

AUGUST 2023

# Faith Family News

## PASTOR'S CORNER

By Pastor Bruce Thorsen

I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Genesis 9:13 NRSV God has promised never to do a Noah's Ark thing again where God basically started over. This is what a covenant is, a promise or agreement. We make them every day some are more extensive than others. Every relationship has some kind of agreement whether spoken or unspoken.

We have them where we work or had them where you used to work. Agreements or covenants are how things get accomplished. We come together and agree on what the goals are and what our responsibilities are for those goals.

God made this agreement rather early on with the people God made. God has kept the agreement, but I'm not sure how well we have done. For me this agreement also has to do with our relationships with other people of God. To keep this agreement or covenant with God takes a lot of listening to each other and doing our best to understand the people that we are working with. So often our feelings and need to get a point across get in the way. Each one of us needs to be heard, but not at the expense of others.

As we work together and I observe how our community works together, I may see things and hear things. There may be times that (privately) if need be, I will point these out, but I also expect the same from you in relation to me. I believe this is what it means to be kingdom people and do our best to continue living into this covenant that God has with us. I will be asking a lot of questions and I don't expect there always to be an answer right away. I have learned a great deal already about Faith. I see many signs of God's kingdom here in each one of you. Unfortunately, as Christians we are a work in progress until the day we join the heavenly kingdom fully.

I invite us to continue breathing as there are few things that have to be done overnight. I will be working with the Transition Team who will make recommendations to the Congregation Council about things that may need to be assessed. There is no perfect system which I believe all of you have experienced. I believe our covenant with God says that with the discernment of the Holy Spirit we are called to examine how we do ministry and where. This verse from Genesis comes from the First lesson for Pride Sunday, August 27. Part of this agreement or covenant that we have with God is something that we are doing, is welcoming all people. We can celebrate that and yet realize that the work of diversity and inclusion is never over. The fact that you have called me and welcomed me for who God made me to be is something that I will never forget.

My prayer is that we can work together with all of our strengths and weaknesses in a graceful manner to continue living into this Covenant/agreement that we and God have promised to do.

## Transition Team / Call Committee

Some of you may remember the transition time before Pastor Ellen and some of you may even have been involved with a transition between pastors. I can tell you that every transition time is different. This transition time at Faith will be different than the last time. Since you have called me to be a Transitional Pastor and I have training and experience in congregational transitions, I will be guiding the transition time. In the past I don't believe that you had a Transition Team, but we will now. This team will work on getting the information needed for the Call committee. The Transition team will assist the congregation in moving through this time of transition.

This will include:

- Meet as a team 5 or more times and develop 1-2 congregational activities to gather the information needed as well as other vehicles.
- Assist the congregation in answering these questions: "Who are we?", "Who is my neighbor?", and "What is God calling us to do?"
- Identify any areas of concern that need to be addressed during this time of transition.
- Not make decisions but recommends.
- Write Ministry Site Profile.

The Ministry Site Profile is what the Call Committee needs to do its work. This is a document that is similar to a resume and essentially answers the three questions "Who are we?", "Who is my neighbor?" and "What is God calling us to do?"

The Call Committee will meet with the Transition Team once the Ministry Site Profile is written and approved by the Congregation Council. It will then be submitted to the synod. They will use this document then to find candidates that may complement the profile.

From this document, questions will be prepared to interview candidates. It will be used to compare to a Rostered Leader's Profile to see if their gifts and skills match up to what is in the Ministry Site Profile. If the Call Committee feels that the Rostered Leader has the gifts and skills needed to lead the congregation in the direction that God is calling them, they will set up an interview with the candidate. This process is normally confidential.

By this time, we will know each other a bit more and can decide if we want to continue doing ministry together, and thus, I would be your candidate.

Pastor Bruce

# Faith Lutheran Church

4515 Dobie Road, Okemos, MI 48864

## **ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC**

**August 12, 2023  
4:00 pm – 6:30 pm**

## **Food & Games!!**

Contact Brenda Kopf 517-927-1800 or Cecelia Kramer 517-349-3297, if you have questions.

## Faith @ Meridian Pride

Meridian Township is holding their first ever Pride event on Saturday, August 26, from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m. on the Marketplace on the Green (by Meridian Mall). Faith Lutheran is excited to be hosting a booth at the event so we can spread the message of God's unconditional love to everyone. We will be passing out free water, postcards that say "God Adores You" with handwritten messages, dog biscuits, pride swag, and other materials about our church and God's love. The message of God's love is especially important at Pride events because these people are often told that God doesn't love them, by society, the media, and some churches. We are called to proclaim God's fully inclusive and welcoming love to everyone. We encourage you to attend the event in general and there are certain ways you can help out with Faith and their booth at the event:

- Sign up to work at the booth and/or help setup or clean up our booth.  
You can sign up at:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094AA5A62BA5F58-faith>
- If you are a Thrivent member, we are looking for a couple of people to get community grants to purchase the water to hand out
- Write hand-written messages on postcards
- Offers of candy or other "human treats" - something simple and easy to hand out - and something that will be OK outdoors in possible heat
- Coolers to keep our water on ice in

If you have any questions about this event or want to help out, please contact Rich Weingartner or Pastor Bruce.

### Pride Sunday Service

In conjunction with Meridian's Pride event on August 26, Faith will be holding a special Pride Sunday service on Sunday, August 27. We will be sharing information about this service during the Pride event. This Sunday will be a celebration of God's diversity in us, especially emphasizing how God's love and light shines through all of us, including our LGBTQIA+ siblings. We hope you will be able to join us for this special service and encourage you to invite friends and family to join you.

# PRAYER list

Gracious God, you journey with us wherever our paths lead and you know the desires of our hearts. 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 hold in prayer, Oliver, Alice, John, Bruce Williams, Grace, Daniel, Michelle Diehm, Linda, Luke Williams, Joan Herbon, Nate Statly, Harry Nawrock,,Glyn, Bob, 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, Todd Barricklow, Ben Cowin, Kenley and Allyson, and Andy Brandt. Sustain your people living with HIV/ AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned. Sustain your people living with HIV/ AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned.

We lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen**

## Mini Golf and a Musical Murder Mystery

The Membership Development Committee is planning a Faith outing to Little Hawk Hollow on Sunday, September 17th at 2:00. Little Hawk Hollow is a 18-hole, 54-par natural grass miniature course with a variety of hole layouts to provide a challenge for the beginner or expert. Families, couples, seniors...this unique putting experience provides fun for everyone. Be watching for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex soon.

Also, Membership Development is planning for a night at the theater on December 2nd. We will be going to the Williamston Theater to see Murder for Two—a comic, musical murder mystery. Be watching for that sign up, as well.

**Everyone is  
Invited**

**Wednesday, August 16 at FLC, 11:45 - 1:00**  
**Pastor Bruce and his Mother are Hosting**

**LUNCH BUNCH**



This is an opportunity for fellowship and food. If you would like to host a month, please let Bob Nelson or Tammy Heilman know. Hosting would involve providing sandwiches, drinks, set up, and clean up. For anyone attending, please feel free to bring a salad or dessert. You can also bring your own lunch if you wish. We hope you can join us. Come and go as you need to during lunch.

### GREEN TEAM PROJECTS

The Green Team has been very busy the last few months. The solar panel project is coming along; electrical installation is complete. Next steps are commissioning and startup by the energy company ... hopefully soon.

The butterfly garden (thanks Vicki and Jamie) and rain garden projects are completed. A big thanks to everyone who came out and helped with the rain garden, especially Freya, Alexa, and Marshall. It's looking great; the plants are really starting to take hold. The bridge is completed and ready for use; the Eagle Scout and his troop did an excellent job on this!

If you haven't made a time to take a look at these projects, please do.



## Bridges & Butterflies

### MICRO PANTRY UPDATE

The Pantry continues to be a popular location for area folks to obtain the fixings for a meal or two as well as household and personal products. With the cost of food continuing to increase, and even the federal subsidies to the area local food banks being decreased, we are not alone in reviewing our product line and plan to remove products that are not basic to providing a nutritious basic meal. Those niceties like a cake mix, spices, nuts and even vinegar are being reviewed. Donations of money as well as products are always gratefully received, please look at the weekly e-newsletter for pantry products needed.

The good news is that in July we received a \$5,000 check from Hastings Insurance Company which will offer a nice cushion against inflation as we continue to count on and appreciate the congregation's generosity in providing the core funding for our pantries. We are looking to other options for grants to help offset our product costs. If you know of a source of grant monies for which we could make application, please let Cecelia Kramer 517-349-3297 know.

Noisy offerings for August will be the 13<sup>th</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup>

## Back to School Breakfast Bags Food Drive

The Caring Committee is asking for your help! We will begin collecting Breakfast Foods for the Back-to-School Breakfast Bags on August 1. We have received a list of 12 families in need from Meridian Township. Please see the Sign-up Genius link (below) for the list of foods needed this year. The shopping cart will be in the Narthex beginning August 1.

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

Collect food: August 1-31

Food delivery: Sunday, September 10

Thank you in advance for your help!

**From the Caring Committee:**

Natalie Dingledine, Kathy Mace and Lois Neves

## MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Do you like to sing? You are invited to join the Singing Sinners Summer Choir (SSSC) in August! Please join us on Wednesday evening, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will rehearse at 7:00 p.m., then head out for refreshments and fellowship at Buddie's in Okemos. The SSSC will sing during worship on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Questions? Contact Deb Borton-McDonough: [lalaladyB@comcast.net](mailto:lalaladyB@comcast.net)



**Rally Sunday**

**September 10**



Rally Sunday will be September 10th. This is the day in which Christian Education starts back again. There will be a family meeting in the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. This will be a time for the families to learn about the Sunday School program, and to go into the classrooms, fill out paperwork, learn about the program and get to know the other families that have children in the classroom. During church, the Sunday School helpers will be installed and there will be a potluck after church to gather us all together as we start another year filled with fun and learning. (There will be a letter sent out with a calendar and more information for you before Rally Day.)

# Dine at Culver's of Okemos North

## MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2023 FROM 5-9PM

and we will donate a percentage of all sales to:

### MERIDIAN CARES

Meridian Cares is an emergency needs fund available to Meridian Township residents in financial crisis, such as evictions and utility shut off. Each year, Meridian Cares helps hundreds of households through information, referrals, and emergency financial assistance.

**MERIDIAN**  
*Cares* Making a Difference

## SHARE NIGHT

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

Thank you for supporting  
*Meridian Cares!*

*No flyer or code needed.*

*Drive-thru, dine-in, carryout or  
order online at [culvers.com](https://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](https://culvers.com/restaurants/okemos)

