

# Faith Family News

## From the Pastor's Pen...

Dear Friends,

These past few weeks I have been thinking a great deal about what it means to live into a life-giving, daring confidence in the grace of God. And, I have been thinking about how we, the community of God's people who gather at Faith Lutheran Church, live that daring confidence in God's grace.

I see Faith Lutheran Church as a community that truly shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. This confidence in God's grace is seen as we are intentional about our weekly gathering together at the foot of the cross for worship. I believe it is at the foot of the cross that our life as a community is continually born anew and nurtured for life in the world. It is here that we most fully discover our identity as the body of Christ, and it is from this place that we journey together as a community of Faith, living our faith through our varied vocations in daily life.

I believe this living, daring confidence in God's grace enables us to celebrate God's declaration that, because of Christ, **ALL** are accepted into this gathering of God's people. Hospitality is at the top of our list as we relate to others, interact with others and welcome others into the life of this community. **ALL** are welcome because God's family is for **all**. **No one** is excluded.

Our living, daring confidence in God's grace enables us to recognize inclusiveness as gift, **a gift that is all about grace**. As a family of Faith, we know we do not deserve such grace but it has been freely given to us as gift through Christ. We also know we are called to live this gift of grace – forgiveness, reconciliation and liberation – as we interact with others in daily life throughout the greater community.

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**Ministers**

All Members of the Faith Family

**Pastor**

Ellen Schoepf

[prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org)

**High School Leader**

Katie Love

**Middle School Leader**

Maddie Wosinski

**Director of Music**

Deb Borton-McDonough

**Instrumental Worship Leader**

Bruce Williams

**Church Secretary**

Katie Love

[klove@faithluthernokemos.org](mailto:klove@faithluthernokemos.org)

**Newsletter Editor**

Katie Love

**Mission Partner Congregation**

Redeemer Lutheran Church

President	Paul Hereza
Vice President	Ryan Thompson
Secretary	Molly DeHate
Treasurer	Gwynne Kadrofske
Financial Secretary	Tom Schrote
Members-at-Large	Chuck Spanburg
	Kurt Steinke
Past President	Kim O'Brien

**Committee Chairs**

Caring	Pam Williams
Evangelism/Outreach	Brenda Kopf & Ellen Lewis
Human Resources	Lori Webb
Media/Technology	Chris Lewis
Membership Development	Jean Lewis & Michelle Ransom
Mutual Ministry	Linda Hirt
Parish Ed	
Property	Bob Nelson
	Rick Baderstadt
Stewardship	Kim O'Brien
Worship & Music	Diane Hill

**ACOLYTES**

May 5	Austin Jones
May 12	open
May 19	open
May 26	open

To sign up to acolyte please use the following link

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094caaa623a3f49-acolyte>

**ALTAR CARE**

Diane Hill, Brenda Kopf (5,12), Open (5,26)

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

See Acolyte, Lay Assistant and Reader.

**GREETERS**

May 5	Lois Neves
May 12	Mark & Molly DeHate
May 19	Mike Eschelbach
May 26	Marla Holle

**LAY ASSISTANTS**

May 5	Kim O'Brien
May 12	Ken Schoepf
May 19	Mike Eschelbach
May 26	Bob Shorman

**READERS**

May 5	Harold Sollenberger
May 12	Jack Dingleline
May 19	Rich Weingartner
May 26	Elaine Harrison

**USHERS**

May 5	Gerard/Milne
May 12	Kadrofske Family
May 19	Schultz Family
May 26	Kopf Family

**NURSERY**

May 5	O'Brien Family
May 12	Melinda & Lauren Schultz
May 19	Marquardt Family
May 26	Williams Family

## F a i t h   N o t e s

I believe a living, daring confidence in God's grace enables us to live into God's dream of justice for this world. As a Faith community, we understand that God's dream for the world is breaking in upon us. And, that dream is all about wholeness, healing and reconciliation. In the person of Jesus, God's transforming love has invaded this world. As a community, we trust the work of the Holy Spirit to empower us, enabling us to work for and live into God's dream of justice, peace, reconciliation, healing and wholeness for this broken world.

I also believe that a living, daring confidence in God's grace enables us to develop a culture of gratitude and generosity within this Faith community. We are called to trust God's abundance and strive to be faithful disciples and stewards as we share our gifts with others. This is what our collaborative work with Samaritas is all about, a work through which we are helping to provide young refugees a future and hope.

Over the next few months many of us will begin our summer travel and vacation excursions. I pray each one of you will continue to share this living, life-giving, daring confidence in God's abundant grace, a gift that has been freely bestowed upon all. Blessings for the journey!

In Christ. Pastor Ellen



*Thank you!!*

### SPECIAL THANKS!

The Caring Committee would like to thank Great Harvest Bread for their donations, as well as Tom's for the good price on the hams and to the helpers who donated, shopped, bagged and delivered Easter Food Baskets to 20 families in the community.

### SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

The Altar Care Schedule is posted on the new "Volunteer Board" in the narthex. Openings are highlighted in yellow. Please feel free to add your name or talk with Elaine Harrison or Peggy Crum. Elaine is scheduled for the month of August and would love to work with a newbie to Altar Care on any of those weeks.



## Prayers for Health & Healing

### Members of the congregation:

Rita Barry, Ellen Milne, Janice Taschner & Ken Whitmyer

### Friends & Family:

Tarri Anderson, Harriet, Michael Bennett, Todd Barriklow, Bill Baker, Carol Coyer, Kay Coker, Chris Cotter, Terrie Becker, Brian Fent, Allyson, Heather, Al, Lilly Sai, Rod Kaschner, Eshwar Lingamgunta, Jenn Leitch, Brian Johnson, Meridith, Jeanne and Leonard, Jonathon Manitta family, Kiersten, Loretta Milne, Harry Nelson, Patricia Rinehart, Bethany Robinson, Karen Smiley, Jean Smith, Lisa & Scott Seeley, & the White family

## Prayers of Intercession

- Our Mission Partner congregation: Lansing Redeemer Lutheran Church
- Those in Military service: Jon Schoepf, Lani Yearicks and Melody, Adam Wright and Joe Galvin.

Please contact the church office at [faith@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org) or 349-0620 to update the prayer list.

### The website for Prayer Ventures is

<http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/prayer-ventures>

Prayer Ventures is a guide to daily prayer for the ministries of the church produced by ELCA Communication Services on behalf of the whole church.

## Beer & Hymns



*Please join us at the next meeting on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.*

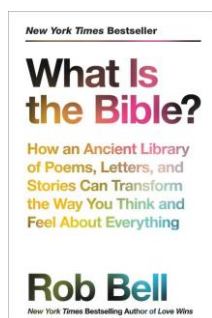
Come and join us for fun, fellowship and singing! You purchase your own meal and beverage and we supply the music and lead everyone in songs. Beer and Hymns is on the first Sunday of every month at Williamston Pub & Grill in Williamston. **We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**

## Faith Lutheran Golf League

This summer, our Golf League will again hit the tees. Our league will play on **Thursday evenings at Wheatfield Valley Golf Course**. We tee off at **5:30 each week** and **all are welcome**, even if you are not a great golfer. *(Just watch Pastor Ellen!)* Our first night of golf will be **Thursday, May 23, and we will play for 18 consecutive Thursdays, with our last day of play being Thursday, September 19**. The cost for the season will be \$234 per player, due the first night of play. **If you are only able to come on occasion, we still welcome you, and you can pay only for those nights when you are able to make it. The cost per player for one evening is \$13 per person.** We play a scramble so you can invite someone to join you. If you are interested in playing, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you should have any questions, please speak to Pastor Ellen or Ken Schoepf.



## WHAT IS THE BIBLE?



We are beginning a new book study, using bestselling author, Rob Bell's book, *What Is The Bible?* **This study will begin on Tuesday evening, April 30, at 7:00 PM.** We will gather for this study at Kim O'Brien's home (1144 Bonanza Dr., Okemos).

If you have ever wondered how an ancient library of poems, letters, and stories can transform the way you think and feel about everything, this book study will provide you with some answers. *What Is The Bible?* provides surprising insights and answers about how the Bible actually works as a source of faith and guidance, showcasing a brand-new way of reading this sacred text. Bell takes us deep into actual passages, revealing not only the humanity behind the scriptures but the revelation that one cannot get to the holy without going through the human. When considering a passage, Bell explains the worst question we can ask of a text ("Why did God....?") and the best question to ask ("Why did people find this important to write down?") to get at how scripture can best guide us today. In asking these questions, Bell goes beyond the one-dimensional questions of "Is it true?" to reveal the Bible's surprisingly transformative power. *What Is The Bible?* recaptures this ancient library's subversive energy and reaffirms its enduring ability to inspire and shape our lives today.

***If you wish to join us for this study adventure, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex!***



## 60 +/- Lunch & Learn

**Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> 11:30 a.m.**

Does your living area feel cluttered? Does that make it hard for you to focus and enjoy the special things in life? Could you use some practical organizing tips? Katie Love, Faith's own church secretary, will be sharing a presentation of helpful and practical solutions for decluttering and organizing your home or business.

***A Signup Sheet will be available in the Narthex in May.***





**Graduation Party for Tula Ngasala** – Tula will be graduating from MSU on Friday, May 3, receiving her Doctorate in Environmental Engineering. Her parents and other members of her family will be coming from Tanzania to celebrate this occasion with her. **On Sunday, May 5, following worship, the Green Team will be hosting a Luncheon Graduation Party for Tula.** We invite you to come downstairs after worship on that day and celebrate this milestone with Tula and her family.

**Property Clean up:** Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> following Tula’s graduation luncheon. Please stay if you are able. Many hands make light work. Please contact Bob Nelson with any questions.



**Have you ever wondered what is really in the Quran?** – If this is a question that you have pondered, join us on **Tuesday evening, May 7, at 7:00 PM when Imam Sohail Chandhry joins us** to help us answer that question. The Imam has kindly offered to join us for an evening of interfaith education as we learn more about what is really in the Quran. You are invited to join us for this conversation and discover the riches God can teach us from the faith of others.



**Two Noisy Offerings in May** – We will be taking TWO Noisy Offerings in May. In addition to the regular Noisy Offering on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, we will take a **special Noisy Offering on Sunday, May 12. This offering will be taken as our congregation’s offering for Synod Assembly. Synod Assembly takes place May 16-18.** In addition to Pastor Ellen, our congregation’s representatives for this event are Kim O’Brien and Ken Schoepf.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT LITE! – Dinner Church** – Something new begins on **Wednesday evening, May 22, at 6:00 PM.** While Wednesday Night Live is suspended until mid-September, **it will be replaced by Wednesday Night LITE!** We are beginning something totally new for the summer as we gather together on Wednesday evening for **DINNER CHURCH.** We will gather each Wednesday to share a sacred meal, just as the first followers of Jesus did. Come and join us for a fully prepared meal as we eat together, explore scripture, offer prayers, sing together and experience the Eucharist. This worship experience is rooted in the patterns of the Early Church. If you cannot make it to worship on Sunday morning, come and join us on Wednesday evening!



**Music Sunday, May 19** – Join us on this day as we celebrate and give thanks for the ministry of music that happens in and through the people at Faith Lutheran Church. Music is a vital aspect of ministry. On this day we thank those who have given of this time as they minister to us through the gift of music.

**Congregational Art Project, May 19-** this is the last day when you will have the opportunity to participate in our congregational art project. Come and paint with us. Then, a few weeks later, you will see your portion of this work attached to all of the others when it is displayed in the church entry way.

**GREEN TEAM TIP OF THE MONTH...**

We invite you to use the Tree Benefit Calculator on [www.treebenefits.com](http://www.treebenefits.com) to calculate the amazing benefits of trees right in your backyard.

**Understanding This Tool:**

The Tree Benefit Calculator allows anyone to make a simple estimation of the benefit's individual street-side trees provide. This tool is based on i-Tree's street tree assessment tool called STREETS. With inputs of location, species and tree size, users will get an understanding of the environmental and economic value trees provide on an annual basis.

The Tree Benefit Calculator is intended to be simple and accessible. As such, this tool should be considered a starting point for understanding trees' value in the community, rather than a scientific accounting of precise values. For more detailed information on urban and community forest assessments, visit the i-Tree website.

Example of an area Maple tree calculation  
 maple a tree common around our area- 18in diameter  
 \$229 of benefits  
 SW= 2235 gal  
 PV= \$95 a ur  
 Energy = 271kw by 35 therms  
 Carbon reduction 1155 lbs.



*What benefits do the trees in your backyard provide?*

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**Butterflies For Sale!**

**On Sunday, June 16**, we will be releasing live butterflies outside by our Butterfly Garden. Butterflies are the symbol of new life. And, as we celebrate the Pentecost season and the beginning of summer activities, we will be releasing painted lady butterflies to celebrate God's gift of creation. The Green Team is inviting you to order a butterfly for \$12.00. Following worship on June 16, you will be given your butterfly to release by our garden. This project is a Green Team fundraiser. A portion of the money earned from these butterfly sales will go to help with the purchase of new windows in our Parish House. Place your butterfly order by using the form below and turn it into the church office. **All orders must be received by Sunday, May 26!**

**Green Team Butterfly Order Form**  
**Order Deadline: Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**

## May:

- 1: 6:30 p.m. Classes for PK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Trinity (3-5<sup>th</sup> grade) and Confirmation (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) High School Youth Group serves dinner.
- 5: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (PK-5<sup>th</sup> grade) Middle School Youth group following graduation party.
- 8: 6:30 p.m. Classes for PK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Trinity (3-5<sup>th</sup> grade) and Confirmation (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade)
- 12: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (PK-5<sup>th</sup> grade) 6:00 p.m. **Confirmation Sunday**
- 15: Last Wednesday Night Meeting: VBS Decorating Prep
- 19: Last Day of Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. (PK-5<sup>th</sup> grade) 6:00 p.m. High School youth group at Ryan & Addie Thompson's home: All 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited.
- 26: Memorial Weekend

## June:

- 9: Graduation Sunday
- 17-21 9am-1pm. High School Youth Mission Week
- 23: 5-7 p.m. Assembling bat houses with Green Team (Middle/High School)
- 24-27 VBS



**Confirmation is Sunday, May 12** – Join us as we celebrate the young people in our congregation who will be affirming their faith in Jesus Christ.



### Grad Sunday

Graduation Sunday is planned for Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. If your high school or college graduate would like to be recognized please contact Katie in the church office.  
[klove@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:klove@faithlutheranokemos.org)



**From: Pam Williams** – Many of you know I work with high school foreign exchange students. I have a girl from Germany who would like to attend church while here. Please see information below about her. If you are interested in hosting her, or possibly another student, please let me know. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Thanks, Pam

Julia is 15 and from Germany. She would like to continue regularly attending Christian protestant services if possible. Julia writes this about herself:

*"I love the world and its people. Therefore, I am very open to new situations, people and challenges. We often have international students staying with us and currently there is an Argentinian girl spending her exchange year with our family. I have three brothers and one sister. In my free time I enjoy playing the violin and being part of the school orchestra. I'm also very active in my church, where I regularly attend the youth group and the services. My friends say that I am empathic and ready to accept responsibility. For me it is important doing my best to help and I love to make people smile. At my school I volunteer in the mediator- and the first-aid club. I look forward to giving a new touch to my host family's life."*

**VBS: June 24-27 from 5:30-8 p.m.**

**Mark your calendar for this year's Vacation Bible School!!**

We will be ROARING into summer as we celebrate that life is WILD and GOD IS GOOD!!

VBS will be June 24-27 from 5:30-8 p.m. with dinner served from 5:30-6:00 p.m. Programming will be for PK-Middle School as well as classes offered for adults.

It takes a lot of work and volunteers to make a VBS happen. Please pray and consider how you might be able to serve this year at VBS! If you are able to volunteer for some days or all, please contact Maddie Wosinski at [mwosinski@icloud.com](mailto:mwosinski@icloud.com)



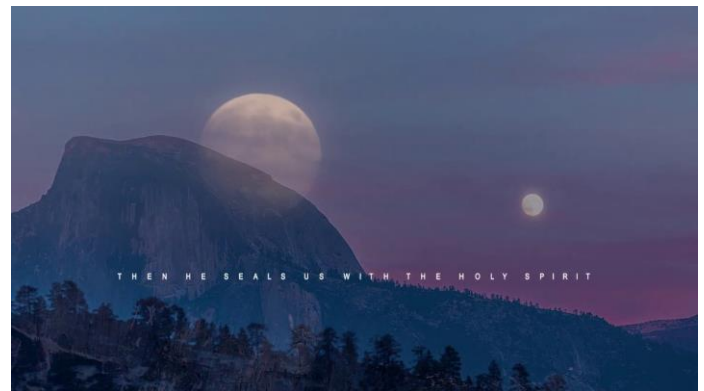
**TEST OF FAITH Video/Discussion Series – A conversational class for ADULTS during the evenings of Vacation Bible School, June 24-27**

Have you ever wondered why so many people find faith and science to be at odds? Do you find yourself caught in a divide, distrustful of science or religion or both? For many religious believers, science can seem to threaten God's existence. But this is not the case for many scientists who believe truth can be found both in the cathedral and the lab. Many scientists seek this truth without compromising their science or their beliefs.

They are not afraid to ask questions like:

- Can God survive in the age of the quark and the gluon?
- Is faith now being tested to breaking point?

**Join two scientists from our own Faith community, Dr. John McCracken and Dr. Addie Thompson, as they host Test of Faith, as series of video/discussions, on the four evenings of Vacation Bible School, June 24-27. Come for the evening meal and then participate in this enlightening class experience. Add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex.**





# May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> Green Team Leads Worship <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service <b>11:30 AM</b> Quarterly Meeting	<b>29</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Meridian Play Group	<b>30</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Lunch lectionary study group <b>7:00 PM</b> What is the Bible Book Study at O'Brien's	<b>1</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Quilting <b>5:30 PM</b> Joyful Noise Choir <b>5:45 PM</b> Dinner <b>6:30 PM</b> Faith Bells <b>6:30 PM</b> Youth Classes <b>7:30 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service <b>11:30 AM</b> Worship Committee <b>11:30 AM</b> Graduation Luncheon for Tula Ngasala: All are invited <b>12:00 PM</b> Middle School Youth Group <b>12:30 PM</b> Property Clean Up <b>5:30 PM</b> Beer & Hymns	<b>6</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Meridian Play Group	<b>7</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Lunch lectionary study group <b>7:00 PM</b> Iman Sohail Chaudhry Speaker Forum	<b>8</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Quilting <b>5:30 PM</b> Joyful Noise Choir <b>5:45 PM</b> Dinner <b>6:30 PM</b> Faith Bells <b>6:30 PM</b> Youth Classes <b>7:30 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Large Fellowship Hall Rented	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Large Fellowship Hall Rented <b>10:00 AM</b> Sanctuary Rented
<b>12</b> Synod Assembly Offering <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service/Confirmation Sunday	<b>13</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Meridian Play Group	<b>14</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Lunch lectionary study group <b>7:00 PM</b> What is the Bible Book Study at O'Brien's	<b>15</b> Last Night for Wednesday Night Programming <b>9:30 AM</b> Quilting <b>5:30 PM</b> Joyful Noise Choir <b>5:45 PM</b> Dinner <b>6:30 PM</b> Faith Bells <b>6:30 PM</b> VBS Decorating <b>7:30 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> Synod Assembly <b>6:00 PM</b> Sanctuary Rented	<b>17</b> Synod Assembly	<b>18</b> Synod Assembly <b>12:00 PM</b> Sanctuary Rented
<b>19</b> Art Project following worship Noisy Offering <b>9:00 AM</b> Last Sunday School <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service/Music Sunday <b>6:00 PM</b> Loaves & Fishes	<b>20</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Meridian Play Group	<b>21</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Lunch lectionary study group <b>7:00 PM</b> What is the Bible Book Study at O'Brien's	<b>22</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Quilting <b>6:00 PM</b> Dinner Church	<b>23</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Golf League	<b>24</b> Sanctuary Rented	<b>25</b> Sanctuary Rented
<b>26</b> Butterfly Orders Due <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service	<b>27</b> Church Closed	<b>28</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Lunch lectionary study group <b>7:00 PM</b> What is the Bible Book Study at O'Brien's	<b>29</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Quilting <b>11:30 AM</b> 60 +/- Meeting & Lunch <b>6:00 PM</b> Dinner Church	<b>30</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Golf League	<b>31</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Sanctuary Rented	<b>1</b> <b>7:00 AM</b> Large Fellowship Hall Rented