

OCTOBER 2023

Faith Family News

PASTOR'S CORNER

By Pastor Bruce Thorsen

We have so much to be thankful for even though we are experiencing change. Since we will not be having a Thanksgiving service, we have decided to combine two celebrations, Thanksgiving and Stewardship into one on Sunday, November 19. In the end it is about thanking God for what God has entrusted to us.

Everything that we have is a gift from God. These gifts are different than other gifts as we are asked to care for them, how God wants us to care for them. Normally when we receive a gift, it is ours to decide how we use it.

Psalm 24:1 says, "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and all who live in it." The Psalmist states it quite clearly that everything and everyone belongs to the Lord. In reality we own nothing in the eyes of God, it is all God's.

This is quite the opposite of our culture. Our culture says it is our right to do what we want with what we own, but as Christians, we are called to be caretakers and not owners. We do own things on earth at least on paper.

As Christians, as disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to be counter cultural. God's Word has told us that 100% of everything and everyone belongs to God. God asks us to take care of everything and everyone as God wants us to.

The word steward comes from two Old English words that names the person who cared for the pigs of another. A sty-warden. God has asked us to be caretakers of everything and everyone. God waits for us to ask how God wants us to take care of our time, talent, and treasures.

On November 5 we will hear from three different people sharing with us what Faith Lutheran Church means to them. It is important for us to hear from our own community of faith how God is active. Come to listen how God in Jesus Christ is working through you, how your kingdom living is going inside our community.

On Sunday, November 12 we will be hearing from different people how Faith is representing God outside the doors. We know our Micro Pantry is having an impact, but this time we will hear other ways in which we are visible in the community. This is also part of kingdom living.

On Sunday, November 19 we will gather first of all to say thank you to God for all of the different ways God has blessed us. Second of all, we will be making a commitment to God on how we use all of the ways in which God has blessed us.

Yes there is a pledge card for you to fill out to commit as to how you will support the Ministries that God has called us to at Bethany. You will receive a letter in the mail with the card. We will have an opportunity to come to the altar and offer our commitment to God on November 19. Please ask God how to fill out the card. Also, ask God, how God wants you to use your time and talent this next year at Faith and in the community.

YOUTH NEWS

We need Acolytes, for each Sunday, for the remainder of the year. Please use the links below to sign up, or reach out to Pam Williams so they can be added (pwilliams@faithlutherokemos.org). There is one Signup Genius link for each month.

October: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA4AA23A2FAC07-44326731-service#/>

November: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA4AA23A2FAC07-44471431-service#/>

December: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA4AA23A2FAC07-44471456-service#/>



Bibles will be provided on October 29th [during Worship Service] to the youth who have not received them.

CHARGE Scholarship Board

You may have noticed a poster board that the 6th grade and up youth made to help fund their trip to **CHARGE, Nov. 10-12th**. CHARGE is the event by Living Waters Ministries that brings together students from Michigan to grow in faith, engage in service, and develop leadership skills. It is held at the **Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City**. There are some pictures from last year, and the kids really had a great time. They met new people and they bonded with each other. If you want to help, please take the card (on the poster board), attach the money to it, and put it in the offering with CHARGE on the check. Please see Pastor or Pam with any questions.



October 29th

Youth (6th grade and up) will be meeting at the Kadrofske's house at 5:30 for dinner and conversation. We will be heading to the Jack-o-Lantern's Unleashed in Mason at the Ingham Co. Fairgrounds. It costs \$8 for students and \$10 for adults. I need to know who is all going to the event by October 22nd. We need to plan for food and drivers.

The Caring Committee has partnered with Bring Smiles to Seniors card program. Bring Smiles to Seniors supports over 700 facilities nationwide (over 80 in Michigan) with Thinking of You cards. Handmade cards are received throughout the year, and many need a positive caring sentence or two written inside. This is a quick way to make someone's day and all it costs is time (but they would happily take your monetary support). Pick up a packet of cards located in the basket near the steps. Once completed, please return to the "Done" basket. Please see information in the narthex about this wonderful program that brings joy to many of our elderly!



Thank you!

From the Caring Committee

Fall Cleanup for the outside property will be **Sunday, Nov. 5**, after service, and will include cake refreshments. Please join us if you can. Bring your gloves, shovels, hedge trimmers, tree branch pruners, and rakes. An extra wheelbarrow would be great, too. The Rain Date will be Sunday, Nov. 12. Any questions, see Bob Nelson or Rick Beaderstadt. Thank you.

A **WEEDING Party** will be held at the Rain Garden next Wednesday **October 4th at 9am**. We are going to be on the map for the Meridian event but will wait until next year for the actual tour to let the garden settle in (maybe we can remove the fence by then). People can still drive by and see the gardens, so we need to make sure they're presentable. If you're available, please join us!

STEWARDSHIP

As we look toward Stewardship Month in November ... a Mystery Stewardship Person says:

I am a long-time Faith member. I have watched Stewardship Campaigns for many years – in good times and not so good times. We have had “every member home visits,” “cottage meetings,” “fill-in-the-pledge-card-and-drop-it-in-the-offering-plate,” with “time-and-talent forms” and without, “temple talks” that were really good and not so good, “do almost nothing-and-hope-for-the-best-in-January” styles, “sermons on stewardship” that were blunt (we need money) and passive (remember that the Lord gives you lots), “pick up a pledge card in the narthex” if you want, and often “bring your pledge cards up front,” I guess to hopefully show that lots of members are making a commitment to Faith.

The results are often similar, fewer “pledges” than we should receive. A few members “pledge” a lot, a lot “pledge” something, and too many take no action (but some number of those still give during the year). We would never create an operating budget based on the amounts on the actual pledge cards. I would guess the pledge to budget ratio is 60% at best over the years. I’ve been there, seen that! But, we have survived, just barely some years. “Betting on the come,” which means you are hoping you will have what you want or need when the time comes – really bad business planning, but maybe normal in God’s life in church business.

Some members will refuse to ever make a commitment – for some reason that I have never understood. For some, it is an every year ritual, since childhood, watching their parents committing themselves to the Lord’s work. Too many just ignore the process, forget their forms, fear that the new year will be worse than this year, whatever. But, the church must move on – every Sunday, every Monday, and onward.

So, what’s my conclusion for this year? Well, probably more of the same. Can we change it?

Absolutely, if each of us takes the mission of this church seriously. I do ... will you?

A Call to Arms

The Box Brigade of our Mini Food Pantry Committee is looking for a couple of people willing to help with stocking the pantries as members of the elite Box Brigade. We will be experiencing at least one opening coming up in November and would like to have a trainee ready to step in.

To try your hand at this enterprise to find out how easy it is, we need a couple of vacation replacements over the next couple of weeks that would handle the pantry duties on a one-time basis. If you are interested in being a full member of the Brigade or only being the occasional vacation replacement, this is the time to step up.

The task is easy. As a member of Box Brigade, you would fill a couple of boxes with pantry products from the cupboards in the church foyer. There are two shifts available Mid-Day and Early-Evening. On the assigned shift, the Brigadier replenishes each of the two pantries with the products. This entire project takes about 45 minutes total, once per week. Personalized training is given. For further information, please contact Cecelia Kramer at 517-349-3297.

Solar Panels/Rain Garden

All the paperwork has been signed and approved for the Solar Panels. We should have a "go live" schedule by the 1st week of October.

We are planning on having a combination **Solar Panel/Rain Garden dedication ceremony** immediately following the church service on **Sunday October 15th**. The latest word from the solar company is the system should be up and running by then. We will proceed outdoors after the service (weather permitting) and hold the service there.

Transition Team

We met on Monday, September 25. Our goal was to get to know each other and begin developing a plan to obtain the information to write the Ministry Site Profile (MSP).

We will be having two “Conversations for the Future of Faith”. One for the Leadership in the Fall and one for the Congregation in the first couple of months of 2024. The team is committed to moving this plan forward. It is a process, and it is important for us to let the process happen.

We ask for your prayers for guidance. If you have questions, comments, or concerns, please reach out to me or a member of the team during this time of transition.

Pastor Bruce, Annie Mayer, Gretchen Paige, Rich Weingartner, Megan Nyquist, Ryan Thompson, Walter Kopf

SAVE THE DATE!

Pastor Bruce will be installed on **Sunday, October 22nd**
DURING WORSHIP SERVICE. Mark your calendars!



Lead us in justice as we pray for all leaders in government, especially for their partnership and empathy, for the military, and other positions of authority. Especially for those in military service who are connected to our community: Lani Yearicks, Jon Schoepf, Landon Belanger, Melody and Adam Wright, Joe Galvin, and Aiden Seeley. Give them humble and willing hearts, looking to the needs of others. We pray also for our enemies.

Trusting your goodness, we pray for all caregivers and people who are sick or suffering in any way especially Joyce Thorsen, Alice Hendrickson, Chip Pittman, Trudy Cook, Harry Nawrock, Lois Neves, Mara Lusic, Charlotte Rasmussen, Dale Halverson, Helen Brinkman, Bob Shorman, Lee Gerard, Joy Costar, Marilyn Hogan, Todd Barricklow, Eric and Karen Casler, Kenley and Allyson, and Andy Brandt. Give them encouragement and consolation in your presence. **Amen**

Musical Murder Mystery

The Membership Development Committee 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, October 18th
at FLC, 11:45 - 1:00**



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)