

JUNE 2024

# Faith Family News

PASTOR'S CORNER

By Pastor Bruce

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*Yahweh's favor is not exhausted, nor has God's compassion failed. They rise up new every morning, so great is God's faithfulness.* Lamentations 3:22-23 The Inclusive Bible

It is hard to imagine that Yahweh's favor is not exhausted, as ours gets exhausted. We only have so much favor and then we are done with that person or activity. We do have different levels of compassion, but God's compassion hasn't failed.

It is important to step back at times from people and activities in our lives as we do become exhausted. We only have a human beings' compacity for dealing with people and things. We will get exhausted if we do not take care of ourselves and let God take care of things.

This does not mean that we don't do anything, but as human beings, we have limits. Thankfully God does not. When our favor and compassion are failing, then it is time to step back. God may be trying to tell us that God needs to take care of this.

What I have observed is that Faith is anxious to move forward. Once the transition team makes their presentation to the council at their June meeting, I will work with the council to finish up the work for the Ministry Site Profile. Once this is completed the Council will convene the Call Committee.

Once the MSP is submitted to the ELCA/Synod, the bishop will see what candidates that he has for Faith. There are no guarantees that the bishop has any candidates. Remember only the Call Committee will know that. They will interview the candidate and when they feel they have the right candidate, they will recommend them to the Council. The Council will interview them and decide whether to recommend them to the congregation. Again, it is a process and rushing it is not healthy.

Through all of this, we need to remember that God is faithful. It will be important to be praying that the Holy Spirit will lead and guide the Call Committee, Council and candidate in order to discern God's will for Faith Lutheran Church. Remember this is all about God's timing not ours. God's faithfulness rises up new every morning.

# 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 .....	<a href="mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org">faith@faithlutheranokemos.org</a>
Website .....	<a href="http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org">www.faithlutheranokemos.org</a>
Facebook Page .....	<a href="https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos">facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos</a>

# **STEWARDSHIP**

Your Congregation's Best Assets -- Some time ago, I met with leaders from struggling congregations who wanted insight on how they could grow. The main event was an "asset mapping" workshop to help them identify the resources their congregation already had to invigorate its mission.

So, I'll put the question to you that I put to them: What assets does your congregation have, and why are they important to complete your work?

The teams from the congregations worked diligently and then presented lists that were remarkably similar:

- Money in the bank and investments
- Talented, motivated congregants
- Solid physical plant and/or property
- Good location
- Talented choir, band, or musicians
- Good pastor and/or lay leadership

Bravo! These are certainly assets that can be used to turn things around at every congregation. More notable were the assets that all the teams neglected to mention.

They included:

- God the Father/Creator
- God the Son/Savior
- God the Holy Spirit/Sanctifier
- The Bible
- The Sacrament of Baptism
- The Sacrament of Eucharist
- The Word of God

What's wrong? The teams were looking at their congregation from a business model. Their lists would probably compare with those of restaurants or social clubs.

Of course, all the congregations actually did possess the elements of the second list. The problem was that none of the team members readily saw these sacred, holy assets as useful in accomplishing their mission and making their congregation strong again.

Is it any reason why they were struggling? What attitudes would they have to change to turn things around?

How is your congregation doing?



# 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

**Paul Hereza**

**Phone: 517-927-6754**

**Email: [paul.hereza@gmail.com](mailto:paul.hereza@gmail.com)**

**Randy Royalty**

**Phone: 269-217-9184**

**Email: [rroyalty55@gmail.com](mailto:rroyalty55@gmail.com)**

**To register online:**

**<https://www.mirefugeehope.org/post/golf-outing-annual-fundraising-event>**

*Includes 18 holes golf, riding cart, hamburger or jumbo hot dog, and 2 N/A beverages tickets*

**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**

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

**For more information and to Register ONLINE:** <https://www.mirefugeehope.org/post/golf-outing-annual-fundraising-event>

## Membership Development Event

Come join us at Lake Lansing's Music in the Park on Friday, June 14th. Our very own Cody Boyan will be performing with School of Rock at 6:30 and the band The Oxymorons (nostalgic, folk and classic rock) will take the stage at 7:30. We will meet in the southeast corner of the lawn. Bring your blankets, chairs, dinner, munchies, etc. and enjoy a night of music.

## 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 Council approved the policy below. This will serve as step 1 of the FLC Security Plan.**

### Security Policy – DOORS

#### **Sunday School / Worship Service on Sunday mornings:**

- Main doors will be open by 8:45 am when Sunday School meets.
- Main doors will be open by 9:30 am when there is no Sunday School.
- Doors will be locked at 10:10 am. A cordless phone will be provided for the ushers. This phone will be left on vibrate. People will be able to call the ushers to be welcomed in.
- All other doors will remain locked.
- Greeters will be asked to stand at the main doors to welcome people and let visitors know where worship is. This way, no visitors will need to go downstairs.

# ACOLYTES WANTED

We realize that families come and go during the summer months, but we would still love to have students sign up to be acolytes if they are in town. Below is a link to a sign-up genius you can use.

Thanks so much, *Pam and Pastor Bruce*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA4AA23A2FAC07-46061747-acolyte>

**Everyone  
is Invited**



**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19<sup>th</sup>  
at FLC, 11:45 - 1:00**

**HOSTED by: Bob & Connie Nelson**

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.

## **WORSHIP BAGS**

**The kits are being made available for children - as we understand how difficult it can be to sit still and be quiet during service. We are going to try something different.**

There will be bags on the hooks, but they will be empty, except for a pencil, crayons, a folder with blank paper, and a hard board for the kids to use as a desk to write or color on. The three-drawer container has other items the students can choose from to put into their bag and take into service. At the end of service, place all items into the bags (except any non-reusable item the student wants to take home, i.e., coloring sheets). Then, place the whole bag into the USED box. I will then sanitize the used items.

Don't forget the books on the shelf. They can take these into service, or they can check them out to take home and bring back the following week.

We'd like suggestions for items we can add to the bags.

*Thanks, Pam*

# YOUTH NEWS

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## End of School BBQ



Who: All Middle School and High School Students

When: Sunday, June 9th, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Where: Faith Lutheran Church backyard/firepit

What: Food, Games, and Fun! Pickleball, badminton, volleyball and more!



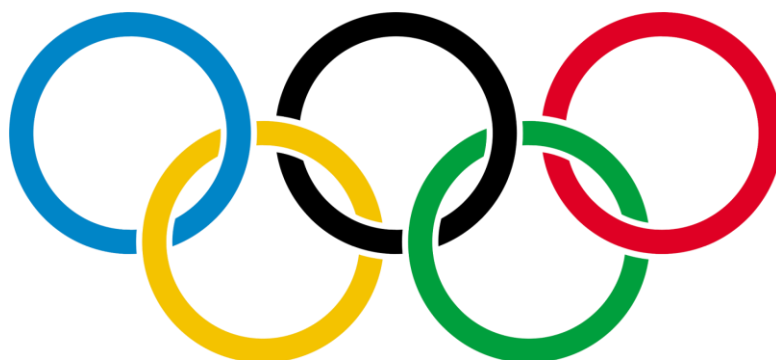
**RSVP to Pam by June 5th**

**(so we know how much food to have)**

**[pwilliams@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:pwilliams@faithlutheranokemos.org)**

Faith Lutheran Church and  
St. Paul's Lutheran are joining to offer ...

# SON GAMES



**When:** Monday, July 29<sup>th</sup> to Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. to Noon each day

**Who:** Ages 4 thru going into 6th grade

**Where:** Faith Lutheran, 4515 Dobie Rd, Okemos

**BEST OF ALL – IT IS FREE!**

Come and celebrate the victory we  
have in Jesus!

Please scan the QR code or send me an email to  
sign up. You can also email me with questions.

Pam Williams:

[pwilliams@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:pwilliams@faithlutheranokemos.org)







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
6/2/2024	Rich Weingartner	Ryan Thompson	Paul Hereza	John McCracken / Ken Milne	Jamie Royalty	TBD	Jamie Royalty
6/9/2024	Mike Eschelbach	Megan Nyquist	Rich Weingartner	John Backman / Randy Royalty	Kathy Mace	Andrew Herek	Herezas
6/16/2024	Ken & Ellen Milne	Warren Heilman	Randy Royalty	Jon & Elaine Harrison	Kathy Mace	TBD	TBD
6/23/2024	John & Ramona Backman	Harold Sollenberger	Bob Nelson	Warren & Tammy Heilman	Brenda Kopf	TBD	TBD
6/30/2024	Lois Neves	Elaine Harrison	Ray Herek	TBD	Cecelia Kramer	TBD	TBD

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

- June 9<sup>th</sup>, Micro Pantry
- June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Parish House

## MICRO PANTRY

Our Micro Food Pantries continue to be a wonderful resource for families in need. Many continue to have to balance their budgets and event with help from the local Food Banks they just cannot meet expenses. Your generous contributions of food, household items and money help us to make their budgets stretch to cover for their households. As you may be aware, Bridge Cards, WIC and other governments assistance do not cover household or personal needs products. Those are the products that continue to “fly” out of the pantries.

Suggested Contribution Items:

- Canned Fruit
- Toilet Tissue
- Laundry Pods

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## FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 2024 PARISH OFFICERS

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### CHURCH COUNCIL

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PRESIDENT .....	RANDY ROYALTY
VICE PRESIDENT .....	KATHY MACE
SECRETARY .....	MOLLY DEHATE
TREASURER .....	GWYNNE KADROFSKE
FINANCIAL SECRETARY .....	JON HARRISON
MEMBER-AT-LARGE .....	JEAN LEWIS
MEMBER-AT-LARGE .....	JACK DINGLEDINE
MEMBER-AT-LARGE .....	BRENDA KOPF
PAST PRESIDENT .....	MICHAEL ESCHELBACH

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### MINISTRY CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS

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Altar Care Coordinator .....	Elaine Harrison
Caring .....	Kathy Mace & Natalie Dingledine
Christian Ed Committee .....	John McCracken
Custodian .....	Kelly Nickols
Evangelism/Outreach .....	Brenda Kopf
Green Team .....	Randy Royalty
Human Resources .....	Lori Haven
Media and Technology .....	Ryan Thompson
Membership Development .....	Tammy Heilman, Erica Boyan, Diane Hill
Micro Food Pantry .....	Cecelia Kramer
Mutual Ministry .....	Mark Kadrofske
Parish House Refugee Project .....	Laurie Hereza
Property .....	Rick Baderstadt & Bob Nelson
RIC Team .....	Rich Weingartner
Sound Technicians .....	Cody Boyan & Raymond Herek
Stewardship .....	Paul Hereza
Usher Coordinator .....	Brenda Kopf
Webmaster .....	Chris Lewis
Worship .....	Diane Hill