

MAY 2024

# Faith Family News

**PASTOR'S CORNER**

**By Pastor Bruce**

<sup>16</sup>“Yes, God so loved the world as to give the Only Begotten One, that whoever believes may not die, but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> God sent the Only Begotten One into the world not to condemn the world, that through the Only Begotten the world might be saved. John 3:16-17 The Inclusive Bible

John 3:16 is a bible verse that many of us memorize, we sometimes see it at sporting events and is used when telling someone how they can be saved. I have chosen to use a different translation, which sometimes helps us to see new and different things. It is important for us to see God as neither only male, nor female.

This is part of a story where Nicodemus was struggling with knowing and believing. How can we know that we are saved? Is it as simple as just believing or do we need to know without a doubt? Jesus' answers may have confused Nicodemus even more as Jesus doesn't always spell things out plainly. Jesus tells Nicodemus that he needs to be born from above. Born from above is a new way of understanding for him. The Greek word, anothen, can actually mean, not only from above, but also again and anew. Jesus was trying to explain this in our verses above.

God came from above in the form of Jesus because God loves the whole world. But it says only those who believe may experience eternal life. This has been used as a prescription for salvation. People have used this to judge people if they don't follow the prescription.

Too often, verse 17 is not tied to verse 16. God did not come from above to condemn the world, but that the world would be saved through Jesus. If God did not come to condemn, how is it that we as human beings can easily find ourselves doing this. God sent Jesus to love and not condemn.

When it comes to believing, it is up to each individual person, and we all process differently, thus we will all experience God and Jesus differently. The act of salvation has already occurred for us in Jesus' death and resurrection. We experience salvation when we recognize and connect with Jesus.

It is important for us as “evangelical Christians” to be able to share with people the whole Gospel of love. These two verses are important to be learned together as they tell the fuller story. There is no prescription for salvation, Jesus has done the work.

God came to earth out of love and not to condemn the world. The world includes all people. The Holy Spirit assists us in believing, and knowing comes from resting in this belief. These two verses encapsulate the Gospel message of Jesus' love for all people. We have been called to embody this message of love and reframe it for those who may have had John 3:16 used to condemn them.

# WELCOME STATEMENT

## You are invited to Faith Lutheran Church!

Faith Lutheran Church is a community of people who believe that God acts out of love and grace.

We believe God daily showers us, broken as we are, with love and forgiveness.

We believe that ultimately it is love that changes people.

We believe God welcomes **all** and, therefore, we welcome **all** into the community we share.

We believe the church is a community of faith in which everyone has a role to play.

We believe God invites us into a deeper relationship with God and one another, feeds us, and sends us forth sharing God's grace and love as we live our daily lives in this world.

We invite you to join us, receive the blessing of the richness of God's grace and love, and be strengthened for a life of joy and service in this world.

### **FLC Staff**

Pastor ..... Bruce Thorsen  
Music Director ..... Deb Borton-McDonough  
Organist/Pianist ..... Bruce Williams  
Administrative Assistant ..... Connie Denbrock  
Youth & Education Director ..... Pam Williams  
Sound Technicians ..... Cody Boyan & Raymond Herek  
Church email ..... [faith@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Website ..... [www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Facebook Page ..... [facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

# Spring Cleanup – May 5<sup>th</sup>!

Our annual yard cleanup is this **Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** after the morning service. We will do the usual trimming, weed pulling, clean the stairwells, etc. Please bring the following, if possible: gloves, leaf rakes, wheelbarrows for hauling away limbs/leaves, etc., pruners and trimmers ..... these would all be helpful.

The rain date will be May 19<sup>th</sup>. Please help us if you can.

*Thank you,  
Property Committee*

## Worship Celebration on Sunday May 19

This is a busy day for us we will be having:

- Music Sunday – The Faith Ringers and Chancel Choir will be singing and ringing. The congregation will even be invited to join them on the Canticle of Praise.
- Recognition of Graduates
  - Chris Paige - Graduating from Okemos High School
  - Maude Lewis - Graduating from Okemos High School
  - Nick Hirschenberger - Graduating from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine with a Medical Doctorate degree
- Affirmation of Baptism
  - Raymond Michael Herek
  - Calvin Ashland Kadrofske
  - Jasper Steinke Wawrzynski

We invite all family and friends to join us on this celebratory Sunday. There will be a cake honoring all of them during coffee hour.

WELCOME to our newest Ushers - **Randy Royalty and John Backman!** More Ushers are needed, so we invite you to join ... many hands make the workload light.

Please contact Brenda Kopf for more information at Brenda Kopf email ... [bjktchr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjktchr@sbcglobal.net).

### ***Caring Committee News***

We'd like to thank the Youth Group for decorating cloth bags so that we could provide *goodie* bags for several of our shut-ins! A special thanks to Peggy Faulk from the Quilters Group for making hot/cold neck pillows for them and to our volunteers who dropped them off!

### **10<sup>th</sup> Annual HOPE IN ONE Golf Outing**

This is a special year, and we will be recognizing those who have been a part of the event for 8 or 9 years, and your congregation is one of them. We appreciate your ongoing support – which has raised over \$50,000 for the missions of Advent House and Northwestminister Presbyterian. On August 7, 2024, at Groesbeck Golf Course, we will highlight you in the program and in announcements. We hope you will be there to be recognized for your support over the years. Thanks again!

# FLC IN THE NEWS!

The 2 articles below were printed in the University Lutheran Church newsletter (April 2024). You can find these articles and other information at their website ... [ulcsec@ulcel.org](mailto:ulcsec@ulcel.org).

## April Outreach of the Month Michigan Refugee Hope

A crisis was brewing in 2017 regarding unaccompanied minor refugee children who had arrived in the United States. A number of the children were being cared for by the nonprofit Samaritas here in Michigan, but their processing and documentation needed in order to remain in the U.S. had significantly slowed. Many children were reaching their 18th birthday before attaining status to remain in the US. The Samaritas contracts with the US government limited their ability to help these children once they turned 18. At that point, Samaritas reached out to their contacts in the Lansing and Jackson areas. A number of church groups came together to form Michigan Refugee Hope in order to help these post-18 refugee youth.

Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos converted their former parsonage to a post-18 home for refugee boys. The post-18 home provides housing, food, medical care, high school and

post-high school educational support, mentoring, and tutoring for the residents. Michigan Refugee Hope supports Faith Lutheran by funding costs associated with these activities as well as utilities and maintenance of the post-18 house.

There are currently six young men at the house. The young men come from countries around the world including Afghanistan, Sudan, Mauritania, and several Central American countries. They are enrolled at Okemos High School to obtain high school degrees. These young men face major challenges here. Put yourself in their shoes and imagine being in a country where English is not your native language, where the system is unlike any you have experienced, where the food is foreign, where social systems are strange, where you are on your own,

and all this after you experienced trauma fleeing your home country. Michigan Refugee Hope strives to help these young men and give them some hope for the future.



You can help by volunteering to mentor and tutor these young men or by making a donation. You may write a check to University Lutheran Church or donate electronically at the

ULC website ([www.ulcel.org](http://www.ulcel.org)) via PayPal or a credit card. Please include "Michigan Refugee Hope" in the memo/notes.

It brings great joy to see these young men succeed and make progress in their lives. If this work inspires you, please consider serving as a board member of Michigan Refugee Hope.

*Bryan Rahe, Social Action Team*



**The article below was pulled from their archives. Good stuff!**

## The Birth of Faith Lutheran, Okemos

The April 1957 issue of *The University Lutheran* included an article titled *Faith Lutheran Church, Okemos*. Faith is a mission church begun by ULC. The ULC Timeline says, "1956 – Under supervision from College Lutheran Church and sponsorship of the ALC District Mission Committee, a mission church, Faith Lutheran Church, is incorporated for the Okemos Community." The article follows. No author was listed.

*Faith Lutheran Church, Okemos*

*Word has come to us that the Reverend William Hahn has accepted the call to become pastor of the Okemos mission, currently supervised from University Lutheran*



Faith Lutheran Church is located on Dobie Road in Okemos.

*Church. Construction is proceeding on the expected schedule, and it is hoped to have all facilities complete for church services when he arrives on or before July 1.*

*All masonry on the church itself is now complete and bricklayers have addressed themselves to completing*

*the front of the parsonage. The roof of the church is beginning to take shape.*

*Pastor Hahn was confirmed in Salem Lutheran Church, Detroit, is married, has served in the US Marine Corps, and is graduating from Capital University Theological Seminary in June.*

An added note: The parsonage at Faith is now home to youth who have come to Michigan through Samaritas and Michigan Refugee Hope, ULC's Outreach of the Month for April.

*Connie Lenkowski*

**Everyone  
is Invited**

**Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>  
at FLC, 11:45 - 1:00**



**HOSTED by: Jamie Royalty and Tammy Heilman**

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.

# YOUTH NEWS

## Stony Lake Camp 2024

<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 me know. *Thanks, Pam*

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – NEW DATES

Due to the primary elections being held here at [Faith Lutheran](#) in August, we need to move the dates back a week. I hope this still works for most people. We are now having it July 29- August 2. There will be more information coming very soon.

### MOTHER'S DAY

May 12<sup>th</sup> will be our last Sunday School class time of this school year. We will be having a special activity and are in need of volunteers, that are NOT Mom's. I will also have a packet with a couple summer ideas to keep God on our minds and in our hearts over the summer vacation.





# Michigan Refugee Hope

Spreading God's love in our community



**MRH Charity Golf Outing**

**Benefitting:**

**Michigan Refugee Hope**

**Date: Tuesday, September 10**

**Time: Check-in 9:00 a.m.**

**Shotgun Start 10:00 a.m.**

**Location:**

**Wheatfield Valley Golf Club**  
**1600 Linn Road**  
**Williamston, MI 48895**

## Contests

- Hole-in-One \$10,000**
- Longest drive (men & women)**
- Closest to Pin (men & women)**
- Shortest Drive**
- Skins**
- 50/50 Raffle**



## Be a Sponsor

- Hole-In-One \$700 (4 paid golf)**
- Gold Sponsor \$500 (4 paid golf)**
- Silver Sponsor \$350(2 paid golf)**
- Hole Sponsor \$150 (1 paid golf)**

Questions: Randy Royalty  
 Phone: 269-217-9184  
 Email: rroyalty55@gmail.com



**MRH Golf Outing – Tuesday, September 10, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.**  
**Make Checks Payable to MRH**  
**Send Registration To: MRH c/o Laurie Hereza**  
**Faith Lutheran Church, 4515 Dobie Road, Okemos, MI 48864**

<b>Team Captain Name:</b>	<b>Email Address:</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Team Member Names:</b>		
1)	<b>Golfing Foursome \$300</b>	
2)	<b>Golfing Individual \$ 75</b>	
3)	<b>Hole Sponsor \$150 (1 paid golf)</b>	
4)	<b>Silver Sponsor \$350 (2 paid golf)</b>	
	<b>Gold Sponsor \$500 (4 paid golf)</b>	
<b>Sponsorship Level:</b>	<b>Hole-In-One \$700 (4 paid golf)</b>	
<b>Payment Type:</b>	<b>Total Payment</b>	





God our champion, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Draw near to all who suffer especially: Chad, Susan, Helen, Dale, Marla, Gene, Mavis, Chip, Trudy, Harry, Lois, Mara, Charlotte, Helen,

Bob, Marilyn, Todd, Eric, Karen, Allyson, and Brenda.

**Be their rest and comfort. Amen**

# 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](#)

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

DATE	GREETER	READER	LAY ASSIST	USHERS	ALTAR CARE	ACOLYTE	COFFEE HOUR
5/5/2024	<b>HELP NEEDED</b>	Alexa Warwick	Mike Eschelbach	Jon & Elaine Harrison	Rich Weingartner	Abby Steinke	Sollenberger and Nelson
5/12/2024	Doug & Linda Hirt	Lois Neves	Ryan Thompson	John McCracken/ Ken Milne	Tammy Heilman	Andrew Herek	Thompson's
5/19/2024	Connie Nelson	Linda Hirt	Doug Hirt	Doug & Linda Hirt	Elaine Harrison	No Acolyte	Faith Musicians
5/26/2024	Harold & Jan Sollenberger	Bob Nelson	Harold Sollenberger	Warren & Tammy Heilman	Elaine Harrison	Isaak Nyquist	Matt Schnizlein Nick Hirschenberger

**The NOISY Offerings for MAY will be as follows:**

- May 12<sup>th</sup>, Micro Pantry
- May 26<sup>th</sup>, Parish House