



March 2024

Lenten Season

Pastor Thiel will be leading us in the Lenten season worship on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm. The series that will be focused on is "A Journey Through Luther's Catechism."

Prior to each service a meal will be provided that is hosted by a group here at Faith. Dinner will be served 5:20-6:20pm. The tentative schedule is:

- March 6 - Youth - Taco Bar
- March 13 - Teachers/Staff - Lasagna & Chicken Alfredo
- March 20 - Parish Service Guild - Meatballs & Sides

Board and Committee Updates

Pastor Call Committee

Pastor Nick Schram has declined the call made by Faith. The call committee has received three names from the congregation and has requested a new list from the district office. We are hoping to receive a new candidate list by Easter.

Elders

On Sunday, March 17, Pastors from Family of God, Detroit, will be leading us in worship and sharing information about their ministry.

The Elders, along with the Parish Service Guild, will be hosting the Easter breakfast this year. Please watch the bulletins for more information and how you can donate.

Member Facts - Death - Ken Graves, February 18

Stewardship News

Excel in the Grace of Giving – we have started 2024 **strong** with faithful and generous gifts to Faith Lutheran Church and School. **THANK YOU** for your continued support as we strive to keep the ministry of Faith Lutheran moving forward as we seek the new pastor that God has chosen to shepherd us.

Excel in the Grace of Giving – Share your Time and Talents – Members have taken the time to check out our new volunteer form which is available at any time online or the back pew shelf all year long. **THANK YOU!** We have members trying out some new areas to refresh the energy. You will be seeing some new areas re-emerging, such as a Sunday coffee hour and a prayer chain. All this happens because **you** saw a need and said, **"I can do that!"** Keep your eyes open for new opportunities that we will place before you each month. Also, as opportunities arise in your life to add volunteer time, please check out the form, and we will get back with you. Use this QR code, go directly to our website and look for the Volunteer Form under the Giving Tab and scroll down to the Volunteer Hands box, or head to the back church pew shelf and pick up a paper form and drop it in the box.



Volunteer Focus for March: SOS – Serve our School by reading to our students during March Reading Month. There are other areas to serve our school, just check out the **School Support** portion of the Volunteer Form to see all the opportunities. Also, **Vacation Bible School** is coming June 10-13. See the various roles needed for that FUN week of sharing God with kids under the heading **Children and Youth Ministry**.

Faith's Mission Impact: THANK YOU * THANK YOU * THANK YOU * If you want to see the impact of Faith's Mission Distribution, stop by the Silver Display Case outside of the Beyer Gathering Room and see the thanks we have received from the various organizations we've supported. From **MOST Ministries** - up until 2015, there were no Lutherans in Belize. Now there are 5 preaching stations and 10 LCMS Missionaries. From **Lutheran Braille Workers** - because of our support, production of Braille and Large Print materials has tripled! They report people cry with joy, jump up and down, and even are struck speechless when presented with the gift of a Bible, devotional material, or hymnal. You are changing lives! From **Safe Harbor** - helping people overcome some of the turmoil and trauma they face in their lives right in our community! Yes - Food, Shelter, and Homelessness are real issues in Bay County. Again, check out the Display Case and information board for the letters and further information on these organizations should you feel moved to support or volunteer more.

Stewardship's 3rd Quarter Mission Distribution of \$3000 will be considered on March 25th. Let a Stewardship member know of an organization you would like to see supported!

Endowment Committee

The Faith Lutheran Endowment Fund Committee is taking requests for grant money. If you are a member of Faith, on a Board or Committee, or on the staff here at Faith and have an idea for a need that is non-budgeted, please feel free to request funding using the form on our website faithbaycity.org/documents or contact the office. The next grant request period will be March 1-31. The submitted requests will be reviewed at the April Endowment Fund meeting. Thank you for your prayers, contributions, and support.

The Endowment Fund Committee is looking for church members to join our committee. We currently have 2 positions open. If you are interested, please contact Rusty Schisler (989) 928-5068 or Hal Gatz (989) 415-6777.

School News

2024-25 School Year Enrollment is now open! Every child here at Faith Lutheran receives a superior Lutheran Christian education. Tell others about our school and share the news. All community members are able to enroll starting at this time; don't wait to enroll your child!

March is Reading Month - Faith Lutheran School would like to invite you to read to a class during their library time. The dates are Thursday, March 14th and March 21st. The times are morning or afternoon on either of those days. Please contact Cathy Grueber if you are interested in reading to set up a date and time (email: cgrueber@faithbaycity.org). Thank you for sharing your time with Faith Lutheran School students.

Ways 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>

News & Information

All ladies of Faith are invited to an evening of fellowship and fun with the Parish Service Guild/LWML. Parish Service Guild will have a short meeting followed by an interesting Bible study on Tuesday, March 12th at 6:30 p.m. Delicious refreshments will be served. Please make plans to join us and bring a friend!

Easter Flowers -Please help beautify our church on Easter and/or honor a loved one with a spring flower. Tulips, hyacinths, daffodils and lilies are available. Please use the order form below or fill one out at church. Please mail in your form with payment or place your form in the box in the back of church. Deadline to order is March 11th.

GROW your FAITH. Get in THE WORD. JOIN a BIBLE STUDY.

Faith presently has three Bible Studies available to join. One is sure to fit your schedule. One member recently mentioned in a general conversation how her faith has grown, and she owes it all to participating in a Bible Study. In these crazy days and times, allow God to reveal His LOVE for you and His PLAN for the world. Do you have an hour a week to give it a try? Read on and see how you can participate. There is something here for EVERYONE.

SUNDAY MORNING - 9:15 AM – Conference room off the Beyer Gathering Room – ALL WELCOME

- Studying two powerful books in Scripture - the book of Isaiah in the Old Testament and the book of Romans in the New Testament.
- Be comforted by God's promise of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, in Isaiah's message.
- Meanwhile, Romans contains some of the clearest declarations of the righteousness of faith in Jesus in all the Bible.
- Led by Kevin Streeter, Congregation President and VLHS teacher
- We look forward to growing with you. Bring your Bible or use one of ours.

Have a computer, tablet, or phone???

WEDNESDAY MORNING – 9:00 AM – ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

- You are cordially invited to join from 9:00-10:00 AM via Zoom for some stimulating Bible discussion.
- Currently, digging into the Book of Ecclesiastes...very interesting, to say the least!
- Each session is usually about an hour long, notes are provided, and there are about 15-20 other wonderful church members (who also welcome you!) that have made this study part of their weekly faith walk.
- Led by Kurt Hofmeister, retired Faith and VLHS teacher. Send him an email or text, and he'll get you set up. (khofmeister@vlhs.com or 989-225-7385)
- Come join us!
- **ADDED BONUS** - If this doesn't fit your schedule, sessions are **recorded** so you can **view it at your leisure**.

And for the Women of Faith:

EVERY THURSDAY (when school is in session) - 10 AM - Conference room off the Beyer Gathering Room

- Currently studying Ten Women in the Bible. Lively discussions about women who are led by God to do remarkable things.
- Study books are used and available. Usual cost is \$10 - \$15.
- Grow with us in your knowledge and faith. We would encourage any lady to join. Just show up and you will be welcomed.
- Led by Lorri Schumacher, retired special education teacher.

These studies grow and evolve as time goes on. Participants are always asked what they would like to explore next. The WORD is full of impactful studies just waiting to be dived into. Consider one of the above to see the difference it can make in your life.

Michigan Church Extension Fund - If you are currently looking for a place to invest a portion of your savings, please keep the Michigan District Church Extension Fund in mind as an option. The Church Extension Fund (CEF) offers something other investment institutions do not; a ministry dividend. While earning competitive interest, your investments are used to further the expansion of God's - Kingdom through loans to new missions, childcare centers, schools, and local congregations. While accomplishing all of this, consider what you could be earning on your current savings with the Fund with an investment at this time. A 1-year CD is currently paying 4.75% (4.84% APY). An Extension Plus checking account will earn anywhere from 1.35% to 2.20%, depending on the balance kept. For other investment opportunities and terms available, contact Tom Mueller, current volunteer congregational Rep. at 989-245-6703 or call the CEF offices at 800-242-3944.

MISSION GRANT FEATURED FOR MARCH - Expanding Gospel Proclamation Worldwide; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri \$100,000. Concordia Seminary is committed to addressing the concern of educating international students from countries that are unable to handle the significant financial obligation. This education will help to ensure that those living in every region of their nations will hear and learn the message of salvation through Christ. An LWML Mission Grant will provide scholarship aid for international students. Thank you for donating and helping make this possible.

Layettes for Orphan Grain Train - The Ladies/LWML Parish Service Guild is gathering items together again this year to make Layettes for Orphan Grain Train. We are asking for items from birth to 12 months. There is a list of items needed on the shelf in the back of the church. These do not have to be new items but can be gently used items - check thrift stores, garage sales, etc. We are always highly in need of Rubber pants and blankets. The Pack n Play will be in the Beyer Gathering Room from now until May 19. If you have any questions pls call Barb Evans (989)450-1654 or Sue Bauer (989)860-4947.

Faith Community Outreach - Our March noisy coin offering will go to Foster Families - Navigation & Resource Center. Please bring in your loose change on Sunday/Monday, March 17/18 and make some noise for this great organization. The Mission of Foster Families NRC is to equip and support our foster families to be able to continue this crucial work for years to come. Through mentoring, outreach, resources, and fellowship we can ensure that these families feel supported and uplifted while doing the work they have been called to do thus benefiting not just the family but the children and the communities around them. Thank you, Faith!

Valley Lutheran High School News

Vacancies - two full-time faculty positions beginning July 31, 2024. The first is for Social Studies (U.S. History and Economics) and the second is for English (with a focus on writing and research). The ideal candidate would have an LTD and a secondary teaching certificate in the appropriate subject area. Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to Dr. Lisa Meyers by mail (3560 McCarty Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603) or email (lmeyers@vlhs.com). Interviews are anticipated to begin by the end of February and continue until the position is filled.

Trivia Night - Come join us for a fun night of trivia to support the Mexico Mission trip team as they raise money to build a house for a family in Baja, Mexico. It will be held on Saturday, March 9, at 7:00pm at Immanuel Lutheran, Frankentrost. Cost is \$70 for a table of 8 or \$10 per person if you RSVP to 989-372-2096 or rbrenner@vlhs.com. At the door cost is \$15 per person. Bring your own beverage and snacks - some snacks will be available for purchase.

Thank You

Noisy Coin Offering - Small change adds up! Our collection in February of \$193 for Family of God - Detroit is so generous! Thank you!

Community News

Concordia Seminary - Find God's calling and direction for your high schooler's life! Concordia Seminary, St. Louis invites 9-12th grade students to attend **Vocatio High School** — a retreat that encourages high school men and women to explore many aspects of the Seminary, including worship and devotions, sessions with professors, and even some fun and recreation! Registration costs \$100 and closes May 24. Register Today! For more information, email admit@cls.edu or call 800-822-9545.

Easter Events - There are many meals and events at our local congregations during this Easter season. Please check the bulletin board for all the event flyers to celebrate our Savior!

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

Wed, Mar. 6 - 5:20-6:20pm - Lenten Dinner
6:30pm Lenten Worship

Tue, Mar. 12 - 6:30pm - Parish Service Guild

Wed, Mar. 13 - 5:20-6:20pm Lenten Dinner
6:30pm Lenten Worship

Sun, Mar. 17 - 6:00pm Church Council Meeting

Wed. Mar. 20 - 1:00pm Sewing Group
5:20pm Lenten Dinner
6:30pm Lenten Worship Service

Tue. Mar. 26 - 6:30pm Elder Meeting

Thurs. Mar. 28 - 6:30pm Maundy Thursday
Worship & First Communion

Fri, Mar. 29 - 6:30pm Good Friday Worship

Sun, Mar. 31 - 6:30am, 8:00am & 10:30am

Easter Worship

Breakfast served between services



Faith Lutheran Church & School
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