

March 2018
Volume 68 Number 3

Faith Lutheran Church

Banner of Faith



Upcoming Events

- 3/2—Confirmation & Pizza
- 3/4—Discipleship Meeting
- 3/11—Daylight Savings
- 3/15—Samaritas Fellowship
- 3/16-3/18—Junior High Charge
- 3/24—Easter Egg Hunt
- 3/25—Palm Sunday Worship & Brunch

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**



“When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.”

Leviticus 19:33-34

One of the frequent refrains in the Old Testament is this idea of how the “alien” from a foreign land is to be embraced by the people of Israel. The verse above sums up the teaching: you’re not to oppress the alien, you’re not to set yourself against them, you’re not to set your needs over theirs; you are to “love the alien as yourself.” And you are to do this—if for no other reason—because one of the most central truths of your existence is that you (your ancestors, your people) were once aliens yourselves.

You were enslaved in Egypt and when you were finally set free through the grace of God, you wandered as refugees looking for a place of your own. So you know what it means to be homeless, to be the stranger; you know what it is to wake up far from family and friends among people who speak a different language and practice different religions, and act in different ways than you are familiar with. And you know what it means to find someone in that new land who welcomed you and showed you a bit of warmth and love. You know the hope that gave you.

Part of the reason the authors of the texts that impress the importance of “loving the alien in your midst” go back to it so often is because we all have such a limited historical memory. The Biblical authors were worried that the lessons of the most critical events in their shared memory (the Exodus and the several exile experi-



ences) would be left in the past and that they'd soon come to reflect the worst attitudes they found among their new neighbors. So they repeated this teaching over and over and encoded it in their laws and teachings: "Remember who you were, remember where you came from, remember who God has called you to be... and let that guide you into being who you are now, and who you are becoming."

I think this idea is a powerful reminder, not just to the Israelites, but to those of us who live thousands of years after this was first written. Our ancestors came to this country as immigrants and refugees themselves. Many of our ancestors felt they had no alternative but to flee the violence, poverty, religious persecution, prejudice, and hopelessness of their home countries in search of something better, safer, and more hope-filled in this country. For some of us our ancestors came here so many generations ago that we can hardly recall their stories. For others, such immigration might have been in the generation of our grandparents, or our parents, or even within our own generation.

There is nowhere near the room in this newsletter to fully describe the timid 14 year old girl who traveled alone from Switzerland to Ellis Island in the early 1900s to escape abuse and poverty within her family, and boarded a train for Montana. This girl was my grandmother. She often recalled looking out the window of that train in her new country with her little suitcase at her feet and seeing hideous people running about the streets in hideous costumes... and she was terrified of those people. What she later learned was that, having arrived on Halloween, she was seeing these people at their "hideous" worst, and she needn't worry about them turning back into frantic pirates and clowns and monsters... at least for another year.

Eventually she made her way in society. She learned the language, married,

raised a family, went to a Baptist church, and took a job in the laundry of a hospital where she worked until she retired at the age of seventy something. I remember living with her as she was in Hospice for her last few months. She was almost totally deaf, still spoke with an accent, and she was happy and satisfied with her life. She died in a little bed in her very modest house with a cuckoo clock on the wall beside her—a gift from her last remaining sister in her homeland—but by the time she died in that bed, I know she couldn't hear it.

Perhaps it's because of stories like this—stories that vary from family to family, but persist in almost all of our families—that this teaching about loving the alien in our midst is so important to us. Perhaps that is why so many of you responded so generously to the call to welcome a refugee family moving into our city from Pakistan.

We are supporting this family alongside the Samaritas ministry that welcomes refugees in our community. This ministry is called “Circle of Welcome.” I am thrilled to be a part of it and hope that many of you will embrace the opportunities it provides us to reach out in love to those who come as “aliens” in our midst. We do it because it is right, we do it because it is loving, we do it because God calls us to do it, we do it because we were once aliens ourselves. Amen



Banner of Faith



L-R: (Back Row) Randy Rouse, Leslie Korsten, Kevin Sullivan, Dee Scales, Rob Schepers, David Lyons

Front Row: Rohn Kunnen, Alice Schepers



Dee Scales



David Lyons

Thank you for your support! The church raised \$180.00 at the Chili Cook-Off this year!



Children/Youth Discipleship News

Early Easter Egg Hunt

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt is taking place on Saturday, March 24 at 1:00pm. We are looking for donations of small toys, candy, goldfish crackers and juice boxes. Please place them in the box in the kitchen labeled "Egg Hunt". This event is open to the community.

Palm Sunday Brunch

The Youth of Faith are planning our annual Palm Sunday Brunch for our church members, so please join us right after the 11:00am service on March 25. We are looking for individuals to help us make cinnamon rolls/pastries and breakfast casseroles. If you are able to help, please contact the church office. The proceeds from this event will help fund our summer campers at Stony Lake this year.

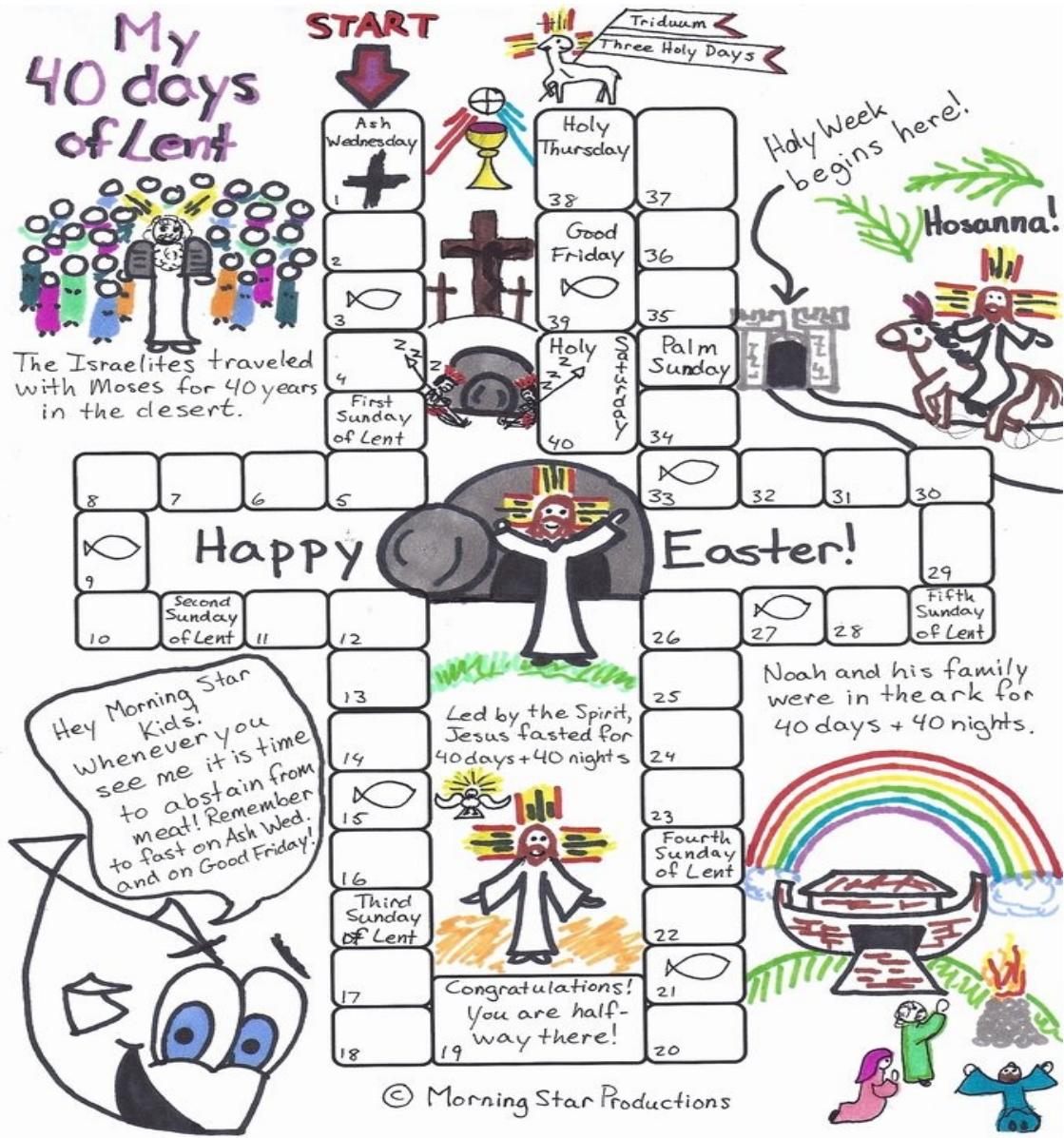
Panera Bread

Thank you for your support on Monday, February 12 at Panera Bread. We raised \$62.14 for the Youth of Faith.

Easter Flower Sale

Easter lilies, daffodils and tulips are available for purchase for \$8.00. These flowers will decorate the church on Easter Sunday, April 1. You may pick up your plant following the 11:00 service on Easter or left for a homebound member. Choice of plant will be on a first come, first served basis after the church service. The deadline to purchase your plant is Sunday, March 25. All proceeds will go to the Confirmation & Summer Camp. Please contact the church office if you need an order form.

Banner of Faith



Financial Support of our North West Lower Michigan Synod

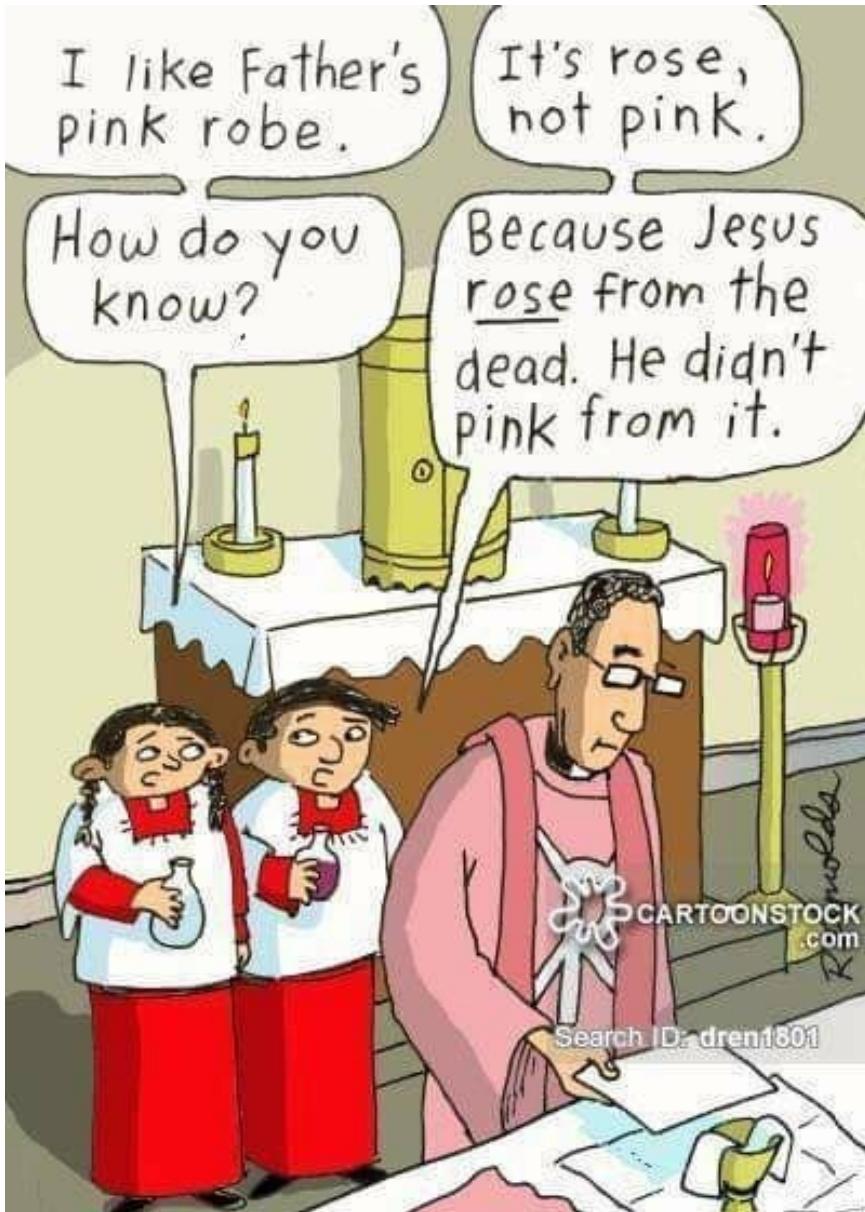
Dan Carter

In 2017, as part of the budget approval process, our congregation elected to increase the Church's financial support of our Synod by 27%. This was the result of a request that the Synod made to all of its congregations. In the last couple years, the Synod has increased its called staff so that it could provide greater service to their member churches, including us. When we contribute to the Synod, 50% of our donation goes to our local NW Lower Synod here in Michigan, and 50% goes to Churchwide, the National Synod which is headquartered in Chicago.

Last week, Churchwide notified our Synod that for 2017 our NW Lower Michigan Synod had the 3rd largest increase in giving in the Nation. We at Faith should be very proud of the fact that we are a part of this because of the large increase we made to our giving in 2017. Last year our financial support to the Synod totaled \$7,590.

Our Bishop is very appreciative and expresses his thanks to all in our congregation.





Musical Notes

Sharon TerBeek



LENT MEDITATIONS

Our Lenten series “Nailing it!” continues on the Wednesdays in Lent. All Wednesday services will be held in the Chapel. There will be a potluck supper held in the Fellowship Hall on Maundy Thursday. All services will begin at 7 PM and Communion will be served.

Wednesday	March 7	Pride/Greed
Wednesday	March 14	Human Frailties
Wednesday	March 21	Laziness, Complacency
Maundy Thursday	March 29	Potluck Supper & Service in Fellowship Hall
Good Friday	March 30	Tenebrae Service in Chapel

MAUNDY THURSDAY POTLUCK SUPPER

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck supper on Maundy Thursday, March 29 at 7 PM. Please bring a dish to pass.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBCRAE SERVICE

The Good Friday worship service will be held in the Chapel at 7 PM on Friday March 30. The service will be a Tenebrae service (extinguishing of the lights).

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 29	Maundy Thursday – Potluck Supper in the Fellowship Hall 7 PM
March 30	Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7 PM in the Chapel
April 1	Easter – services at 8:30 & 11 AM in the Sanctuary

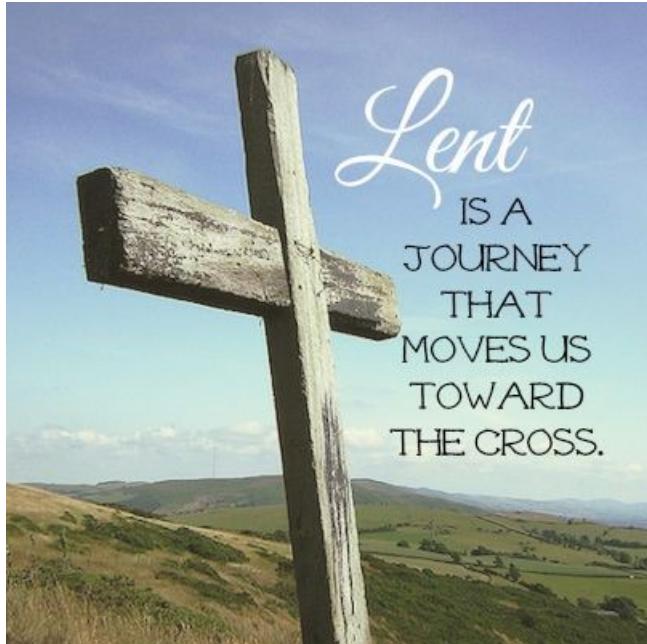
Musicians Rehearsal

Bell Choir and Brass will rehearse at 10 AM on Saturday March 31 for the Easter Sunday services.

Pizza and Movie Night

Pizza & Movie Night at Faith starts at 6 PM with pizza and the movie “rolls” around 6:30. We provide: pizza, pop, popcorn and chips. Stay tuned for more details!

Friday, March 9—Final One



Income January 2017

Counters Report

Offering	\$10,366.33	
Electronic	\$1,265.00	
Total Offering		\$11,631.33
Building Use	\$240.00	
Other—Misc.	\$123.88	
Total General		\$11,995.21
Memorials	\$30.00	
Cupboard of Faith	\$80.00	
Youth of Faith	\$1,117.00	
Misc.	\$200.00	
Total Other		\$1,427.00
Grand Total		
Average Attendance for January		85.75/Sunday

Council Capsule

by Claudia Zimmerman – Secretary

Notes from the Congregational Council meeting of February 11, 2018, (Note- the Capsule is a condensed summary of Council business, and the minutes have not yet been approved):

Constitution and Bylaw Revision – Council members voted on several sections of recommended changes to the Constitution and imbedded bylaws. Sections will continue to be reviewed in the upcoming months.

Samaritas Campaign – Dan Carter noted that there would be a presentation on the Samaritas Campaign on March 11th, and he agreed to write an article for the Banner that would explain how Samaritas functions, and how they have now purchased property in Grand Rapids to provide low income housing and consolidate offices, so that our input would impact our local community.

Shammah Church - a draft of an agreement to be signed by Shammah Powerful International Church regarding requirements for use of the facility was reviewed. The Shammah church has donated toward snow removal and wishes to assist in other costs. They will be required to obtain 501C3 (non-profit) status.

Facilities – Council voted to make recommended changes to the Building Use Policy which would remove language about the Annex and softball field.

Surveillance System – Members of Worship and Music, Facilities and Communications Ministries met with the VTT representative to survey the building. Council voted to petition the Memorial Fund to cover items added to the system, and additional funds from the general fund would be used for other costs.

Mission – Council agreed to sponsor a third date for the area Supper House project.

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. August 19 is the scheduled date of the fall Band Concert/Ice Cream Social for NECM.

Congregational Care – The next Council meeting was moved to March 18th when Rev. David Sprang would visit Faith to speak at services. Council would be providing a luncheon for him before their meeting and hear about new Synod programs.

Women's Lounge – The Women of Faith took on redecorating the ‘Bridal Room’ and would put \$2000 toward the project. Council passed the group’s proposal to cover costs over that amount from the General Fund. Some furniture had been donated by members, and carpet and paint would be changed to coordinate.

Discipleship – Youth activities would include a Community Easter Egg Hunt on March 24th, Palm Sunday Brunch on March 25th, and Confirmation on May 20th.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Kevin’s report mentioned that he attended ‘Boundary Training’ which discussed best practices in all areas of life; plans for Lent would follow the theme ‘Nailing It’; thanks was expressed for all that worked on the All Church Luau; VBS plans with St. Luke’s would include Wednesday Bible Stories and a Super Saturday during the month of June; Confirmands would meet for topical discussion once a month; work would continue on Constitution/Bylaws in sections at Council meetings; and Council would provide a luncheon for Rev. David Sprang during his visit on March 18.

Next Council Meetings: March 18, 2018 in Fellowship Hall, following Casual Service.

Always Faithful for Faith,
Members of Congregational Council

Stewardship Kevin & Gene Lyons

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African American aviators in the US Army Air Corps during World War II. You might well imagine the many adversities and obstacles they had to overcome in terms of racism, ignorance, and traditions that held them at arm's length from being allowed to risk their lives for the protection of our freedoms. Early on they established 6 guiding principles that served them well as they prepared for their entrance into the battles where they fought heroically for the sake of all. They were: 1) aim high, 2) believe in yourself, 3) never quit, 4) be ready to go, 5) use your brain, and 6) expect to win. During these days—with the decline in church attendance and commitment to faith and fluctuating morals, ideals and values in our societies—we may feel about as beset as the Tuskegee Airmen. We may begin to feel defeated and distressed but as stewards of the faith we are called to remain constant in our mission to serve God by loving our neighbors and caring for the creation God has allowed us to tend and share. Perhaps we would do well at this time to take a page from the guidelines of the Tuskegee Airmen and put these common sense principals into practice alongside the gifts of the spirit that serve us “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ” (**Ephesians 4:12-13**). May we aim high, believe in ourselves, never quit, be ready to go, use our brains, and expect to win; for “we are more than conquerors through him who loved us” (**Romans 8:37**) and we can do all things through him who strengthens us (**Philippians 4:13**).

Stewardship & Missions Message for the Year:

Do What You Can
With What You Have
Where You Are

Women of Faith Meeting

We will be meeting Monday, March 4 at 7:00pm in Room 6. As indicated, in the Women of Faith Annual Report, we meet four times per year. We will be discussing upcoming projects for the year. Women of Faith is for ALL our church women, please come!

Just for Fun Women's Breakfast

Just for Fun Women's Club will meet on Saturday, March 17 at Wolfgang's Restaurant (1530 Wealthy St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506) 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 361-9920 or Paula Nienhuis at 866-1981.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for celebrating my 90th birthday with this year! It means so much to be surrounded by my church family as I celebrate another year. To all who sent me birthday cards this year; I loved reading each and every one of them! Thank you again!

God Bless,
Dorothy Hovingh

Banner of Faith

Happy Birthday!

1	Debra Novak	7	Matthew VanderBerg
9	Mary Appelt	9	Philip Nance
14	Bill Kozak	19	Tristan Baish
19	Phoebe Kropuenski	20	Donald Missad
20	Denis Mundere	22	Carol Frasier
23	Robert Hoffius	24	John R. Richard
25	Abbie VanderBerg	27	Steve Dubay
30	Heljo Hall	31	Natalie Woodhead



Sarah & Rohn Kunnen	3/21/1996
Jack & Theresia Arnold	3/9/1963
Jim & Sandi Dood	3/13/1971
Steve & Brenda Dubay	3/19/1977



PRAYER REQUEST

Carla Smith	Myrtle McLain	Dorene Lepzinski
Bettie Rappleyea	Bert Lareva	Deb Sypien & Family
Irene Smestad	Betty Wolters	Vince Vanderveen Son of Dee Scales
Linda Rossman Friend of Linda Slager	Melissa Smith Mother of Mies Martin	Inez Houghtalin Sister of Dorothy Stoken
Steve Hall Son of Jo Hall	David Molnar Brother of Anna VerHeek	Amy DeRuischer Daughter of Linda Slager
Eva Youngs Friend of Mary Lou Hicks	Pam Hansen Daughter in Law of Janis & Bob Hansen	Mike Pearson Brother in Law of Wendy Domagalski
Becky Richard Daughter in Law of John & Nancy Richard		

Our condolences to the family of: James Lee Herold (Father of Alex & Kendra Herold)

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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USPS 041-440



Banner of Faith (USPS 041-440) is a *free* periodical published twelve times a year by

**Faith Lutheran Church, 2740 Fuller Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, MI
49505**

Telephone (616)361-2679 / Email: flcgr@att.net

POSTMASTER: Address corrections to

Faith Lutheran Church, 2740 Fuller Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505

**PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID
AT GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**

**PUBLISHED MONTHLY
USPS 041-440**