

APRIL 2024

Faith Family News

PASTOR'S CORNER

By Pastor Bruce

¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for ones' friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. John 15:12-14 NRSV

On Maundy Thursday this year, we did the washing of feet to symbolize Jesus' sacrificial love for each one of us. This was a model or example of what Jesus asks of us. In our Easter verses we hear again the commandment that we heard Jesus give us on Maundy Thursday to "love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

For John, love is how we tell others that we are disciples of Jesus Christ. The Greek word used here for love is agape which means sacrificial love. On Maundy Thursday this was symbolized by Jesus when he was on his knees washing feet. This was out of the norm for a teacher to be washing his student's feet. Once again, Jesus was teaching what it meant to follow him.

Notice here that Jesus is saying for us, as his disciples, to lay down our lives for our friends, not him. He set the example for us to follow. Jesus will know that we are his friends if we love our friends by laying down our lives for them. We might say family, most of the time, but not all friends.

To say what this exactly means for each one of us, I cannot do. What I can challenge us to do is to listen and do our best to respect all people. Sometimes we have a fine line as some people will not listen and respect us. This commandment to love one another with agape, sacrificial love, will be greatly challenged in the coming months.

The more that we can practice within our beloved community, the more that we will be equipped to carry out this command in our world. We have had and will have disagreements within our community. It is okay to disagree. We are called to handle these disagreements in love. I would venture to say that most of them will not be life and death issues.

Outside of our beloved community, I would challenge us to listen and set boundary lines in conversations where you think there may be differing views. Love for each other will mean trying to understand where each other is coming from. Respect for each other can mean not discussing some issues.

The hard part in all of this sometimes is remembering that Jesus loves the person that we disagree with.

FLC OFFICERS

2024 COUNCIL President – Randy Royalty

Vice-President – Kathy Mace

Secretary – Molly DeHate

Financial Secretary – Jon Harrison

Treasurer – Gwynne Kadrofske

Member at Large – Jack Dingledine

Member at Large – Jean Lewis

Member at Large – Brenda Kopf

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Christian Education Committee – John McCracken

Stewardship Committee – Paul Hereza

Mutual Ministry Committee – Mark Kadrofske

Membership Development Committee – Tammy Heilman, Erica Boyan, Diane Hill

Worship Committee – Diane Hill

Caring Committee – Kathy Mace & Natalie Dingledine

Evangelism/Outreach Committee – Brenda Kopf

HR Committee – Lori Haven

Property Committee – Bob Nelson & Rick Baderstadt

Technology Committee – Ryan Thompson

RIC Team – Rich Weingartner

Green Team – Randy Royalty

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Thank you so much for the generous donations of baby items for Shared Pregnancy. We were able to purchase 3 cribs and 2 diaper bags for families in need. They were very grateful for our contributions!

Thanks again, Caring Committee



2024 Easter Flower Dedication

- Warren & Tammy Heilman in memory of Ida & Gene Joachim and Les & Elsie Heilman.
- Heidi Magyar in memory of Mabel Anglin & Marion Magyar.
- Jon & Elaine Harrison in memory of our Parents Russell & Julia Harrison and Ed & Ruth Kluck.
- The Dingledine Family in memory of Dorothy Dingledine & Darry Breithaupt.
- Pastor Bruce in memory of John C. Williams, Leonard L. Thorsen; In honor of Joyce L. Thorsen.
- Annie Mayer in celebration of Tim, Rob, Allison, Maggie, Charlie, and Jack Mayer, and Our Risen Lord.
- Mike Eschelbach in celebration of Children and Grandchildren.
- Randy & Jamie Royalty in memory of our Parents and our Brothers David and Charlie.
- Harry Nawrock, Carl & Kathy Richardson in memory of Rose Marie Nawrock.
- Bruce Williams in memory of Gladys & Stanley Williams.
- Brenda Kopf in memory of Walter Kopf, William & Hilda Kopf, Sandra Fox, and Richard & Jane Kemmler.
- Ledith Ambs in memory of Max Ambs.
- Doug & Linda Hirt in memory of Allan Hirt & our Grand Parents.
- John & Ramona Backman in memory of our Parents.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE NEWS

Our annual yard Spring Cleanup will be on **Sunday, May 5th** after the morning service. We will do the usual trimming, weed pulling, clean the stairwells, etc.

The rain date will be May 19th. Please put it on your calendar and help us if you can.

*Thank you,
Property Committee*

Compassion Sunday is coming to Faith Lutheran Church

Compassion International is a Christian charity that connects caring people with individual children who live in poverty around the world. Compassion helps the “whole child” with nutritional support, educational assistance, career skills, social skills, and spiritual guidance. Compassion provides resources to help children break the cycle of poverty and reach their full potential.

I first learned about Compassion International here at Faith Lutheran Church in 2012. A member of the church who sponsored a compassion child set up a table in the narthex for a Compassion event. On the table were photographs of impoverished children from around the world. I was immediately drawn to a photo of a 4-year-old boy from Peru named Cesar. I felt a deep sense of calling to help this child and our family decided to sponsor Cesar. Soon after, our family received a booklet with information about Cesar, his family, his community, and the student center he would attend on a regular basis.

Our family began sending and receiving letters and photos from Cesar. At first, the letters from Cesar were crayon pictures he drew for us and notes from staff members about things like Cesar’s favorite food, chicken stew. We continued to receive letters on a regular basis. After a while the letters were dictated by Cesar and translated by staff members. Then came letters in Cesar’s own handwriting with questions for us about our family, traditions, and community. As his education progressed Cesar wrote longer letters in cursive. We continue to enjoy letters from Cesar and learning more about him and how Compassion International is changing his life. Cesar is now 16 years old and in his last year of high school. In a recent letter he told us that after high school he wants to continue his studies and become a “good professional”.

It has been a blessing to be part of Cesar’s life and to see him grow physically, academically, and spiritually through the years. I am so glad that our family made the decision to sponsor that little boy so many years ago. On **April 28th** I will be hosting a Compassion Sunday event at Faith. I hope you will visit the event table after the service to learn more about Compassion International, ask questions, and perhaps even choose your own impoverished child to sponsor.

Sale of Church Parcel

There has been progress with the sale of the northern third of our church parcel ... since the report to the Congregation at the last Quarterly Meeting. The Township Board has approved the Master Plan presented to them by the Planning Commission, which paved the way for two things to happen.

First, the Fedewa Corporation provided a document for the Church Council that extends their Purchase Agreement Offer by one month (until April 29, 2024). The additional time is necessary because the current agreement would expire prior to the sale of the parcel being accomplished.

Secondly, the Fedewa's have been in consultation with Meridian Township Planning staff. The property must go through the Township's Land Division Review which looks at this potential split of land to make sure that: there is enough acreage to hold a building for that level of zoning, it's located with road access, all public utilities have appropriate easements, any wetlands denoted, etc. This review normally takes about ten workdays, putting it past the end of the earlier purchase agreement. The Church Council was asked to execute this Staff Review document, because as the current owners of the property we had to agree to the review for a potential split and zoning change. Once this review is accomplished then the Fedewa's will be able to execute the purchase agreement on the property.

Questions have been raised about the small orange flags next to the sidewalk near Okemos Road. These were installed by the surveyor to mark the NE corner of the new church property. By sighting back toward the rear of the parcel, you can see where our official lot line will be. Please note that, in addition, the sales agreement offers an easement to the church for an additional 50 feet of land northward beyond the official lot line. This easement will be ours to use and maintain and will hold the relocated north driveway, which will be installed at Fedewa's expense.

Confirmation Schedule SPRING 2024

- Sunday, April 7 - 11:30 am – 1:00 pm - New Testament
- Sunday, April 14 – 11:30 am – 1:00 pm - New Testament
- Sunday, April 28 - 11:30 am – 1:00 pm - New Testament
- Sunday, May 5 - 11:30 am – 1:00 pm - New Testament
- CONFIRMATION – SUNDAY, MAY 19

Marla says THANK YOU!

"My thanks to the Faith Family for the many prayers, calls, and cards during my recent illness. What a difference they made!

I appreciate being able to join you for worship online, our Pastor's several calls and sharing of communion.

A blessed Easter to all!"

Marla Holle

The NOISY Offerings for APRIL will be as follows:

- April 14th, Micro Pantry
- April 28th, Parish House

PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE

We have recently been made aware by County Treasurer Alan Fox that there may be assistance available to property owners who are having difficulty paying their property taxes and who can demonstrate that financial hardship contributed to their inability to pay. If you or someone you know is unable to pay their property tax due to financial hardship, please contact County Treasurer Fox's office to check into potential assistance.

Mike

ONLINE GIVING

Many people already know how to adjust their online giving in Vanco/Vanco Mobile. If you want help in changing the amount of your recurring online giving (perhaps in light of pledge adjustments), feel free to contact Jon Harrison at jon.harrison@comcast.net or call 517-349-4049, or catch him at church for assistance.

Offerings can be made via the following methods:

- Contributions can be placed in the offering plate during worship services. Contributions can also be mailed to the church at 4515 Dobie Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or directly to our financial secretary, Jon Harrison, 3570 Chippendale, Okemos, MI 48864.
- Sign-up for Vanco Online (previously called Simply Giving) to make regularly scheduled electronic contributions. [Click here](#) to sign up. You can also complete the [Simply Giving form](#) and give to the financial secretary.

Use the Vanco Mobile app on your phone or mobile device. [Vanco Mobile Instructions](#). If you have questions regarding giving options, please contact Jon Harrison at jon.harrison@comcast.net.

Supporting God's work at the church, in the community, and beyond is always appreciated.

GREEN TEAM UPDATES

Green Team Sunday will be on Sunday, April 21st.

Once the weather cooperates, the Green Team will be looking for assistance with maintaining the rain garden and butterfly gardens. All help will be appreciated.

We have installed a countertop paper towel dispenser in one of the Narthex restrooms. This is to try and cut down on the number of towels that seem to be wasted from the wall mounted dispensers. Feedback is welcome!

Thank you,
Randy

YOUTH NEWS

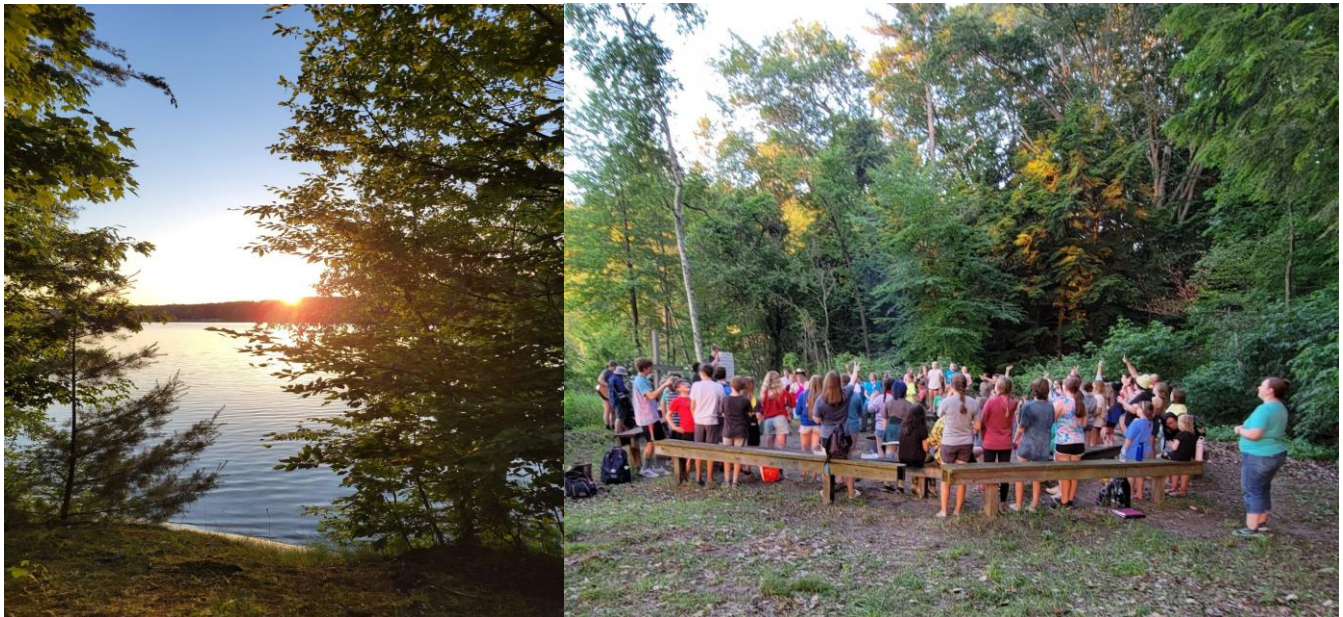
Stony Lake Camp 2024

You can now sign up for summer camp!

<https://www.elcalivingwater.com/campprograms/>

If you have any thoughts of sending your child(ren) to Stony Lake Lutheran Camp this summer, please get online and register now. If you can go the **2nd week, June 23-28th** that would be preferred. If not, you can sign up for any week. When you register, you do not have to fill out the whole application now, but you need to get your child's name and date of camp **ASAP**. If you have any questions please let Pam Williams know.

Thanks, Pam



MICRO PANTRY NEWS

Faith Micro Food Pantries continue to experience heavy usage with food, household, and personal products costing around \$400 per week. Your contributions earmarked for the Pantry would be greatly appreciated. We also can use contributions of donated goods. We can always use oatmeal packets or breakfast bars. Please drop these and other donated products near the Pantry Cupboard in the foyer.

Personnel needs also continue. We need to have a couple people volunteer to be an Occasional Replacement for a Box Brigade member who goes on vacation. You would take the filled boxes of products to each pantry at the appropriate shift – one time per week. It takes no more than 45 minutes to accomplish this very important task. Please let Cecelia Kramer know your interest and availability.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - HELP WANTED

Kindergarten thru 2nd Grade Class

Please check out the signup genius below or email me.

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

Vacation Bible School

If you are interested in helping plan VBS for this summer, please let me know ASAP. I would like people of all ages (some teens too).

Pam



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



God our champion, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Draw near to all who suffer especially: Susan, Kathy, Helen Dersch, Dale & Mavis Halvorson, Marla Holle, Gene Miller, Chip Pittman, Trudy Cook, Harry Nawrock, Lois Neves, Mara Lusi, Charlotte Rasmussen, Helen Brinkman, Bob Shorman, Marilyn Hogan, Todd Barricklow, Eric &

Karen Casler, Allyson, Brenda Kopf, and the families of Marilyn Nussdorfer and Levine Bennett.

Be their rest and comfort. Amen

**Everyone
is Invited**

**Wednesday, April 17th
at FLC, 11:45 - 1:00**

HOSTED by: ???? *If you would like to host in April, please let Tammy Heilman know.*



This is an opportunity for fellowship and food. 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.

Serving Faith

**We really need volunteers for Readers, Lay Assistants, and Greeters.
Many hands make light work!! Please step up and volunteer!**

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

Readers / Lay Assistants: Diane Hill: [Diane Hill Email](#)

Ushers: Brenda Kopf: [Brenda Kopf email](#)

Altar Care: Elaine Harrison: [Elaine Harrison Email](#)

Sunday School: Pam Williams: [Pam Williams Email](#)

Nursery: Jennifer Coe: jenlynncoe@yahoo.com

Greeters: Mike Eschelbach: [Mike Eschelbach Email](#)

DATE	GREETER	READER	LAY ASSISTANT	USHERS	ALTAR CARE	ACOLYTE	COFFEE HOUR
4/7/2024	John & Ramona Backman	Jon Harrison	Randy Royalty	Gwynne & Mark Kadrofske	Cecelia Kramer	Jasper Wawrzynski	Schuettler's
4/14/2024	Rich Weingartner	Lois Neves	Ryan Thompson	Jon & Elaine Harrison	Elaine Harrison	Calvin Kadrofske	Dingledine's
4/21/2024	Chris & Jean Lewis	John McCracken	Doug Hirt	Brenda Kopf and John Backman	Heidi Bowers	Andrew Herek	Hereza's
4/28/2024	Lois Neves	Jamie Royalty	Paul Hereza	Doug & Linda Hirt	Heidi Bowers	Makayla Marquardt	Herek's