

**“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 38 June 22, 2026

**To the beloved Faithful Islanders and beyond.**

### **IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR....**

**Song below by Sly and Family Stone (1971)**

*It's a family affair, It's a family affair  
It's a family affair, It's a family affair*

*One child grows up to be  
Somebody that just loves to learn  
And another child grows up to be  
Somebody you'd just love to burn*

*Mom loves the both of them  
You see, it's in the blood  
Both kids are good to mom  
Blood's thicker than the mud*

*It's a family affair  
(It's a family affair)*

OUR TEXT FOR LAST SUNDAY  
(06/21/2026) WAS ABOUT JESUS NOT  
BRINGING PEACE INSTEAD A SWORD  
AND DIVISION AMONG FAMILIES...

*Matthew 10: 34-38 “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.”*

Jesus saying clearly He has come to bring the sword and not peace, and we all gasped!!!! As I have said before, God cannot expect us to have perfect families when God has not given us an example of a perfect family in the Bible. Those

of us who are partaking in the weekly Bible Study we touch on such family dysfunctions on a regular basis.

As having served so many congregations in my calling I have seen it all. Conflict within families and many of them hidden from the outside world. Society and culture have fashioned us to be clean cut to the outside world while suffering within ourselves and in our own homes and the world around us.

A pastor in the Myrtle Beach area killed his wife so that he can move in with his mistress...what was going on in the pastor’s house.  
(Conservative Church Body)

A pastor’s wife killed her husband in North Carolina because he was forcing her to be his stripper at home, forcing her to do all kinds of disgusting acts. The pastor was very charismatic, well loved by the congregation and community. The man of God who opened heavens for many because of who he was, but wait, this was going on at home. His wife had all the evidence and the jury believed her.  
(Conservative Church Body-Baptist)

A pastor in one of the southern states, a mayor of the town, and a business owner in the community. Well loved and respected by both his congregation and the community. A journalist ran into things the mayor was doing behind closed doors. Apparently, he was a cross dresser, and one of the things they said about him was that he was intending on transitioning into a woman, not sure if the transitioning part was confirmed but it was in the news. When the news reached the community and congregation, he defended himself and even had a special congregational meeting during the week and then ended his own life a few hours later. What was going on in his own family? (Conservative Church Body-Baptist).

I served in congregations where members of one family sit away from each other. And they were open enough to share with me that they don’t

get along and are just going to church because they are honoring their parents. You wonder, how does the ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS shape their lives? How does the SHARING OF THE PEACE during the service impact their lives? We have the peace in the service following the words of Jesus saying that if you have an issue with another person, before you give the offering you make peace with the person you are at odds with. So, does the sharing of the peace mean nothing but just a ritual!

I had adult kids who lived a stone throw from their mom and would not pick her up for worship. The mother was older and wasn't driving anymore but they would leave her at home, and she would hire someone to take her to church, and her children were in the same sanctuary.

Many years ago, it was common for families to come to church together as a unit. Kids would go to their Sunday School and adults would go to their Adult Sunday School. I don't know if we were getting along better as families then or we were just coming to worship as families because other people in the congregation were coming as families. Nowadays many of us come as individuals and I learned earlier in my ministry that you don't ask where the rest of the family is, you receive those who have come and leave it there.

My children were raised in the church. Church was a place of comfort for them. There was never a time when I would force my children to go to church, even as young adults living in our house. I just woke them up every Sunday morning, with breakfast ready, and said it's time to go to church. They got up and got ready and had their breakfast in the car as we were going to church. As adults, my children are not going to church. When I have gone to visit them on a weekend, I would tell them I am going to church, and they would ask me if they can come with me to church. What I know is that they

have not left God, they do their daily devotions and just have problems with the institution. Of course, they were witnesses to what I went through with the church and the pain inflicted on me and the family. But they also saw that amid all the struggles I never gave up on God, I am where I am because I have my faith in God and not necessarily on the institution. I know that my children have seen how I have lived life, imperfect yet faithful, and that has given them everlasting hope in the God who loves the world.

In our Gospel when Jesus says He has brought division, He means bringing the division that will eventually unite the families of the world and Church families. That we internalize the message of the Gospel, loving God and loving neighbor, and all using our gifts to build up one another...KABOOM PEACE!!! Building up one another does not mean that we cannot disagree and confront what goes against the Gospel.

My own interpretation of the SWORD Jesus brings is the instrument that breaks up our destructive ways in order to create PEACE. For if Jesus was just bringing peace in our fallen world without creating change for a better way of life for His followers that would not be fruitful..for St. Paul reminds us in Romans 6 that in our baptism we die with Christ and we are raised with Christ so that we live in newness of life. A seed must die in the ground for it to bring growth.

Praying for all our families that we could echo this song by Sister Sledge, "We Are Family."

***Woah, hello, hey  
We, we are family (yeah, woah)  
Hey, hey, hey***

***If you want a chance, just join your hands with us. If you want to get up, get up and sing, yeah***

**Chorus:**

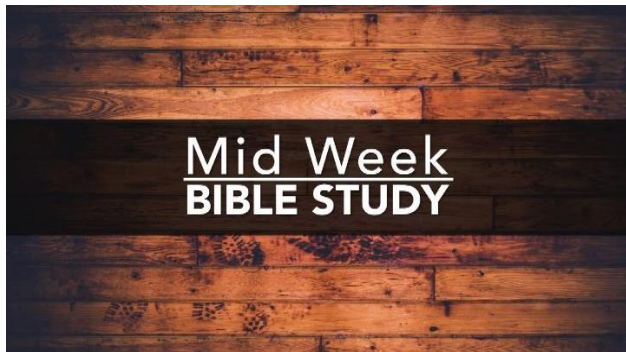
*We are family I got all my sisters with me  
We are family Get up everybody and sing  
We are family I got all my sisters with me  
We are family Get up everybody and sing*

*Everyone can see we're together  
As we walk on by (and)  
And we fly just like birds of a feather  
I won't tell no lie (all)  
All of the people around us, they say, yeah,  
yeah Can they be that close  
Just let me state for the record  
We're giving love in a family dose*

The song continues with further choruses, verses about living life and having faith, and a fade-out featuring the iconic chorus.

**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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Midweek Bible Study on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Come and Joins Us!!!! This coming Tuesday (06/23/2026) we will be going through Genesis 32 & 33. Two brothers are preparing to meet after a FAMILY FEUD the parents failed to solve.

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**I CONSTANTLY USE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THIS IS WHAT THE POPE IS SAYING ABOUT IT IN HIS ENCYCLICAL....**

**An encyclical is a formal pastoral letter issued by the Pope, primarily addressed to the bishops of the Roman Catholic Church, but frequently intended for all members of the Church and "all people of goodwill."**

**Its primary purpose is to provide authoritative guidance, moral clarity, or doctrinal teaching on contemporary issues, faith, and morals.**

Etymology and Origin

The word "encyclical" originates from the Latin *encyclicus* and the Greek *enkyklios*, which translates to "circular" or "general" (from *en-*, meaning "in," and *kyklos*, meaning "circle").

**Originally, it referred to a circular letter circulated among early Christian churches**

**May 15, 2026 — Pope Leo XIII published his Encyclical Rerum Novarum in 1891, artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics are transforming our world.**

AI Overview

**Pope Leo XIV's historic 2026 encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas* (Magnificent Humanity), is the Catholic Church's sweeping moral treatise on artificial intelligence. Signed at the Vatican, the document lays out an ethical baseline to safeguard human dignity in the digital age.**

Vatican News

Key takeaways from the encyclical include:

- **The Core Premise:** Technology is not inherently evil, but it is not neutral. AI must serve human flourishing rather than being a tool for power, optimization, or corporate greed.
- **Labor and Economics:** The pursuit of efficiency cannot systematically sacrifice human jobs. The pope calls for robust retraining programs, just wages, and an end to dehumanizing labor conditions in the AI supply chain (such

as underpaid content moderators and child labor in rare-earth mining)

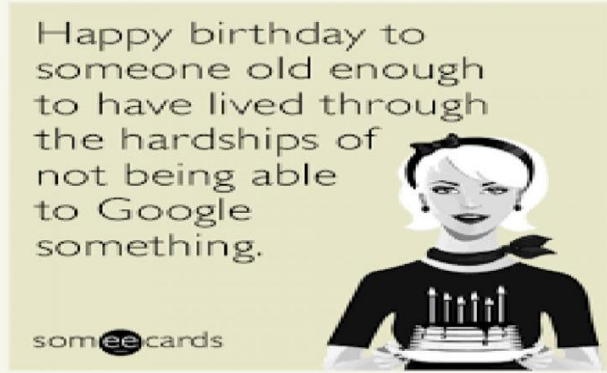
- Human Limitations: The document warns against the temptation to view human limits—such as illness, aging, and vulnerability—as mere "defects to be corrected". Humanity often flourishes through its inherent limitations, which computers cannot replicate.
- Ethics and Governance: Pope Leo calls for the regulation of private companies, independent oversight, and the "disarming" of AI in warfare, specifically outlawing artificial intelligence in autonomous, lethal weapons

**Saints, we are overdue for SPRING CLEANING (indoor/outdoor)**



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**CELEBRATING THE JUNE BIRTHDAY SAINTS:**



06/12 Kevin Ammons  
06/12 Muriel Bellah  
06/12 Helena Bradford

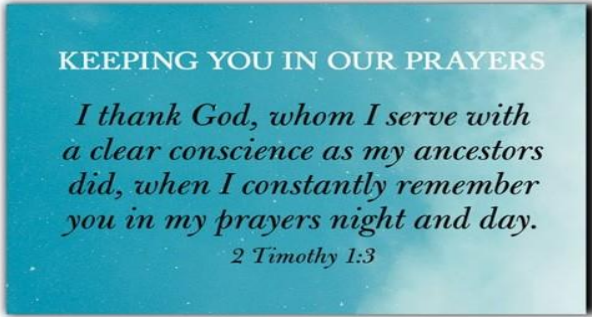
*Please let us know if we missed your birthday.*

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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!!!**



**Let's think forward to the End of School Year Intergeneration Putt Putt Golf Event...** I stopped by the new Sea Island Minigolf & Arcade and talked to a couple there. They were really excited about hosting our event. In addition to golf there is a beautiful arcade with tons of interesting games. Let's do it good people....Please let pastor know if you will be joining us for this fun event!



**REMEMBERING IN OUR PRAYERS:**

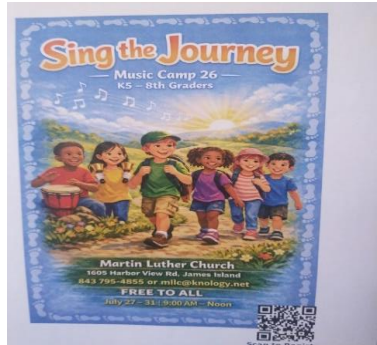
Charles Ritcher’s family (former longtime member of Faith Lutheran Church), Bobby Bellah, Mrs. Dukes, Andrea Brisbin, Trish Bradley’s family at the passing of her father Carl Simmons, Roy Kimbrell, Stephen Bellah, Nettie Poulnot’s family and loved ones, Jimmy Farr’s family, Pastor Josh Knutson’s family 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, June 28, 2026  
**Lector & Prayer Leader** Holden Ammons  
**Acolyte** Simon Gainey  
**Ushers** Jimmy Sykes & Jim Jones  
**Communion Assistant** Anthony Gainey  
**Communion Prep** Karen Sykes

**Our sister congregation Martin Luther Lutheran Church in James Island has a music camp from Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. Several other Lutheran congregations are participating in this music event, and I plan on being there too. Registration forms are in the narthex.**



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**SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

Anthony Gainey for finding us guest musicians through Facebook. So nice to have younger people who know how to get things done.

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**Pentecost Season is the time of growth in our faith. Isolate one thing in your life that will show you have grown in your faith during this Season; growth does not include growing in size....LOL!!!**

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**WORDS OF.....FROM SOURCES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN**

**“I just got my electric bill, when y’all come over please use the flashlight on your phone.”**

“Somebody stole my coworker’s money, so I asked how much. She said \$350. I went to the restroom to count it...it was only \$85.00. Why do people act like that?”

**“A man kills 5 flies...he walks into the kitchen and tells his wife that 3 of them were male and 2 of them were female. The wife confused. How do you know? She asked him. Well, there were 3 on the beer bottle and 2 on the mirror, he replied.”**

“If my bank account can just touch the hem of Jesus’ garment.”

**“If you’re reading this...I pray your stomach gets flat without even working out.”**

“Lord, I bring my belly fat before you as a burnt offering. Amen.”

**“You think I’m a nice person just wake me up from sleep for no reason then you’ll see.”**

“If an octopus has 8 legs and an octagon has 8 sides, why October not the 8<sup>th</sup> month?”

**“You have a mansion in heaven and you’re struggling to pay rent. Why not go home?”**

“Changed my prayer from ‘Give us the daily bread’ to ‘Give me the whole bakery.’ I ain’t playing this year!

**“Please don’t take selfies in bed when your pillows look like used teabags.”**

“Facebook keeps notifying me about people’s birthdays like I bake cakes or something.”

**“When someone is ignoring your messages just text them ‘I heard something about you’ and then ignore them too.**

“A question was asked why men don’t confide in their wives about their problems and frustrations and one answered, ‘you cannot discuss your malaria with the mosquito.’”

Peace, Pastor Thulie