



FAITH FOCUS

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Reach in. Reach out. Reach all.

January 2024

Happy New Year!

Board and Committee Updates

Pastor Call Committee

The call committee has interviewed the 4 available pastors and are working to finalize the information to present to the congregation. **We will be holding a voters meeting Sunday January 7 at 12:00 pm** to present the candidates and vote on which pastor to call.

Keith Aschenbeck-Victoria, TX
Mark Gilson-Fruitport, MI
Jacob Heine-Topeka, KS
Nicholas Schram-Barnhart, MO

Elders

Member Facts

Transfers Out

Greg, Kelly, Claire & Charlotte Rosecrans to St. Paul, Frankenlust

Deaths

Dixie Armbruster - December 11

Stewardship

If you had \$3000 you could choose to support your favorite nonprofit(s), who would you support? In gratitude to our Faithful God, our church has budgeted \$12,000 a year to distribute \$3,000 quarterly to "Reach out" to non-profits. Many local and Michigan non-profits have benefited from our Mission Monies. Please check out our "Information Board" at the Church entrance as several of the organizations have sent information pamphlets along with their thank you letters for Faith's generous donations!

For our Third Quarter Mission distribution of \$3000 on March 31, the Board of Stewardship would like YOUR input of a Non-profit you would like to see gifted with a one-time donation. You may call the office at 989-684-3430 with your suggestion or tell one of the Stewardship Committee members who you would like to see considered for supporting. Stewardship members are: Steve Katenhus, Joy Hart, Nancy Weiss, Terri Gaiser, Jeff Roscoe, and Karrie Gatza.

Opportunities to Make Your Tithe/Offering

Faith has a program which allows members to make electronic donations to the church. You can choose the amount and frequency of your offering, just like using the traditional offering envelope. This way, even if you are not able to make it to church some weekend, you can keep current in your ability to fund God's work among us. You can:

- Text 'GIVE' To (989) 368-3448 or
- Give ONLINE at <https://www.faithbaycity.org/give>

Events & Information

Christmas Decoration Take-down will occur the week of January 8. If you have any time that week to come and help, your assistance would be appreciated. Please call ahead to let us know you are coming, and we will get you started on a project. Many hands make light work!

Sewing Group - We will start again on January 17. We meet from 1 -3 or so, We will be making diapers to put with the layettes for Orphan Grain Train. We would love to have more help. If you're not a sewer you could help cut and pin and ready the diapers for sewing. Come for as long or short of time as you can, or if you prefer, we will be happy to give you a supply to sew at home. We are so Blessed to be able to do this for those in need,

THE MITTEN TREE IS UP AGAIN THIS YEAR - Ladies Parish Service/LWML Guild is collecting warm gloves, socks, hats and scarfs for the children of **WELLSPRING LUTHERAN SERVICES**. Put your items on or under the tree in the hallway from Jan 7 - Jan 22. Please help keep these children warm. Any questions call Barb Evans (989)450-1654. Thank you.

Have you ever wondered what **WELLSPRING LUTHERAN SERVICES IS ALL ABOUT**. Come to the **Ladies Parish Service/LWML Guild gathering on Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 6:30 in the Beyer Gathering Room**. Scott Peterson, Risk Prevention Specialist from Wellspring Lutheran Services, will be the guest speaker and bring us up-to-date on everything that Wellspring Lutheran Services entails. There are many things they do that we do not know about. We will also have a short mite box devotion and collect mites. Hope to see many there.

MISSION GRANT FEATURED FOR JANUARY: Fortifying Faith In Those With Vision Impairment - \$100,000. Lutheran Braille Workers freely supply large print and braille materials for blind and visually impaired people around the world. The \$100,00 LWML grant, Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment, will help in developing, formatting, producing, and distributing fifty to one hundred new Scripture-based and theologically related materials to people in need around the world.

MITE BOX OFFERINGS - The large Mite Box will be in the back of the church for collection on Sunday/Monday, January 14/15. Put your donation in the large mite box and take your small one back home to refill. Since times have changed and people do not have as much change, dollar bills in any amount or checks are great also. Thank you so much for your donation to help make these Mission Grants possible.

LAYETTES FOR ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN - The Pack 'n Play will be in the Beyer Gathering Room after the Mitten Tree items are collected. It will be there thru the middle of May to collect items to put together Layettes to take to the Orphan Grain Train center in Sebewaing. The need is for infants to 12 months. A list of the items needed is on the ledge in the back of the church.

Faith Community Outreach

Our January noisy coin offering and doorway donation will go to Family of God, Detroit. The coin collection will be on Sunday/Monday, January 21 & 22. More information to come regarding Family of God needs.

Smart Card Update - The Ladies Parish Service Guild will again be selling Smart Cards, but the cards won't be distributed to organizations until sometime in June 2024. At that time, they can be utilized for use immediately. They will also be good thru December 2025. The price will remain the same of \$25 per book/packet. Watch for upcoming arrival/sales announcements next year as we get closer to June 2024. If you have questions, please call Marylee @989-397-5730.

Thank You

Noisy Coin Offering - Small change adds up! Our collection in December of \$124 for the Bay-Arenac Diaper Pantry is so generous! Thank you!

A member wrote - Sitting in the many church services this Advent & Christmas Season I felt deep gratitude to so many people for Blessing Faith Lutheran Church & School with their time and talents!

- Thank you to Pastor Thiel for all the extra services (and his son for helping!).
- Thank you to the Elders & Ushers who covered all the extra beautiful services!
- Thank you to the teachers and staff and children for blessing us with their programs!
- Thank you to the Trustees and the many members who decorated inside and outside of Faith!
- Thank you to the special musical offerings by Addisyn, Cameron, Rande, Kurt, and Perry, and the Praise Team.
- Thank you to the Boards who diligently give of their time and talents to support Faith.
- Thank you to the Call Committee who continues to keep us informed and updated.
- And thank YOU to our members and guests who worship on Sunday & Monday.... you Bless my Worship of our Savior!

Community Information

[Harbor Sounds Chorus](#) is working to grow our membership. As part of this effort, they are hosting a guest night to provide a fun opportunity for singers in the community to check us out. The guest night is Wednesday, January 17, 7-9pm at Western High School ([500 W Midland Rd, Auburn, MI](#)). You can find more information at <https://www.harborsounds.org>. If you can't make it on January 17 but are interested in singing with us, we have open rehearsals most Wednesdays at the same time and place. Hope to see you there!

Reasons to check us out:

- We sing a cappella
- We compete annually as a large group and as quartets
- Singing is fun!
- We provide coaching opportunities for life-long learning

Women's Conference at St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth, January 20. Begin 2024 with a renewed heart in Jesus Christ! Join us for a day of renewal as we explore the message of Revelation 21:5 "Behold I am making all things new." Our keynote speaker will lead 2 keynote sessions on emotional and relational renewal through a secure foundation in Christ. The conference is designed to inspire and empower you to know your Savior and Creator at a deeper and more personal level. We want you to experience the renewing presence of Christ to carry you into 2024 - into your relationships, your homes, and your communities **What to Expect:** A Christ-centered day filled with worship, 2 keynote sessions, a boxed lunch provided by the Bavarian Inn Restaurant, and numerous breakout sessions that will impact and transform your individual walk with Christ. More information can be found at www.stlorenz.org/womens-conference

Calendar

Sundays

8:00am Worship

9:15am Bible Study

10:30am Worship & Kids' Connection

Mondays - 7:00pm Worship

Wednesdays - 9:00am Zoom Bible Study (contact the office to join)

Thursdays - 10:00am - Ladies' Bible Study - Starts back on January 11

Sun, Jan. 7 - 12:00pm - Voter's Meeting to Call a Pastor

Tue, Jan. 9 - Parish Service Guild

Wed, Jan. 17 - 1:00pm - Sewing Group

Sun, Jan. 21 - 6:00pm Church Council Meeting

Tue, Jan. 23 - 6:30pm Elder Meeting