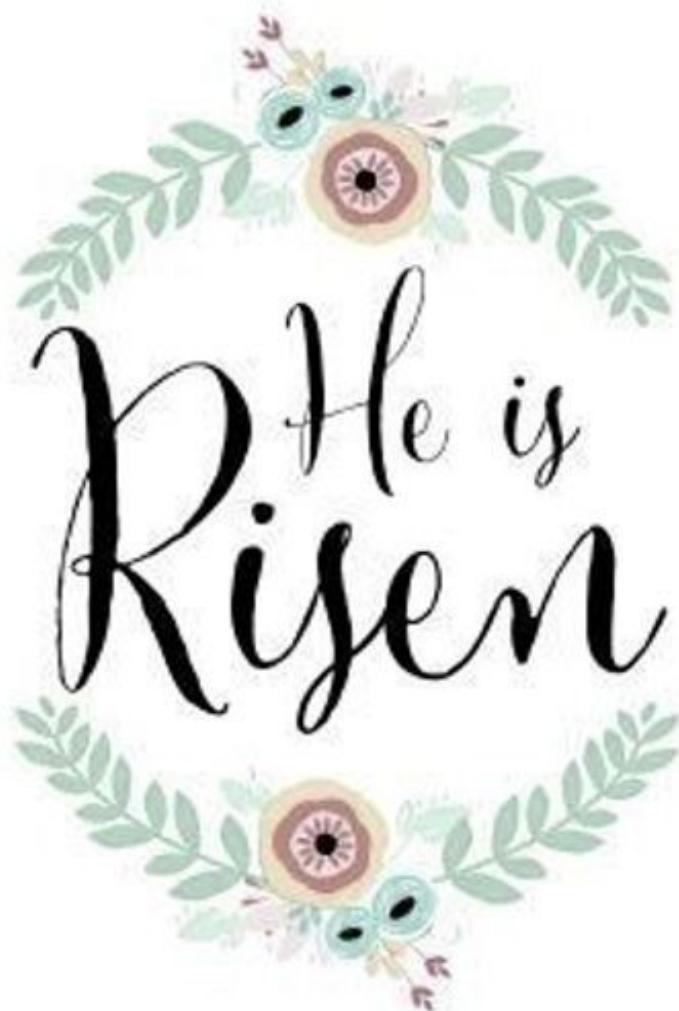


April 2018
Volume 68 Number 4

Faith Lutheran Church

Banner of Faith



Upcoming Events

- 4/1—Easter Services (8:30 & 11:00)
- 4/8—Council Meeting (12pm)
- 4/13—Confirmation & Pizza (6pm)
- 4/21—Just for Fun Women's Breakfast (10am)
- 4/22—Discipleship Meeting (12pm)
- 4/27—Second Best Sale (9-5pm)
- 4/28—Second Best Sale (9-12pm)

Worship Schedule

- 8:30am: Classic Worship with Organ
- 11:00am—Casual Worship with Praise Band



May All Find Acceptance In This House

Faith Lutheran Church

2740 Fuller Avenue NE Grand Rapids, MI 49505-2679

Phone: 616.361.2679

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 8:00am – 3:00 pm

www.faithlutheranchurchgr.org



@ faithlutheranchurchgr

Church Staff

Pastor,

Kevin Sullivan

pastorflcgr@att.net

Administrative Assistant,

Nikki Phillips

flcgr@att.net

Custodian,

Gene Gibson

Director of Music,

Sharon TerBeek

Organist,

Ann Marie Kaufman

Librarian,

Kevin Lyons

2018 Congregational Council

Meetings are usually held the second Sunday of each month following the 11:00am service

President, **Dorothy Stoken**

Vice President, **Open**

Secretary, **Claudia Zimmerman**

Treasurer, **Mary Appelt**

Resource Mgmt, **Dan Carter**

Facilities Mgmt, **Co-Chairs, Jack**

Nienhuis, Rick Lewis

Communications, **Jane Waite**

Personnel, **Beth Martin**

Stewardship, **Kevin Lyons**

Discipleship, **Stacey Schepers**

Worship, **Steve Zimmerman**

Missions, **Christine Mwanyika**

Congregational Life, **Nancy Morrison**

Congregational Care, **Wendy Domagalski**

Youth Representatives, **Open**



“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” **Galatians 2:19b-20**

A Resurrected People

It was a blessing to have Pastor David Sprang with us on Sunday, March 18. For those of you didn't get a chance to meet him I will just mention that he is one of the Assistants to our Bishop who specializes in helping churches become/remain dynamic forces for sharing God's love in their communities. Rev. Sprang came to our church to speak to our Council, but he also offered to preach in the morning and we are thankful for his message.

He preached on the text about Jesus' teaching that it is only when a seed is placed in the ground and “dies” that it sprouts to the surface and brings forth new life. And Jesus says that it is the same with us... Well, it's a ridiculous sounding idea that we are tempted to toss aside as just another one of Jesus' mysterious sayings... But, as one of our members said to me the other day: “Turns out Jesus was right again!”

Common sense—and the teachings of our culture—tell us that if you want to experience abundant life you grab for all the products and experiences and pleasure that money can buy. We are taught that we must take care of ourselves, pamper ourselves, and put our own needs first if we are to have a good life. But a good number of the members of this church have told me that have found the most incredible joy precisely when they are “giving their life away.”

Right now there are people in this church who are sharing a whole lot of their time, money, and energy with others. And my natural impulse is to say: “Oh, we have to



be careful. We cannot expect or demand too much from our members or they will feel sorely misused.” But what I have seen is that there is an excitement and joy they are feeling and sharing as they dig deep and allow their personal lives to be interrupted for the sake of others. And I have been told more than once that this is exactly what they had been hoping our church would be about.

Perhaps this is exactly what Christ was hoping we would be about too. The hope of the resurrection is not just a hope we share for what happens to us after we have physically died. We are called to live as people who have died to ourselves and risen to live out the life and priorities of Jesus in our own life and relationships for the sake of others. To the world this may look like we are forgoing that which they assume will bring joy; but what we find as we experience it is that there is a joy much deeper and richer in this life of **dying-to-ourselves-and-rising-to-Christ** than we can find words to share.

One of our members has shared with us his personal favorite verse of the Bible. It is where Paul says: “For me living is Christ and dying is gain” (Philippians 2.21). And I think that’s the Easter life for us. We die with Christ to rise with Christ, in this life and the next. And what we find is that even in this dying to ourselves we find greater life in this life—here and now—than we had ever thought possible.

May you rejoice in this Easter season as we recall the Resurrection of our Lord, and as we experience the resurrected life today. Amen

A Thank You

There are very many people who do wonderful things for our church and community that are seldom noticed. This month we just want to raise up one of the many. We want to thank Roger Erhart for all the little (and sometimes very big) things he does around here. From fixing our folding machines to painting curbs, whacking weeds, replacing table tops, removing foreign objects from our snow blower, and raking leaves around our building when you 'd think no one was looking... Roger does all this and much, much more. And along with that he brings us his great sense of humor and a rich knowledge of "gadgetry" how to fix and repair "pert near anything" (as my dad would've said). We appreciate you Roger more than we can say. Thanks so much for who you are and all you do!



Church Directory—Save the Date!

Universal Church Directories is coming on Tuesday, July 10 to update our pictorial church directory. If you wish to get your picture taken you will receive a new 8X10 picture for free. More information on sign-ups to come later!



2018 Walk for Good Food (formerly Hunger Walk)
Dorothy Stoken, Walk Coordinator

I am pleased to announce that Faith Lutheran Church will again be participating in the “Access Walk for Good Food”. This is a fundraising Walk designed to support the development of work related to community food security and Good Food system principles.

The goals of the Walk are to raise awareness of the positive efforts of local international food system organizations, to engage community members in supporting these efforts through walking and raising pledges, to create a space of collaborative energy and work among food system organizations thereby uniting local efforts within the food system for a common goal, and to fund all recipient agencies for proactive projects and operational costs that stimulate and sustain a vibrant local food system.

The Walk takes place this year on Sunday, May 6, 2018, at Park Church in Downtown Grand Rapids. Kick Off (music, face painting and more) and Registration begins at 1:30 PM and the Walk begins at 2:30 PM. It is a fun time of walking, meeting and sharing time with others.

Please give some thought to either joining others in walking, signing up as a Route Corner Monitor, Check-In Personnel or Parking Assistant, or making a monetary pledge to one of our Walkers. Look for future announcements in the weekly Bulletins. Sign-up Sunday will be April 1. I will be in the Narthex with the walker sign-up sheets and envelopes and answer any questions you have.

Save the date and join the Walk!

Children/Youth Discipleship News



April 1 – Easter; No Sunday School Classes

April 8 – Spring Break; No Sunday School Classes

May 13 – Mother's Day; **LAST** day of Sunday School; Mother's Day Activity for Elementary Sunday Schoolers

Kid's Food Basket

On Wednesday, May 16 there is an opportunity to volunteer at the Kids Food Basket from 6 – 8pm. You will have to be able to stand for two hours. We could be preparing sandwiches, putting eggs in baggies or any other task that they need us to do. There are only 12 slots available. If you would like to volunteer please let me know at your earliest convenience. You can call/text me at 616-293-5414 or email me at hslager7@sbcglobal.net.



FLC Tote Bags

When we have visitors visit our church, they receive a blue Faith Lutheran tote bag. Inside the bag, is a devotional, a recent Banner and a brochure explaining what Faith Lutheran Church is all about. Recently, Sue Redner inquired about purchasing one. Thanks Sue for bringing this to our attention! Starting on April 8, if you would like to purchase a bag for a free will donation, please see Dee Scales, Jack Nienhuis or Jane Waite.



Thank You!

We want to thank Steve Barnes at AAA Carpet Sales for their recent donation of a carpet remnant for Ilyas' family. We appreciate the generosity of this local business!



Facilities Notes

Jack Nienhuis

The Bride's Room has been completely redecorated. Volunteers removed the old wallpaper, painted the walls and doors and removed the carpeting. New carpeting was installed Friday, March 16, 2018. We are grateful the Women of ELCA for providing the funding for the carpeting. Furnishings will be donated and purchased soon. Finally, in order for the room to get more use, the name of the room may be changed to the Women's Lounge.

NE Supper House

Brenda Dubay

SAVE THE DATE!!!

This year we have 3 dates for serving at the NECM Supper House. If you are interested in volunteering mark your calendar now! Details and sign up will follow before each date. Those dates are:

Thursday May 3
Tuesday June 5
Thursday September 27

All dates begin at 4:45 pm and end approximately at 7:00 pm

SAVE
the
DATE

Circle of Welcome

It has been just a short couple of weeks since we met and welcomed two families from Pakistan to our community. Each of these families arrived on different flights that brought them to Grand Rapids right about midnight within five days of each other. We gathered them up, and took them to their new apartments, gave them food, and promised to come again to help them settle in. Samaritas (formerly Lutheran Social Services of Michigan) calls this process the “Circle of Welcome” and notes that it is a long-term commitment to walk alongside these families for at least their first year. Our goals include helping them become acquainted with the town, the language, and needed services; helping to prepare their home and shop for food and other needed items; and surround them with caring people who they can count on as friends and advocates as they enter our schools, workforce, and community. In the past couple weeks we have taken these families shopping, shown them around the town, helped transport them to medical appointments, gathered needed items to finish furnishing their homes, and spent lots of time getting to know them and assuring them that we are here to care for them whether they ever choose to enter Faith Lutheran Church or not. And it has been such a blessing to the members of the Welcome Team. These lovely families have shared their rich hospitality with us at every turn... In fact it seems like when we go to minister to their needs we are the ones who come away buoyed and filled with joy by their friendship and grace. We look forward to continuing to share Christ’s love with these wonderful new neighbors in the weeks and months ahead.

I hope you will join us in praying for our new friends as they experience the joys of our new community even as they bear the griefs of separating from some of their family members, old friends, and familiar traditions.

Musical Notes

Sharon TerBeek



Handbell Choir

The Handbell Choir will be playing their season finale on Easter Sunday. We thank all the members who have given their time for rehearsals and performances. Rehearsals will resume in the Fall.



Thank You!

A special “thank you” to all the musicians who provided the wonderful music for Easter. You are truly a blessing!



Income February 2018

Counters Report

		Totals Feb. 2018	Total YTD Jan-Feb
Offering	\$11,617.00		
Electronic	\$895.00		
Total Offering		\$12,512.00	
Building Use	\$390.00		
Other—Misc.	\$290.83		
Total Other		\$680.83	
Total General Operating Income		\$13,192.83	\$25,188.04
Memorials	\$90.00		
Cupboard of Faith	\$20.00		
Youth	\$301.80		
Misc.	\$2,060.00		
Total Designated Income		\$2,471.80	
Total Income Feb. 2018		\$15,664.63	\$29,086.84
Average Attendance—Feb.	81		
Average Attendance—January	85.75		

Second Best and Baked Good Sale

Friday, April 27: 9:00am-5:00pm

Saturday, April 28: 9:00am-12:00pm

Donations are needed. All donations should be in GOOD CONDITION. If it's broken or unusable throw it out. Clothes should be clean. No TV's or Knives please. Donations can be delivered to the Fellowship Hall between April 23 to April 26. If you wish to deliver your items earlier, Room 3 (choir room) is available. Bakers are needed.

Baked goods such as bread, cookie, pies, candies, etc. are needed. Please deliver your baked goods on Thursday, April 26 or early Friday, April 27. Volunteers are needed to help set up and work the sale. We work from 9:00am-12:00pm Monday-Thursday to get things set up, and then the sale is Friday and Saturday. Saturday afternoon whatever is left will have to be boxed up or bagged and made ready to be picked up. Any questions call Nancy Morrison at 616.361.7641



Council Capsule

Claudia Zimmerman, Secretary

Notes from the Congregational Council meeting of March 18, 2018, (Note- the Capsule is a condensed summary of Council business, and the minutes have not yet been approved):

Church Renewal - Council provided a luncheon for Pastor David Sprang, Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission of the NW Lower Michigan Synod-ELCA, before he spoke to the Council on the subject of Renewal/Revitalization/Reformation of the church. Some of his points were to 'become more visible through use of digital technology, involve youth in services and events, make sure announcements are clear to visitors and not too internal, and to get to know our neighborhood and become involved in local events'. His examples were inspiring and he offered more information online and personally as needed.

Constitution and Bylaw Revision – there was further discussion on sections of the Constitution/Bylaw document that are suggested to be removed and written as Continuing Resolutions.

Samaritas Campaign – Council approved a donation from interest on current accounts to go to the ongoing Samaritas Campaign, which will assist in programs in west Michigan.

Document Changes – Council voted to make recommended changes in wording to update the Wedding Policy documents and the Facilities Use Liability Waiver.

Surveillance System – Installation is in place and training will be scheduled. Note the new screens at the sound booth, in the office and nursery. Entries and hallways are now monitored.

Circle of Welcome – Requirements were met to support a refugee Pakistani family, and two families that were related happened to come within a week of each other. Faith members have worked to help both families settle with donations of

food, clothing, transportation and funds.

Workshops – NW Lower MI Synod would hold workshops on Saturday, April 21, on many current topics. Sessions would run from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. with a \$10 registration fee.

Congregational Life – April 28-29 will be the date of the spring Second Best Sale, and items would be collected in the Music room after Easter. June 10 is the date for the annual church group ballgame at Fifth/Third Ballpark.

Facilities – Renovation of the former ‘Bridal Room’ was completed, with painting done by volunteers and carpet scheduled for installation. Furniture would be donated and purchased, and Council agreed to change the name plate on the door to read ‘Ladies Lounge’.

Stewardship – Spartan Receipts would be collected for one more Sunday before turning them in at the NECM meeting on March 27th.

Pastor’s Report – Pastor Kevin reported on Wednesday Lenten services following the theme ‘Nailing It’ which had been well received; reminded everyone of the upcoming Saturday Egg Hunt, Palm Sunday Brunch, and Maundy Thursday potluck; reported his participation in another annual Chili Cook-Off; and the ongoing work to continue modifications of the church Constitution/Bylaws document. He expressed great joy in being able to offer support to the refugee families that Faith has connected with, seeing the bonds form with volunteers, and receiving appreciation from the family members. The families arrived with very few possessions and have been very grateful after fleeing the conditions in their home country.

Next Council Meetings: April 8, 2018 in the Library, following Casual Service.

Always Faithful for Faith,
Members of Congregational Council

Stewardship Kevin & Gene Lyons

Can we hear the voice of Gabriel: “Do not be Afraid”.

Can we hear the voice of Mary: “Here Am I – The Servant of the Lord”

Many of us have much to be thankful for. There have been parents, friends, strangers, etc who have made us what we are. We are blessed. There is so much we can do – small & large. Both as individuals and as the church. There is much we do that we don't even think about as doing God's work.

There was a baby born in Bethlehem in humble surroundings. Think what message he has for us. Hear what Mary & Gabriel proclaimed.

The purpose of the Spirit's movement in our lives is not just so we will go to heaven. Rather the Spirit's purpose is that we might live in God's kingdom today and be involved in the work that God has prepared us to do. We are a part of God's masterpiece. God's people love the Lord by serving others.

Stewardship & Missions

Do What You Can
With What You Have
Where You Are



Just for Fun Women's Breakfast

Just for Fun Women's Club will meet on Saturday, April 21 at Leo's Coney Island (6080 28th Street, SE MI 49546) starting at 10:00 am. All the Women of Faith are welcome - young and old. For questions or if you need a ride please call Christine Mwanyika at 616.361.9920 or Paula Nienhuis at 616.866.1981



Whitecaps Baseball Game

The group outing will be Sunday, June 10 at 2:00pm. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for anyone who is interested in going and sitting as a group. Invite family and friends to join us. The price per ticket for a group of 20 or more is \$12.50 less than 30 is \$13.50. Deadline to sign-up is May 13. Any questions call Nancy Morrison at 616.361.7641.



Banner of Faith

Happy Birthday!

4/1	Brittany Novak	4/2	Lance Verheek
4/3	Aidan Martin	4/4	Beth Foskett
4/5	Nicole Gillikin	4/5	Phyllis Kozak
4/7	Marcy DeVries	4/9	Zoe Bultman
4/10	Easton Scholten	4/12	Michael Gillikin
4/12	Herbert Novitsky	4/14	Matthew Joshua
4/20	Joseph Stoffers	4/22	Charles TerBeek
4/25	Barb Aalderink	4/25	Betty Wolters
4/26	Dorene Lepzinski	4/27	Mies Martin
4/29	Jessie Jakolat	4/29	Carol Smedley



Ron & Carla Smith	4/10/1999
Jack & Paula Nienhuis	4/14/1973
Wendy & Jeff Domagalski	4/24/1976
Barb & Jack Aalderink	4/28/2006



PRAYER REQUEST

Carla Smith	Myrtle McLain	Dorene Lepzinski
Bettie Rappleyea	Bert Lareva	Deb Sypien & Family
Irene Smestad	Betty Wolters	Linda Schmoldt
Stan Robertson	Cecilia	Inez Houghtalin Sister of Dorothy Stoken
Steve Hall Son of Jo Hall	David Molenar Brother of Anna VerHeek	Vince Vanderveen Son of Dee Scales
Eva Youngs Friend of Mary Lou Hicks	Al Carney Father of Sandy Lewis	Melissa Smith Mother of Mies Martin
Becky Richard Daughter in Law of John & Nancy Richard	Pam Hansen Daughter in Law of Janis & Bob Hansen	

Our condolences to the family of:

Prayer Chain Contact: Mary Lou Hicks at 616.957.0563 or flcgr@att.net

Bulletin & Banner Prayer List

Names submitted for the Prayer List will be printed
for four weeks. If you wish to resubmit your name,
call the church office at 616.361.2679 or flcgr@att.net

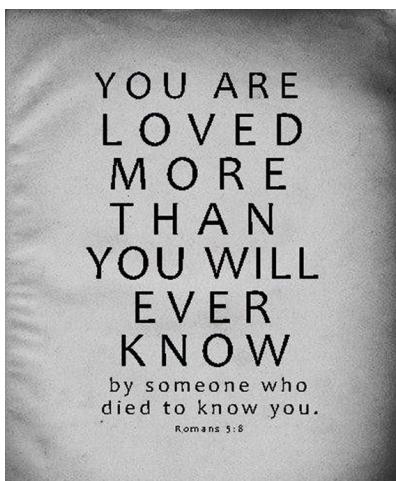
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