

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

Phone: 989-777-2600 Fax: 989-777-5069

E-Mail: faithluthchurch@yahoo.com Web: faithlutheranbridgeport.org

FOCUS ON FAITH
September, 2020



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, Director Preschool/Childcare 989-777-2702

Barb Swanson, Secretary 989-777-2600

Ryan Swanson, Custodian 989-777-2600

Sandy Davis, Treasurer 989-777-2600

Serving at FAITH in September

Elders:

Steve Dedyne, Tom Harris, Archie Swanson, Kevin Spencer

Altar Guild: Dorothy Dedyne, Karin Reinbold

Ushers:

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| September 6 | Group 4 |
| September 13 | Group 1 |
| September 20 | Group 1 |
| September 27 | Group 2 |

Ushers:

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| Group 4 | Group 1 | Group 2 |
| Dean Notter | Roger Bond | Matt Hoffmann |
| Austin Notter | Josh Bond | Bill Niedrich |
| Ron Brush | Ron Reinbold | Joe Sylvester |
| Steve Dedyne | Jamie Rutherford | Tim Ross |
| Tom Gerken | | |

Kidz' Word:

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| September 6 | Doug Williams |
| September 13 | Mindy Hoffmann |
| September 20 | Archie Swanson |
| September 27 | Doug Williams |

Change

Fall is a time for change. It may not be New Year's Day, but it is a time when the year seems to change, especially if you have school age children. The things we do in summer are coming to an end. The school year begins with all of the activity associated with it. This includes school shopping, earlier bedtimes and sports. It also means, for us at Faith, Sunday school and confirmation classes begin again. There is Rally Day and other activities put on hold for the summer begin again. It can be a time of excitement and renewed attendance in church. It can be a time to reacquaint ourselves with our church family and friends.

This change is pretty much the same very year, except that this year the change is different. Like it or not, the pandemic has created a new normal. Many things have been put on hold and changed. Sports have been canceled or are in danger of being so. Children return to school with many new rules, such as masks or maybe part-time attendance. Some will struggle with remote learning. Church picnics are canceled or postponed. Rally Day will be different. Sunday school will be different. Our lives are different.

This became clear to us as our daughter, Eliana, began college at Grand Valley State this last week. Two years ago, Danielle and Gigi started college and we dropped them off at their universities amid a bunch of scheduled activities to get them acquainted with college life. Now, orientation and college life have changed. They only have single rooms and people must be masked. Doors are

shut that normally would be open and it is so much harder to meet people and figure what one is to do. The new normal is not always friendly or easy.

All of you are experiencing change as well. There is often isolation, or at least, reduced contact with people. When we do see people, they are often masked, which seems to put a barrier between us. Things and activities that we would normally do are canceled or changed. We don't know when this will end or even ease up. Sometimes, it is hard to find stability in all of this.

However, amidst the change, one thing doesn't change. *"God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow."* His love doesn't change. His protection doesn't change. His forgiveness doesn't change. His working all things for the good of those who love him doesn't change. True, God is allowing all of this to happen, but he is still guiding it to his purpose. We may not know the details of that purpose, but we do know that it is part of his plan to restore all things and for us to be with him forever. I guess some things never change; thanks be to God.

--To God be the glory--

Pastor Tim Behnke

September



- 1 Tim Sawatski
- 3 Mary Hoffmann, Terrance Lisk
- 4 Billie Ayala
- 5 Laurie Lisk
- 6 Marge Beeckman
- 7 Karen Webber, Robert Kartz
- 9 Dwight McNally
- 11 Jill Notter
- 12 Haley Stroup
- 14 Kenton Hoffmann, *Caidence Britton
- 17 Heidi Behnke
- 19 Linda Gerken
- 22 Steven Whitmore
- 24 Sharril McNally
- 25 Robert Ferchau, Mike Lambkin
- 27 Eliana Behnke
- 28 *Hannah Stroup
- 29 Justin Lewis, Emily Hoffmann,

**Children*

Anniversaries



- 6 Tom & Kathy Harris
- 8 Terrance & Laurie Lisk
- 10 Steven & Jean Whitmore
- 13 Lewis & Stacey Butzin
- 19 Roger & Lisa Bond
- 28 Wesley & Meghan Wininger
- 30 Wayne & Kim McLean

If we have missed anyone or made an error, please call the Church office at 777-2600 so corrections can be made. Thank you!

INTRODUCING MEMBERS OF FAITH

Archie and Barb (nee Davis) **Swanson** were married on May 9, 1988 in Burt, Michigan. Archie was born in El Monte, California and Barb was born in Owosso, MI. Their marriage is blessed with three children: Stacy and Tim McAuliffe who live in Birch Run; Ryan and Kelley who live in Bridgeport; and Zachary who lives in Ann Arbor. They also are blessed with six grandchildren: June (8), Kalen (7), Damien (5), Jordan (3), Roselynn (1), and Madison (3 months).

Previously the Swansons attended Faith Lutheran Church in Saginaw. Archie and the children joined FAITH in Bridgeport September 8, 1998 by transfer and Barb by Adult Confirmation on April 4, 1999.

Both Archie and Barb taught Sunday School and VBS and served on our Fellowship Committee. Archie is an elder and a trained Stephen Minister. Barb is a member of our Board of Property and Finance.

Barb is employed as our Church Secretary here at FAITH and Archie at Suite Solutions, a Cable & Internet Provider. Archie is also attending Mott College studying Culinary Arts to enhance his catering skills.

The Swansons enjoy camping. Barb likes to garden and read. Archie is interested in watching sports, hunting, and fishing.

To the Swansons, God's love means that He will carry them through no matter what they are dealing with. He will never leave them or forsake them.

Their one desire for FAITH is that we be open to our surrounding Bridgeport Community.



Valley's 21st Annual Golf Scramble for Student Aid will be Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020 at Apple Mountain Golf Course. We are working diligently to ensure the meaningful event remains safe and fun for all participants. Cost is \$70 per golfer this year since we are not able to hold the banquet at this time.

Brochures are available in the school office or can be downloaded at www.vlhs.com/golf. Registration form, sponsorship sign-up, and payment may be mailed or dropped off to: *Valley Lutheran High School 3560 McCarty Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603*. In addition to golfing, there are numerous opportunities for corporations, businesses, and individuals to support Valley Lutheran through this charitable event. Sponsorship includes:

- Recognition in the Golf Outing program
- A sign prominently displayed at the event

All sponsorship packages are 100% tax deductible, except the Corporate Package, which has a \$280 tax credit. For more information about this event call or email our Director of Development, Kyle DeWees at (989) 790-1676 or kdewees@vlhs.com.

The Church store will be open on Sunday, September 12th after the 10:00 service. New journals, devotionals, and other booklets are available, along with a selection of hot pads, dish cloths and Witness for Jesus Bracelets. A new supply of Thanksgiving and Christmas cards should be arriving soon. Don't forget your Secret Sister! If you have any questions or wish to order something, please contact Susan Koehr or Terri Buchinger.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Women of Faith are collecting the following items to make Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We will be collecting throughout the rest of 2020 and into the first half 2021.

- Towels should be light to medium weight. Between the sizes of 20"x40" and 52"x27". Dark colors are recommended.
- Bath-size bars of soap. 8-9 oz individually wrapped.
- Adult sizes toothbrush
- Sturdy hair comb
- Metal nail clippers

There is a collection basket at the two main entrances of the church. Please consider donating items or a monetary gift to this worthy cause. No one should be without the basic hygienic necessities that we take for granted on a daily basis. If you have any questions, please see Susan Koehr or Laurie Lisk. Thank you and God's Blessings!