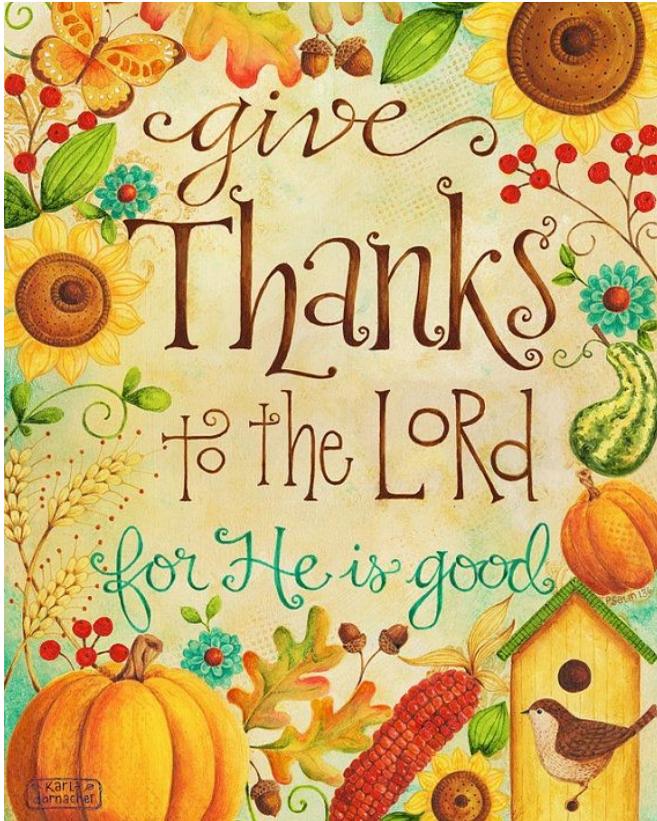


November 2017
Volume 67 Number 11

Faith Lutheran Church
Banner of Faith



Upcoming Events

11/5—All Saints Day & Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Due

11/5—12:15pm: Church Council Meeting

11/12—Pre-Annual Meeting following 11:00am Service

12/2—10:00am—Hanging of the Greens

12/4—7:00pm: Women of Faith Meeting

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 Fax: 616.361.0029

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

2017 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, **Jack Nienhuis**

Communications, **Jane Waite**

Personnel, **Ron Blauwkamp**

Stewardship, **Kathy Henderson**

Discipleship, **Open**

Worship, **Steve Zimmerman**

Missions, **Christine Mwanyika**

Congregational Life, **Nancy Morrison**

Congregational Care, **Wendy Domagalski**

Youth Representatives, **Open**



“He said, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.’

Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains
and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD,
but the LORD was not in the wind;
and after the wind an earthquake,
but the LORD was not in the earthquake;
and after the earthquake a fire,
but the LORD was not in the fire;
and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.”

1 Kings 19:11-12

As I write this article I sit in my office and my head feels like it’s spinning and about to break. It’s been busy, busy, busy. Stewardship Focus month is about to conclude and there is a sermon to write. Our Adult Forum series on ***Christianity and Islam*** is set to begin and there’s so much I’d like to study for that. Our Maple Creek fellowship is two days away and I have to work on the service and music. The next Sunday after this is Reformation Sunday—the 500th Anniversary Edition—and I’d really like to have an especially good sermon for that Sunday. And the following Sunday is All Saints Sunday... a very special Sunday in our recent tradition!

And even as I was working on these things I was asked if Faith would host the Conference Pastors’ meeting in a couple weeks (...of course we will!); and if I’ve settled on the themes and plans for Advent which begins in a few weeks (...sorry, not in the least). And along with this there are people I’ve desperately wanted to visit, books I “need” to read, phone calls I’ve been meaning to make, and kid’s to register for the Gathering in Lansing. And on top of all **that** I’ve got to complete the FAFSA for our son’s college application in the next few of days. And I have to tell you: I just



felt like screaming: “No! It’s too much, it’s impossible.”

I felt like I was being whipped around in the wind, shaken by earthquakes, surrounded by fire... Of course I wasn’t really. And right now—with all the people who have been physically impacted by precisely these conditions—it’s a little hard to even claim the metaphor; but that *is*—*metaphorically*—what I felt like. And that made me think of Elijah seeking God’s presence—maybe God’s solace, God’s consolation—as he was hiding in that cave on the mountain of Horeb. He looked for God but didn’t find him in the shrieking wind, or the rumbling earthquake, or the roaring fires... he found God in the **silence**.

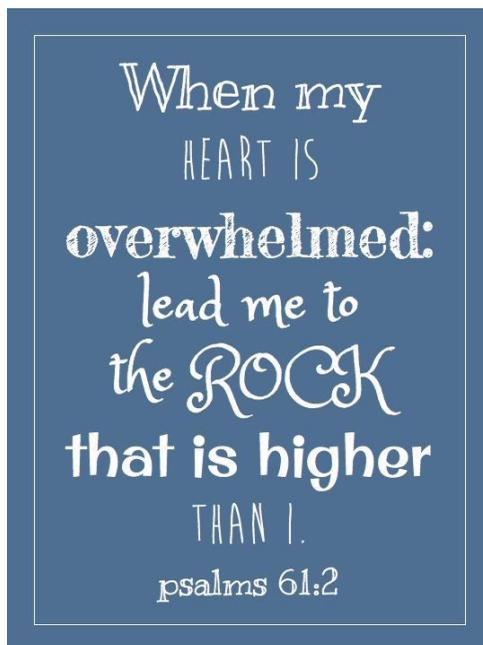
“Silence”—pause, breath deep and slow—“silence.” Just the word sounds like an oasis, a retreat, dare I imagine it... a **nap** (heavy sigh!). Silence; somehow that’s how God came to Elijah, wrapped in a mantle of silence.

And today I can’t help thinking that maybe I need some of that silence too. Maybe I need to step out of the whirlwind, the earthquake, the fires (because we who are only experiencing these things metaphorically have the luxury of “stepping out” of them... and I pray that all those experiencing them **physically** can—perhaps with our aid—soon step out of theirs as well).

Here’s the thing, we often live on the **lee** edge of one storm even as the windward edge of the next is fast approaching... Perhaps for us right now the trick is to find the moments when we can duck for cover and refresh ourselves with a moment of silence in the presence of our God. Prayer is a great moment of silence for many; others find meditation, yoga, hiking, running or other physical exertion to be helpful here. I’d advocate for worship as another such place where we might open ourselves to God’s more silent presence.

You will receive this newsletter at the beginning of November, and soon the rush of Thanksgiving, Advent, and the Christmas Holidays will be upon us. Maybe **this** is an especially good moment for you to join me in drawing a deep and intentional breath and enjoying even just a few moments of silence in the presence of our Lord before the gusts start up again.

Blessings to you; and whether you are to the leeward or windward sides of the storms today, may you be open to the refreshing and life giving presence of our God—who can certainly be found in wind and quakes and fire— but who also comes to us in... silence. Amen.



Cupboard of Faith

Brenda Dubay & Joan Mull

For November we will focus on what we still need to round out our Christmas baskets. This would include potato mixes and gravies, cake mixes and frostings, pastas and sauces and tuna. As always we welcome any non perishable items as well as cash.

We still need volunteer drivers to deliver baskets scheduled for Tuesday morning, December 19. This works best in 2 person teams. If you are available to deliver contact Joan/Jim Mull at 866-2544.



The floral arrangement in the Narthex on the coffee table is given in memory of Barbara Slater and John (Jack) Turner by their family.



In an ongoing effort to declutter the Narthex the box for “Veterans Home” has been moved to the coat rack across from the elevator. Also, pamphlets and magazines have been moved from the coffee table in the Narthex to the main level by the kitchen.

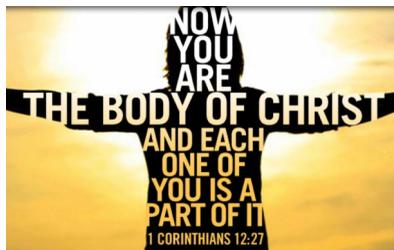
Council Openings

Please be reminded that our church functions and flourishes as we put the gifts and talents of our members to use. In our upcoming Pre-Annual Meeting (Nov. 12) there will be numerous council positions openings and we would very much appreciate it if many of you would seriously and prayerfully consider running to fill these positions.

The following positions are open at this time:

- Officers—President, Vice President, Treasurer
- Committee Chairs, two year positions—Youth & Family, Worship & Music, Facilities, Congregational Life, and Personnel,
- Committee Chairs, one year positions—Discipleship, and Stewardship

If you would be willing to run for one of these positions—or if you and a friend would be willing to “co-chair” one of these positions—please contact Nikki at 616.361.2679. Thank you!



Musical Notes
Sharon TerBeek



All Saint's Sunday



We will observe All Saint's Sunday on November 5th. We will pause to remember those Saints among us who have passed during the year from November 1, 2016 through October 31, 2017. There will also be an opportunity for anyone who wishes to light a memorial candle in the Sanctuary window wells.

Altar Guild Invitation



The Altar Guild would like to invite anyone interested to join us in decorating the Sanctuary and Narthex for the Advent/Christmas season on Saturday December 2 at 10 AM. Many hands make the job lighter! Thank you.



Angel Tree



This year Faith Lutheran Church is partnering with Salvation Army to provide an Angel Tree. You can help some discover the true meaning of Christmas by helping children in need throughout West Michigan. The goal of the Angel Tree toy drive is to reach 25,000 children. Please help support this ministry by grabbing a tag from the Christmas Tree in the Narthex. Please return the gift unwrapped to the tree. **We will begin collecting November 10 - December 10.** If you wish to donate monetary donations to this ministry, please indicate on your check or offering envelope “Angel Tree”. If you have any questions please contact Nancy Morrison at 616.361.7641.

Mitten Tree

This year Faith Lutheran Church will have a mitten tree in the Narthex. Please help us fill this tree with mittens, caps and scarves—new items, please. We will begin collecting November 10—December 10. If you wish to donate monetary donations to this ministry, please indicate on your check or offering envelope “Mitten Tree”. If you have any questions please contact Nancy Morrison at 616.361.7641.



Operation Christmas Child

Julie Sullivan

The story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) gives a clear picture of God's desire for us to help those in desperate need wherever we find them. After describing how the Samaritan rescued a hurting man whom others had passed by, Jesus told His hearers, "Go and do likewise."



For over 40 years, Samaritan's Purse has done their utmost to follow Christ's command by going to the aid of the world's poor, sick, and suffering. They are an effective means of reaching hurting people in countries around the world with food, medicine, and other assistance in the Name of Jesus Christ. Since its beginning Operation Christmas Child has distributed over one million boxes to over 100 countries around the world. Faith Lutheran Church has been a part of this ministry over the last several years. To date our church has contributed over 100 shoe boxes packed with small toys, crayons, candy, toothbrushes, hats, scarves, notepads and pencils and pens, stickers, and other small signs of our love and concern that have been delivered to children far away. It is our hope that these small gifts serve as a reminder that these children are not forgotten, that there are people who love God and love them and hold them in our thoughts and prayers. Once again, this year we have the opportunity to help children to know that they are loved and cared for. Please fill a shoebox for a boy or a girl with special gifts chosen specifically for them, please feel free to include a letter and a picture of yourself.

Please return your box to the church by **November 5** . Contact Julie Sullivan if you have any questions.

Electronic Sign

We have a new sign! A big thanks to Jane Waite, Communication Chair and the Facilities Committee for all their hard work during the process! Messages will change every five minutes due to permit by the city. Please be patient with us as we learning the programming to the best of our abilities.



Council Capsule

by Claudia Zimmerman – Secretary

Notes from the Congregational Council meeting of October 15, 2017, (Note- the Capsule is a condensed summary of Council business, and the minutes have not yet been approved):

Outdoor Sign – We have an electronic sign! Messages change every five minutes according to our sign permit by the City of Grand Rapids.

Constitution and Bylaw Revision – Mary Appelt’s work to consolidate recommendations and requirements from the Synod to update Faith’s documents is coming together well.

Resource Management – accounts are looking healthy at this time, with the final bill for the new sign expected soon.

Facilities – Eagle Scout projects by Cory and Tommy Sypien were approved, an electrical line to the new sign was buried by volunteers, and trees were trimmed on the east side of the building. The Neighborhood Meeting to review plans for the development project on the ball field property brought concerns about the density of population increase and higher traffic that may be a result. The City of Grand Rapids Planning Commission and the North End Neighborhood Association, along with Faith Lutheran Church, all approved the development project. An agreement was approved to use Faith as a polling place for two years.

Same Gender Marriage – the committee considered input from all discussions and proposed an outline for changes in the marriage policy, noting that services would be provided for active members and close relations, providing membership

classes and pre-marriage counseling sessions were part of the planning. The pastor would be free to preside at same-gender ceremonies at his discretion, providing the policy guidelines were met.

Congregational Life – Plans for the next 2nd Best Sale on October 20-21 were discussed.

Congregational Care – The “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday project in September produced 80 Bedtime Bags for children, which included a stuffed toy, night light, toothbrush, and other small items. They were distributed to four area charities, and were very positively received. The Women of Faith are considering this as a possible ongoing project.

Mission – Faith will again sponsor an Angel Tree and a Mitten Tree during the holiday season.

Pastor’s Report – Pastor Kevin thanked Kathy Henderson for her work on the October Stewardship events and themes. He thanked Jane Waite and all volunteers involved in installation and setup of the new outdoor sign. The Reformation Art Show display would be displayed through the end of October. There are only 2-3 Confirmation students this year, and it was decided that other students near their age would be part of the same classes, with final year Confirmation students attending extra workshops on Lutheran liturgy and sacraments. An Adult Forum on Christianity and Islam would begin, with thanks to Ellie Stewart for raising the topic.

Next Council Meeting: Nov. 5, 2017, following the 11 A.M. Casual Service.

Always Faithful for Faith, Members of Congregational Council

Quilters

Joan Mull

As you know our Quilting Ministry has been ongoing since 2000. The comfort & warmth of these 3000+ quilts is immeasurable. I would like to share this story: When delivering to the Booth Family Center, a young girl (8-10) was sitting in a car with the door open. She asked what we had. Jim replied, “We have some quilts to donate.” “Can I have one?” she asked. “Sure, pick one you like.” (She picked one from the middle!) “Thank you. Can my little sister have one too?” “Sure, pick one out for your little sister too.” (Right off the top!)

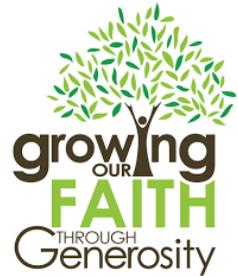


We took the remainder into the center, when we came back to our car the girl was still there. She held up the card attached to each quilt that includes this prayer: Dear Friend, The Lord’s love bound us together and connected our lives as we created this quilt. We believe that we are now connected with you in a great patchwork of love and care. May our quilt be a sign of God’s loving and healing presence, warming when you are weary, surrounding you when you suffer and encircling you in our prayers.

We pray that God’s gentle touch might be extended through our labor of love. In Jesus’ name, Amen. “She looked at us and said, “I’ve been reading this. This is real nice.” That says it all! That’s Stewardship!!!

Stewardship

We want to extend our thanks to this congregation for their continued faithfulness and generosity during our annual Stewardship Focus month. Special thanks go to Kathy Henderson for her leadership for this event (with an emphasis on the Consecration Luncheon). A special thanks to Joanie Mull for the delicious rolls that she contributed!



This year the story of the generosity of the Macedonian community helped us center our thoughts and locate our Stewardship themes. We focused on giving joyfully from grateful hearts, sharing generously, giving freely and sacrificially, and being committed givers. It has been our hope that these principles of giving would not only lead us in our thoughts about how we give of our financial resources, but also how we share our time and talents.

So much of what our church does revolves around this idea of ourselves as stewards of God's gifts and resources that we are allowed to make use of during our lives. Whether it is volunteering to serve as worship assistants, lectors, ushers, communion assistants, or greeters during worship services, or volunteering to work on the facilities, pack holiday baskets, tend the gardens, teach Sunday School, or do any of the many other necessary services for this church and community it is still all about sharing our time, our talents, and our lives with others.

We pray that each of us may find the blessing of enriched faith through the time, talents and treasures we share in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Eagle Scout Project Update

Tommy & Cory Sypien

Don't miss your opportunity to leave a lasting impression on the Churches Landscape. Purchase a Memorial Brick today. You can purchase a brick in memory of someone, or to honor someone or you can purchase one for yourself and just place your name. Order forms are available in the church office or in the Narthex. You can order a 4"X8" with up to 3 lines of engraving and up to 18 characters per line for only \$50. You can order a 8"X8" brick with up to 6 lines of engraving and up to 18 characters per line for only \$125.00.

—Corcoran Sypien



Every little bit helps us get that much closer to completing our Boy Scout Eagle Project. I am still collecting pop cans. You can see me in church if you would like to contribute to the cause or would just like to get rid of your unwanted pop cans.

—Thomas Sypien

Thank you for your support on September 11 at Panera Bread! We raised a total of just over \$92 for our youth!

National Youth Gathering

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.



The theme for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering, “This Changes Everything.” Our primary scripture will be Ephesians 2:8 *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”* This year’s event is being held in Houston Texas and our kids need you help to get there. There are envelopes in the pews where you can direct your donation to this specific event. Give generously and help our High Schoolers grow in their faith.

Early Bird registration is open. The cost is \$350 until November 15. After then, the cost rises to \$390 from November 16—February 15, 2018. If you wish to get your youth registered, please contact the church office. A \$150 non-refundable, per person deposit is due at the time of registration and must be postmarked within the rate range you expect to pay. Registration fees are the same for youth and adult leaders. Along with registration we hope to help our youth the costs of transportation and food. We anticipate a total cost of about \$1,300 per participant.



50 Years of Catholic Lutheran Dialogue **Catholic Information Center**

The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation coincides with 50 years of intentional Catholic Lutheran Dialogue. Dr. Kathryn Johnson and Rev. Brian Daley were members of the ecumenical task force for the “Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry, and Eucharist,” which identifies agreements already reached in dialogues between Catholics and Lutherans on those topics.

The heart of the Declaration is the “Statement of Agreements,” which draws together 32 consensus statements, where Catholics and Lutherans have already said there are not church-dividing differences between them.

Rev. Daley and Dr. Johnson will be discussing a more tentative section of the Declaration that identifies some remaining differences, suggesting ways forward to greater consensus and unity.

Tuesday, November 14, 2:30-8:45 pm. Please preregister by calling 616-459-7267.

Pastor Appreciation Sunday—October 15



Pizza & Movie Nights

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, November 17
- Friday, January 12
- Friday, February 9
- Friday, March 9—Final One



Church Mice

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www.churchmice.net

Just for Fun Women's Breakfast

We will meet at IHOP (2071 E Beltline Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525) at 10:00am on November 18. 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.



Second Best and Baked Goods Sale

Thank you to everyone who helped with the sale and those who donated items. We couldn't put on a sale without your support. The sale went very well. We made \$1,443.50 on Friday and \$272.50 on Saturday for a total of \$1,716.00!

Adult Forum: Christianity and Islam

In the politically charged atmosphere of our society today it can be very difficult to sort out the myths and propaganda from the truth regarding our brothers and sisters who follow the Islamic faith. In this series of Adult Forum classes we are discussing topics such as the roots of the Islamic faith, Women in Islam, Christianity and Islam, Islam in American Culture, and how some see the Islamic faith as having been hijacked by extremists in support of a political agenda. While this series has already begun meeting, there is still room for more to come and join us in the exploration of these topics. We are viewing a series of short documentary style videos on each topic and then using resources created by the ELCA to help guide our discussions.

We meet on Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 10:45 in the library (downstairs). Please come join us for these helpful conversations.

Banner of Faith

11/1	Chris Chatel	11/3	Sue Redner
11/4	Dawn Bennett	11/4	Denice Brown
11/4	Dorothy Stoken	11/5	Kent Bollinger
11/6	Stacey Robertson	11/6	Thomas Sypien
11/7	Michael Thomason	11/8	Janis Hansen
11/9	Marjory Trylch	11/11	Jax Bacon
11/11	Carrie Lachniet	11/11	Eugene Lyons
11/12	Maylee Bonney	11/12	Christina Novak
11/17	Paul Bonney	11/17	Steven Stoffers
11/20	Nancy Morrison	11/20	Alice Schepers
11/22	Kathy Henderson	11/22	Douglas Turnquist
11/26	Jennifer Bacon	11/26	Scott Robertson
11/26	Peter Roeller		



Bruce & Teresa VanderBerg	11/1/1980
Ronald & Jean Blauwkamp	11/4/1967
Ronald & Sue Redner	11/9/1963
Kaleigh & Robert Hanlon	11/11/2011
William & Pat Rose	11/14/1966
James & Joan Mull	11/21/1957

PRAYER REQUEST

Shirley Kooistra	Myrtle McLain
Dorene Lepzinski	Bettie Rappleeya
Bert Lareva	Deb Sypien & Family
Rodney H.	Betty Wolters
Carl & Irene Smestad	Deb Adams
Victims of the Las Vegas Shooting	Jill S.
Marcus Martin—Brother of Mies Martin	Steve Hall—Son of Jo Hall
Vince Vanderveen	Michael Pearson—Brother in Law of Wendy Domagalski
Becky Richard—Daughter in Law of John & Nancy Richards	Meredith Keasey—Friend of the Schepers
Melissa Smith—Mother of Mies Martin	Karen Palmer—Sister of Jeanette Hall
Jacob Berry—Nephew of Beth Martin	Kathleen Powers—Friend of Wendy Domagalski
Taylor Russell—Friend of Linda Slager	Liz Shalhoup—Friend of Linda Slager
Jan Ray—Friend of Wendy Domagalski	Steve Fay—Son of Jack Fay

Our condolences to the family of: Patti Thomas, Lewis Strong & Jim Smith (Chet Smith's Brother)

Prayer Chain Contact: Church Office at 616.361.2679 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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Faith Lutheran Church

**2740 Fuller Avenue NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505-2679**

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