

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, 2024



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 3	Archie Swanson
March 17	Archie Swanson

Altar Guild: Terri Buchinger, Dorothy Dedyne, Sandy Stroup

Ushers:

March 3	Group 3
March 10	Group 4
March 17	Group 4
March 24	Group 1
March 31	Group 1

Usher List: Group 1

Ron Reinbold

Group 4

Dean Notter
Austin Notter
Ron Brush

Group 3

Jim Jordan
Bob Ferchau

Lector:

March 3	Rachel Szaroletta
March 10	Don Christiansen
March 17	Laurie Lisk
March 24	Heidi Behnke
March 31	Pastor Behnke

Kidz' Word

March 3	Archie Swanson
March 10	Laurie Lisk
March 17	Mindy Hoffmann
March 24	Doug Williams

Greeters:

March 3	Alyse Notter	Kathy Jordan
March 10	Betty Moggo & Rose Foster	Shirley Lehman
March 17	Dean & Jill Notter	Heidi Behnke
March 24	Ron & Karin Reinbold	Shirley Lehman
March 31	Dearaine Gubbins	Diane Gubbins

Lent.

I have said it before, but Lent is one of my favorite times of the church year. This may surprise people because of the extra workload that I have during Lent. I will admit that by the end of Lent, I am often exhausted, but it is a good exhaustion as we say loudly “Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!” on Easter morning. I like Lent because it is a time of opportunity for us to make changes in our spiritual walk with Christ. We always have this opportunity, but Lent seems to get us into the mood to actually do something.

So first I would like to encourage you to attend the Soup Suppers and the Midweek Services as much as you can. These are opportunities for fellowship and getting to know your church family better. There is something about eating together that brings us closer and spurs conversation. The worshiping together also brings us closer and gives us a focus for Lent as the services usually have a common theme, such as this year’s “Witnesses to Christ: People from his Passion” that looks at people from the book of John that were part of the story and give witness to it.

I would also encourage you to evaluate your faith walk and prayerfully consider changes to it. These changes can be going to a Bible study or doing devotions every day. It could be looking for more opportunities to share Christ’s love or gospel. It could be deciding to serve in a new way or even deciding to cut back on serving if you are burning out or are spread so thin that you are no longer getting anything done. It could be finally forgiving someone that you hold a grudge against or asking for forgiveness from someone. The possibilities are endless.

So enjoy Lent in whatever way that you do, but know that my prayer is that this Lent changes you in some positive way.

--To God be the glory--

Pastor Tim Behnke

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
- 15 Karry Klein
- 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.



Food Distribution: The next date for our Food Distribution is March 14. 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. This Year's folders will go to Hidden Harvest.

FAITH's Dimes for Missions: January – March 2024



Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan has been chosen to receive FAITH's "Dimes for Missions" receipts for the first quarter of 2024.

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 Sebawaing, is currently preparing its next and tenth international shipment—each distribution of which carries more than ten tons of life-sustaining goods.

WITNESSES TO CHRIST: PEOPLE FROM HIS PASSION

This year's series paints a stunning portrait of Jesus through the eyes of those whose interactions with Jesus lead us to meditate on His Passion as recorded by St. John in his Gospel. Our overall theme is "Witnesses to Christ: People From His Passion."

John tells us he wrote his Gospel: "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30–31).

This Lent, our life in Christ will be strengthened as we hear the witness of those who were present as part of Jesus' journey to the cross. Along the way, we'll meet villains, such as Barabbas and Pontius Pilate; sinners, such as Peter (who denied Jesus three times), Mary Magdalene (who was possessed by seven demons), and Judas Iscariot (who betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver);

as well as others.

Midweek 4: March 6 7:00 pm

Simon Peter witnessed much of Christ's ministry on earth. He is featured in many highlights of the four Gospels, but today we see Peter at his lowest point, as he denies Jesus three times. The result of Peter's denial is a massive amount of guilt.

Midweek 5: March 13 7:00 pm

Barabbas was a heartless, brutal criminal, with anger in his heart and blood on his hands. Custom dictated that Pontius Pilate should release one prisoner at the feast of Passover.

Midweek 6: March 20 7:00 pm

Pontius Pilate was a witness to Christ who consented to order Jesus' execution. Pilate may wash his hands and proclaim his own innocence in the death of Jesus, but Pilate is guilty.

Maundy Thursday: March 28 7:00

Betrayed by Judas, one of the twelve disciples. Betrayed by Judas for thirty pieces of silver. Betrayed by Judas with a kiss—image that, a kiss!

Good Friday: March 29 7:00 pm

Our journey to follow Christ through witnesses to Christ here arrives at the cross. Tonight, we view Christ on the cross through the author's eyes—John, the Apostle and Evangelist, the beloved disciple, the son of Zebedee and the brother of James.

Easter Sunday: March 31 7:00 am and 10:00 am

We have followed Jesus to the cross, the tomb, and now we follow Jesus out of the tomb as He rises from the dead and appears to another witness to Christ:

Mary Magdalene. Jesus’ Easter morning resurrection appearance to Mary Magdalene might be a bit unexpected. After all, Mary had endured a terrible past. Jesus had cast seven demons out of Mary in the early part of His ministry. But Mary is chosen to be this eyewitness, and she exclaims to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!” Mary is the first to see Jesus’ resurrected glory and proclaim this good news that we speak again and again today, “Alleluia! Christ is risen!”

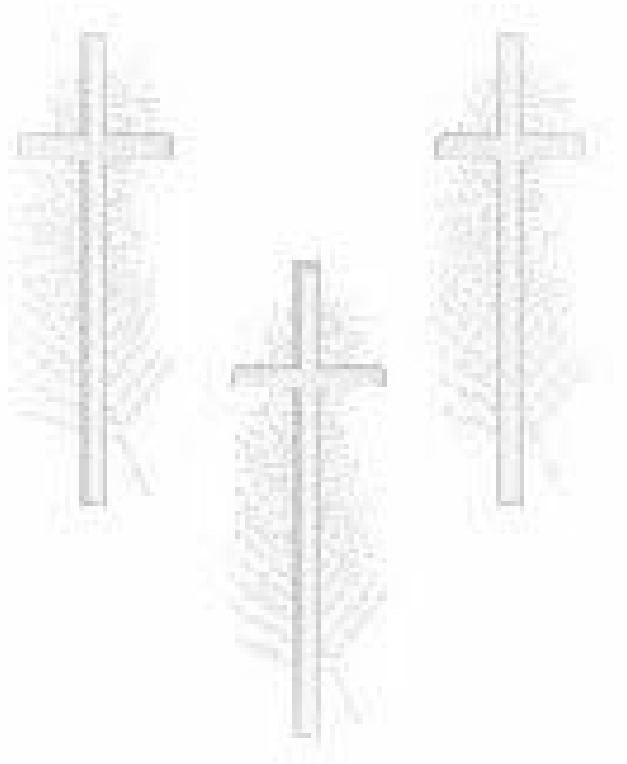
Midweek Lenten Soup Supper 5:30 -6:45 pm

March 6 Alaska Mission Team

March 13Administrative Council

March 20Board of Christian Education

Please see the signup sheet on the counter in the Narthex if you would like to bring a dish to share.



Easter Flower Time: Starting Feb. 18th, we will start taking orders for lilies, Tulips and Daffodils. They will be \$12 each. The deadline to order is Sunday, March 10th.

The Women of Faith RADA sale is here until March 10th:

Again it will be a preorder event. Your price will be less than stated in the catalog. Items in our sale include cutlery, baking pans, mixes and cookbooks. Catalogs for your viewing are available on the Women of Faith bulletin board and the church office. Order slips are there too! Please put completed order slips in Charlene Bosquet's mailbox. Money is due when order is delivered. If you have questions feel free to contact Charlene 989-777-1538.

Gideon's is looking for volunteers to help share the Gospel with others. If interested in volunteering with Gideon's please see Pastor Behnke.

Christian Summer Children's' Camp: Camp Concordia, 30 minutes north of Grand Rapids, MI, gives your children and grandchildren an opportunity to experience a Lutheran camp experience with trained cabin leaders, lifeguards and program leaders. Weekly experiences include meals, swimming, archery, canoeing, campfire devotions, cookout, Bible adventures and more all wrapped around a Christ-centered message. Get more information at www.campconcordia.org

St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 3455 Van Buren Road rd. (M-46) in Richville, Michigan, will host their annual Free **"Passion Drama "**. This will take place on **Friday, March 22, 6:00 & 7:30 PM - Saturday, March 23, 4:30, 6:00 & 7:30 PM.** Experience Christ's last hours on earth. The Passion Drama will be held inside the church. Fellowship and light refreshments will follow.

Alaska Mission Team

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, March 3rd 10:15 a.m.



Free Will Donation!

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Thank you for your 2023 calendar year contributions for Michigan District Mission and Ministry. Your gifts along with the gifts and pledges from other Michigan District congregations support our shared ministry of vigorously making known the love of Christ. Our District and staff are committed to working with you to build Great Commission and Great Compassion ministries and at the same time to foster even healthier Churches and Church Workers. A key to thriving together is a shared commitment to: Read through the Bible (annually); Love on another from the heart; Work hard in our Gospel calling.

Rev. David A Davis, President
Michigan District, LCMS

Meal in the Upper Room: We will have a signup sheet starting March 3rd for the Meal in the Upper Room. It will be held on Thursday, March 28th. 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.

ANNOUNCING

FAITH'S ANNUAL HOLY WEEK P-R-A-Y-E-R VIGIL

March 27,, 2024

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

FAITH is hosting its annual Holy Week "Prayer Vigil" on **Wednesday, March 27, 2024**, from **9:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m.** Members are encouraged to come to the sanctuary at any time during that period and spend some time in reflection on God's Word, meditation, and P-R-A-Y-E-R:

- **P**raising God for His goodness and blessings;
- **R**emembering that I am a sinner and that I have a Savior;
- **A**sking of any and all things that are on my mind;
- **Y**ielding my concerns to God's wisdom and gracious working;
- **E**njoying the peace of surrendering my concerns to God; and
- **R**ejoicing as I put my trust in God knowing that He is in control.

If you have a specific request to be included in the *Prayer Guide*, please jot it down below, sign your name, and write down your phone number (in case the Office needs clarification). You can put your Request in the offering plate, return it to the Parish Office, or simply call 777-2600 and leave your request in the church office mailbox.

Thank you for your assistance.

Please pray for...

Signed: _____

Phone: _____

WILD GAME

DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, April 27, 2024

5:30 p.m. Appetizers

6:00 p.m. Dinner

*Faith Lutheran Church
4241 Williamson Road, Bridgeport, MI*

**Ticket cost is (Suggested donation)
\$30.00 per person or \$50.00 for two
Please contact the Church Office for your
tickets at 989-777-2600 All are welcome!**

Seating is limited!