

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

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**E-Mail: [faithluthchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:faithluthchurch@yahoo.com)    Web: [faithlutheranbridgeport.org](http://faithlutheranbridgeport.org)**

***FOCUS ON FAITH***  
***November, 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)**

***Staff:***

**Rev. Timothy Behnke:** *Pastor*, 989-777-2600 C: 989-292-9677

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

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**Barb Swanson:** *Secretary*, 989-777-2600

E-Mail: [faithluthchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:faithluthchurch@yahoo.com)

## **Serving at FAITH in November**

### **Elders:**

November 5     Steve Dedyne  
November 19    Dan Pavlicek

**Altar Guild:**    Louise Davis, Mary Sylvester, Kim Stroup

### **Ushers:**

November 5     Group 3  
November 12    Group 4  
November 19    Group 4  
November 26    Group 1

### **Kidz' Word:**

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

### **Ushers List:**

#### **Group 1**

Ron Reinbold

#### **Group 4**

Dean Notter  
Austin Notter  
Ron Brush

#### **Group 3**

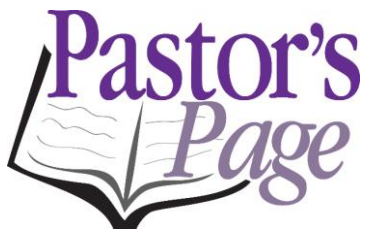
Jim Jordan  
Bob Ferchau  
Tom Pierce

### **Lectors:**

November 5     Laurie Lisk  
November 12    Heidi Behnke  
November 19    Mindy Hoffmann  
November 26    Mary Sylvester

### **Greeters:**

November 5	Alyse Notter	Kathy Jordan
November 12	Shirley Lehman	Betty Moggo, Rose Foster
November 19	Dean & Jill Notter	Rachel Szaroletta
November 26	Matt & Marla Hoffmann	Heidi Behnke



## Reformation.

As I am finishing this article, it is Reformation Day. This is always a highlight of the

Christian calendar for several reasons. First, we get to celebrate our Lutheran heritage and remember what makes us distinctive. We get to sing great hymns and spend time with each other for the potluck dinner. We get to remember that it's about salvation by *Grace alone* through *Faith alone* in *Christ alone* as revealed by *Scripture alone* and this is to *God's glory alone*. It also makes the beginning of the festival season in the church year as it is our first festival since Trinity Sunday in June and will be followed quickly by All Saints Sunday, Thanksgiving, and the Christmas and Advent seasons. There is a lot to be thankful for here.

As I think about it, we tend to view the reformation as something in the past. It's something Martin Luther and the other reformers did to point out problems with what Christianity had become and how they had fixed things. There is a certain truth to this, but it is incomplete.

The truth is that God is still reforming the Church. He has reformed it many times in the past and will do so even into the future. Why is this? Well, it's because we, as fallen human beings, constantly need to be guided back unto the correct path. Left to ourselves, we will eventually veer away because our thoughts, our ideas, the culture and our reason all get involved. This is unavoidable. However, we have to be sure that God is transforming us, our ideas and our interaction with the culture rather than the other way around.

It's easy to justify our own thoughts and practices because they seem right to us, but as a church, we need to constantly look at what we are doing and what we are saying to see if it aligns with God's desires rather than our own. This takes humility and often means we have to change what we are doing or do something new.

God is also reforming us as individuals. He does it as we read scripture and learn about him and how we are to live out our Christianity. He does it as we worship him both publicly and privately and remember what he has done for us. He reforms us as we face problems and learn to trust in him. This all takes humility to admit we may need to change what we are doing and to trust him to work all things out for our good. But in the end, it's all to make us more like Christ and to bring Christ to others. So, today, take the time to reflect on how God is reforming us as a church and you as one of his children. Then thank him and follow him.

--To God be the glory--

*Pastor Tim Behnke*

**Deadline for the Monthly “Focus on FAITH” Newsletter** is the 18<sup>th</sup> of November. **Deadline for the Sunday FAITHLINES** is 10:00 am Thursday mornings and no later. All information should be emailed to the church office at [faithluthchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:faithluthchurch@yahoo.com) or placed in the office mailbox. Thank you.



**Poinsettia Order:** We are taking orders for Poinsettia plants November 5<sup>th</sup> through November 19<sup>th</sup>. Order sheet is on the counter in the Narthex. The cost is \$12 each; choose from white, red or marble. Please make checks payable to Women of Faith and give to Dorothy Dedyne 989-233-1961. If you have any

questions see Dorothy.

**Thank you:** Women of Faith thank you for your donations toward our Hygiene Kits collection. We packed 140 kits.

**Women of Faith News:** Fresh Baked Cookie Sale Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Come and purchase those wonderful fresh baked cookies. If you would like to bake cookies at home there is a sign-up sheet on the counter in the Narthex. If you have any questions, see Mary Sylvester.

Christmas Party: Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Come and enjoy a time of fellowship. Bring your secret pal gift to exchange. If you would like to exchange a gift, bring a minimum of \$10.00, but no more than \$20.00. Invite your mother, daughter, sister, cousin, aunt, friend, grandmother.

# November

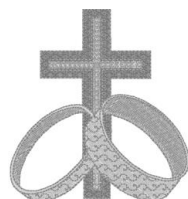


*Birthdays*

- 4 Shirley Lehman, Jean Husen
- 5 Drew Davis
- 8 William Niedrich
- 10 Kim McLean
- 12 Clayton Alma, Marla Hoffmann, Linda Williams
- 15 Madison Hoffmann
- 16 Marilyn Streets, \* Bailey DeHerder
- 17 Mark Klein
- 18 Angie Bowns, Kaylea Simmons, Marlene Gerken
- 19 Paul Donahou, Brian Leaym
- 22 Barbara Hoffmann
- 26 Daniel Pavlicek
- 29 Kyle Herzberg, Jeremy Niedrich, Edna Walentovic

\*infant/child/not confirmed

- 2 Ferris & Patricia Finerty
- 11 Rick & Jan Webb
- 14 Lance & Abigail Burns
- 19 Andy & Mindy Hoffmann



*wedding  
Anniversaries*

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

Stewardship November 2023

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed. Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them. Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

# My Commitment to the Lord

*“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8).*

## Being faithful with my time and talents...

- Read God’s Word
- Pray
- Worship
- Attend Bible studies
- Witness
- Serve

## Being faithful with my money...

My (our) faith goal in \_\_\_\_\_ is to grow in the grace of giving by giving \_\_\_\_\_ percent of my (our) income.

My (our) weekly commitment will be \$\_\_\_\_\_

I (we) would like to enroll in Online Giving\_\_\_\_\_

*Prayerfully consider the faith goal of tithing...  
... giving ten percent.*

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to the church office mailbox.**