

Faith Family News

From the Pastor’s Pen...

Dear Friends,

At our Wednesday Lenten Services throughout the Lenten season, we will be hearing from Dr. Amy-Jill Levine as she talks about what it means to enter the passion of Jesus. She says the stories of Holy Week are brimming with both history and risk. History provides the foundation and often explains what is going on and why. The risk brings the anticipation, the danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward. We should always be willing to take a risk as we study the Bible and again hear the story of Jesus’ passion because any study should open up new understandings and new ideas. We should be willing to risk, rethinking previously held views and be open to new insights into the Gospel, insights that may even cause us to rethink how we act in the world today. As we hear the stories of Holy Week with Dr. Levine, we will explore the risks taken not only by Jesus but also by his followers.

Lent is a time to focus on repentance (turning back to God), and a period of atonement, which is a time to repair past wrongs. We might think of the term “atonement” as meaning “at one-ment,” being at one with one another, being reconciled. One way of understanding the cross is that it represents atonement between humanity and divinity. But the Passion narrative should also prompt us to think about reconciliation in our own lives.

During Lent, we should ask ourselves, what should I have done that I did not do? What risk should I have taken that I was afraid to take? When did my sense of self-preservation trump my sense of courage? Jesus not only takes up his own cross, he also calls us to take up our cross and follow him. The Passion narrative asks much of us and it also, through Jesus’ example, gives us the knowledge that we can do what we are asked. It gives the assurance that we will succeed.

As we look at Jesus’ last week of life during this Lenten season, we should find ourselves challenged by these questions: What do we stand for? What do we believe in? When do we stand up for those beliefs? We can also watch the disciples and ask ourselves, when have we denied or betrayed? How can we make it right? Jesus talks about taking up the cross. The Passion narrative shows him doing that. Can those who claim to be his followers do the same?



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Serving Faith

LAY ASSISTANTS

3/5 Ryan Thompson
3/12 Doug Hirt
3/19 Mike Eschelbach
3/26 Walter Kopf

USHERS

Hirt
Kopf
Harrison
McCracken/Milne

NURSERY

READER SCHEDULE

3/5 Walter Kopf
3/12 Heidi Nussdorfer
3/19 Megan Nyquist
3/26 Brenda Kopf

ALTAR CARE

Kathy Mace
Kathy Mace
Brenda Kopf
Elaine Harrison

ACOLYTE

Jasper Wawrzynski
Open
Calvin Kadrofske
Open

COFFEE HOUR

3/5 Dingleline
3/12 Boyan
3/19 Paige
3/26 Kopf

GREETERS

Doug & Linda Hirt
Chris & Jean Lewis
Rich Weingartner
Mike Eschelbach

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

Daylight saving time is set to start again at 2 a.m. local time on March 12, 2023.



From the Pastor's Pen Continued....

Dr. Levine suggests we ask these questions:

When a friend comes to you and says, "What is the cross that you're bearing? What is the cause that you have taken up? How much have you risked?," do you know what your answer is? That's entering into Lent. That's entering the Passion.

I invite you to join us each Wednesday night for the 7:15 Lenten Service as we enter the passion of Jesus.

Pastor Ellen

A d u l t E d u c a t i o n / S p e c i a l G u e s t s

ADULT *Sunday School*

Pastor John Schleicher's Adult Sunday School Class, **Awakening to God's Call to Earthkeeping**, is being extended and continuing on into March. We invite you to join us at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings and the class explores the following topics:

Biblical Foundations for Earthkeeping
Creation Waits With Eager Longing

A final component of this class will include taking a look at Advocacy and the ways we can advocate for change in policies. To that end, John has connected with **Rep. Elissa Slotkin** and she is planning to come to Faith Lutheran on Sunday, April 16, for both Sunday School and worship. You are invited to join us as we continue to explore Creation Care. As we move through winter and into spring, we experience the perfect time to again focus on our call to care for the earth.

On Sunday, April 2, Bishop Craig Satterlee will be joining us for Palm Sunday Worship. Following worship, he will speak to the congregation regarding what will happen after Pastor Ellen leaves. He will describe the Call Process. We encourage you to attend.



Easter Baskets for Samaritas Children Who Seek Adoption

Every Sunday in worship, we pray for the Samaritas children who seek adoption. When we pray, that prayer also means we put ourselves to work to seek justice for those for whom we pray. During Lent, we will be collecting money to donate to Samaritas for the purpose of giving Easter Baskets to each child in their care. There is an Easter Basket display in the Narthex where you can contribute if you are able. Or, you can donate online via the link listed below.



Easter Baskets Needed for Children Across Michigan

This March, as our search continues for a new Faith Engagement Director, we are still planning on moving forward with our tradition of collecting Easter Baskets for children!

This donation drive happens annually in collaboration with our congregational friends and partners. These baskets will be distributed to children around the state in **Foster Care, Affordable Living, Family Preservation, Adoption**, and the **Family Center**.

Many of these children are spending Easter away from home, many are going through a very difficult time, and many live in a family without the resources to provide goodies on Easter. Did you receive an Easter Basket as a child? It may sound like a small thing - but an Easter Basket can bring so much fun and joy to a child and help show the love of Jesus during a holiday when we celebrate what he's done for us!

You can reach out to me at kpark@samaritas.org or 517-449-3270 to learn more. Or visit this need on our [Volunteer Website](#).

Easter Flower Order

Easter flower order forms will be available in the bulletin and in the Narthex starting Sunday, March 5th.

Flowers will be available for \$17.00 each.

Orders will be due by Sunday, March 26th.



Lenten Services – Each Wednesday in March beginning at 7:15 PM

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. We will be using the service of Holden Evening Prayer each week.

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 – March 1
2. Teachings: Risking Challenge – March 8
3. The First Dinner: Risking Rejection – March 15
4. The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends – March 22
5. Gethsemane: Risking Temptation – March 29



Easter Sunday
Breakfast

Easter Continental Breakfast

8:45 A.M. on Easter Sunday

Membership Development invites everyone to an Easter morning continental breakfast at Faith. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex at church.

Upcoming Membership Development Activities:

Membership Development will be hosting a ***Euchre tournament*** on Saturday, March 25th at 7:00. A sign-up sheet will be set up in the narthex for the next few Sundays. You can also email Tammy Heilman at heilmant@hotmail.com to sign up.



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
W H A R T O N
C E N T E R

There will also be a signup sheet for ***Wharton Tickets*** to Jesus Christ Superstar (thank you Rich Weingartner). The date for this show is Sunday, June 18th (Fyi- this is Father's Day) at 1:00 pm. Rich was able to get a group rate for tickets, so the price is \$82 per ticket. A \$1 handling fee per order will also be charged. Orders and payments must be made by May 5th. What a great opportunity for Faith friends to see this rock opera that has wowed audiences for over 50 years!

Upcoming Events



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 available as well.

Steve Wing will be available Sunday March 19 during the Wellness Potluck to help you if you have issues with low back, shoulder, neck, or hand discomfort. Steve is a retired massage therapist and can use a technique called "positional release" to help decrease your discomfort. He will have his table set up in the Narthex after church. He feels it may take about 8-10 minutes per person to have you feeling better! There will be no charge. If you would like to donate to the Little Food Panty at Faith that would be appreciated.

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.

Please sign up if you plan to attend either on the sign up sheet on the Caring Committee bulletin board or go to the SignUp Genius link :

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CA4A62FA3F49-wellness>

Collaborative Events with the Islamic Center

Sunday, March 5 – We will gather at the Islamic Center at 3:30 in the afternoon for an educational experience with the Imam as we again learn more about Islam. Snacks will be served and, as the time concludes, the Imam has invited us to stay for their time of prayer.

Friday, May 5 – **The Islamic Center community will join us here at Faith Lutheran Church for a catered Halal dinner**, and John Schleicher and the Imam will present a program on the Similarities and Points of Contact between Ramadan and Lent. The schedule for the evening looks like this:

6:00 – 6:30, gathering time as people get to know others

6:30 – 7:00, dinner

7:00 – 7:30, program

7:30 – and on, Questions & Answers

For both of these events, there is a signup sheet in the Narthex as well as a signup link in the e-news.

Sunday School/Youth Ministry

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

The **Shrove Pancake Dinner** was a success! Thank you to those who came and supported our youth.

They brought in \$580 to be used for future trips. Thanks for all the support.





Let's Celebrate Easter
Saturday, April 8th 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Easter Egg Hunt (at 10:30)
Games, Crafts, Snacks & Fun!
All are welcome!!

Location: Faith Lutheran Church, 4515 Dobie Rd. Okemos
Contact: pwilliams@faithlutheranokemos.org or call us at 517-349-0620.



Volunteering is an important way for people to learn about living life as Jesus did.

Our youth, 6th grade and up, have volunteer opportunities each month. I am hoping to have each student volunteer for at least one activity each month. See below for the Sign-Up Genius to sign up.

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b4eaaab22aafe3-march#/
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b4eaaab22aafe3-april#/>](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b4eaaab22aafe3-march#/)

Student Spotlight: Joslyn Coe

Josie likes all things purple. Pizza is her favorite food and she loves school. Her favorite activity at home is playing dress up or playing with her dolls.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

BRING SMILES TO SENIORS CARD MAKING CHANGES

Diane Hill will be bringing in already decorated cards without sentiments from other card makers, for anyone who wishes to write sentiments only and return back to church as complete. She receives large quantities of cards without sentiments and would be very appreciative of your help! Enjoy looking at the work from talented card maker's throughout the country!



The cards will be in packets of twenty-five and are available in the baskets in the narthex.

If you're still interested in decorating cards that's wonderful, however FLC will not be providing the materials to do that at this time. Please see information in the narthex about this wonderful program that brings joy to many of our elderly in Michigan!



Easter Basket Food Drive

We will be supporting 14 families in Meridian Township that were displaced by the Knob Hill fire. There will be a Sign-up Genius available March 1, 2023. We will collect food from March 1-26 with all donations to the church by March 26. Food delivery will be Palm Sunday after church. As always, we appreciate your support in donating and delivering the food!

Please use the sign-up link below to see and sign up for needed items.

If you have any questions, reach out to Natalie Dingledine or Kathy Mace.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094ca4a62fa3f49-easter#/>

Dine at Culver's of Okemos North MONDAY, APRIL 17TH FROM 5-9 PM

and we will donate a percentage of all sales to the:

FAITH LUTHERAN MINI PANTRIES

Faith Lutheran Church supports two mini food/personal care pantries. One is at their church and the other is at the Okemos Public Library. They ensure the pantries are stocked daily and are raising funds to buy items. They currently spend around \$1,000 per month on items.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH



SHARE NIGHT

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

Thank you for supporting the
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH!

No flyer or code needed.

*Drive-thru, dine-in, carryout or
order online at culvers.com*



Come on in to your local Culver's restaurant:

CULVER'S OF OKEMOS NORTH
5140 Times Square Dr. Okemos, MI 48864
(517) 853-8714 | culvers.com/restaurants/okemos



WAYS YOU CAN HELP



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

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

Property Committee News

The two furnaces that heat our sanctuary are 22 years old. We recently had a \$1700 repair to one of them, and we have had several other repairs over the last couple of years. In light of this, the Property Committee thinks it would be wise to obtain some quotes for possible replacements should this become an issue. We did keep in reserve some of the extra money we raised this past year from our roofing fundraiser to help with this future expense. We will keep you updated.

Bob Nelson and Rick Baderstadt, Co-Chairs, Property Committee

PRAYER
list...

Gracious God, you alone are God. Sustain your church throughout this Lenten season. As we travel with you to the cross, we hold many in prayer. 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, Hannah Cunningham, and Aiden Seeley.

We also pray for Diane Flatley and her family as they mourn her father's death, Charlotte Hengesbach, Jim Voisinet, Luke Williams, Joan Herbon, Ralph Garber, Nate Statly, Jan Belanger, Glyn, Kyle, Jerry Ransom, Lois Neves, Mara Lusic, Charlotte Rasmussen, Marcele, 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 lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 6:00pm Confirmation 6:15pm Faith Bells 7:15pm Lenten Service 7:45pm Chancel Choir	2 7:00pm Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group	3 9:00am Sanctuary Rental	4
5 9:00am Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 3:30pm Islamic Center Interfaith Event	6	7	8 6:00pm Confirmation 6:15pm Faith Bells 7:15pm Lenten Service 7:45pm Chancel Choir	9	10	11 Fellowship Hall Rental
12 9:00am Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	13	14	15 6:00pm Confirmation 6:15pm Faith Bells 7:15pm Lenten Service 7:45pm Chancel Choir	16	17	18
19 9:00am Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Wellness Pottluck 2:00pm Sanctuary Rental	20	21	22 6:00pm Confirmation 6:15pm Faith Bells 7:15pm Lenten Service 7:45pm Chancel Choir	23	24	25 7:00pm Euchre Fundraiser
26 Easter Flower Orders Due Easter Food Due to the Church No Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	27	28	29 6:15pm Faith Bells 7:15pm Lenten Service 7:45pm Chancel Choir	30	31	1

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Easter Flower Orders Due Easter Food Due to the Church No Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	27	28	29 6:15pm Faith Bells 7:15pm Lenten Service 7:45pm Chancel Choir	30	31	1
2 Bishop Satterlee Joins us for Worship No Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Pottluck Easter Fest	3	4	5	6 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	7 12:00pm Good Friday Service at OCC 7:00pm Good Friday Service at Faith	8 10:00am Easter Event
9 No Children's Sunday School 8:45am Continental Breakfast 10:00am Easter Worship Service: Brass	10	11	12 6:00pm Youth Activity	13	14	15
16 10:00am Confirmation Sunday 10:00am Worship Service	17 5:00pm Culvers Fundraising Event	18	19 6:00pm Confirmation	20	21	22 Fellowship Hall Rental
23 Green Team Leading Worship 10:00am Worship Service	24	25	26 6:00pm Last Confirmation Class	27	28	29
30 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Congregational Meeting	1	2	3	4	5 Wharton Ticket Orders Due 6:00pm Halal Dinner	6