

Faith Family News

From the Pastor's Pen...

Endings and beginnings. This is the cycle we continually live in multiple ways as we journey through life. It is also the cycle Christians proclaim as we live and experience the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We proclaim this as we tell this story when moving through the church year. This is truly our story, the story of our lives. And, as we begin to look to the end of summer and prepare for the beginning of another year of programming within the life of our Faith community, we prepare for new beginnings.

We who serve as leaders in church life are already focused on these endings and new beginnings. We look to a new beginning of life together as Sunday School, Confirmation Classes, Choirs, and other activities begin again. I must say, we still face the transforming variants of COVID and that does place an element of uncertainty before us. Therefore, we cautiously live into a new mode of being as we try to get back to a sense of what had seemed "normal" before COVID hit. So, this new beginning is a time to focus on coming back to church! Join us for the following:

- Join us for Euchre Night and an evening of fun on Saturday, August 13.
- I will be offering an informational gathering for **anyone** interested in becoming a member at Faith Lutheran. I will hold this gathering in the Library following worship on Sunday, August 14. Please let me know if you are interested in attending. This will enable me to have the necessary resources for everyone.
- We move to the end of summer with a big splash as we hold our **Raise The Roof Picnic & Fundraiser** on Saturday, August 20.
- EVERYTHING begins anew on RALLY DAY, Sunday, September 11. Sunday School will begin on this day!
- God's Work Our Hands Day takes place on the afternoon of September 11. (More information to come on this.)
- Consider trying something new and join the choir! Studies have proven that singing in a choir makes a person happier!
- Beer & Hymns will again begin in September (date is yet to be determined).
- Many other activities (book studies, Green Team opportunities, etc.) are being planned.



Inside This Issue

Serving Faith.....	2
Pastor's Pen Cont.....	3
Roof Fundraising.....	4,5
VBS.....	6
Sunday School/Youth.....	7
Choirs.....	8
Serving the Community.....	9
LWR.....	10
Language of God.....	11
Prayers.....	12
MRH/Pantry.....	13
Audio/Visual Assistant.....	14
Calendars.....	15

Continued on Page 3

Serving Faith

LAY ASSISTANTS

August 7 Randy Royalty
August 14 Harold Sollenberger
August 21 Rich Weingartner
August 28 Ken Schoepf

USHERS

August 7 Heilman
August 14 Holste
August 21 Harrison
August 28 McCracken/Milne

READER SCHEDULE

August 7 Jamie Royalty
August 14 Jon Harrison
August 21 Megan Nyquist
August 28 Lois Neves

ALTAR CARE

August 7 Diane Hill
August 14 Cecelia Kramer
August 21 Cecelia Kramer
August 28 Elaine Harrison

COFFEE HOUR

August 7 Open
August 14 Connie Nelson
August 21 Open
August 28 Brigitta Brunning

If you would like to sign up to host Coffee Hour please sign up on the counter in the Narthex Kitchen.

Are you interested in being apart of the volunteer team at Faith? We have openings for ushers, readers, lay assistants, Sunday School teachers, altar care, nursery, and greeters. Please contact the volunteer coordinators if you are willing to help regularly or occasionally. Anything helps!

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

Nursery: Jennifer Coe: jenlynncoe@yahoo.com

Greeters: Mike Eschelbach: eschelbachm@gmail.com



As you begin looking at your fall schedules and planning for all that comes with the end of summer and the beginning of another programming year, I encourage you to become more involved in the life of our Faith community. I encourage you to participate in any one of the studies and opportunities that will be offered. I encourage you to come for IN-PERSON WORSHIP. Participating in the life of the Faith community enables us to continually grow in our relationship to the body of Christ in this place. God is at work in this place and the God-created community of Faith is where it all comes together, and growth happens!

In Christ,
Pastor Ellen

In Person Worship begins 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>

WORSHIP
with us

MEMBERSHIP



INFORMATION MEETING

A Gathering for those interested in becoming Members at Faith Lutheran

On Sunday, August 14, Pastor Ellen will be holding an informational gathering for anyone who might be interested in becoming a member at Faith Lutheran Church. She will hold this gathering in the library, immediately following worship. If you plan to attend this gathering, please let Pastor Ellen know so she has plenty of the resources she will be using.

ROOF FUNDRAISING EVENT

HELP US RAISE MONEY FOR THE NEW
ROOF

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

PICNIC BEGINS AT 4:30 PM

GREAT FOOD, GAMES, BID ON SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

MUSIC EVENT BEGINS AT 7:00 PM

JOIN US IN PERSON OR ONLINE FOR MUSIC
FUNDRAISER

Silent Auction items will be on display beginning August 7. If you have an item you would like to donate for the Auction, please speak to Pastor Ellen or Katie.



Euchre Tournament Roof Fund-Raiser!
Saturday, August 13 at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. \$25 per person entry donation (it IS a fund-raiser!), and extra points (up to 10) can each be purchased for a \$10 donation. Prizes will be awarded! You don't need to come with a partner, since points will be tallied individually. It'll be fun, and it'll help the roof cause: a two-fer! Sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Silent Auction – Fundraiser component

As part of our August 20 fundraising event, we will be holding a Silent Auction. Auction items will go on display in the Fellowship Hall beginning on Sunday, August 7. You can begin bidding on that day. The items will stay up on display until 6:30 PM on August 20. At that time the auction will be closed and the people who bid the highest on each item will be announced during the evening Music portion of the fundraising event.



RALLY DAY – Sunday School begins POTLUCK LUNCHEON WITH VIDEO OF THE HOLY LAND GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS DAY

YES! All these take place on Sunday, September 11. Plan now to be present for Rally Day as we kick off a new programming year! Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 11. We will hold a Potluck Lunch following worship. During this luncheon, people will be able to watch a video of Mary Ann Scheuerman's recent trip to the Holy Land. Then, in the afternoon, people are invited to join the Green Team for a project to celebrate God's Work Our Hands Day.

More information to come on all these events!

Vacation Bible School

August 1-5th from 9:00 to Noon
“WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?”



We will be learning about others using the following themes and countries:

Day 1

“God Loves Us” Malawi

Day 2

“Let Your Light Shine” Colombia

Day 3

“No Fear” Rwanda

Day 4

“God Loves Everyone” United States

Day 5

“Building God’s Neighborhood” Central African Republic and Japan

For Ages 4-5th Grade (going into 6th)

<https://bit.ly/VBS2022Neighbor>

Confirmation Classes begin on Wednesday, September 14

Confirmation Classes this year begin on Wednesday evening, September 14, at 6:00 PM. Confirmation Classes are for all young people in Grades 6-8. The first meeting will be for students and parents. You will receive more information about this in August. If you have any questions, please speak to Pastor Ellen.



Rally Day - We will start Sunday school on Sept. 11th. We are using a Spark Rotation curriculum. We are going to focus on miracles this year. We will do Jesus Feeds 5000 first. Each theme will be the same for 4-5 weeks.

Nursery- We would like to open the nursery room again during Sunday morning worship. Please contact [Jennifer Coe](#) if you would be willing to be a volunteer.

Heifer International - The Sunday school youth are learning about this organization and about how they support others around the world to not only be able to feed their families but also as a sustaining opportunity to help these families make money to support themselves and help their communities. We plan to continue collecting an offering for this again this year.



Survey- Below is the link for families with Sunday School aged children (3/4 and potty trained, through 5th grade). If you have a student who will be attending Sunday School, please take a minute to fill out this survey. Thank you.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1YJCqp80oAMcy2A1bMiFBeiBkTLgbPQDqfRNioUJs7IA/edit>



Blessing of the Backpacks

Bring your backpacks to worship on Sunday, August 21st for the blessing of the backpacks for the start of the school year.



HANDBELL CHOIR

Dear FLC friends –

I would like to invite you to consider joining the Music Ministry at FLC this fall! What a blessing it is, to be back in person for worship... and, to be able to **sing** and **play handbells** in person! We are looking forward to starting up again after Labor Day. Our Chancel Choir and Faith Bells are active from September through May.

The **CHANCEL CHOIR** sings during worship each Sunday. There are no auditions ... and no requirement to be at rehearsal every single week. We meet in the sanctuary on Wednesday evenings, from 7:30 – 8:45, and warm up on Sunday mornings from 9:15 – 9:40. If you LIKE to sing, whether or not you consider yourself a ‘musician’, we would love to have you join us!

The **FAITH BELLS** play during worship on the third Sunday of the month. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:15 in the former sanctuary (at the other end of the building). Once again, there are no auditions for the group. If you have played handbells in your past, or would like to LEARN how to play, please contact me – we’d love to have you join us!

I love the music making, ... but I also love the LAUGHTER and FELLOWSHIP that are such a vital part of our music program. I truly hope you’ll consider joining the holy hilarity that is the FLC music ministry! Questions? Please e-mail me at:

laladyB@comcast.net

Deb Borton-McDonough



BACK to SCHOOL

It's that time of year again! Let's help these families get started on the right foot!

Please review the available slots on the sign up below and click on the button to sign up. Please have all donations to the church by **Aug. 21st**. I can also come and pick it up from your home as well. Email: pwilliams@faithlutheranokemos.org

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4EAAAB22AAFE3-back1>

Culver's
Welcome to delicious.

Visit Culver's of Okemos on Times Square from 5-9 pm
MONDAY, AUGUST 1ST, 2022
and we will donate up to 20% of sales to the:
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH - MINI PANTRIES

Enjoy a delicious meal, benefit a great cause and feel good all over.

Visit Culver's of Okemos
5140 Times Square Dr. Okemos, MI 48864

Online Ordering, Drive-Thru or Dine-In
(No flyer or code needed)

Take
the
time
to
help
the
Little
ones
at
Master's
Hand.

Culver's
CONCRETE
MIXER

PERSONAL CARE KITS

Include the following items in each Personal Care Kit:



x1

One light-weight bath-size towel (between 20"×40" & 52"×27"), dark color recommended



x2

Two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping



x1

One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging*



x1

One sturdy comb, remove packaging



x1

One metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging



Wrap all the items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn.

We will be collecting items for Lutheran World Relief throughout August & September. If you have any questions, please contact the office, or talk to Charlotte Rasmussen. Thank you for your generosity.

SCHOOL KIT ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Include the following items in each School Kit:



x1

One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag, approximately 14" x 17", with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)



x4

Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10½"; no loose-leaf paper



x1

One box of 16 or 24 crayons



x1

One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other



x1

One pencil sharpener



x1

One pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)



x5

Five unsharpened No. 2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band



x5

Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band



x1

One 2½" eraser

We will be focusing on School Kits in August and Care Kits in September. Please drop off your donations at the LWR table in the Narthex.



Language for God - Tradition and Inclusion

"It appears that the further from one's own likeness God is, the greater the religious difficulties, even for the faithful."

- Gracia Grindal, "Reflections on God 'the Father'"

The Lord's Prayer, the Creeds, the Great Thanksgiving. We all have memories of various portions of our worship service. For many of us, coming from childhood. The language for the service and for God that we learned as children is, for many of us, we feel, the "correct" version of these, even though many have been updated over time. We grieve the loss of traditions when they change, we want to go back to what is comfortable and words that we are used to.

As many have noticed, occasionally, and with more frequency, we are starting to use alternate forms of the Lord's Prayer, creeds, or other portions of our service. For some portions only a few times a year, other portions more often. We may completely replace a section with a entirely different version, like we've been doing with the creed the last month, or sometimes just changing a few words like "Our Father" to "Our Creator" and "kingdom" to "kin-dom" in the Lord's Prayer. We don't do this just to try to be modern and to change for change's sake, but we do this because language matters.

We are all created in God's image. All of us. All genders, all races, all ages, all skin tones, all sexual orientations. All made in God's image. Too often in the language we use for God, we tend to create God in our image. And it tends to be male, white, and old. A very patriarchal view of God. While this may serve as a welcome image of God for some people (especially those who are white males), other people cannot see themselves in God when the language used for God doesn't reflect them. At the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly the social statement "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action" was adopted. (<https://elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Sexism>) Along with the social statement being adopted, a variety of implementing resolutions were adopted including "To urge members, congregations, ... and all people of good will to be guided by this statement's convictions and commitments to resist and dismantle patriarchy and sexism, and to transform life in the church and in society" and "...to use gender-inclusive and expansive language for God."

So, to more fully live into our call and promise as a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation and to support the goals of the "Faith, Sexism, and Justice" social statement, we'll continue to assess the language we use for God in our worship service and other areas to ensure that all of God's creation is reflected in the language we use. For the Lord's Prayer, we are currently planning on using the version with "Creator" and "kin-dom" on the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month, and the more traditional version the other Sundays.

If you wish to learn more about the Language for God, a new book by Mary J. Streufert has been released called "Language for God: A Lutheran Perspective" that looks at the history of why women are often considered inferior to men and that God couldn't be a woman because of this. It then looks at the issue through the lens of Martin Luther and ends with ways we can use gender inclusive language for God. If you wish to discuss this further, please reach out to Pastor Ellen or Rich Weingartner.

Prayers

Interceding on behalf of the vulnerable, we pray for the peoples of the world. Inspire all rulers and governing authorities with your justice. Guide the work of legislators and public officials, that they advocate for the well-being of those they serve. 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.

Persistent in prayer, we pray for our neighbors in need. To all who have hunger, give daily bread. To all who have bread, give hunger for justice. Open us to the cries of those who suffer, especially Alice, Juan Ramirez, Jesslyn Silva, Bob Shorman, Krista, Krissa & Derek, LeVine Bennet, Lee Gerard, Chip, Mabel Anglin, Emily, Gail & Lowell Barricklow, Rosie Brown, Shannon Stobel, Joy Coster, Carrie Christopher, Debra Vorce, Dorothy, Sarah Delaney-Tuinstra, Heather, Virginia Taschner, Marilyn Hogan, Ellen Milne, Ken Milne, Bill Williams, Todd Barricklow, Dirk Curry, Ben Cowin, Kenley, Allyson, and Dale Halverson. We hold in prayer the ministry of Loaves and Fishes and we pray for all the Samaritas children who seek adoption.

Gracious God, receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

Amen.



Offering envelopes are available if desired. Either in packs of 10 or a whole box. Just let Jon Harrison know on Sunday morning before or after church.



MICHIGAN REFUGEE HOPE ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF OUTING

It is time to mark your calendars for this event and plan to participate. The MRH Golf Fundraiser will take place on Saturday, September 3, at Wheatfield Valley Golf Club in Williamston. Check-in will begin at 8:30 AM, and the shot gun start will begin at 9:30 AM.

If you would like to be a Hole Sponsor for this event, your name would be listed at one of the 18 holes. Hole Sponsorships are as follows:

- Gold Sponsor \$500 (includes the fee for a team of 4 golfers)
- Silver Sponsor \$350 (includes the fee for a team of 2 golfers)
- Hole Sponsor \$150 (includes the fee for 1 golfer)



Sign up using this link

<https://bit.ly/2022MRHGolfOuting>

A special shout out to Karen Fraser and Tammy Heilman for helping to set up the Food Fair demonstration for parishioners to view after our Sunday Service 7/17. It is part of Tammy's report back to Thrivent on how their grant money made an impact for our Food Pantries.

The table is stocked with 14 of each of the items on our Monthly Stocking List for our Box Brigade. A rough count of the 30 items shown, should they have been bought at the Dollar Tree (\$1.25), times 2 for both pantries makes it about \$1,000 per week to restock both pantries. While we rarely get a total wipeout of absolutely everything there is enough going out of our pantries on a daily basis that without donations making up the difference we would be in very deep trouble.

Thanks again to all who are taking part in this very worthwhile project. Cecelia



Faith Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
4515 Dobie Road, Okemos, MI 48864

Position Title: Audio/Video Assistant for Faith Lutheran Church, Okemos, MI

Reports to: Technology Committee/Pastor

Summary of Duties: The primary responsibility of the Audio/Video specialist is to run the live stream and audio board on Sunday mornings and as needed for special events at Faith Lutheran Church.

1. Live stream worship services on Sunday mornings
2. Set up microphones for special musical guests
3. Test microphones with lay assistant and pastor weekly
4. Manage audio for worship service
5. Audio record worship service
6. Keep track of online worship attendance and report this weekly to ushers
7. Email Audio service weekly
8. Manage audio for special church events (as needed)
9. Post Sunday presentations (currently on PowerPoint) to various monitors
10. This position will average 2-4 hours per week

Qualifications:

1. Energetic and proficient in technology with a pride in creating an interactive and engaging Faith Lutheran Church worship service
2. Physically and mentally capable of carrying out the required activities
3. Ability to manage multiple things at once
4. Ability to problem solve on the spot
5. Understand and be able to operate Streaming software (currently OBS)
6. Understand and be able to set up and operate social media application (currently Facebook Live)
7. Be familiar with computer operating systems (currently MS 10) with multiple monitors
8. Operate camera system
9. Work collaboratively with the Technology Committee
10. Available Sundays for worship; flexible in availability to accommodate the schedule of church activities if needed. Timely notice of schedule conflicts, helping create a plan for coverage of absence
11. High School age or older

Compensation: \$15 per hour

Work Schedule: Sundays throughout the year as well as other special occasions/holidays determined by the pastor.

Duties to Begin: August, 2022

Application Deadline: August 5, 2022, or until filled

Application Process

Interested and qualified external applicants may apply by sending a resume and a letter of interest to

Faith Lutheran Church
c/o Pastor Ellen Schoepf
4515 Dobie Rd.
Okemos, MI 48864

August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Quarterly Meeting 11:30am Set up for VBS	1 9:00am VBS 5:00pm Culvers Fundraising Event	2 9:00am VBS 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	3 9:00am VBS 9:30am Quilting and ACTION	4 9:00am VBS 7:00pm Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group	5 9:00am VBS	6
7 10:00am Worship Service	8	9 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	10 9:30am Quilting and ACTION	11	12	13 7:00pm Euchre Fundraiser
14 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Membership Informational Meeting	15 7:00pm Council Meeting	16 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	17 9:30am Quilting and ACTION	18	19 Lugnuts Game	20 4:30pm Roof Fundraising Picnic 7:00pm Music Fundraising Event
21 10:00am Worship Service/Backpack Blessing	22 7:00pm Green Team Meeting at Faith	23 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	24 9:30am Quilting and ACTION	25	26	27
28 Back to School Bag Delivery 10:00am Worship Service	29	30 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	31 9:30am Quilting and ACTION	1	2	3 9:30am MRH Golf Outing Fundraiser

September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Back to School Bag Delivery 10:00am Worship Service	29	30 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	31 9:30am Quilting and ACTION	1	2	3 9:30am MRH Golf Outing Fundraiser
4 10:00am Worship Service	5	6 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	7 9:30am Quilting and ACTION 6:30pm Bells Rehearsal 7:30pm Chancel Choir	8	9	10
11 Rally Day Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	12	13 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	14 9:30am Quilting and ACTION 6:00pm Confirmation Starts 6:30pm Bells Rehearsal 7:30pm Chancel Choir	15	16	17
18 Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	19 7:00pm Council Meeting	20 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	21 9:30am Quilting and ACTION 6:00pm Confirmation 6:30pm Bells Rehearsal 7:30pm Chancel Choir	22	23	24
25 Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	26	27 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	28 9:30am Quilting and ACTION 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Chancel Choir	29	30	1