

2022 FAITH Lutheran Church
Offering Christ-Centered Childcare and Preschool
4241 Williamson Road
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Bridgeport, MI 48722

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FOCUS ON FAITH
December, 2023



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....

- **Fellowshipping 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 3	Archie Swanson
December 17	Andy Hoffmann
December 24	9:00 am Bill Stroup 5:30 pm Archie Swanson 9:00 pm Tom Harris
December 25	9:00 am Bill Stroup

Altar Guild: Heidi Behnke, Dorothy Dedyne, Laurie Lisk

Ushers:

December 3	Group 1	December 10	Group 2
December 17	Group 2	December 24	Group 3
December 31	Group 3		

Group 1
Ron Reinbold

Group 2	Group 3
Bill Niedrich	Jim Jordan
Joe Sylvester	Bob Ferchau
Tim Ross	Tom Pierce
Matt Hoffmann	

Lector:

December 3	Rachel Szaroletta
December 10	Don Christiansen
December 17	Youth Program
December 24	Pastor Behnke
December 31	Heidi Behnke

Kidz' Word:

December 3	Doug Williams
December 10	Mindy Hoffmann
December 17	Youth Program
December 24	Laurie Lisk
December 31	Doug Williams

Greeters:

December 3	Shirley Lehman; Lance & Abbie Burns
December 10	Louise Davis; Don Christiansen
December 17	Shirley Lehman; Matt & Marla Hoffmann
December 24 9am	Diane Gubbins; Dearaine Gubbins
5:30 pm	Linda Williams; Steve & Dorothy Dedyne
December 31	Alyse Notter; Kathy Jordan

Holiday Hope.

As we enter the holiday season beginning with Thanksgiving and ending with New Year's Day with Christmas sandwiched in between, it occurs to me that this season is about hope as much as anything else. I don't mean hope for good Christmas presents or family getting along, though those might be part of it. I am talking about the hope of something better for the future.

It begins with Thanksgiving as we look back on the year and thank God for what happened while hoping we will have as much to be thankful in the year to come. Then advent brings hope as we look forward to Christmas, but also the sure and certain hope of Christ coming again and the struggle being over. Then comes Christmas with the hope fulfilled in Jesus Christ, our Immanuel (God with us). Finally, New Year's comes with resolutions and the hope of a better year.

It makes sense that the holiday season is about hope because it is centered on the hope fulfilled in the long awaited arrival of the Messiah in that child born in Bethlehem. Hope fulfilled as that child would grow and eventually die on the cross so we could live with him forever. Hope fulfilled so we could become children of God with an incredible inheritance. It's easy to forget this hope in the busyness of the season. So this holiday season, enjoy all that it has to offer, but don't forget the hope that comes with it. Hope fulfilled and hope for things to come.

--To God be the glory--

Pastor Tim Behnke

December

Birthday

- 3 Lee Hoffmann
- 4 Ferris Finerty
- 6 Matt Hoffmann
- 12 Mike Klein
- 14 Skip Frounfelter, Nick Koehr
- 15 Abigail Burns
- 16 Cindy Padgett, Gary Green
- 17 Saundra 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!

Women of FAITH Invite you to join us for our
Christmas Party
Sunday, December 3
2:00pm



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!**

Come enjoy great fellowship and good food. Our Fresh Baked Cookie Sale is December 9th 9-3 p.m. We will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be January 17th at 5:30 p.m.

Voters' Meeting: FAITH's Voters will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 19th. The main item on the Agenda will be to review and adopt a proposed congregational budget for 2024.

Food Distribution: The next date for our Food Distribution is December 14. Please see Ed Gubbins if you have any questions.

Advent 2023: FAITH's special Advent services begin on Monday, December 4th, at 7:00 p.m. This year's theme is *Peace Came to Earth*. Seeking peace by our own efforts is an endless pursuit, but God instructs us with a peace that surpasses understanding. He gives us peace in five separate ways that meet our needs, perhaps before we even know them. This peace comes through the birth of Jesus. Using a five-point Christmas star as a metaphor, see the five ways Jesus brings us peace from God as the Prince of Peace. These services are not the same as FAITH's Sunday morning services, but are special services designed to help us during the hectic holiday season to prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ.

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 \$19.00 due December 7, 2023 please call the church office if you would like to order a copy.

Does your Christmas lack fulfillment? Are you exhausted by all the hassles? Come and learn about the greatest gift of all at the 27th Annual Living Nativity A Journey to Bethlehem presented by Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church 8220 E. Holland Rd. in Saginaw. Friday, December 1st-7-9pm; Saturday, December 2nd 6-8pm; and Sunday, December 3rd 6-8 pm.

**Advent Soup Suppers
Monday
5:30 pm-6:45 pm followed by
Advent Worship Service at 7:00 pm**



**Hosts:
Monday, December 4th Board of Elders
Monday, December 11th Women of Faith
Monday, December 18th Men's Ministry**

**There is a sheet on the counter in the Narthex
to sign up to bring a dish to share.**

All are welcome to join us! Free will donation.

Fresh Baked Cookie Sale
Gifts, Dolls and Quilts!
Saturday, December 9, 2023
9-3:00 p.m.



Our FAITHful Sew-ers will have a table with Quilts *and other items will be for sale, as well as fresh baked goods and of course our Famous Fresh Cookies!*



FAITH Lutheran Preschool and Childcare

Present: Back to Bethlehem



Join us: December 13, 2023
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 following the program.

