

Faith Family News

From the Pastor's Pen...

Dear Friends,

As we continue to navigate the world of COVID-19, I continue to think about what it means to live into a life-giving, daring confidence in the grace of God in this present world. 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.

Gathering, even if we are wearing masks, is a **vital and necessary aspect** of being a community of Faith.

Living into a life-giving 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, even a COVID plagued world. It is at the foot of the cross 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.

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.

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Serving Faith

LAY ASSISTANTS

May 1	Harold Sollenberger
May 8	Bob Nelson
May 15	Doug Hirt
May 22	Mike Eschelbach
May 29	Bob Nelson

READERS

May 1	Heidi Nussdorfer
May 8	Jon Harrison
May 15	Linda Hirt
May 22	John McCracken
May 29	Lois Neves

USHERS

May 1	Kadrofske
May 8	Kopf
May 15	McCracken/Milne
May 22	Harrison
May 29	Hirt

Are you interested in being apart of the volunteer team at Faith? We have openings for ushers, readers, lay assistants, Sunday School teachers and altar care. Watch for blank spaces on schedules on the Volunteers board or contact the volunteer coordinators.

Lay Assistants/Readers: Diane Hill: hillmaxd6@gmail.com

Ushers: Ken Schoepf: kjschoepf@yahoo.com

Altar Care: Elaine Harrison: jon.harrison@comcast.net

Sunday School: Pam Williams: [:pwilliams@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:pwilliams@faithlutheranokemos.org)

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, and the healing of creation itself.

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.

As we move into the summer months, I invite you to join us as we **gather** and celebrate the gift of grace that is showered upon us.

In Christ, Pastor Ellen

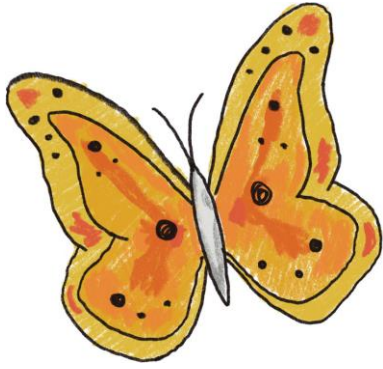
In Person Worship and Sunday School will begin at 10:00 A.M. on each Sunday

The Worship service will also be live streamed on the Faith Facebook page for those who would prefer to watch online.

<https://www.facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos>

As Covid cases are again on the rise in Michigan, mask wearing is highly recommended for all indoor events at Faith Lutheran.

WORSHIP
with us



Butterflies For Sale!

On Sunday, June 12, 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 \$15.00.

Following worship on June 12th, you will be given your butterfly to release by our garden. This project is a Green Team fundraiser. Place your butterfly order by using the form available in the Narthex or by emailing Katie.

Church Picnic

What: Come join us as we celebrate the end of Sunday School and the beginning of Summer!

When: Sunday, May 22 following worship

Who: Everyone is Welcome!

Hotdogs, Lemonade and Water will be provided.

Please bring a desert or dish to pass and a blanket or lawn chair.





Starting Sunday, May 1st Coffee Hour is BACK! We invite you to join us following worship on Sunday to celebrate the confirmands with cake and coffee. A coffee hour signup sheet will be available on the counter in the Narthex. Please sign up for dates you are available.

There are more card packets by the stairs for those who would like to make spring/summer cards for the Bring Smiles to Seniors group.



Sunday School/Youth Ministry



Thank you to everyone who donated and helped with the Easter Egg Hunt. The kids had a great time.



Stony Lake Lutheran Camp is a camp offered for children who have completed first grade all the way to high school. It is FREE this year for everyone! While you can sign your child up for any week that works for you, I want you to know that Pam Williams, Youth Director, will be attending camp the week of June 19th-24th. I want to be there as reassurance for parents and children and to be able to spend some time getting to know your child in a fun yet spiritual setting. Please let Pam know if you have any questions. The website for information and to sign up is below:

<https://elcalivingwater.com/parentinformation/>

Sunday School/ Youth Ministry



VBS will be back this summer! August 1-5th from 9:00 a.m. until noon. This will be for ages 4 through 5th grade (going into 6th grade). We hope you can put the date on your calendar and can be there to participate, or to be a helper! It will be a fun week!

On Sunday, June 5th we will be acknowledging our 2022 Highschool and College graduates. If you would like to recognize a graduate please send [Katie](#) their name, where they are graduating from, any future plans, and a picture would be great too!



Prayers

Loving God, we pray for those in military service who are connected to our community: Lani Yearicks, Jon Schoepf, Landon Belanger, Melody and Adam Wright, Tracy Tuthill and Jae Moore, Joe Galvin, Coleman Curry, and Hannah Cunningham.

Gracious God, restore all people who cry to you for help, especially LeVine Bennet, Chip, the Magyar family, Mabel Anglin, Emily, Robert McCracken, Mary, Gail & Lowell Barricklow, Rosie Brown, Shannon Stobel, Joy Coster, Carrie Christopher, Debra Vorce, Dorothy, Sarah Delaney-Tuinstra, Heather, Marla Holle, Scott Seeley, Virginia Taschner, Marilyn Hogan, Ellen Milne, Ken Milne, Bill Williams, Todd Barriklow, Dirk Curry, Ben Cowin, Kenley, Allyson, Brenda Kopf, Dale Halverson, and Tula's family in Tanzania. We pray for Loaves and Fishes and all homeless and homeless caregivers during this pandemic, and all the Samaritas children who seek adoption. Turn their mourning into dancing, clothe them with joy, and put a testimony of healing and praise on their lips. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen,



Fundraiser for LWR and Ukrainian Crisis a Success

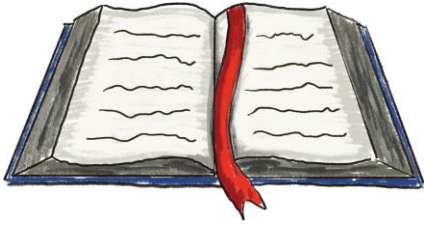
On Saturday, April 9, Faith hosted a very successful Ukrainian Easter Egg Making & Silent Auction fundraising event. This event raised \$2,585 that will go to Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and their work to support those impacted by the Ukrainian Crisis. We were honored to have Dr. Shannon Donnally Quinn, assistant professor of Russian at MSU, lead us through the process of making Ukrainian Easter eggs. She was gracious enough to donate her time, expertise, and all of the needed supplies. The donations people made to attend the event along with the additional funds raised through the silent auction items helped make this event a huge success.

This event is a great example of how our congregation shares the love of Christ with the world, not only through the funds raised for LWR, but through community outreach. Many of the attendees came from our community, so, through this event, we were able to share the story of Christ's love and care for all, simply by doing what we do best, helping people in need.

A huge thank you goes to Mike Eschelbach and Rich Weingartner for coordinating the event, all those who donated and bid on the silent auction items, and everyone who attended the event. Some attendees had such a great time, they suggested we do this again next year!



Tuesday Noon Bible Study



Everyone is welcome to join the Noon Bible study each Tuesday at Noon. We are currently meeting on zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://luthersem.zoom.us/j/94077565287?pwd=UzM2bXU3RitTcXU2QzJTMU82MnNrdz09>

Meeting ID: 940 7756 5287

Passcode: 193644

Spring is here and, as we enjoy the spring and summer months, we know many of you will be on the move, especially on weekends. With Covid positivity rates trending downward, more of you are feeling free to travel. As you do, we encourage you to remember your commitments and contributions to the work of Faith Lutheran. With that in mind, we remind you that one easy way to stay faithful in your commitment is to sign up through Vanco. When you do this, your contribution is automatically withdrawn from your account. This is an easy process to set up. All giving options are also spelled out on the Faith Lutheran Home Page (at <https://faithlutheranokemos.org/giving/>). Look for the Giving link at the top. If you are interested in signing up for online giving or if you have any questions, we encourage you to talk with Jon Harrison, our Financial Secretary. finsec@faithlutheranokemos.org





Free Little Pantry

If you are interested in helping with the Little Food Pantry, please contact Cecelia Kramer, 517-349-3297. Thank you.

We take an offering for the Food Pantry on the 4th Sunday of each month.

Current Critical Needs: Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, dish soap, laundry soap pods, body soap, personal care products.

MEIJER GIFT CARDS NEEDED!

We now have three young men living in our Parish House. Not all of them have been able to receive work permits, so we continue to help provide their allowance. One way we do this is through Meijer Gift Cards. If you wish to supply a few gift cards for these young men, please bring them to worship or ask Katie or Pastor Ellen when you might drop them off at church.



NEIGHBORLY LOVE

We take an offering for the Parish house on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Confirmation Sunday 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Spring Property Clean Up	2	3 12:00 PM Noon Bible Study	4 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION	5 7:00 PM Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group	6	7 Event Rental
8 Mother's Day 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service Parish House Noisy Offering	9	10 9:00 AM CAMTA Meeting 12:00 PM Noon Bible Study	11 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION	12	13	14 Virtual Synod Assembly
15 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service	16 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	17 12:00 PM Noon Bible Study	18 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION	19	20	21 5:00 PM Sanctuary Rental
22 10:00 AM Sunday School: Last One 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM All Church Picnic Tiny Pantry Noisy Offering	23	24 12:00 PM Noon Bible Study 5:00 PM Sanctuary Rental	25 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION	26	27	28
29 Deadline: Butterfly Orders 10:00 AM Worship Service	30	31 12:00 PM Noon Bible Study	1 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION	2 7:00 PM Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group	3 6:00 PM Sanctuary Rental	4 1:00 PM Sanctuary Rental

June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Deadline: Butterfly Orders 10:00 AM Worship Service	30	31 12:00 PM Noon Bible Study	1 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION	2 7:00 PM Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group	3 6:00 PM Sanctuary Rental	4 1:00 PM Sanctuary Rental
5 Graduation Sunday 10:00 AM Worship Service	6 6:30 PM Green Team Meeting at Faith	7 12:00 PM Noon Bible Study	8 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION	9	10	11
12 Parish House Noisy Offering 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Butterfly Release	13	14 12:00 PM Noon Bible Study	15 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION	16	17	18
19 10:00 AM Worship Service	20	21 12:00 PM Noon Bible Study	22 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION	23	24	25
26 Tiny Pantry Noisy Offering 10:00 AM Worship Service	27	28 12:00 PM Noon Bible Study	29 9:30 AM Quilting and ACTION	30	1	2

