

## FREEDOM WORTH GUARDING

Because many Americans have never known life without freedom, it can be easy to take our liberties for granted. The Israelites, however, knew the harsh reality of slavery. Yet even after God led them out of Egypt, they struggled to embrace their newfound freedom. Faced with uncertainty, they grew fearful and complained against Moses and Aaron, longing for the familiarity of their former bondage rather than trusting God's provision.

Their story feels surprisingly familiar. As Christians, we have been set free through a far greater deliverance. Our freedom was secured at a great cost through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And yet, we sometimes drift back toward old habits, attitudes and patterns that once held us captive.

Scripture reminds us to stand firm in the freedom we have been given. As Paul writes in Galatians 5:1 (NKJV), "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

True freedom is not simply the absence of restraint. It is the opportunity to live fully in God's grace, walking in obedience, joy and purpose. This kind of freedom is worth celebrating, protecting and living out every day.

## BIBLE QUIZ

About 450 years before Jesus, Nehemiah heard that Jerusalem still lay in ruins after the Babylonian invasion. The news broke his heart. After days of prayer and mourning, he stepped forward to lead the effort to rebuild the city wall. Despite opposition, the people pressed on.

A well-known verse describes their progress: "So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to \_\_\_\_\_."

Choose the correct ending:    A. be protected    B. work    C. serve    D. live

*Answer: B (Nehemiah 4:6, ESV)*

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

July Fourth Celebrations and family vacations are in full swing. Sherbet Shack signup is here. Faith Lutheran Church's ministries continue to reach out to our neighborhood and the world. Our annual Vacation Bible School is gearing up with Ages Pre-K through Adults. Exciting time! I am very proud of the members of Faith reaching out to our outreach ministries, worship each Sunday, and fellowship among our membership. You are loving and caring for God's people. For Theresa and myself, it has been an exciting year of sharing ministry and worshipping with you. May God continue to bless our efforts of outreach, fellowship, prayer and listening to God's plan for Faith Lutheran Church.

Pastor Don Safrit

# CHURCH CALENDAR

- 7/4 INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
7/5 12:00pm-5:00pm Assembly Room  
Reserved (Jayne Lingle)  
7/11 1:00pm-6:00pm FLC Reserved (Gwen Hudson)  
7/12 4:00pm-6:00pm 2nd VBS Prop Party in Family Life Center  
7/18 10:00am-12:00pm VBS Decorating Party (Church Reserved)  
7/19-7/23 **5:30pm (Dinner) - 8:00pm Rainforest Falls VBS & WAR ROOM Adult Bible Study Class**

**“To the Cross & Beyond” CMR Elementary Lock-In**  
6:00pm Friday, July 24th – 3:00pm Saturday, July 25th  
1st – 5th Graders (\$25 cost)  
Union Lutheran Church Salisbury

## God’s Creation Day Camp

4:30pm Sunday, July 26 (Meet & Greet / Supper)  
8:30am-12:00pm Monday, July 27 – Friday, July 31  
Preschool – 5th Graders (\$25 cost)  
Organ Lutheran Church Salisbury

## WEDNESDAYS – 7/1, 7/8, 7/15, 7/22, 7/29

6:30pm – Handbells  
7:30pm – Choir Practice

## SUNDAYS – 7/5, 7/12, 7/19, 7/26

9:00am – Refreshments & Fellowship  
9:30am – Sunday School  
10:30am – Worship



- 2 – Amanda Meacham  
3 – Donnie Moose  
4 – Coy Hill  
5 – Linda Walker  
6 – Tyler Williams  
7 – Avery Wright  
12 – Harold Lingle  
13 – Lela Fisher  
14 – Grant and Gavin Meacham  
15 – Linda Modlin  
19 – Tommy Canup  
Tim Williams  
Ginger Smith  
24 – Maggie Murray  
26 – Beck Cobb  
29 – Vicki Meyer  
31 – Lara Drew

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 – Randall & Edie Barger  
18 – Jimmy & Gennene Parker

## WiFFLe

**Dates:** Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings in FLC  
**Times:** 10:00am-11:00am

## SAVE THE DATES: VBS

Our second Prop Party will be on **Sunday, July 12th, 4:00pm to 6:00pm** in the Family Life Center (since our first one was so much fun). Hope to see you there!

Come be a part of the fun on **July 18th** at our VBS Decorating Party from **10am-12pm!** Lunch will be provided. What a great way to kick off an amazing week of sharing God's word with his children!

And of course, VBS week runs Sunday, **July 19th – Thursday, July 23rd, 5:30pm (meal served) to 8:00pm.** All ages are welcome! Rainforest Falls VBS for Pre-K to High School, and WAR ROOM Bible Study for Adults!

*\*Please email or call the church office if your birthday/anniversary has been missed.*

JOIN US!



ADULT  
BIBLE  
STUDY

PRAYER IS A  
POWERFUL WEAPON

Join us for a five-session Bible Study that uses clips from the film *WAR ROOM* to explore the transformative power of prayer in marriages, parenting, careers, friendships, and everyday challenges.



Sunday - Thursday  
**JULY 19 - 23**



Meal & Bible Study  
**5:30 - 8:00 PM**

**FAITH LUTHERAN**



Bible Study Leaders  
**JULIE H. &  
GENNENE P.**

**SESSION TOPICS:**

- 1) Lukewarmness
- 2) Accountability
- 3) Gospel & Grace
- 4) Spiritual Warfare
- 5) Trusting God in Prayer

LEARN STRATEGIES FOR PRAYER & SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE



# RAINFOREST FALLS

Exploring the Nature of God™

Join us for Vacation Bible School!

**JULY 19-23**

Sunday - Thursday

5:30PM (Dinner Provided) - 8:00PM

Ages Pre-K to High School

Catchy Music ~ Amazing Crafts ~  
Fun Games ~ Memorable Bible Activities

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

205 S Main St. Faith, NC 28041

Register Online:  
[myvbs.org/flc2026vbs](http://myvbs.org/flc2026vbs)



Hey  
**1st-5th**  
GRADERS!

**YOU'RE  
INVITED!**

# TO THE CROSS AND BEYOND



**JULY 24<sup>TH</sup>-25<sup>TH</sup>**



**6PM-3PM**



**UNION LUTHERAN  
SALISBURY, NC**

COME  
GROW IN  
FAITH AND  
HAVE A  
**BLAST!**

**COME ON THE JOURNEY... JESUS IS WORTH IT! ♥**

Faith Lutheran Youth are invited to the very first Carolinas Mission Region Elementary Lock-In, taking place July 24–25 at Union Lutheran Church in Salisbury! It's going to be a meaningful and fun-filled experience for everyone to gather together and explore this year's theme, "To the Cross & Beyond." Registration is open. The cost is \$25 per youth and chaperone, and all event details can be found in the registration materials.

You can contact our Church Office for the Registration Link.

# GOD'S CREATION DAY CAMP

## Organ Lutheran Church

Join us for a fun-filled week of faith, friendship, games, music, crafts, and learning about God's amazing creation!

### SUNDAY, JULY 26

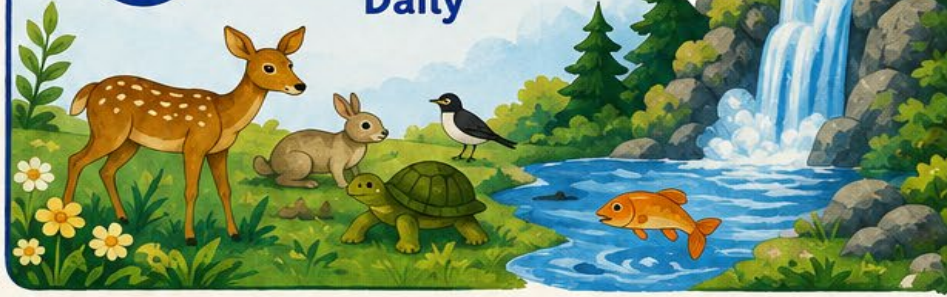
-  **Meet & Greet:**  
4:30 PM
-  **Supper:**  
5:00 PM

Come meet the camp staff, make new friends, and enjoy a meal together before camp begins!

★ Wear black or white to our meet & greet to help introduce our theme!

### MONDAY, JULY 27 – FRIDAY, JULY 31

 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM  
Daily



### CLOSING PROGRAM FRIDAY, JULY 31


12:00 PM  
followed by lunch in  
the Fellowship Hall!

*Parents are invited to attend!*



**THEME:**  
"GOD'S CREATION"  
Discover the beauty of the world God made through Bible lessons, songs, activities, nature fun, and more!

"God saw all that He had made, and it was very good."  
— Genesis 1:31

 **LOCATION:**  
Organ Lutheran Church  
1515 Organ Church Road  
Salisbury, NC 28146

 **AGES:**  
Preschool through  
5th Grade  
*Older youth are  
welcome to volunteer!*

 **COST:**  
\$25 Registration  
and Supply Fee

**REGISTER HERE!**



★ Wear black or white to our meet & greet to help introduce our theme!

We can't wait to see you there for an unforgettable week of fun and faith!  
For more information, contact Rita at [organyouth@yahoo.com](mailto:organyouth@yahoo.com)

# Puzzle!

## One of a Kind

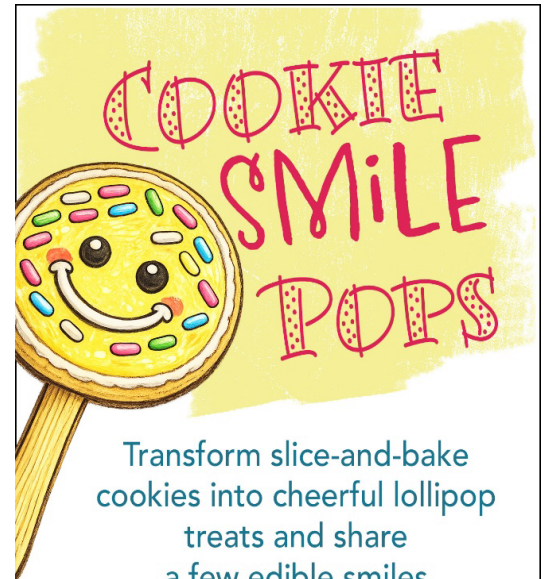
The scrambled words and phrases below are all drawn from Scripture. Unscramble each one to reveal the correct biblical term or phrase. After solving them, transfer the circled letters in order to the lines at the bottom of the page to uncover the final message.

- 1) eiVn    \_ \_  \_ \_
- 2) ilLy fo teh elaVly  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 3) abLm fo dGo    \_ \_  \_ \_
- 4) estMar    \_ \_ \_ \_  \_ \_
- 5) eJuss    \_ \_  \_ \_ \_ \_
- 6) okRc     \_ \_ \_ \_
- 7) rdBea fo eiLf    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 8) higLt fo hte dorWl    \_ \_  \_ \_ \_
- 9) voaSir    \_ \_ \_ \_  \_ \_
- 10) doLr    \_ \_ \_ \_  \_ \_
- 11) ishCrt    \_ \_ \_ \_  \_ \_
- 12) ehSprhed     \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 13) hTe doWr    \_ \_ \_ \_  \_ \_
- 14) rncPie fo cePae    \_ \_ \_ \_  \_ \_



**What do all these words have in common?**

Answers: Vine; Lily of the Valley; Lamb of God; Master; Jesus; Rock; Bread of Life; Light of the World; Savior; Lord; Christ; Shepherd; The Word; Prince of Peace; Names of God's Son



Transform slice-and-bake cookies into cheerful lollipop treats and share a few edible smiles.

### What you need:

- 1 roll refrigerated sugar cookie dough
- Knife
- Baking sheet
- Wooden craft sticks
- Frosting
- Sprinkles
- Clear treat bags
- Ribbon



### What you do:

1. Freeze the cookie dough for 15 to 20 minutes to firm it up, then slice into ¼-inch rounds.
2. Place cookies on a baking sheet about 2 inches apart.
3. Bake at 350 degrees for 5 minutes.
4. Remove from the oven and gently press a wooden stick halfway into the bottom of each cookie.
5. Return to the oven and bake 3 to 5 more minutes, until lightly golden.
6. Let cookies cool completely.
7. Decorate with frosting to create smiling faces and add sprinkles.
8. Slip each cookie pop into a treat bag and tie with ribbon.



DATE	TOTAL OFFERING	ATTENDANCE
MAY 31	\$3,367.00	Church Chat, 96 Worship
JUNE 7	\$8,394.81	49 Sunday School, 85 Worship
JUNE 14	\$8,440.06	47 Sunday School, 81 Worship
JUNE 21	\$4,107.00	35 Sunday School, 95 Worship

SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH				
	JULY 5	JULY 12	JULY 19	JULY 26
<b>Acolytes</b>	Caylee Sheets, Reagan Bradshaw	Brooks Moody, Adam Short	Leila Roberts, Caylee Sheets	Sailor Shoaf, Julianna Sheets
<b>Audio/Broadcast Team</b>	David Alderman, Aaron Smith, Jeff Mills, Jeff Overcash, Caitlin Rimmer			
<b>Children's Church</b>	<i>Children take Communion</i>	Jennifer Alderman	<i>Children take Communion</i>	Julie & Sarah Parker
<b>Children's Message</b>	Pastor Don	Lu Gamewell	Barbara Moose	<i>Faith Kids Sing</i>
<b>Church Sign</b>	Barbara Moose			
<b>Communion Prep.</b>	Anne Bruce & Wanda Mills			
<b>Fellowship Refreshments</b>	John & Ann Bruce	Jake & Barbara Moose	Tony & Sallie Herrin	Jeff & Wanda Mills
<b>Lector</b>	CJ Moody	Tim Williams	Beverly Smith	Barbara Moose
<b>Nursery</b>	Stephanie Barkley, Marissa Asbury	Jamie Sheets, Chris Earnhardt	Meredyth Fisher, Lela Brooks	Amanda Meacham, Holly Moody
<b>Offering Tellers</b>	Ken Fink & Ashley Roberts			
<b>Ushers</b>	Jimmy Hudson, Ted Peeler, Frankie Livesey, Linda Modlin			
<b>2026 Council Members</b>	Rhonda Alderman, Dwight Bradshaw, Randy Buckwell, Dallas Cobb ( <i>Vice President</i> ), Chandra Fink, Lisa Laws, Perry McKnight ( <i>President</i> ), Jake Moose, Laura Peeler ( <i>Secretary</i> )			

<p><b>FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b>  Rev. Don Safrit, <i>Interim Pastor</i>  (704) 756-5391</p> <p>205 South Main Street  Post Office Box 669  Faith, N.C. 28041-0669</p>		<p><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://faithlutheranfaithnc.com">faithlutheranfaithnc.com</a>  <b>Facebook &amp; YouTube</b>  <b>Donate:</b>  PayPal.Me/faithlutheranfaithnc  <b>Email:</b>  <a href="mailto:faithlutheran1899@gmail.com">faithlutheran1899@gmail.com</a>  <b>Church Office:</b> (704) 279-2500</p>
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