

FAITH Lutheran Church
Offering Christ-Centered Childcare and Preschool
4241 Williamson Road
P.O. Box 242
Bridgeport, MI 48722

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FOCUS ON FAITH
December, 2021



MISSION STATEMENT: In responding to God's great love to us in Christ Jesus, FAITH Lutheran Church dedicates itself to the continual growth of Christ's Church in Bridgeport, in all of Michigan and the United States of America, and into all of the world through....

- Fellowshiping around the Gospel (*Acts 2:42*)
- Administering the Means of Grace (*1 Cor. 4:1*)
- Investing our time and talents (*2 Cor. 9:7, 8*)
- Teaching the Christian FAITH (*2 Tim. 2:2*)
- Helping those in need (*Matt. 25:40*)

Professional Staff:

Rev. Timothy Behnke, Pastor, 989-401-8537,

E-Mail: heiditim@netzero.com

Karlie Fournier, Preschool and Childcare Director, 989-777-2702

E-Mail: faithluthpreschoolandchildcare@gmail.com

Barb Swanson, Secretary, 989-777-2600

Serving at FAITH in December

Elders:

December 5 Steve Dedyne, Archie Swanson
December 19 Tom Harris, Ed Gubbins
December 24 5:30pm Gary Green, Andy Hoffmann
December 24 9:00 pm Mike Hastedt, Archie Swanson
December 25 9:00 am Steve Dedyne, Mike Hastedt

Altar Guild: Heidi Behnke, Dorothy Dedyne, Denise Mosey

Fellowship: Doug & Linda Williams

Ushers:

December 5 Group 1
December 12 Group 1
December 19 Group 2
December 26 Group 2

Group 1

Roger Bond
Josh Bond
Ron Reinbold

Group 2

Bill Niedrich
Joe Sylvester
Tim Ross
Matt Hoffmann

Lector:

December 5 Denise Mosey
December 12 Mindy Hoffmann
December 19 Children's Program
December 26 Archie Swanson

Kidz' Word:

December 5 Mindy Hoffmann
December 12 Archie Swanson
December 19 Children's Program
December 26 Doug Williams

Greeters:

December 5 Rachel Szaroletta, Linda Williams
December 12 Heidi Behnke, Karen Brush
December 19 Shirley Lehman, Don & Judy Christiansen
December 26 Ed & Louise Davis, Steve & Dorothy Dedyne



Joy.

Advent is here and Christmas is just around the corner. This is many people's favorite time of the year. There are many joyous activities associated with this season, such as exchanging presents, family get-togethers, parties and the like. It is also one of the busiest times of the year with all the shopping and extra activities. It is easy to get overwhelmed and tired, thus losing some of the joy of this time of year.

It was also busy when Christ was born, but there was not a lot of joy. Caesar Augustus had called for a census and many people had to pack up and leave their home to go to their ancestral home. Mary and Joseph were two of these and I am sure the journey was not easy since Mary was at the end of her pregnancy. I'm sure there was not much joy as they traveled and found humble accommodations. However, that all changed when the baby was born and not just the normal joy of a baby being born. Angels sang for joy to the shepherds and the shepherds rejoiced to see the long awaited Messiah. Christ the Savior was born!

In the midst of this busy season, I hope you find joy, partly from the activities, but mostly for the same reason the shepherds and angels rejoiced. I hope you find joy in the miracle of Christmas. God in Christ became one of us in order to save us for all eternity. Christ the Savior is born!

--To God be the glory--

Pastor Tim Behnke

It's Lutheran Witness time! This is the time of year when you have the opportunity to order or renew subscriptions of The Lutheran Witness, the official periodical of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. New this year! Michigan In Touch now appears as a supplement in all 11 issues. The Lutheran Witness provides laypeople with stories and information that complement congregational life, foster personal growth in faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. Cost is \$11.60 due December 7, 2021 please call the church office if you would like to order a copy.

Blood Drive: FAITH is hosting a Blood Drive on Wednesday, December 8th 2-7 p.m. Please stop by the Fellowship Hall to donate.

Food Distribution: The next date for our Food Distribution is December 9. Please see Ed Gubbins if you have any questions.

Voters' Meeting: FAITH's Voters will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 14th. The main items on the Agenda will be to review and adopt a proposed congregational budget for 2022 and Vote on the new slate of Officer's for 2022.

Faith Lutheran Preschool and Childcare Newsletter: The December Newsletter for Preschool and Childcare is located on the table by the Preschool desk.

December

Birthday

- 3 Lee Hoffmann
- 4 Ferris Finerty
- 6 Matt Hoffmann
- 12 Mike Klein, Rachel Tanner
- 14 Skip Frounfelter, Nick Koehr
- 15 Abigail Burns
- 16 Cindy Padgett, Gary Green
- 17 Sandra Davis, Brandon Gubbins, Noah Behnke
- 20 Tom Harris, Richard Herzberg
- 22 Dearaine Gubbins
- 26 Robert Flathau
- 28 David Cook
- 31 Doug Williams



*infant/child

Anniversaries

- 12 Matt & Marla Hoffmann
- 20 Glen & Geraldine Padgett



If we have missed anyone or made an error, please call the church office at

777-2600 so corrections can be made. Thank You!

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
NOVEMBER ITEM OF INTEREST**

Pastor Timothy Behnke reported that he led 4 Sunday Worship Services, 4 Monday Night Worship Services, and 4 Preschool Chapels. **Pastoral Care:** 14 Prayer contacts/care, 5 Office visits, 4 Hospital/Shut-in, 1 Home visits, 5 Supervision, and 4 others. **Pastor** and the elders are monitoring Covid-19 and will modify worship practice according.

Property and Finance: Dwight McNally reported that budget receipts through October \$434,255.27 which is \$120,060.87 behind of budget receipts for the same period in 2020. This is due to a large donation received March 2020. Preschool/Childcare receipts through October totaled \$241,387.91. This is \$37,288.44 ahead of the same period last year, again due to a COVID grant received in February. Budget receipts through October were \$54,936.73 behind budget requirements.

Preschool/Childcare: Barb Swanson reported that they have 48 children enrolled. Total tuition for October \$18,605.00. The Christmas Program is December 15th. The children will tell the story of the birth of Jesus.

Elders: Ed Gubbins reported that we will be having the Advent Suppers starting with Monday, November 29th at 5:30. Watch for the signup sheets.

Outreach: The next Food Distribution is December 9th. The next Blood Drive is December 8th 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Respectively Summited, Denise Mosey

DECEMBER WOMEN OF FAITH

Women of FAITH met Thursday, November 18th. Thirteen women enjoyed fellowship and decorating cookies for the Bazaar.

Book Club is reading "Our Daily Biscuit." This is a devotion with a drawl, by Todd Starnes and Michelle Cox. If you have any questions, see **Shirley Lehman**

FAITHful Sew-ers have been busy making quilts. Thank you for your service to **FAITH** and our Lord.

Son-Shines continue to send cards to our homebound friends and our church members. If you have any questions, see **Edna Walentovic** and **Betty Moggo**.

Church Store will be open each Sunday in December to serve our church members. We have an assortment of nuts and chocolates for your Christmas gift. If you have any questions, see **Susan Koehr** and **Terri Buchinger**.

Thank you to everyone who helped and bought items from the Bazaar.

Thank you to **Heidi Behnke** for keeping the parsonage sign current.

Upcoming events: Advent by Candlelight, December 5th

We will not meet in December our next meeting is January 20th at 5:30 p.m.

Take time to see the true meaning of Christmas the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

"With God All Things are Possible" Matthew 19:26
President, Denise Mosey

Women of FAITH Invite you to join us for
Seasons of Advent
Sunday, December 5
4:00pm



How can you participate?

Be a guest-bring a dish to pass, enjoy the evening

****If you had a secret pal from the last one, bring a reveal gift. If you didn't have a pal but would like to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a gift!**

Sign up board is at the friendship station. We look forward to a fun and joy-filled evening! If you have any questions, please ask or call Heidi Behnke at 989-996-0671.

Free Gift Wrapping

Faith Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 11th
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



Drop off starts at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and
pickup before 1:00 p.m.

Don't have wrap, bags or bows? Don't worry, WE DO!
You can bring your own wrap for us to use, choose from
the various designs available or let your wrapper choose!



Event sponsored by the FAITH Outreach and Connection team

FAITH Lutheran Preschool and Childcare

**Present:
Back to Bethlehem**



Join us: December 15, 2021
6:00 p.m.

*All the children at FAITH Preschool and
Childcare are participating in telling the story
of the birth of Jesus!*

Dinner will be provided!

The cost is free. Please sign up at the
Preschool desk if you plan on attending.



Historical Society of Bridgeport
(989) 777-5230

6190 Dixie Hwy.

“Christmas Concert”
*With Eva Stone & Jeff Scott, and
Jen Naegele & Jake Priest*

When: Thursday December 16, 6:00pm

**Where: Town Hall in the Historic Village
6190 Dixie Hwy. Bridgeport**





Faith Lutheran Church has adopted a family for Christmas. If you would like to buy a gift or gift card please return it to the church in the box marked "Adopted Family" before Sunday, December 19. Below is a list of gifts needed.

Girl 13:

Size 1 in Jr. Pants

Small size shirts

Coat size small

Hat

Bracelets/Necklaces

Boy 17:

Amazon gift card

Pants size 30 waist

Medium coat

Medium size shirts

Bed sheets

Parents:

Gift cards to Meijer or Walmart, A Christmas Food basket

Please see Barb Swanson or call the church office 989-777-2600 if you have any questions.