

**“AND THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE BY FAITH” (Habakkuk 2:4)**

***“AND THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE BY FAITH” (Romans 1:17)***

### *Voices of Faith at Faith*

Volume 31: April 26, 2026

To the beloved Faithful Islanders and beyond.

#### **SEEING LIFE and THINGS THROUGH THE LENS OF THE CROSS.....**

**I have gotten in trouble with some of my people because of how I look at things. In my 20s I began to formulate my own thoughts and statements, some of which were not favorable with others.**

**If you are old enough, you will know about “apartheid” in South Africa where majority Black people were oppressed by minority White people. The expectation was that each group would hate the other group. As I read about our history, in South Africa, also witnessed current events, it was very clear to me that what was going on in South Africa was not a war between Blacks and Whites but was a battle between good and evil. So, when I was doing presentations around the country concerning what was happening in South Africa a battle between good and evil and not Blacks against White was what I espoused.**

**Good and evil was a controversial stance among my own Black people, they didn’t believe I would characterize the suffering of the Black majority that way. I would go on to explain that there were many White people who died fighting for freedom for Black people. There were many Black people who sold out other Black people to the ruling White class for money, just like Judas Iscariot did, sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. So, the enemy was sometimes within.**

**Two of my brothers were political prisoners in South Africa. The first one was picked up at the border crossing between Swaziland**

**and South Africa for carrying Nelson Mandela’s book “No Easy Walk to Freedom,” a book that was banned in South Africa. My brother was taken to prison, the family was not informed, and we had no idea where he was for several weeks. Then my parents sent my eldest brother to go and search for him; he used the same border crossing which had been used by my missing brother. All that sent my eldest brother to prison was, “Are you related to so and so?” and when he said “Yes” that was his passport to prison.**

**They were both subjected to torture that I cannot describe here. Finally, they released my eldest brother but still we had no idea where my other brother was. A breakthrough...this White prison chaplain secretly got information about my family from my imprisoned brother. This chaplain knew that this young person was unjustly prisoned and he risked his life and career to open the gates of freedom for my brother and family. This White chaplain could have kept his mouth shut but he secretly called my parents and gave them all the information they needed to come to my brother’s aid. Gave them the date of his trial. And warned them to get a good civil rights attorney and be persistent about knowing that my brother was in that prison because the prison would lie and say there was no person with that name to their faces so that they leave and then they would send my brother to prison for a long time. My dad and the lawyer experienced the exact same thing the chaplain said was going to happen and finally they got to hear his case....long story!**

**What ended up happening. Both my brothers passports were revoked by the government. They were not allowed to travel outside of South Africa. Then the Black spies in our township bugged our home, constantly checked in with our family to see what was**

going on. Passed on information about our family to authorities. At that time I was a student at the University of Swaziland. I had to travel between the two countries. One of the scariest times was when I was going through the border crossing, and they kept me for an hour, scrolling through pages with pictures of people who were to be detained. They asked me several times if I knew the two guys with the same last name as mine, I said I didn't know any of those people, I came from a different city from those two and they finally released me. I had to deny knowing my brothers because I knew if I said I was related to them that would have been my ticket to prison. I had to change my identity to travel through a border crossing between the two countries. Knowing that the Black spies were reporting on our family my parents decided that I fly instead, and that is what I had to do for the rest of my college days.

**Seeing life and things through the lens of the cross, where the ground is always level.**

One of the most precious things I will hold close to my heart is a comment that was made by a White male when I was a Director of Pastoral Care at Franke at Seaside. He said, "Thulie, I have learned more about racism through you. The way you listened without judgement, lovingly confronted us with the truth while opening yourself up for the biases you have lived with and ways you have erred yourself."

Our kids were always told that they were not Black or not Black enough hence not allowed in African American spaces. And when our kids were hanging out with White people they were told that they were wanna be Whites. Seeing things through the lens of the cross, where the ground is always level, one knows that the battle we are fighting is good against evil. Remember, Christ is For All Nations and Peoples!!!

**And you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free" (John 8:32).**

We have come this far by faith, even if it's the size of a mustard seed, the smallest of plant seeds.

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Faith Lutheran Church received a CERTIFICATE OF THANKS from the South Carolina Synod, ELCA, for the generous benevolence gift of \$5,545.00 for 2025. Thank you Saints for your generosity.

**Thank you also to the Saints that brought food to share for our monthly fellowship time following the service on Sunday, April, 26.**

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**CELEBRATING THE MAY BIRTHDAY SAINTS:**



- 05/01 Karen Sykes
- 05/01 Madison Kasar
- 05/05 Jennifer Gainey
- 05/31 Pat Riecke

*Please let us know if we missed your birthday.*

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**REMEMBERING IN OUR PRAYERS:**

Mrs. Dukes, Andrea Brisbin, Trish Bradley's family at the passing of her father Carl Simmons, Roy Kimbrell, Bobby Bellah, Stephen Bellah, Nettie Poulnot's family and loved ones, Jimmy Farr's family, Pastor Josh Knutson's family and his congregations (Christ

Community Church, North Charleston and St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Moncks Corner) after his untimely death, Bishop Ginny Aebischer, Mike Shuey, Mikie Floyd, Ken Hems, Rick Hartley, Bobby Webb, Patricia Beruf, Reid Melton, Jay O'Neill, Phil Ammons, Pat Lane, Helena Bradford, Donna Porritt, Nettie Poulnot, Dolores Dukes, Matthew Sharbrough, Trisha Melton, Harry Rakowski.

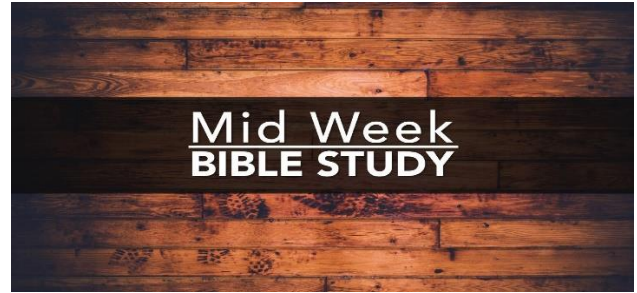
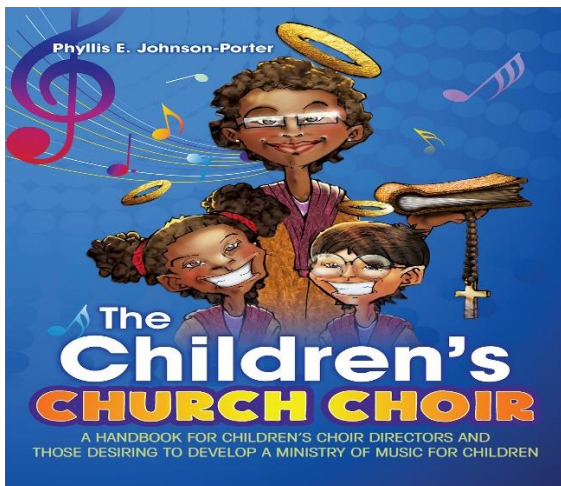
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**SERVING – Sunday, May 3, 2026**  
**Lector & Prayer Leader** David Lingle  
**Acolyte** Holden Ammons  
**Ushers** Rick Brisbin & Jim Jones  
**Communion Assistant** Wendi Ammons  
**Communion Prep** Debbie Jones

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**WE ARE STARTING A KID'S CHOIR**  
 We welcome children to join the choir. To qualify for the choir, each kid has to have a pulse and be ready to sing to the Lord for the sake of His world. Please let Pastor Thulie or Mandy Summers know if your youngie is in!!!



Midweek Bible Study will start back in May 2026. We will go back to meeting on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Oh, I didn't realize that the first Tuesday in May is Cinco de Mayo!!! We need to really have a blast on this day.



I have been working on the summary of the Book of Genesis which will be available by next week so that you can read ahead and send in questions or read ahead so you are ready to jump in!!!!

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**THAT'S ODD...**  
**Four men are in the hospital's waiting room because their wives are having babies. A nurse approaches the first guy and says, "Congratulations! You're the father of twins." "That's odd," answers the first man. "I work for the Minnesota Twins!" A nurse then yells to the second man, "Congratulations! You're the father of triplets!" "That's weird," answers the second man. "I work for the 3M company!" A nurse goes up to the third man saying, "Congratulations! You're the father of quadruplets." "That's strange," he answers. "I work for the Four Seasons hotel!" The last man begins groaning and banging his head against the wall. "What's wrong?" the others ask. "I work for 7Up!"**

Peace, Pastor Thulie