

Faith Family News

From the Pastor’s Pen...

Dear Friends,

First, I would like to thank you for the generous Christmas bonus you gave to me and to other staff members. I am deeply grateful for your generosity and your kind hearts.

As I write this I am thinking about Transfiguration Sunday and the beginning of Lent. We are getting ready to embark on our Lenten journey, that forty-day season modeled on Jesus’ forty days in the wilderness. These forty days embody one of the most meaningful seasons of the year as together we follow Jesus to the cross.

I have also been thinking a great deal about recent events in our world. I have been thinking about the chaos, pain, and grief the people in Ukraine are facing. I find myself thinking about the challenges the world is facing as climate is changing all around us. I think about the chaos we often face within our own country. And I find myself experiencing a deep longing, a sense of hunger that yearns for peace, justice, wholeness and faithfulness, something the Bible calls *shalom*. These qualities sometimes seem so removed from the chaos of everyday life. Yet, the road Jesus walked was one of chaos, one that often appeared to blot out anything that seemed holy. So, maybe that is what we must remember as we make this Lenten journey – God lovingly walks **with** us in the chaos, the challenge, and the profanity and hostility of the real world. That is truly the story of Jesus’ Passion.

As together we embark on another Lenten journey, I challenge you to let yourself be engulfed by the Gospel readings and the stories of Jesus’ passion. Let yourself be taken up into the Passion story as we walk the road of discipleship to the cross and then beyond. The stories we hear are the stories that shape us, they give us identity, and they give us a picture of God’s unfathomable love for us.

I pray you will be richly blessed as we travel this road together.

Pastor Ellen



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Serving Faith

LAY ASSISTANTS

2/5 Randy Royalty
2/12 Paul Hereza
2/19 Mike Eschelbach
2/26 Rich Weingartner

READER SCHEDULE

2/5 John McCracken
2/12 Ryan Thompson
2/19 Elaine Harrison
2/26 Alexa Warwick

COFFEE HOUR

2/5 Green Team Chili/Soup Cookoff
2/12 Hereza
2/19 Open
2/26 Warwick/Cowell

USHERS

McCracken/Milne
Hirt
Kopf
Holste/Robinson

ALTAR CARE

Rich Weingartner
Rich Weingartner
Cecelia Kramer
Cecelia Kramer

GREETERS

Doug & Linda Hirt
Chris & Jean Lewis
Ken & Ellen Milne
Rich Weingartner

NURSERY

Kate Magyar
Maude Lewis
Paige Lewis
Pam Williams

ACOLYTE

Jasper Wawrzynski
Isaak Nyquist
Open
Open

We need volunteers for Nursery, Lay Assistants and Greeters.

Many hands make light work!! Step up and volunteer!

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

Nursery: Jennifer Coe: jenlynncoe@yahoo.com Greeters: Mike Eschelbach: eschelbachm@gmail.com

To Sign up for Coffee Hour please use the sign-up sheet on the Narthex Kitchen Counter

Have you ever wondered what a Lay Assistant does?

Do you have questions about what they do?

Meet with Rich Weingartner on February 26 after worship to answer the questions.

If you think you'd like to be a Lay Assistant, this is for you. Rich will go over the duties.

If you are currently a Lay Assistant, please attend so Rich can refresh the procedure.

ADULT *Sunday School*

Adult Sunday School classes resume on Sunday, February 5, at 9:00 AM. On that day, Pastor Ellen will share the draft of the new **ELCA Social Message on Climate Change**.

Then, on Sunday, February 12, Pastor John Schleicher will begin leading a four-week study on **Awakening to God's Call to Earthkeeping**. The focus of these four class sessions include:

Rediscovering Our Place In Creation
God's Presence Fills All Creation
Biblical Foundations for Earthkeeping
Creation Waits With Eager Longing

We invite you to plan to join us for these educational opportunities. As we move through winter and into spring, we experience the perfect time to again focus on our call to care for the earth.



Sunday, Feb. 26, following worship – New Member Class

On Sunday, Feb. 26, following worship, Pastor Ellen will be holding a class for anyone who might be interested in becoming a member of the Faith Lutheran community. This class will take place downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in attending this class, please let Pastor Ellen or Katie know we have enough resources on hand for everyone.

All Church Soup/Chili Cookoff & Movie

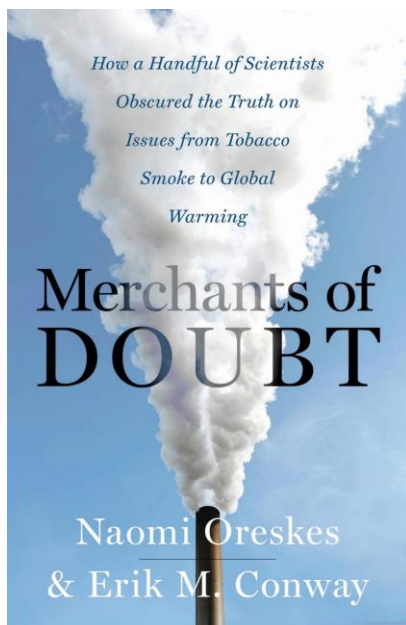
Sunday, February 5th - All Church Soup/Chili Cookoff & Movie hosted by Green Team

Soup/Chili Cookoff & Movie sponsored by the Green Team

Due to the fact that our Fellowship Hall has been transformed into a Free Store for Knob Hill residents, we have **moved our Potluck/Movie event to Sunday, February 5th**. So, we have decided to make this event a **Soup/Chili Cookoff!** We invite you to bring a pot of your favorite soup or chili recipe. We also invite you to bring quarters (or quiet money if you wish) and we will use that as a method of voting for the best soup or chili represented! The winning soup or chili recipe will then be published in the newsletter and all of the money collected will go toward the Food Pantry Project. The Green Team will provide drinks, cornbread, crackers, and cookies.

Following the luncheon, we will show the movie, ***Merchants of Doubt***. The U.S. scientific community has long led the world in research on public health, science, and other issues affecting the quality of life among people.

In the book, ***Merchants of Doubt***, historians Naomi Oreskes and Erick Conway explain how a small group of high-level scientists, with extensive political connections, ran effective campaigns to mislead the public and deny well-established scientific knowledge over four decades. In seven compelling chapters addressing tobacco, acid rain, the ozone hole, global warming, and DDT, Oreskes and Conway roll back the rug on this dark corner of the American scientific community, showing how the ideology of free market fundamentalism, aided by a too-compliant media, has skewed public understanding of some of the most pressing issues of our era. This book has been made into the documentary we will screen.



February 1 – Youth Activity

February 8 – Class – The Creed / What is a Creed

February 15 – Class – Mentoring event

February 22 – NO CLASS – ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

March 1 – Youth Activity

March 8 – Class – The Creed / Article 1

March 15 – Class – Mentoring event & Lenten Service

March 22 – Class – The Creed / Article 2

March 29 – NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK

April 5 – NO CLASS – HOLY WEEK

April 12 – Youth Activity

April 16 – Confirmation Sunday

April 19 – Class – The Creed / Article 3

April 26 – Last Confirmation Class – Celebration Night – Mentors invited

LINKS TO ACOLYTE SCHEDULE & SERMON NOTES:

Acolyte Sign-up Link: bit.ly/faithacolytesignup

Sermon Note Sign-in Link: bit.ly/FaithSermonNotes2223

Sunday School teachers are needed for the Winter and Spring Months. Please use the sign-up genius link below to sign up for dates you are available. Please contact [Pam Williams](#) with any questions.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b4eaaab22aafe3-iwantto>





Wednesday, February 1st at 6:00 P.M.

Cost: \$20.00

We will meet at Launch in the Meridian Mall at 6:00 p.m. For only \$20 you will get dinner (pizza and drink) as well as a 1 Hour action pass for jumping a One Hour Laser Tag Game and Arcade Cards with 20 Credits

If you do not have Launch socks, they are \$3 additional. You can keep them and bring them back with you. The cost for this event is \$20.00. Please bring a check (made out to Faith Lutheran Church: put Middle School event on the memo line) or you can choose to give Pam \$20.00 in cash. Please contact Pam with any questions.

Parents also need to sign a waiver. You can go online to do this: <https://mono.wherewolf.co.nz/qqack9>

***Please let Pam know if you are coming!!!**



Student Spotlight: Maddie Webb

Maddie attends Williamston Middle School. Her favorite activities include soccer, basketball, and hanging out with her friends and family. She enjoys helping others and is enjoying her first year of middle school.





YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO THE Shrove PANCAKE Supper

Tuesday, February 21st; 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church

Two Options:

- 1. You can come into the church and eat your supper with your family. You can have all the pancakes you would like.**
- 2. You can have your pancake supper to go. You can pull up and we will have a person who can bring you your food.**

The Youth will be serving pancakes (let us know if you are gluten free), sausage, applesauce and drinks (for the people inside)

****We will be taking a free will offering which will go to our youth programs.**

**First Communion Class – Sunday, Feb. 12,
following worship.**

If you desire for your child to begin taking communion OR if your child already takes communion and you want him/her to better understand communion, we invite you and your child to participate in this class.



Following worship on Sunday, Feb. 12, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall as we learn that God invites all of us to the table. Children will learn there is a place for them at the communion table. If you plan to attend this class with your child, please let Pastor Ellen or Katie know so that we can be sure to have enough materials for everyone.

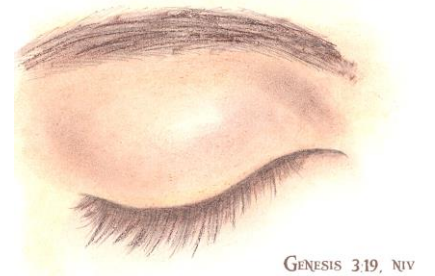
40 days OF LENT

On various Sundays throughout the season of Lent, Kim O'Brien will be preaching and connecting our Lenten journey to the work she is experiencing as she continues her pathway to become ordained into the Ministry of Word and Service. She is currently doing a twelve month internship at Trinity Health in Ann Arbor where she is working as a hospital chaplain. As she lives into her calling, she will be enhancing her educational experience by doing some preaching and connecting God's word to life as she is experiencing it. Here is what she says about her presence with us throughout this Lenten journey:

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."
The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and immerses us into a time to acknowledge and reflect on the reality of our mortality. As Christians, we worship a God who comes to us incarnate, in human form in the person of Jesus and, during the season of Lent, we walk with him as he journeys to his death on the cross. Working as a hospital chaplain at Trinity Health (formerly St. Joe's) in Ann Arbor, I regularly accompany patients and their families on their journey toward death. Our culture's denial of the reality of death collides in often devastating ways with how people are able to move toward the end of life with dignity, love and peace. Acknowledging our mortality requires a vulnerability and raw honesty that is often uncomfortable. I invite you to join me on a path of authenticity this Lent where we explore God's presence in the midst of pain, suffering, and even death, as we remember that we are dust, and to dust we shall return.

"BY THE SWEAT OF YOUR BROW YOU WILL EAT
YOUR FOOD UNTIL YOU RETURN TO THE GROUND,
SINCE FROM IT YOU WERE TAKEN."

FOR
DUST
YOU ARE AND TO
DUST
YOU WILL RETURN."



GENESIS 3:19, NIV

40 days OF LENT

The season of Lent begins with our 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday service on the evening of February 22. Then, we will again hold weekly Lenten services on Wednesday evenings throughout the season of Lent. These services will begin at 7:15 on Wednesday evenings.

This year, we will again hear from author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine as she delves into the history and literature surrounding the last days of Jesus' life. In six video sessions entitled *Entering the Passion of Jesus*, Dr. Levine sheds fresh light on familiar passages in the Gospels and helps us to see the passion of Jesus through Jewish eyes. Dr. Levine says that in every good story there is history and there is risk. With that statement in mind, here is the listing of each week's focus:

1. Jerusalem: Risking Reputation
2. The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger
3. Teachings: Risking Challenge
4. The First Dinner: Risking Rejection
5. The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends
6. Gethsemane: Risking Temptation

Join us as Dr. Levine takes us deeper into our understanding of Holy Week.

Coming in March

Interfaith Collaborative Educational Experiences with the Islamic Center Sunday, March 5th

Our community of Faith Lutheran is again collaborating with the Islamic Center for a couple of educational experiences. The first event will take place on Sunday afternoon, March 5, beginning at 3:30 PM. We are invited to gather at the Islamic Center at 3:30 on that day. Imam Sohail Chaudhry will give us a tour of the Center and lead a presentation in which he will share the basics of Islamic faith. We will then be invited to observe their time of prayer which begins at 4:30. Snacks will also be provided.

The second event will take place in May. For this event, people from the Islamic community will come to Faith Lutheran and join our community for a catered halal meal and presentation showing points of contact and similarity between our faith traditions. We will specifically focus on similarities between Ramadan and Lent. More information to come on this event.

There will be a sign-up sheet for both of these educational events. The Imam and the Islamic Center have been wonderful partners in the work of our Parish House ministry effort, and the Imam is a dear friend of our community. We invite you to join us for these educational events!

An electronic signup sheet is available using the link below, or you can use the paper sign up sheet in the Narthex.

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

Wellness Information and Potluck Sunday March 19 following worship

Please plan to join the Caring Committee, HarmonyCares Hospice and others for an informational workshop that will provide you with the knowledge to make informed decisions about end of life needs and what to expect. In addition, learn about your rights and the services covered through your insurance to help with medical needs such as home health and therapy, medical care and medical equipment. On-site blood pressure readings and wellness massage information will be available as well.



The potluck theme will be Brunch. Please plan to share your favorite brunch casserole or other brunch item. Beverages and fruit will be provided by the Caring Committee.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP



For the month of February, we will be taking a Pantry offering on Sunday, February 12th and Sunday, February 26th.

Please contact [Cecelia Kramer](#) if you would like to volunteer to help this important ministry.

Community Free Store

Thank you to everyone who helped in person and in prayer for the Community Free store at Faith. It was a blessing to those who helped and those who received the help.

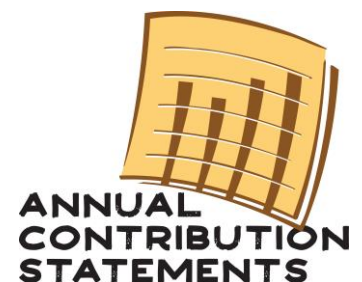
“The community made a very hard thing a little easier” -Knob Hill resident.

All donations that were left (and really there wasn't much) have been moved on to local organizations who can continue the distribution.



Any annual contribution reports that were still in your church mailbox were mailed on Monday, January 30th. Please contact Jon Harrison with any questions.

jon.harrison@comcast.net or call 517-349-4049



PRAYER list

Gracious God, we praise you that you are ever present to us and hear when people call to you.

We hold in prayer 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, Hannah Cunningham, and Aiden Seeley.

We especially pray for Kyle, Jerry Ransom, Lois Neves, Mara Luis, Charlotte Rasmussen, Marcele, Mike Taylor, Dale Halverson, Helen Brinkman, Jesslyn Silva, Bob Shorman, Krista, Lee Gerard, Shannon Stobel, Joy Coster, Carrie Christopher, Emily, Marilyn Hogan, Bill Williams, Todd Barricklow, Ben Cowin, Kenley and Allyson. We hold in prayer the ministry of Loaves and Fishes and we pray for all the Samaritas children who seek adoption.

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 RIC Sunday 9:00am Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Annual Meeting	30	31	1 9:30am Quilting and ACTION 6:00pm Middle School Activity Night	2 7:30pm Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group	3	4
5 9:00am Adult Sunday School & Continental Breakfast 9:00am Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am All Church Green Team Movie & Chili Cook Off	6	7	8 9:30am Quilting and ACTION 6:00pm Confirmation	9	10 9:00am Sanctuary Rental	11
12 9:00am Adult Sunday School & Continental Breakfast 9:00am Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am First Communion Class	13	14	15 9:30am Quilting and ACTION 6:00pm Confirmation	16	17	18
19 No Children's Sunday School 9:00am Adult Sunday School & Continental Breakfast 10:00am Worship Service	20	21 5:00pm Shrove Pancake Dinner	22 9:30am Quilting and ACTION 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	23	24	25
26 9:00am Adult Sunday School & Continental Breakfast 9:00am Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am New Member Class	27	28	1 9:30am Quilting and ACTION 6:00pm Confirmation 7:15pm Lenten Service	2 7:00pm Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group	3	4