

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
March, 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:

Pastor, Timothy Behnke, 989-401-8537

E-Mail: heiditim@netzero.com

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

Barb Swanson, Secretary, 989-777-2600

Sandy Davis, Treasurer, 989-777-2600

Serving at FAITH in March

Elders:

March 5	Archie Swanson
March 19	Archie Swanson

Altar Guild: Terri Buchinger, Sandy Stroup

Ushers:

March 5	Group 4
March 12	Women of Faith
March 19	Group 1
March 26	Group 1

Usher List:	Group 1	Group 4	Women of Faith
	Ron Reinbold	Dean Notter	Laurie Lisk
		Austin Notter	Sandy Stroup
		Ron Brush	Patti Baughman
			Dorothy Dedyne

Lector:

March 5	Mary Sylvester
March 12	Heidi Behnke
March 19	Laurie Lisk
March 26	Don Christiansen

Kidz' Word

March 5	Laurie Lisk
March 12	Doug Williams
March 19	Archie Swanson
March 26	Mindy Hoffmann

Greeters:

March 5	Alyse Notter; Kathy Jordan
March 12	Matt & Marla Hoffmann; Ron & Karin Reinbold
March 19	Dean & Jill Notter; Linda Williams
March 26	Shirley Lehman; Rachel Szaroletta

Grace

It is Lent again and that means midweek services. This year, our midweek services are based upon the hymn “Amazing Grace” since it is the 250th anniversary of the hymn being written. Our messages are based on how God’s amazing grace has transformed the lives of several individuals from the Bible. That got me thinking about grace and how God’s amazing grace affects and transforms us as his people.

You may have heard that grace is “*God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense*” and that is not a bad way to describe it. Grace from a Christian perspective is simply God’s undeserved favor towards us. It’s how he treats us and is a reflection of his love. It’s why nothing can separate from that love in Christ Jesus because it’s not dependent on us, but on who he is and what Christ has done for us. It’s not something we have to worry about or work for. It’s just there and it is constant in Christ Jesus.

It is also our privilege as his people to reflect this grace to other people. That is one of the ways that people will see Christ in us and our actions. We do this when we treat people better than they deserve. This includes forgiving them unconditionally without being asked just as Christ forgives us. It means viewing people with compassion, not annoyance, knowing that you do not know all that they are going through. It means always putting the best construction on others actions when our inclination is to assume the worst. It means to love others and treat them well even when they are unlovable.

In other words, it means treating others as Christ treats us. This is not easy or natural, so we only can do this in the power of God’s love and grace. We do this by asking God for the desire and strength to do this as well as the eyes to see people as he sees them. It means remembering God’s grace towards us and letting it transform us so it can flow from us. It means trusting him to work through you.

My prayer for all of us this season is that we all grow in God’s amazing grace and reflect his grace more and more everyday so that people see Christ in us to glory of God the Father.

March

Birthdays

- 1 Christine Klein
- 2 Brian Fent
- 4 Donald Christiansen, JoAnn Kartz,
Glen Padgett
- 5 James Jordan, John Granger
- 6 Richard Lewis
- 10 Richard Husen, Charlene Bosquet
- 12 Archie Swanson
- 16 Veraline Matzke
- 18 Jamie Collver
- 22 Steve Koehr
- 26 Patricia Flathau
- 27 Marilyn Winterstein
- 29 Jill Eischer
- 31 Kathy Harris

*Children

If we have missed anyone or made an error
please call the church office 989-777-2600.





Faith Lutheran Church Tuesday, March 21st
3-6 p.m. No appointment is necessary, if you would like to make one please see the sheet on the counter in the Narthex.

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

FAITH's Lenten Coin Folders: FAITH is again encouraging members to "give up" a quarter a day during Lent by filling the Lenten Coin folders.

FAITH's Dimes for Missions: January – March 2023



Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan has been chosen to receive FAITH's "Dimes for Missions" receipts for the first quarter of 2023.

Rescue Ministries has more than 100 years of experience in addressing the most basic needs among people: shelter, food, and clothing.

Orphan Grain Train--Michigan--- Most people give little thought to how valuable clothing is to war refugees or people elsewhere in the world who live in distressed or impoverished conditions. They do not have closets like ours or the bounty we enjoy. In so many cases they have little more to wear than what presently covers their bodies. That is why Orphan Grain Train—Michigan gathers and distributes the goods we do. Experience shows that women's clothing has more commonly been donated. But men's clothing and all sizes of children's clothing is especially needed. Whether for children in the tropics of Panama or the midwinter of Kyrgyzstan, the mission of Orphan Grain Train is committed by the mercy of Christ to supply those with critical human needs. Won't you help? Please survey your own closets and perhaps find what you no longer need but others would treasure. Orphan Grain Train, located in Sebewaing, is currently preparing its next and tenth international shipment—each distribution of which carries more than ten tons of life-sustaining goods.

**FAITH Lutheran Church
Lenten Soup Suppers
Wednesday Evenings
5:30 p.m.-6:45 p.m.
Lenten Worship Service
7:00 p.m.**

MARCH HOSTS:

March 1 st	Women of Faith
March 8 th	Preschool/Childcare
March 15 th	Men's Ministry
March 22 nd	Administrative Council
March 29 th	Board of Christian Education

If you would like to bring a soup, sandwich, dessert or salad, please sign the sheet on the counter in the narthex.



Women of Faith are collecting monetary Gifts of Love for Lutheran World Relief. **Checks should be made payable to Women of Faith** and given to Susan Koehr, Laurie Lisk, or Louise Davis. A donation church is outside of the Sanctuary.

Easter Flower Time: Starting March 5th, we will start taking orders for lilies, Tulips and Daffodils. They will be \$12 each. The deadline to order is Sunday, March 19th.

St. Patrick's Day Game Night: Join us Friday, March 17th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall for games and appetizers open to all ages! There is a sign-up sheet at the Sharing Station in the Narthex. If you would like to bring an appetizer to share it would be appreciated! Punch will be provided.

Board of Christian Education News! Carnival coming in September: We are looking for ideas, games and people to help! If you are able to help in any of these ways please see Mindy Hoffmann.

Do you have a love for children? Mindy Hoffmann will be stepping down from leading Sunday school this Fall. We are looking for someone who would like to plan curriculum and lead Sunday school for the 2023-24 Sunday school year. Please let Mindy know if you are interested.

WOMEN OF FAITH

Women of FAITH did not meet on February 16th as scheduled because of the inclement weather. I hope this did not inconvenience anyone.

Women of FAITH will meet on **March 16th**. The Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. and all the women at 6:30 p.m.

Our Nominating Committee, Sandy Stroup and Barb Swanson, is looking for ladies willing to serve our Women of FAITH as Recording Secretary. We also need a Historian. Please contact Sandy or Barb if our Lord has blessed and is calling you to serve in this way.

Important dates coming in **April** that involve the Women of FAITH:

Meal in the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday, April 6th at 7:00 p.m.

Altar News: Are you interested in joining our Altar team? It is a great way to serve our Lord. We are a behind the scenes group that works during the week and on Sunday morning. If you have ever considered helping with this or have any questions, see Dorothy Dedyne or Laurie Lisk. Thank you.

Meal in the Upper Room: We will have a signup sheet starting March 5th for the Meal in the Upper Room. It will be held on Thursday, April 6th. We need help setting up on the day of the meal, food donations or monetary donations and those attending the meal. If you have any questions please see Dorothy Dedyne or Laurie Lisk.

Remember your **Secret Pal** with prayers, cards, and/or small gifts.