



# FAITH NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 8 60  
ISSUE 9  
SEPTEMBER 2025

HOW DOES GOD  
"BRING HIS  
CHILDREN HOME?"  
THROUGH YOU!  
WHEN YOU INVITE  
THEM TO HEAR  
THE WORD OF GOD  
WITH YOU!

INVITE  
A FAMILY MEMBER,  
NEIGHBOR,  
CO-WORKER,  
FELLOW  
STUDENT, OR  
FRIEND  
TO JOIN YOU ON  
SUNDAY  
IN ATTENDING.

SUNDAYS 9:00 AM

REV. GENE SMITH  
~ PASTOR ~

ANDREW SHAFFER  
DAVID JUENGEL  
~ DEACONS ~

VISIT US AT [WWW.FLCRIV.ORG](http://WWW.FLCRIV.ORG)  
E-MAIL US AT  
[FAITHRIVERSIDE@ATT.NET](mailto:FAITHRIVERSIDE@ATT.NET)

## LUTHERANS AND THE LORD'S SUPPER: HOLDING TO THE WORDS OF CHRIST

We are "Book of Concord Lutherans." Every rostered church worker in the LCMS; every congregation, district and LCMS institution; every school and LCMS university has defined itself as a Book of Concord Lutheran endeavor. It's on display most vividly when a pastor is ordained and installed in a congregation. He swears to believe and teach in complete accord with the divinely inspired Scriptures and the Book of Concord.

The Book of Concord was ratified in 1580 on the 50th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession. Its full title betrays its intent: "Concordia the Pious Confession of Faith and Doctrine Repeated by Unanimous Consent of the Electors, Princes, and Estates of the Empire, and of Their Theologians, who Embrace the Augsburg Confession."

With the word "Repeated," the Book of Concord asserts that its later documents, such as the 1577 Formula of Concord, are all just a repetition of the faith expressed in the 1530 Augsburg Confession.

**Continued on Page 2...**



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## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Some liberal and “moderate” Lutherans who have given up the divine authority and inerrancy of Scripture have rejected the Book of Concord under the guise that the Formula departed from the real intent of the Augsburg Confession. They argue that those who wrote the Formula of Concord were obsessed with hyper-orthodoxy and insisted on doctrine and divisions where there should not be any.

This sad state of affairs, which has troubled Lutheranism since 1530, was aided and abetted by one of our great heroes, Luther’s gifted friend Philip Melanchthon.

Melanchthon wrote the Augsburg Confession while present at the Diet of Augsburg (a meeting of the estates of the Holy Roman Empire), since Luther, then a wanted man, could not attend. While Luther considered the doctrine of the Augsburg Confession as his, Melanchthon regarded it as his own work; even after its delivery to the emperor, he continued to tweak it. As he did so, he was also going wobbly on some Lutheran and biblical basics, one of which was the true bodily presence of Christ in the Sacrament.

By the end of his life, Luther was rumbling and grumbling about Melanchthon’s errors. Melanchthon located Christ’s presence more in the action or administration of the Supper, while Luther located Christ’s body and blood for forgiveness in the bread and wine, delivered into the mouth of the recipient. John Calvin, who claimed Melanchthon’s support, held a symbolic view of the Lord’s Supper: Christ, Calvin held, was “present,” but not with the very body and blood. Because Christ’s body had ascended to the right hand of God, Calvin argued, His body and blood could in no real way be in the Sacrament. Melanchthon, interested in reconciliation, began to use language that did not clearly distinguish the Lutheran doctrine from Calvin’s unbiblical teaching.

Luther died in 1546, never publicly breaking with Melanchthon. Luther knew that after he died, people would start to respond to controversies by saying, “If Luther were alive, he’d say such and such.” He warned everyone to be wary of such arguments and reasserted his clear conviction about the real presence of Christ in the Sacrament. And indeed, several controversies did break out after Luther died — one of the most bitter revolving around the Lord’s Supper. It included questions of Jesus and His two natures (divine and human) in one Christ. Calvin, Zwingli and their friends asserted that Christ’s body was sitting at the right hand of God in heaven; only His divine nature could be present in other places. Luther and his faithful followers rightly saw this as a false teaching on the two natures of Christ. Like the ancient Council of Chalcedon confessed, the two natures are distinct but not separate. The divine nature inhabits the human like fire and iron, distinct but inseparable.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

For Luther, the main argument was always that the divine Christ may do as He pleases, and He demonstrates His will in a last will and testament that remains in effect until the end of time: “Take, eat, this is My body. ... Drink of it, all of you, this is My blood.” Whether or not we can understand it rationally, this must be true because Christ says it’s true.

After Luther’s death, things went from bad to worse at the University of Wittenberg. By 1571, Melanchthon was dead, and his followers produced a new catechism that was ambiguous on the Sacrament and seemed to support Calvin’s double predestination doctrine. Martin Chemnitz raised the alarm. A couple of years later, Elector August of Saxony intercepted some damning correspondence from his high ecclesiastical officials. They’d been telling the prince that nothing was changed from Luther’s teaching, and those crabbing about it were just extremists. The letters revealed that these deceivers were attempting to Calvinize Luther’s own church and to fool August, even using his pious wife, Anna, to get at him. This “Crypto-Calvinist” controversy ended with prison sentences, including a long one for Melanchthon’s son-in-law, Caspar Peucer.

According to Luther and our Lutheran confession, the Lord’s Supper is the Gospel: “Given and shed for you.” It depends wholly on the Word of the testator, that is, Christ. It is His last will and testament. He tells us to hold Him to His words regarding what the Sacrament is. That’s why it is so inspiring to read the Formula of Concord, Article VII, on the Sacrament: We see how seriously our forebears took the Bible. Luther and the Reformed opposed the Roman Catholic sacrifice of the mass, transubstantiation and other false teachings — and still would today — because these teachings deviated from God’s Word.

The Formula of Concord, particularly the Epitome, summarizes the issues wonderfully. It also repeats beautifully what was asserted by Melanchthon in the original Augsburg Confession, that in the Supper “the true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord’s Supper, and are distributed and received there” (AC X; Kolb, German text).

Present, distributed and received. The Word of Christ effects the presence of Christ’s body and blood. The pastor hands us the body and blood of Christ, and we still receive bread and wine at the same time. We receive the body and blood, no matter if we believe or not. Our faith does not make the Sacrament. Christ’s words do. When we receive in faith confessing Christ, His Sacrament and forgiveness, we receive unto life. We are Book of Concord Lutherans.

— Pastor Matthew C. Harrison

**<https://witness.lcms.org/2025/lutherans-and-the-lords-supper/>**



# *David Juengel's Commissioning & August Brunch*



# Keep Your Lungs Healthy

## Defend Against Chronic Lung Diseases

With each breath in, your lungs take in life-giving oxygen. The oxygen then travels through your blood to every cell in your body. With each breath out, your lungs release carbon dioxide, the waste produced when your cells burn energy. If something goes wrong with your breathing, it can impact your whole body and your daily life.

Many different symptoms can signal a lung problem. You may have coughing, wheezing, or shortness of breath. Your chest can feel tight, like someone is squeezing or sitting on it. You may find it hard to take a deep breath. You might become short of breath easily or feel tired all the time.

Sometimes these symptoms are temporary. They can be caused by things like stress, allergies, or infections. But if you have lung symptoms that last for more than a few weeks, it's important to talk to your doctor. These symptoms could indicate a chronic lung disease. Your risk for chronic lung diseases may be higher if you inherit certain genes from your parents. But many people who develop a chronic lung disease have no genetic risk factors. Exposure to certain environmental factors, like cigarette smoke, dust, and pollution, can also increase your risk.

The good news is that you can take steps to help prevent many chronic lung diseases. If they do develop, catching them and starting treatment early can improve your quality of life. Researchers are also testing better ways to identify and treat these conditions.

### **Blocked Air Flow**

The most common types of chronic lung problems are called obstructive lung diseases. Asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are the most common of these.

In obstructive lung diseases, "air flow is the problem," explains Dr. Andrew Lipton, medical director of the lung function lab at NIH. "It's hard for air to come into or go out of the lungs." In asthma, swelling in the lungs makes the airways narrower than normal. They also become very sensitive to things like dust and pollen. Asthma most often develops in childhood.

Asthma can impact your day-to-day life. An asthma attack can make it hard to breathe for hours or days. An attack can even lead to a trip to the hospital and can sometimes be fatal.



### **SCRIP Sales Schedule 2025**

**September 7, September 21,  
October 5, October 19,  
November 2, November 16,  
December 7, December 21.**

Updated SCRIP List is on the table in the Narthex.



# Health Notes Continued...

But “if you take your medications [as prescribed],” says Dr. Kathryn Blake, an asthma researcher at Nemours Children’s Health, “most people can be virtually symptom-free.”

Managing symptoms can help kids and adults do the things they love, like sports, she adds. But many teens and young adults with asthma don’t use their medications correctly. Confusion about when to take medications can play a role, Blake says. Or teens may forget when they are busy. Other factors like peer pressure can add difficulty.

“Teenagers don’t want to be seen as being different,” she says. “They don’t want to stand out. They would rather limit their activities than take out and use their inhaler.”

Blake and her team are testing whether regular video chats with a pharmacist can help teens take their asthma medications more regularly.

“It’s kind of like having a tutor,” she says. “It’s just someone there to help you along and figure out what issues are impeding your care.”

Some kids will grow out of asthma, Blake says. But many don’t. If you don’t treat your asthma, the symptoms are likely to get worse over time.

In COPD, the tubes that carry air in and out of the lungs become partly blocked. Smoking is the main risk factor for the disease. But about 1 out of every 4 people who develop COPD has never smoked.

COPD gets worse with time. But treatments can slow its progression and make you feel better. Medications can help some people breathe more easily. Others may benefit from oxygen therapy or rehabilitation programs. NIH-funded researchers are studying whether treating COPD earlier can help people live longer. They’re also working on new drugs that may stop COPD from getting worse.

## Restricted Breathing

Another group of lung diseases are called interstitial lung diseases. In these diseases, lung tissue may become inflamed or stiff, or scarred by damage. This prevents your lungs from fully expanding when you breathe. “These things all reduce the volume of the lungs,” explains Lipton.

Treating interstitial lung diseases can be tricky, because the cause can’t always be found, explains Dr. Kevin Flaherty, a pulmonary disease expert at the University of Michigan. “But if we can find the cause, then we can target it,” he says. For example, treating another disease that is causing scarring in the lungs may help.



**Free International Art Exhibit**

**Sept 8—Nov 16**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**

**5455 Alessandro Blvd.**

**Riverside, CA 92506**

**951-682-7613**

## Health Notes Continued...

Unfortunately, the cause of a common interstitial lung disease, called idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis or IPF, isn't known. People over age 50, men, and those who smoke are more likely to get it. Some people live for years with the disease. But for others, the condition quickly worsens. Drugs are available that can slow lung scarring over time. But researchers are searching for better treatments.

More than a decade ago, an NIH-funded study found that suppressing the immune system didn't help people with IPF. The study also tested an antioxidant used to treat certain lung diseases. But it also did not appear to have any benefit.

Recently, researchers looked at biological samples from the patients in that study. They found genetic differences between the patients that may have affected whether the treatment worked. Patients with a certain genetic change seem to have benefited from the treatment. Those without that genetic change showed no benefit or harmful effects from the treatment.

NIH is now funding a clinical trial to see if patients with certain genetic factors can benefit from the antioxidant treatment. If it works, this would be the first personalized treatment for IPF, Flaherty explains.

For now, there are many things you can do to lower your risk of developing a chronic lung disease. See the Wise Choices box for tips to keep your lungs as healthy as possible.

If you have lung symptoms, talk to your doctor. Many tests for chronic lung diseases are simple. Some can even be done at your regular doctor's office. Treating these diseases early can help you stay healthier for longer.

<https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/2025/08/keep-your-lungs-healthy>



*Baptism of  
Aubriella Anderson  
August 17, 2025*

## COMMISSIONING SERVICE



Faith's Head Elder, David Juengel was  
Commissioned as our second Deacon on  
Sunday, August 31, 2025 during Faith's  
9:00 am Service.



### Fellowship time between services:

If you would like to bring some goodies to share between services, please sign up in the Narthex on the bulletin board. There are a few Sundays opened. Thank you to all who have taken a date.



### "FOOD FOR FAITH"

Faith wants to take care of our families! Whether it is to celebrate the birth of a baby, help during chemo-therapy months for our brothers and sisters, or provide meals when a family member is sick or has passed away, Food for Faith wants to help our families.

But we cannot do it without the help of all of you. Food for Faith needs volunteers who would be willing to provide a meal for our families that are in need. If you are interested in helping, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Church Narthex, or you can contact Sherry Llamas at 714-337-7201.

*"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." ~ Hebrews 13:16*

Reminder—**LWML** Sunday is on the first Sunday of the Month. Bring in your mites

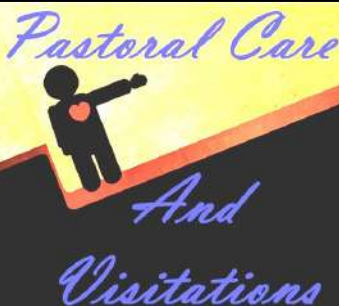
On Sunday, September 7th!



Next BOD  
Meeting  
Sept 17th  
6PM



Next Elders  
Meeting  
NO MEETING THIS  
MONTH



On Saturdays, Pastor Gene would like to make home visits to Faith Lutheran Church families. If you would like/need a Pastoral visit, please see Donna to sign up for a time that works best for you, or call the Church Office at 951-619-2626.



# This Month's Anniversaries



Mike & Sandy Bedwell 09/22

# Birthdays of the Month

HAPPY

BIRTHDAY

Cindi Noel	09/06
Sherry Llamas	09/07
William Summers	09/15
Cyndi Smith	09/18

## Early October BIRTHDAYS

*If we missed any birthdays or anniversaries,  
please contact the Church. Thanks!*

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES IN AUGUST 2025

GAINS IN MEMBERSHIP — 01 (Aubriella Anderson Baptized 8/17/2025)

LOSSES IN MEMBERSHIP — 0

MEMBERSHIP NOW STANDS AT: 181 Baptized, 140 Confirmed



You are all Welcome to Join us for Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday after 9:00 a.m. Service except for the last Sunday of the month when we have the Fellowship Brunch.

The topic will be  
"Hallmark Love Stories In The Bible"

## Next Fellowship Brunch, September 28<sup>th</sup> 2025!

Join us for our Sunday Fellowship Brunch and Visitor Welcome (after Sunday service). We hold these on the

last Sunday of the month. We want to encourage fellowship for our whole congregation, as well as encouraging you to bring a guest with you that week! Bring them to our 9:00 am service and stay later for Brunch! The church will supply some of the brunch food, but we ask each family to bring a brunch item to share (muffins, egg casseroles, quiche, etc.), so we will have enough for our guests.



# *Come Be A Part Of God's Great Gift!*

As an act of Grace — undeserved love for us — God sent Jesus “to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

— 2 Corinthians 5:21b

Jesus took our sin & death and in exchange — week by week — we receive forgiveness,  
eternal life and the status of holy children of God. Please join us at Faith each Sunday for:

**9:00 AM Traditional Worship Service** (inside sanctuary)

**1:00 PM Online Worship Service** [Upload] on Youtube.

[www.youtube.com/@davidtito834/video](http://www.youtube.com/@davidtito834/video)

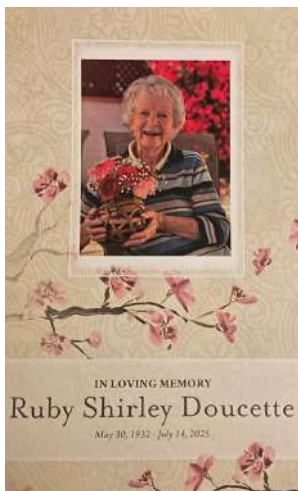
*"Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love"*

*Ephesians 6:24*



The new Byzantine Service will be held on the first Saturday of every month at 5:00 pm. Please join us for a new worship service.

## *Remembering Ruby Doucette*





# September



Church Office Hours are Tuesday through Thursday 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM and Friday 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Pastor Gene is available Wednesday & Saturday from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>7</div> <div>9:00 AM Worship Service</div> <div>After 9:00 AM Service Bible Study</div> <div></div>	<div>1</div> <div>Office Closed</div> <div></div> <div>7:30 pm NA</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div> <div>10:00 am Bible Study</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div> <div>7:30 – 9:00 am Men's Breakfast/Bible Study</div> <div>11:00am-6:00 pm Pastor Available</div> <div>5:00 pm Byzantine Service</div>
<div>8</div>	<div>9</div> <div>9:15 am Food Set-up</div>	<div>10</div> <div>10:00 am Food Distribution</div>	<div>11</div> <div>10:00 am Bible Study</div> <div></div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div> <div>7:30 – 9:00 am Men's Breakfast/Bible Study</div> <div>9:00 am Learning to understand Hebrew</div> <div>9:00 am Pastor Available</div>	
<div>14</div> <div>9:00 AM Worship Service</div> <div>After 9:00 AM Service Bible Study</div>	<div>15</div> <div>7:30 pm NA</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div> <div>6 pm BOD Meeting</div>	<div>18</div> <div>10:00 am Bible Study</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div>7:30 – 9:00 am Men's Breakfast/Bible Study</div> <div>9:00 am Learning to understand Hebrew</div> <div>9:00 am Pastor Available</div> <div>10:00 am LWL Meeting</div>
<div>21</div> <div>9:00 AM Worship Service</div> <div>After 9:00 AM Service Bible Study</div>	<div>23</div> <div>7:30 pm NA</div>	<div>24</div> <div>9:15 am Food Set-up</div>	<div>25</div> <div>10:00 am Food Distribution</div>	<div>26</div> <div>10:00 am Bible Study</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div> <div>7:30 – 9:00 am Men's Breakfast/Bible Study</div> <div>9:00 am Learning to understand Hebrew</div> <div>9:00 am Pastor Available</div>
<div>29</div> <div>9:00 AM Worship Service</div> <div>After 9:00 AM Service Fellowship Brunch</div>	<div>30</div> <div>7:30 pm NA</div>					