

August Worship

August 2 9:30am

"And the Winner Is..."

Genesis 32:22-31

Pastor Doug Dent

A Celebration of The Lord's Supper

August 9 9:30am

"Justice Abounds In Love"

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

Chaplain Pete Konrad

August 16 9:30am

"God's Disownment Policy"

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Pastor Doug Dent

August 23 9:30am

"Early Hebrew Influencers"

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Pastor Doug Dent

August 30 9:30am

Hollis Davenport



Dates to Remember

Sunday, August 2

Communion

Wednesday, August 4

7:00pm Natalie & Saxon Bridal Shower

Sunday, August 9

9:30am Pete Konrad Preaching

Tuesday, August 11

6:30pm Ministry Nite

Thursday, August 13

6:30pm D&E Meeting

Saturday, August 15

Newsletter Deadline

1:00pm William Nuss Eagle Ceremony

Sunday, August 30

9:30am Hollis Davenport Preaching

Sunday, August 6

9:30am Minnesota Adult Teen Challenge

Monday, September 7

Labor Day

Church Office Closed

Sunday, September 13

Communion

Rally Day



The Virginia Declaration of Rights, published in June 1776, declared, "that the people of this colony can no longer groan under the heavy yoke of British tyranny." In his 1776 pamphlet *Common Sense*, Thomas Paine wrote, "'tis our duty to throw off the yoke of Britain." Upon the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, John Adams wrote to Abigail, "It has been a severe Trial, but the Yoke is broken and we are Free."

As our nation celebrates 250 years of independence and the throwing-off of the yoke of King George III, it is ironic and challenging to hear the words of King Jesus, "Take my yoke upon you" (Matthew 11:29). However, a closer look at the differences between these two yokes will underscore the grace of Jesus' invitation.

The Declaration of Independence lists 27 grievances against King George as proof of "the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States," which was a heavy yoke. At the conclusion of this catalog of complaints, Thomas Jefferson asserts, "In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people."

Compare the character of Jesus who says, "Take my yoke upon you." Instead of acting as a tyrant, Jesus is gentle and humble in heart. Instead of "a history of repeated injuries and usurpations" (a charge against King George), Jesus offers rest for the soul. Instead of a yoke of oppression and tyranny, Jesus offers an easy yoke and a light burden.

The idea of an easy and light yoke seems counterintuitive. The Lord commanded Jeremiah to make a yoke of straps and bars, put it on his neck, and speak to King Zedekiah, "Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people and live" (Jeremiah 27:2, 8, 12).

The Lord spoke through Isaiah, "Is this not the fast that I choose; to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?" (Isaiah 58:7).

Peter addressed the Jerusalem council and asked, "Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear?" (Acts 15:10).

Paul warned the believers in Galatia, "For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1).

These verses call to mind a single yoke. Jesus' yoke is a double yoke which lightens the load, enhances teamwork, and shares the burden between a seasoned animal that can teach a younger animal how to work properly. This helps explain Jesus' description of his yoke as easy, for the Greek adjective can be understood to mean fit for use, well-fitting, mild, and pleasant. Jesus' easy yoke stands in sharp contrast to a yoke as a metaphor for oppression or a harsh, legalistic system.

Jesus' invitation in Matthew 11:28-30 is given in the form of three imperatives: come, take, learn. Accepting his invitation and obeying his command brings rest for one's soul and implies a loyal and faithful obedience.

In Romans 7:15-25a, Paul describes life under the yoke of the law, which is controlled and abused by sin. He writes, "For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members" (Romans 7:22-23). In contrast, Jesus' easy yoke and light burden offer freedom to live in him and for God, emancipated from the oppressive yoke of legalism and sin. The gospel lesson calls us to a life of true freedom, free to love and serve God and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Like our national forefathers and foremothers, we are called to throw off the yoke of oppression by speaking truth, fighting tyranny, and seeking justice for all. Like our ancestors in the faith, we are called to take up the yoke with Jesus, which makes the burden easier to bear as it aligns our will with the will of God.

Blessings as you bear this yoke together!
Pastor Doug



Summer is in full swing! I hope you are all enjoying time with family and friends in the beautiful outdoors. Our summer started off with a fantastic Vacation Bible School week! We had around 30 participants and many older youth leaders, along with several adult volunteers. It was a fun-filled, active week with the theme "Hot-line to Heaven." We studied the Lord's Prayer and learned a new Bible story each day that featured prayer and how God reaches out to us. It is my hope that everyone involved in VBS found new ways to talk with God—because He is waiting for all of us to turn to Him. We made inspired crafts, learned some new songs, played lots of games, and enjoyed one another's company. Truly a successful week of worship, learning, and fellowship!

Our middle school and senior high youth played a big part in Vacation Bible School. We had tremendous young people who were excited to lead small groups and our gym activity time. Our adult volunteers designed unique crafts for each day. And, of course, we did our annual tie-dye t-shirt day! On Tuesday, our student leaders stayed after to help fill Boxes of Blessings, a mission project that we do annually during VBS. On Thursday, all our volunteers went out to eat at Fiesta Brava as a "Thank you!" for your time and love!

There are some important dates to highlight as we move toward autumn:

- September 15: The Tuesday women's Bible study will begin again at 11:15am in the parlor. We will continue our study of the Gospel of Luke.
- September 16: Kidz Club kicks off after school with bus transportation from Kennedy! We will be studying the book of Acts and learning about Christians around the world.
- September 16: Senior High youth group begins at 7:30 pm. We look forward to seeing everyone again each week!
- September 16: Confirmation begins, with 7th-8th grade students meeting after school (bus transportation provided) and 9th grade students meeting at 6:30.
- September 18-20: Our annual Confirmation Retreat at Clearwater Forest is set for this weekend. If you are a parent of a middle school student or someone who loves this age group, please consider being a part of this special time! We are always looking for adults who can positively impact our youth.





Church News

Church Office

The church office hours in August are from 10am 2pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-12pm on Fridays. The church office will be closed on Monday, September 7 for Labor Day.

Bridal Shower

Please join us for a monetary bridal shower for Natalie Vogel and Saxon Enders. Jane Nelson and Roxane Nereson will be hosting this on Wednesday, August 5 at 7pm at Federated Church. Please bring a favorite recipe for the couple. Please RSVP to Roxane at 218-736-2614 or 218-531-0003.

Vacations

Pastor Doug will be out of the office on Monday, August 17-Friday, August 21.

Pete Konrad will preach Sunday, August 9 and Hollis Davenport will preach Sunday, August 30.

Brianna will be on vacation August 31-September 7. If anyone is willing to help answer the phones in the office, please let me know. Friday would be from 9am - noon and Thursday and Monday from 10am - 2pm.

Kids Club Snack & Supper

It won't be long before Kids Club starts up again in the fall. If you would like to donate towards Kids Club meals, you can drop your check off in the church office or in the offering with Kids Club meals in the memo line. Thank you

Address Change

Just a reminder that if you have an address change to let the church office know.

Punky Loomer (Norma) has a new address. You can reach her at 802 S. Mill St. #121, Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

Local Mission

Thank you for your continued generosity with the Local Mission Fund! Those who are helped by this fund are extremely grateful for the extra support they receive during tough times. According to our policy, we are able to help each family or individual three times during a 12 month period, with up to \$100 a time, depending on funds. We assist with food, utilities, rent, and, in emergency situations, a night at a hotel. Donations can be put in the offering plate with Local Mission Fund in the memo line or dropped off in the church office. Thank you!

Thank You

We would like to thank you all for your love, support, and prayers during Dennis' health struggles and his passing. A very special thank you to Pastor Doug for being there for us-your support, love, prayers, and guidance meant so much to us. God bless you all for your kindnesses.

Bonnie Bergerud
Lori and Phil Kugler family
Lisa and Ross Johnson family

Coffee Hour

Women's - Tuesdays @10am
Men's - Fridays @ 10am
Fellowship Hour - Sundays @ 10:30am

Greeting

Brianna contacts members every month for greeters. If you have never been asked and would like to help, please let her know. I am starting to line up greeters for September. If you are available and willing to be greeter, please let me know.

Greeters are responsible for handing out bulletins, taking worship attendance, and passing the offertory. Thank you!



Committee News

Mission Committee

Join hands for Federated's Chore Corps in the fall!

Can you lend a helping hand? Or do you need a helping hand?

Members of our church's congregation are invited to join hands in our first Chore Corps on Saturday, Oct. 10. Organized by the Mission Committee, we're hoping to match willing volunteers with congregation members who need help with household tasks.

Those tasks could include:

- Mowing a yard
- Raking a yard
- Moving items of furniture
- Cleaning gutters
- Hanging pictures
- Light housecleaning
- Organizing/cleaning a cupboard or closet
- Tidying a garage
- Washing windows
- Weeding or cleaning a garden

The goal is to match pairs of volunteers with church members in need. Volunteers will gather at the church for pizza at 11 a.m. on Oct. 10, then head to their assigned work sites for the afternoon. The committee will have coordinators who match volunteers with requests for help, so everyone's talents can be put to the best use.

Watch for informational posters and sign-up flyers in the pews beginning in early September. If you have questions, you can leave them with Brianna in the church office, and organizers will get back to you.

Fellowship Committee

Get ready to kick off the Sunday School year with Rally Sunday on **September 13!!**

At 9:30am

- Worship
- K & 4th grade receive Bibles
- Blessing of the backpacks

At 10:30am

- Fellowship Committee will be serving Tacos and Taco in a Bag

2026-2027 Stewardship Campaign

In poker, when a player has good cards and wants to win big, they go "all in!" They bet everything they have reckoning that their cards are better than their opponent's cards.

We, as Christians, have the winning hand in Jesus Christ. In him our sins are forgiven, our lives are redeemed, and our eternal life assured. It just can't get any better than that!

Once again, our stewardship Initiative this year is "I'm IN." We are asking you to consider the winning hand you have as a Child of God. We are asking you to pledge your resources as a disciple of Jesus. We are asking you to go "all in," powerfully and prayerfully accompanied by the Holy Spirit, in your support of Federated Church.

Our Stewardship Initiative kicks off on September 21, 2026, and ends on October 18, 2026. You are invited to an informational meeting after worship on Sunday, October 4, 2026, in fellowship hall, for a conversation about budget priorities in 2027.

Thank you for being Invaluable to the success of our church's mission and ministries.





Our next senior member of Federated Church is Karen Hauck, who was born in Sioux Falls, SD in 1936. Karen spent most of her childhood years in Madison, MN, where her parents owned a bakery. She fondly remembers the wonderful smell of fresh baked bread. An important job she had as the oldest of 4 children, was when she proudly held her baby sister for her baptism. Karen felt fortunate to have both sets of grandparents living nearby, and remembers many family activities at the Lutheran Church she and her family attended. "Mostly Norwegian with about 1/4 German" is her ancestry.

Karen talked about lutefisk, but she did not have to eat it. She remembers many relatives around for Christmas. An interesting custom is that the men ate first, the women ate second, and the kids ate in the kitchen breakfast nook. Outdoor games were often played with so many cousins visiting. Karen officially met her husband to be, Don, following college. They actually grew up 6 houses from each other, but didn't notice each other until years later. They raised a daughter, Julie, and two sons, Paul and Steve. Years later, all three adult children were married in the same year.

Karen and Don owned three department stores in three different towns: Madison, Dawson, and Montevideo. In the 1980s, they saw things changing, and switched the stores into bridal shops. In 1998, they moved to Blanche Lake. Karen became choir director at Federated in August 2021. She shared how she was especially proud of the Christmas Concerts at Federated.



A bedtime prayer I taught my 3 children when they were young is as follows...

Father in heaven, hear my prayer
Keep me in thy loving care.
Be my guide in all I do,
Bless all those who love me too. Amen.

(Recently, I have been sharing this at the end of my visits, and everyone seems to like it.

Maybe because much like the Lord's Prayer—it covers almost everything.)

Greeters

August 2024

Sunday, August 2

Worship @ 9:30am w/ Communion

Mark & Sheila Rodning

Sunday, August 9

Worship @ 9:30am w/ Chaplain Pete Konrad

Matt & Donna Solin

Sunday, August 16

Worship @ 9:30am

Gerry Worner & Cindy Spidahl

Sunday, August 23

Worship @9:30am

John MacFarlane & Gloria Ronning

Sunday, August 30

Worship @9:30am

Landon Link & Gary Clambey

REMINDER: Greeters are responsible for handing out the bulletins, taking worship attendance, and passing the offering plate. The worship attendance sheet can be dropped off in the offering plate. If you are ever interested in greeting a certain Sunday, please let Brianna know in the church office. Check your email for reminders on greeter duties.

The church staff wants to know...

We rely on you to contact us with your email, phone or address changes. If you are not receiving our emails, but would like to, please contact to church office. Also contact us for pastoral care needs. Please call 218-739-3227 or email church@federatedff.org

Ministry Nite: August 11 - 6:30PM

Please email your minutes to church@federatedff.org. If you are unable to attend, please contact your chairperson. If your committee does not make a quorum, please schedule a time for your committee to meet before the next Ministry Nite. Church committees do not meet in July.

Stewardship Report

General Fund Report	
Revenue	\$253,624
Expenditures	\$213,237
Year to Date Pledge Offering	
Budgeted	\$206,260
Actual Received	\$235,500

Grocery Receipts THE GROCERY RECEIPTS

Service Food	
July	\$6,821.39

Newsletter Deadline

Articles and announcements are due the 15th of each month. Please send the by email whenever possible. The church staff reserves the right to edit articles for content and space.





Federated CHURCH

224 North Union Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time sensitive information
Please deliver by August 1st

Connect with Federated



August Birthdays

08/05	Barb Meder	08/26	Jen Jensen
08/07	Natalie Fransen	08/27	Lynn Oxley
08/07	Johanna Meder	08/27	Ryndel Vogel
08/08	Jerry Hendel	08/27	Xyola Macheel
08/09	Vern Youngren	08/27	Easton Eckhoff
08/10	Arthur Schlepp	08/27	Holden Stenstrom
08/11	William Kalar	08/29	Connie Seltz
08/12	Bonnie Gondrez	08/29	Tessa Schierer
08/12	Tayler Thomp son-Eckhoff	08/30	Renee Larsen
		08/31	Emma Barry
08/13	Joan Ebbighausen		
08/13	Emma Runningen		
08/14	Kim Dean		
08/16	Rachel Westra		
08/17	Kathy Gilbert		
08/20	Paul Shol		
08/20	Darren Smith		
08/21	Paula Davenport		
08/22	Benjamin Kugler		
8/22	Rayna Rodning		
08/23	Beverly Richter		
08/23	Jane Nelson		
08/24	Titus Christianson		



The Federated Church is a joint ministry
of The Presbyterian Church (USA) and
The United Church of Christ.

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