

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 3

Faith Family News

PASTOR'S CORNER

By Pastor Bruce Thorsen

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you want to become my followers, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. Matthew 16:24 Some of us like following as then we don't have to make many decisions.

There are others of us that enjoy challenging the person that we are asked to follow. In following Jesus, it is some place in between. God has given us the ability and permission to ask questions so that we can believe in our hearts and not only in our heads that Jesus is our Messiah to follow.

Becoming requires a process, thus I believe Jesus wants us to question what he says in order to make it and him an integral part of our lives. This requires study and discussion with others. We can only grow in our trust of Jesus when we step out in faith, step out of our comfort zones.

The transition team will begin meeting in September and begin putting together the process for this time of transition. Our community of faith will be asked to step out of our comfort zones. This is how we grow in our faith. This is what it means to follow Jesus.

As the needs of our community are once again identified and the make up or neighborhood is, we will be challenged to meet those needs. To become followers of Jesus means that as individuals and as a community of faith to grow closer to Jesus will mean change. Jesus says that as followers we will need to give up our own way.

What Jesus is asking us to do is to identify what our fears and anxieties are. Literally to name them. This is the only way that we can begin to deal with them and tell Jesus about them as well as our community of faith. It is normal to have them.

As we are able to name and give our fears and anxieties over to Jesus, we are freed up to take up the cross that Jesus offers us. As Christians, taking up the cross is to be a freeing experience. One that allows to not be burdened, but to think of taking up the cross as a way of life, an intimate connection with Jesus.

During this time of transition, please name your fears and anxieties to Jesus, myself and other members of the community, particularly the transition team and leaders. Remember that it is normal to have them. Jesus walks with us and we walk with each other to discover again how Jesus wants us as individuals and as a community of faith to follow him.

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 service 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.)

Please have your student(s) bring their backpack to church on Rally Day! We will be doing a blessing of backpacks that day during the service. For more information, contact Pam or Pastor Bruce.



Sign up to help with Sunday School!

We need people to sign up to teach Sunday School, esp. on the 17th of September.

Please use the link below. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. *Pam*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA4AA23A2FAC07-iwantto>

Drivers Needed for Back-to-School Breakfast Bags Delivery

6 drivers are needed to deliver our Back-to-School breakfast bags on Sep. 10th after church service.

Please contact Natalie at Natalie.dingledine@gmail.com if you're able to assist!

Thank you in advance for your help!

From the Caring Committee:

Natalie Dingledine, Kathy Mace and Lois Neves

MICRO PANTRY MAJOR OPPORTUNITY

An anonymous donor has offered up to \$300 to the Micro Pantries as a match for ANY FINANCIAL DONATION ... **deadline is Sunday, September 3rd.** To help us double your money, simply mail or give a check to Faith Lutheran Church with "Micro Pantries" listed on the Memo Line. Your donation can also be dropped in the collection plate on Sunday, or at the office.

Transition Team / Call Committee

MEET THE MEMBERS

Transition Team

Annie Mayer

Gretchen Paige

Rich Weingartner

Megan Nyquist

Ryan Thompson

Walter Kopf

Call Committee

Doug Hirt

Brenda Kopf

Michael Nussdorfer

The Transition Team will be installed on Sunday, September 17. They will also have their first meeting in September. There will be a report from each meeting in the monthly newsletter.

Please pray for this team as they begin this important work. They will be available for your questions and comments.

There will be a few more members needed for the Call Committee when their work begins ... which may not be for a year.

SAVE THE DATE!

Pastor Bruce will be Installed on

November 11th at 3:00 p.m.

More to come!

CONFIRMATION

This year, confirmation will be held on 2 Sundays per month after worship, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. We will be covering the sacraments, Holy Baptism, and Holy Communion -- along with Confession and Forgiveness. One session will cover Martin Luther and another one Advent and Christmas.

Pam Williams will be assisting me. She will be away October 1 thru 15, and I will need an adult female for those two classes. Also, I would like to have mentors for each of our 7 students. You see below what the responsibilities of a mentor are. If you are interested please contact me:
pastorbruce@faithlutheranokemos.org or 215-622-1023. Thanks.

MENTORS

Purpose:

- To assist a confirmand in growing in their faith.
- For a confirmand to build a relationship with an adult other than a family member or staff person.

Expectations:

- To attend confirmation on the assigned date and participate in class and spend part of the class time with their assigned confirmand reviewing questions that will be provided.
- Be open to other questions the confirmands may have.
- Report any possible issues to Pastor Bruce and Pam
- Confirmation is on Sundays from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm.
- Mentor dates are: October 15, November 5, December 3

Pastor Bruce

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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I want to thank all the volunteers, young and old, for making VBS a fun experience. I have had many comments from parents about how their children were excited to attend, even after they were not sure they wanted to come. It was great to see the number of children grow this year and again, it would not have happened if not for the volunteers! *Pam*



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.

God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain. Today we remember those who are suffering from the aftermath of Hurricane Idalia. We pray for all of those affected by the shooting on campus at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Please embrace people who have been rejected because of difference, heal trauma caused by racism or prejudice, shield any who are persecuted, console the dying, and heal the sick and especially Bruce Williams, Oliver, Alice, John, Grace, Daniel, Michelle Diehm, Linda, Luke Williams, Joan Herbon, Nate Statly, Harry Nawrock, Miller Family, 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, Chip, Trudy, Marilyn Hogan, Todd Barricklow, Ben Cowin, Kenley and Allyson, and Andy Brandt. Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and ensure fair wages and safe working environments. **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.

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.

Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

**Everyone is
Invited**

Wednesday, September 20th
at FLC, 11:45 - 1:00

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.

FAITH LUTHERAN MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Music is a vital ministry at Faith. As we begin our new program year, look at the possibilities!

The CHANCEL CHOIR is open to all singers, 9th grade and older. The choir sings during worship from September through May. There are no auditions – if you like to sing (or would like to TRY it), you are welcome!!! We rehearse on Wednesday evenings, from 7:30 – 8:45 p.m. On Sunday mornings, we rehearse before the service, at 9:15. Fellowship is an important component of our group – we enjoy going out to Buddie's together after the first rehearsal of each month! The FAITH BELLS play during worship on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. We would love to have you check us out – no previous experience necessary. There is an air of holy hilarity in the group ... be prepared!!!

SPECIAL MUSIC is a vital component of the music program at FLC. If you are a vocalist or instrumentalist, we would love to have you share your gift(s) with the congregation during worship.

Questions? Please contact Deb Borton-McDonough (lalaladyB@comcast.net)



Give the Gift of Warmth

COAT DRIVE

Meridian Cares and the Meridian Green Team will host a coat drive benefiting the St. Luke's Lutheran Church Coat Bank between September 11 and October 6, 2023.

To share the warmth, drop off new or gently used coats:

- At the Municipal Building (5151 Marsh Road, Okemos) from September 11 to October 6 between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.
- At the Electronics Recycling Day at Chippewa Middle School (4000 Okemos Road, Okemos) on September 23, between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm.

This donation event will collect COATS ONLY. Scarves, gloves, hats, and other winter items will not be accepted.

MERIDIAN
Cares Making a Difference

