



Focus on Faith



“I can’t imagine my life without Faith”

When recently asked what Faith Lutheran has meant to her, this was Elaine McLean’s response. It is equally hard to imagine Faith Lutheran without Elaine McLean.

One of Elaine’s first introductions to the Lutheran church was through the church choir at a Lutheran church close to her home at the time in Arizona. Elaine was looking to join a church choir and the Lutheran church was nearby. This proved fortuitous when Elaine met her future husband Mac in Arizona. Mac was a lifelong Lutheran from the Midwest. They were soon married in the Lutheran church and eventually found themselves at Wayne State College in Nebraska, where Mac started his university teaching career. Soon after, Mac was offered a teaching job at Miami University and they moved to Oxford (sight-unseen for Elaine) in 1966. This is when Elaine’s now 58-year relationship with Faith Lutheran began!

Moving to Oxford in August of 1966, Elaine and Mac found Faith Lutheran Church within a month and Elaine has been an active member ever since. Elaine jumped right into volunteer roles at the church, serving on the altar committee by her first Easter in Oxford. Over the years, she sewed and ironed some of the altar cloths used for services. She and Mac also both taught Sunday school and spent years caring for the gardens facing Bern Street. One of her biggest enjoyments is participating in church choir. Initially only able to be a part-time choir participant due to on-call duties in her nursing career, she has enjoyed full-time choir participation since retirement. “They haven’t told me I can’t come back yet” laughs Elaine as she recounts her time in the choir. Elaine also enjoys playing the flute for the congregation on certain Sundays, which is a treat for everyone.

Elaine also says that she and Mac kept coming back to Faith over the years due to the friendliness of long-time members and points to many long-time Oxford friends that she initially met at church. She enjoys seeing new members as well, especially the children. Elaine firmly believes in supporting the church any way that she can through volunteering as well as financially and mentioned that early in their marriage she and Mac would sit down with the family budget regularly to determine how they can support the church and other charitable causes.

Through her time and energy, Elaine’s presence has been felt at Faith Lutheran since she and Mac first decided to attend as new Oxford residents years ago and it continues to this day. Faith Lutheran is certainly better for it.