve these two congregations this fall and beyond.

Just one of you in Christ - Ralph

News for Faith Lutheran Church

Children's Sunday and Bible Sunday will be on Sunday, September 27th. If you have not received a letter about Bible Sunday, and you have NOT received a Bible (3-yr. olds, 3rd Graders, & 80-yr. olds) please contact the office or Ralph. We want everyone who has not been recognized for these Milestones to be in attendance to receive their Bible! Also, we want ALL the area youth who attended VBS (or not) to join us for Children's Sunday. You will be singing a few of the songs from Rainforest Falls.

New Member Sunday will be on Sunday, October 11th. Contact the office if you would like to join. And members, think about inviting others to be a member! There will be a New Member informational meeting at Faith on Wednesday, October 7th. Time TBA.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

DATE	1ST READING	PSALM	2ND READING	GOSPEL
Sunday, September 6 15 th Sunday after Pentecost	Ezekial 33:7-11	119:33-40	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
Sunday, September 13 16 th Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 50:15-21	103:1-13	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
Sunday, September 20 17 th Sunday after Pentecost	Jonah 3:10—4:11	145:1-8	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-6
Sunday, September 27 18 th Sunday after Pentecost	Ezekial 18:1-4, 25-32	25:1-9	Philippians 2:1-13	Matthew 21:23-32

Church Councils

Faith

Lori Pietsch

Randy Gustafson

Stacy Reed

Randy Gustafson, Arlo Feder

Jane Piepgras, Kathy Guyer

Ben Odegard, Chad Becker,

Pam Bocock, Stacy Reed

Lori Pietsch, Cindy Lehman,

Sherri Gustafson, Mary Feder

Steph Odegard, Tammy Krebs,

Julia Young, Patty Young

President

Vice President

Secretary

Financial Secretary

Treasurer

Trustees

Deacons

Board of Education

WELCA Coordinator Bonnie Lilleodden

BOLD NAMES = Joint Executive Board

Lake Hanska

Melissa Engelhart

Jim Lilleodden

Cheryl Doe

Bonnie Lilleodden

Beth Kral

Brian Kjelshus,

Norman Skarphol

Pam Kjelshus,

(Position Open)



Do you wish to receive your Grapevine by e-mail?
If so, please contact Joyce at
faithofficemadelia@gmail.com

OR

the Parish Office at
507-642-8500
and give her
your email address.

Vital Statistics

Attendance

Offering

Faith

July 19 32 \$ 1,684.00

July 26 35 \$ 910.75

August 2 42 \$ 2,488.00

August 9 24 \$ 1,092.00

August 16 27 \$ 2,102.00

\$

Lake Hanska

July 19 27 \$ 1,355.00

July 26 22 \$ 795.00

August 2 32 \$ 1,001.00

August 9 16 \$ 185.00

August 16 26 \$ 2,735.00

Social Media for our Churches

Faith:

Website: www.faithlutheranmadelia.org

Facebook.com/FaithLutheranMadelia

Lake Hanska:

Facebook.com/

LakeHanskaLutheranChurch

Lake Hanska members (and guests)
you will be able to check on any activities
that will be going on at your church
by looking at the Faith website.

Church Council



Lake Hanska

Sunday, September 20th 11:30 AM

Faith

Thursday, September 10th 6:30 PM



Men's Morning Out

Saturday, September 5th, 19th

8:30 AM at Dean Neumann's

49617 171st St

Lake Crystal, MN 56055

Ruth Bible Study

Monday, September 21st

9:00 AM

Lake Crystal

American Legion

Wednesday J.A.M.
begins September 9th
at Faith Lutheran Church,
from 3:15-5:00 PM.
ALL area youth from
Kindergarten to 6th Grade
are welcome and
encouraged to attend.
Hope to see you soon!

Recent Happenings in the Parish

Funerals

Weddings

Baptisms 8/22 (F) Brylee Mae Johnson

CONFIRMATION CORNER ~ SEPTEMBER

30

6:00 PM Informational meeting with at least
one parent/guardian in attendance. Look for a
letter in the mail.

Lake Hanska Lutheran Church Council Meeting

July 23, 2026

The July 23 2026, Lake Hanska Lutheran Church council meeting was called to order by President Melissa Engelhart at 5:45pm, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Ralph Flitter gave devotions and a prayer.

* **Secretary's report** was approved as written.

* **Treasures reported** the checkbook balance looks good, normal bills and we did a summer-fill on the fuel for the winter.

* **Financial secretary reported** that 40% of our membership are regular giving units.

* **Pastor's report:** we have upcoming weddings: 1 in August and 2 in December, he will be part of Hanska's 125th Anniversary in the park the Sunday of the celebration (August 23rd). There will not be a service at Lake Hanska that day, service will be at 10:30 am in the city park. SAM retreats are in September and November and Ralph will need to bring the Church constitution with him to the retreat. Bonnie Lilleodden will get this for him. Ralph will be taking a few vacation days during the week in August.

* **Deacon's reported** things are going fine but still need another Deacon.

* **Trustees reported** that there are metal pieces on the church that need repairs on the round windows and the window by the organ. Norman Skarphol will call someone to get an estimate. Norman Skarphol and Mark will take care of getting the electrical box fixed.

Old Business:

August 8th Collin Kjelshus and Shakira wedding, December 5th will be Grant Kahler and Melissa Iverson wedding & December 12th will be Spencer Raatz and Sam wedding.

New Business:

September 27th 3rd graders, 3-year-olds and 80-year-olds will be receiving bibles. Bonnie will discuss at sewing how many of the ladies would like a bible or if they have their own that they like and use. October 7th is an informational meeting for up-coming new members for both churches. This will be held at Faith in Madelia. More information to come. October 11th will be New Member Sunday at both churches. The current contract for Ralph will end on May 30, 2026, but this will be extended out until December 31st 2027 to align with the church budget cycle. Lenten Services for 2027 will be held at 3:30pm at Lake Hanska and 5:30pm at Faith. In September there is a musician's retreat that Audrey (pianist) would like to attend. This retreat plus milage will be paid for Audrey to go. Melissa Engelhart will take the basement window to stain glass in Sleepy Eye. Hanska's 125th Celebration will be held August 21-23rd. Zion will be handling the bulletins with Zion Pastor and Ralph leading worship at 10:30am in the Hanska Park. Melissa will contact Zion if any help is needed and also to find out how we will be handling the offerings given that day. We discussed the Settlers Service and the Harvest Festival - no dates confirmed at this meeting.

Cheryl m/m to commence the meeting and Pam s/m, motion carried

Next Church council meeting: Sunday, September 20 after church

Cheryl Doe

Lake Hanska Lutheran Church Secretary

Faith Lutheran Church Council Minutes – Aug. 13, 2026

President - Lori Pietsch

S.A.M. - Ralph Flitter

Secretary - Stacy Reed

Treasurers - Kathy Guyer, Jane Piepgras

Deacons - Sherri Gustafson, Cindy Lehman, Mary Feder

Trustees - Ben Odegard

BOE - Julia Young, Patty Young

Secretary's Report:

Ralph noted a correction to July's minutes should state cost for Church Musician's Retreat is \$300 plus mileage.

Treasurer's Report:

July expenses were \$ 9,637.61 and receipts \$ 8,818.00.

Trustees Report:

We have 2 interviews for the custodial job. We should have a custodian in place in the next week or so. Vacuum cleaner was looked at, new bags were ordered and filter was cleaned. Hot water tank in kitchen has been acting up, we are not sure if the wall switch is accidentally being turned off. A large notice has been taped to the wall in the meantime. Lori has instructed to get the security camera project started, Ben will contact Christensen Communications. We will continue to work on the Bell tower issue and lighting inside of the church.

Deacons:

9/27 - Bible Sunday for 3-year-olds, 3rd graders and 80-year-olds.

9/30 - Confirmation starts. 10/11 - New Member Sunday; 10/30 - Trunk or Treat;

11/4 - Pack OCC boxes; 12/12 - Shopping with Mrs. Claus.

Board of Ed:

Will hold a meeting/game night to initiate interest in the 2027 Youth Gathering.

Ralph's Report:

Celebrated 50th anniversary of the service in the park for Lake Hanska on July 5th, held Peace of the Prairie service at Faith on July 12th, participated in VBS July 27-30, met at Living Meadows for Pray without Ceasing 4 times in July. Ralph had several meetings and home visits throughout July. August will consist of meetings, 2 weddings, 1 baptism and Hanska's 125th anniversary service.

Motion to accept reports was made by Kathy/seconded by Patty.

Old Business:

Bylaws and Constitution need updating; we are targeting to have this completed by end of year 2026. ***We need 2-3 people to help with the updates, please see Ralph.***

New Business:

FREE sleeper couch in the Sunday school room! See Lori or Ralph.

VBS was very successful; 185 people with 360 attending the program on final night.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ralph and seconded by Mary.

Respectfully submitted, Stacy Reed-Secretary

VACATION BI

Many great activities, story times, snacks, singing, and fun things to see and do at VBS



BLE SCHOOL

See You Next Year
July 25-29, 2027

2026 Community Vacation Bible School

This was the 10th Annual Community Bible School held at Faith Lutheran in Madelia. Our theme was "Rainforest Falls, Exploring the Nature of God." This theme took us to the beautiful rainforests of the world. The attendance of children and Jr. leaders keeps increasing every year! This year 185 kids and Jr. leaders attended, along with 25 adult leaders and helpers.

VBS was held July 26th-July 30th from 5:20—8:00 PM. Dinner, games, snacks, music, crafts, and bible stories are held every night as groups of kids rotate through 5 stations. A community program was held on Thursday evening to showcase the bible stories, verses and songs we learned. 360 people attended the program to celebrate Community Bible School!

A new event this year was a visit from the RadZoo and animals, which was very popular.

Community Vacation Bible School is **FREE** to attend and remains possible due to the generous donations from families, businesses, community members and fundraisers. These resources allow us to always offer VBS **FREE** to all children who attend.

Sincere Thank You to all who helped with and attended our fundraisers, helped decorate, serve food, lead, clean, teach, and especially to the wonderful families who entrusted us with your children.

See you next year!

Thank you for all your support,

Mary Feder, Cindy Lehman, and Lori Feder Pietsch



“HARVEST FESTIVAL”

Sunday, September 13, 2025

5:00 PM - - Free Will Meal

served in church Fellowship Hall

6:00 PM - - Worship Service with Communion

Lake Hanska Lutheran Church Parking Lot

(17923 – 115th St., rural Hanska)

(Bring your own lawn chairs or blanket ---- Some chairs are available)

Bring a piece of equipment used for harvest to be blessed.

*** In case of inclement weather, service will be inside the church**

NOTICE:

Please contact the Church office (642-8500
or faithofficemadelia@gmail.com)
if you have moved, know of someone who has
moved, or have a college student who wants to
receive the Newsletter.

We can only reach those whom we have
current addresses for!

This goes for snail-mail and/or E-mail.

THANKS!

Faith & Lincoln Cemetery's

Perpetual care and maintenance fees are not a
part of the church budget. They are both in need
of donations to maintain the dignity
and beauty of the cemeteries.

Please consider making a donation
~ any amount will be appreciated ~
with check made out to either

Faith Cemetery or Lincoln Cemetery.
(Checks may be sent to Faith Lutheran)

Feel free to pass on this information!

Thank you!

Faith/Lincoln Cemetery Board

The 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering

will take place
June 28-July 2, 2027,
in Minneapolis, MN.
A planning meeting is
being held at Faith
on Wednesday,
September 9th
at 7:00 PM.
All 8th-12th graders
are invited to attend.



**Please pray for ALL serving in the Military
~ both here and abroad ~**

JONAS Eldridge

JAC Gunderson

KADEN Johnson

ANDREW McCumber

ANDREW Peterson

Prayer Concerns

*If you have a prayer concern, please contact the church office (507-642-8500)
or by email: faithofficemadelia@gmail.com*

**** Thank you! ****

Hanska's 125th Anniversary



Ralph Flitter, S.A.M. for Faith and Lake Hanska, was asked to participate in the 125th Anniversary worship service at Hanska.

The picture to the left is Ralph singing his version of the Lord's Prayer. The attendance was over 100 people.



September

Lake Hanska

Faith

Altar Guild:

Pam Kjelshus/Jane Ahlness

Barb & Bruce Nelson

Usher:

6

Lynn Ahlness/Riley Ahlness

13/20

Pam Kjelshus/Shannon Mosenden

27

Bonnie Lilleodden/Kathy Wright

Mowing:

8/28-9/10

Lynn Ahlness/Riley Ahlness

9/11-24

Brian Kjelshus/David Mosenden

beyond 9/25

??????



Tess Johnson is a member of Faith Lutheran Church, mother to Kalley, Kaden and Khloe and could really use your support!

Saturday, October 24
3:00-8:00 PM
Rock Street Tavern
Springfield, MN



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
406 West Main Street
Madelia, Minnesota

5th Annual Fall Kick-Off Celebration

Wednesday – September 9, 2026

5:00pm Free Community Meal in the church basement
(serving begins at 5:00pm)

6:30pm Free Live Music in Trinity Park* featuring:

Bullypulpit Bluegrass Band

Please bring your own chair or blanket and join us. We will celebrate the evening with *good food, good music, and good fellowship.*

Everyone is welcome!

*In case of inclement weather, the concert will be held inside the church building.

September 2026

Faith ~ Lake Hanska

God's People...
Leading Others to the
Love of Jesus

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9 Annual Kick-off Celebration Trinity Lutheran Church, Madelia 5:00 PM Free Community Meal 6:30 PM Free Live Music in Trinity's Park.		1 10:00 AM Chair Yoga (F) 11:15 AM Pray without Ceasing/Living Meadows NO Conversation & Coffee	2 9:00 AM Quilting at Lake Hanska	3 10:00 AM Chair Yoga (F)	4 As a Sabbath practice-Ralph is taking this day off	5 8:30 AM Men's Morning Out
6 Communion SWITCH SUNDAY 9:00 AM Faith 10:30 AM Lake Hanska 15 th Sunday after Pentecost	7 	8 10:00 AM Chair Yoga (F) 11:15 AM Pray without Ceasing/Living Meadows	9 (see above) 3:15-5:00 PM J.A.M. begins 7:00 PM Planning meeting for ELCA Youth Gathering	10 10:00 AM Chair Yoga (F) 6:30 PM Faith Council	11 Patriot Day As a Sabbath practice-Ralph is taking this day off	12
13 Grandparents Day 9:00 AM Faith 10:30 AM Lake Hanska LH-Harvest Festival 5:00 PM Supper 6:00 PM Service 16 th Sunday after Pentecost	14 Ralph at S.A.M. Retreat	15 10:00 AM Chair Yoga (F) 11:15 AM Pray without Ceasing/Living Meadows	16	17 10:00 AM Chair Yoga (F)	18 As a Sabbath practice-Ralph is taking this day off	19 8:30 AM Men's Morning Out
20 9:00 AM Faith 10:30 AM Lake Hanska 11:30 AM LH Council 17 th Sunday after Pentecost	21 9:00 AM Ruth Bible Study	22 10:00 AM Chair Yoga (F) 11:15 AM Pray without Ceasing/Living Meadows 	23 3:30-5:30 PM Madelia Food Shelf Open House	24 10:00 AM Chair Yoga (F)	25 As a Sabbath practice-Ralph is taking this day off	26
27 Children's Sunday Bible Sunday 9:00 AM Faith 10:30 AM Lake Hanska 17 th Sunday after Pentecost	28 SW MN Synod Fall Theological Conference	29 10:00 AM Chair Yoga (F) 11:15 AM Pray without Ceasing/Living Meadows	September Baby Safety Month Hispanic Heritage Month National Piano Month Chicken Month Honey Month Self Improvement Month Better Breakfast Month Little League Month National Sewing Month Classical Music Month National Courtesy Month World Beach Month Fall Hat Month National Mushroom Month Whole Grains Month Happy Cat Month National Blueberry Popsicle Month International Square-Dancing Month			

Faith Lutheran Church

306 Abbot Ave SW ~ Madelia, MN 56062
 Phone: 507-642-8500
 Facebook.com/Faith Lutheran Madelia
 Website: www.faithlutheranmadelia.org
 E-mail: faithofficemadelia@gmail.com

Lake Hanska Lutheran Church

17923 115th St ~ PO Box 65 ~ Hanska, MN 56041
 Phone: 507-439-6635
 (FB) Lake Hanska Lutheran Church

Synod Authorized Minister Ralph Flitter

Cell Phone: 507-317-4204 E-mail: flitteralph@gmail.com



The Grape Vine

Faith ~ Lake Hanska
Main Office Address
306 Abbot Ave SW
Madelia MN 56062

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Joyce's Office hours: Every afternoon except Friday. Please email the office with any information.
For your church needs or assistance, you can call Ralph at 507-317-4204, Joyce at 507-642-8500,
your church president: **Faith:** Lori Pietsch 507-317-4634
Lake Hanska: Melissa Engelhart 952-836-9564
or email the church at: **faithofficemadelia@gmail.com**
or Ralph at: **flitteralph@gmail.com**

~ SEPTEMBER ~

Worship Schedule

9:00 AM @ Faith
10:30 AM @ Lake Hanska

Faith Office Phone: 507-642-8500
Lake Hanska Phone: 507-439-6948
Faith Email: faithofficemadelia@gmail.com
Ralph Flitter Email: flitteralph@gmail.com



Communion is the 1st & 2nd Sunday of each month, unless otherwise noted