

September 2019
Volume 69 Number 9

Faith Lutheran Church Banner of Faith



Upcoming Events

9/1—One Service Only

9/15—Rally Day

9/15—God's Work Our Hands Sunday

9/19—Samaritas Fellowship

9/21—Just for Fun Women's Breakfast

9/22—Memorial Garden Dedication

9/22—Craft Day

9/29—Robinette's Family Fun Day

Worship Schedule

Sept 1

One Service at 10:00am

Sept 8

Services at 8:30 & 10am

Starting Sept 15

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 & Youth Worker,

Nikki Phillips

flcgr@att.net

Custodian,

Gene Gibson

Director of Music,

Sharon TerBeek

Organist,

Ann Marie Kaufman

Librarian,

Kevin Lyons

2019 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**

Missions & Stewardship, **Co-Chairs, Kevin**

& Gene Lyons

Discipleship, **Stacey Schepers**

Worship, **Steve Zimmerman**

Congregational Life, **Nancy Morrison**

Congregational Care, **Wendy Domagalski**

Youth Representatives **Co-Chairs, Tommy**

Sypien & Aidan Martin



Kevin Sullivan

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.” SUNDAY — WE ARE CHURCH

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life”. **Ephesians 2:8-10**

As Ephesians 2:8-10 reminds us, we are what God has made us — people whom God has created by grace to live in union with Jesus Christ and has prepared to live faithful, fruitful lives by the power of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus Christ, God has reconciled us to God and to each other. As we gather around word and sacraments, this life in Christ is what defines, shapes and guides us as a community of faith, the church. By God’s grace we can and do live confidently and generously in this community of faith and in service of others.

ELCA vital congregations work to strengthen their relationship with God, nurture relationships with each other and create a strong presence with their community.

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is one way for congregations to discover ways to build on each of these connections.

While service opportunities are endless, ELCA members and congregations are invited to research opportunities for service that make sense for their congregation and its service capacity. The idea is to deepen a congregation’s and the members’ experience in their communities and offer a way for congregations to play a critical part in addressing community needs.

--From ELCA Resources for God’s Work. Our Hands Sunday

Dear Friends,

“**God’s Work. Our Hands**” Sunday is becoming something of a fixture in ELCA churches all across America. It is a time when we demonstrate—through acts of concrete service—that our faith is more than something we “hide in our hearts.”

When Christ calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves that’s a call to action; it’s a call for us to not just feel good about our neighbors, but to actually do something that shares our love for them.

Each year we try to do something just a little bit different that gives us a chance to get busy caring for others in Jesus’ name. This year the project that has been chosen involves supplementing the meals of some of those children in Western Michigan who live on the edge of hunger (or even across that line). This year we have the opportunity to donate items (see the list in the article dedicated to this in this issue of The Banner), **and** to prepare the bags that they will be distributed in with colorful pictures and kind words.

This activity will take place during the same time as the Sunday School Kick-Off which will give many of us who are no longer allowed to use the Bounce House (for obvious reasons!) another option to enjoy ourselves while serving others.

I look forward to serving with you as we attempt to go forward sharing God’s love in our community.

Blessings and Best Wishes,

Pastor Kevin

Memorial Garden Dedication Service

Please join us immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship on September 22 for a brief dedication service for the recently finished Memorial Garden. Two members of our congregation, Corcoran and Thomas Sypien, planned and organized the construction of this as a part of their Eagle Scout process and we are very thankful for their thoughtfulness and hard work. This service will take place in the courtyard (weather permitting).



Stewardship & Missions

Gene Lyons



Do what you can,
With what you have,
Where you are.
—Theodore Roosevelt

Each month our theme for Stewardship and Missions has been “We Care—We Share” ... but what does that mean and how do we put those words into action?

We recently spent four weeks in Finland enjoying the beauty and learning more about the country. Mrs. Jean’s four grandparents were born in Finland and immigrated to Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. While we were there we didn’t read any news, watch TV, listen to the radio. For a news junkie it’s good to have quiet time think and reflect from time to time.

My observations: We are unique individuals, but we have much in common. In many ways we are more alike than different.

I was aware of the beauty around us in the landscape, but also in the people. There were people with tattoos; purple red, blue and green hair, and all sorts of odd fashions to my eyes... but when I came home I saw the same things here. The point being that the color of your hair or your skin or any other feature of your looks doesn’t determine your character or your value as a human.

When I returned and switched back on the news I found that I was returning to people shooting innocent people and debates about what we should do and who we should blame.

I'm thinking: let each one of us look at ourselves and stop to think what we mean when we say: We Care—We Share.

What is the church doing? What are people in leadership positions doing? What are **we** doing? It seems to me that hate—or thinking that we are better than others—has no place in the Church or the American Dream.

Stewardship and Missions to me is the core of what the church is all about. If we get that right then all the other things will fall into place.

I believe that saying “We Care” affirms that we care about all creatures, all humans, all of our planet. And saying “We Share” means we share: love, justice, peace, hope, kindness, a higher standard, as well as our time and money.

Let's come together in unity of purpose and love all people and all of creation in Christ's name.

That's our Mission—That's Stewardship
Stand Up—Speak Up



**STAND UP
SPEAK UP**

Just for Fun Women's Breakfast Paula Nienhuis & Sheila Joshua

Just for Fun Women's Club will meet on Saturday, September 21 at Cheshire 2162 Plainfield Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505 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 Sheila Joshua at 365.2546 or Paula Nienhuis at 866-1981.

FLC Brunch Group

The FLC Brunch Group meets the last Monday of each month (September 30) at 11:00am at New Beginnings on Northland Drive. Please call Jean Blauwkamp with any questions or concerns at 616.240.3106.

Cupboard of Faith Brenda & Steve Dubay

The month of September we will focus on all boxed dinners & mashed potatoes having an expiration date of January 1st, 2020 or later. As always we will joyfully accept donations of any non-perishable food items as well as monetary donations.

Questions???

NECM Supper House

We will again be participating in a NECM Supper House. Our date is **Thursday October 3** from 4:45 to approximately 7:00pm at St Alphonsus Church 224 Carrier NE. I need 8-10 volunteers to help serve the meal and clean up afterwards. Sign up with me (Brenda Dubay) after church or bsdubay22@gmail.com.

Second Best & Baked Good Sale

Our fall sale is here! The dates are October 11 & 12. Donations are needed. All donations should be in good conditions. If it is broken or unusable throw it out. Clothes should be clean. No TV's or knives please, also no mattresses or baby furniture. Donations can be delivered to the Fellowship Hall between October 7-October 11. If you wish to deliver your items earlier, Classroom 5 is available. Bakers are needed. Baked goods such as breads, cookies, pies, candies, etc. Please deliver your baked goods on Thursday, October 10 or early Friday, October 11. Volunteers are needed to help set up and work the sale, also to help clean up after the sale. We work from 9:00-12:00pm, Monday – Thursday to get things set up, then the sale is Friday & Saturday. On Saturday afternoon whatever is left will have to be boxed up or bagged and made ready for pick up on Monday. Any questions, please call Nancy Morrison at 616.361.7641

Musical Notes

Sharon TerBeek



Classic Service at 10 AM Sunday September 1

There will be one service on Sunday September 1 at 10 AM. The service will be classic style with our organist, Ann Marie Kaufman.

Fall Worship Service Times Begin September 15

Our worship services will resume their regular times on Sunday September 15th. The early service (classic style) will meet at 8:30 and the later service (casual style) will begin at 11:00.

Handbell Choir

Handbell Choir rehearsals will be Thursday evenings at 6 PM in the Choir Room. The first rehearsal will be Thursday September 26th. Music and bell assignments need to be arranged in advance, so if you are interested in ringing, please speak to Sharon TerBeek.

Praise Band Ice Cream Social Concert

Thanks to the Praise Band for their fantastic concert for the Ice Cream Social on August 18th. We are blessed with a talented group of musicians! Special thanks to Matt Kok for the use of his sound equipment for the concert.

Gods Work Our Hands

“God’s Work. Our Hands” Sunday (September 15) is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

This year we will be partnering with Kids’ Food Basket in Grand Rapids. Kids’ Food Basket is a community-based organization dedicated to working to end childhood hunger. Their goal is to provide nourishment to kids living at or near the poverty level in the form of critical evening meals in order to level the academic playing field. Kids’ Food Basket currently serves 8,200 hungry children each weekday in West Michigan.

For our part, we will be helping package Supper Packs. We are looking for the following donations:

- Slim Jim Original Snack Sticks (any brand — individually wrapped)
- 6 oz Snack Boxes of Raisins
- Fruit Cups (any flavor)
- Pudding Cups (any flavor)
- Quart Size Bags

Donations may be dropped off in the box in the Narthex or in the kitchen. If you wish to make a monetary donation, please designate your funds to “God’s Work Our Hands”.

Also, on Sunday, September 15 there will be an opportunity to decorate the paper bags for the Sack Supper Program. Please help us to help Kids’ Food Basket reach their goal of 100,000 decorated bags by October 25! Your help is needed!

Any questions, please contact Wendy Domagalski.

Counters Report June 2019

	Sub Totals	Total June	Total YTD
Offering	\$11,765		
Electronic	\$17,64.99		
Total Offering		\$13,529.99	\$99,757.93
Building Use	\$727.50		
Other—Misc.	\$1750.00		
Total General Operating Income		\$16,007.49	\$108,386.61
Memorials	\$0		
Cupboard of Faith	\$50		
Youth	\$0		
Misc./Special	\$0		
Total Designated Income		\$50.00	\$9,047.17
Total Income June 2019		\$16,057.49	\$117,883.78
Special Gift		\$10,153.87	

Counters Report July 2019

	Sub Totals	Total July	Total YTD
Offering	\$9,496		
Electronic	\$1,325.30		
Total Offering		\$10,821.30	\$99,757.93
Building Use	\$205.28		
Other—Misc.	\$400		
Total General Operating Income		\$11,426.58	\$108,386.61
Memorials	\$0		
Cupboard of Faith	\$70		
Youth	\$0		
Misc./Special	\$75		
Total Designated Income		\$145	\$9,047.17
Total Income July 2019		\$11,571.58	\$117,883.78

Finances at a Glance Dan Carter

	July 2019 Current Month	Jan—July 2019 Year to Date	Jan—July 2019 Budget	Prior Year July 2018	Prior Year Jan-July 2018
Receipts	\$12,031	\$134,529	\$136,625	\$16,931	\$123,797
Expenses	(\$19,373)	(\$161,943)	(\$248,943)	(\$25,191)	(\$164,955)
Income (Loss)	(\$7,342)	(\$27,414)	(\$112,318)	(\$8,260)	(\$41,158)



Samaritas Giving Hope Capital Campaign

Here is an update on our Samaritas Campaign. As a reminder, our goal is \$150,000. This will give us sponsorship and name recognition for all of the Landscaping at Samaritas' new Facility and campus in Grand Rapids (the former Saint Joseph Seminary), and for the "New Americans Program."

To date we have raised a total of \$137,375 from our Faith Lutheran family. We are only \$12,625 from our goal. Thanks for your financial support. The people at Samaritas are thrilled because of what we have done. They are very thankful.

This will have a long-term impact on people in need and help deliver children from hopelessness and despair.



Quilting Joan Mull

We will resume quilting at 12:00pm on Wednesday, September 4. Please contact Joan Mull with any questions or concerns. We are looking forward to being back in our regular schedule.



QUILTING GROUP

Many Thanks!

Wow!! What a bonanza! “Found” yards & yards of beautiful fabrics in the yarn cubby hole! Whoever you are, the quilters cannot thank you enough. You will be seeing piece of these fabrics soon on your favorite pew! Our hearts are so full with thankfulness! Thank you for blessing the quilting ministry!



Children & Youth

September 22—Craft Day

Join us after the memorial garden dedication in Fellowship Hall for a full filled afternoon on preparing for our annual Christmas Bazaar. A light lunch will be provided.



September 29—Family Fun Day at Robinette's Orchards @ 1:00pm

All ages welcome! Please sign up in the Narthex or email Nikki at flcgr@att.net . The cost of the corn maze is \$8.00 and the hay ride is \$7 for ages 13 and up. \$5 for ages 3-12. Ages 0-2 are free. We will get a discount with 20 individuals registered. Please contact Nikki for more questions on pricing. If you wish to attend and cost is a determining factor, funds are set aside for this purpose.



Sunday School Offerings 2019-2020

Kick-off Carnival Date: **Sunday, September 15 at 12:15 PM**

At our annual Sunday School kick-off Celebration, we will have a light lunch, games for all, and a bounce house. You will have a chance to register your child (age 4-High School) for Sunday School and meet the teachers for this year.

ALL Youth Sunday School Classes begin: **Sunday, September 22**

9:45 – 10:45 AM Sunday Mornings:

Middle Grades/Confirmation Class (5th-8th Grade)

We use the Connect Program from Augsburg Fortress. Lessons follow a three-part sequence: See, Explore, and Make. Each week, tweens focus on a theme by watching a witty video, exploring biblical text, and creating projects ranging from games to art and more.

Senior High Group (9th -12th grade)

Bible Study, Discussions, service projects, and fun monthly activities. Please contact the office if you are interested in participating in this age group.



11:15 AM - 12:00 PM Sunday Mornings:

Children's Church (age 4 - 4th grade)

The younger children will get hands on with their learning by investigating how every day activities like art, games, and storytelling can relate to the teachings of the Bible.

* Early Elementary students and teachers will be dismissed from the 11 AM service *following* the Prayer of the Day with a special Children's send-off message.

Teachers: Cindy Amaya/Sarah Kunnen, Dawn Carter/Steve Carter, Carrie Lachniet/Stacey Schepers

CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

Office Hours... An Experiment in Flexibility

In an effort to serve our church family and our community to the best of our abilities, we are going to be experimenting with revising our church office hours for a short time—particularly in regards to the hours of our Administrative Assistant. Our thought is that **some** of the tasks that are a part of this position can perhaps more efficiently be done in an environment that is less prone to interruptions. However, we also know that there needs to be times when the Administrative Assistant is available to meet the public face-to-face.

Therefore, we are going to try out a schedule in which the Administrative Assistant will have the flexibility to work from home “on-line” to take care of some of the time-sensitive publishing (Banner, Bulletin, and various church reports, etc.) and other tasks such as entering financial and statistical figures that are a part of her job that require a more concentrated kind of focus. She will also balance her time working from home with work time actually in the office.

At this time we want to ask for your patience as we try out some different specifics in terms of what the actual schedule will be for when she is in the office and when she is working remotely. Our hope is that this will allow us to fine tune this schedule in order to serve us all.

Another thing that we may try as a part of this experiment is allowing our Administrative Assistant to close her door from time to time while working in the office to see if this might allow an “uninterrupted” environment that would be comparable to working remotely. A sign will be placed on her door during these times reminding us that if that door is closed we should respect her need for privacy in that space as she works on these time-sensitive tasks.

During this time of experimentation, we ask that you offer us a little grace as we try out this idea, in order to give us the chance to see the real potential values that it may offer... But we also want you to know that we will be open to hearing about the challenges that this kind of scheduling may raise in order for us to make a fair assessment of this system at the end of the trial period.

Please feel free to call the church just as you would have in the past. If no one is available to take your call, please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

In closing, I would note that many different churches have many different office schedules that range from regular five day, 40 hour, business weeks to very sporadic and limited office hours (I have known some churches that have no posted office hours, as they rely only on volunteer office workers). We have grown used to one set schedule, but if there is a better schedule to meet our needs and serve our community we want to be open to finding that possibility.

We thank you for your patience in advance,
Pastor Kevin



Council Capsule

by Claudia Zimmerman – Secretary

Notes from the Congregational Council meeting of August 11, 2019 - (Note- the Capsule is a condensed summary of Council business, and the minutes have not yet been approved):

Constitution and Bylaws – efforts to update these documents have reached the point where decisions must be made on reorganizing positions on the Council. Changes would aim to reduce the number of Council Members needed and allow for co-chairs and committees that might make things more workable for members.

Narthex Design – Council members reviewed preliminary update suggestions which included new window treatments, seating areas, flooring and a coffee station. Members gave input on a few things that may affect the suggested plan, and it would be returned for revision.

Resource Management – The Samaritas Campaign was going well and about two thirds of what was pledged had been collected. Some funds would be sent to Samaritas to fund renewal projects that have begun. Reported issues with windows, computers and monitors have added extra expenses, but they have not put our budget badly behind.

Facilities – Council moved to proceed with negotiations with the Latvian Lutheran Church that would like to meet in our Chapel. Pastor's article in the Banner would invite comment from the congregation as a contract is considered.

Council approved a proposal from Lamphear Service Co. to replace the original air conditioning system. Funds were designated from the sale of property for the project and included in the 2019 budget. Council approved funds to Engineered Protection Systems to cover repairs and service to monitoring systems and a new hookup to cellular technology. Exterior windows were cleaned, potholes near Fuller were patched, and shingles would be installed on the Sanctuary in August.

Nursery Supervision – Everyone agreed that the Nursery supervision has been excellent and that attendants have provided some nice new activities for the children.

Congregational Life – The Ice Cream Social/Band Concert was held on August 18th and proceeds this year will go to the food pantry and Supper House at NECM.

Discipleship – Three students attended camp at Stony Lake, thirteen kids attended the planned Vacation Bible School, and Rally Day would be September 15th.

Revive Program – Council approved participation in the program and support of our Pastor in the training process.

Worship and Music – More trained members are needed in all areas of Sunday services, including worship assistants, acolytes, ushers, lectors, communion assistants, and sound operators. Altar Care is also in need of help. Volunteer where you can!

Youth – A dedication ceremony was being planned for the patio area in the near future.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Kevin commented on Synod Assembly and the re-election of Bishop Craig Satterlee, Confirmation of three students, Story Hour in conjunction with St. Luke's VBS which was lightly attended, the REVIVE program and Rev. Sprang's overview, and the Latvian Lutheran Church and their tour of our building. He had very positive notes on the VBS/Day Camp provided by Living Waters Ministries, noting that though more publicity was needed, it would serve us well to hold it again in the future.

Next Council Meeting: Sunday, September 8, 2019 following Casual Service.

Scholarships for Living Waters Ministries

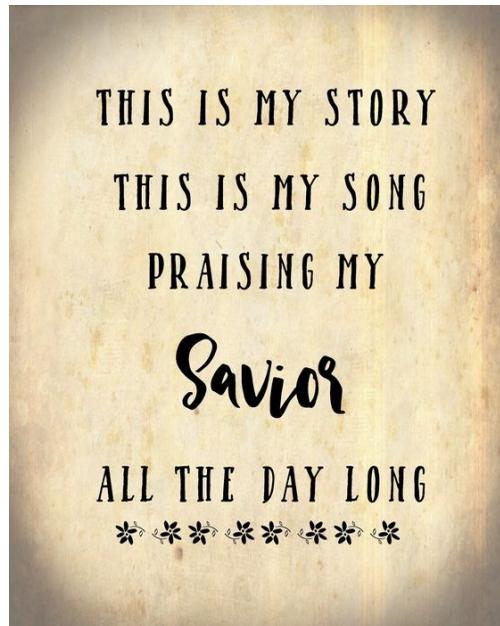
Since 2015 Living Waters Ministries has awarded \$161,000 in scholarship funds to nearly 500 participants who otherwise would not have experienced Christ through a Living Waters Ministries program. This fall twenty-four runners will embark on a journey of endurance in order to raise money and awareness for the Living Waters Ministries scholarship fund. Over the course of 36 hours the runners on the Living Waters Ministries team will collectively cover 200 miles traveling from Muskegon to Traverse City through various lakeshore communities. Each runner has not only committed to the physical challenge but has also committed to raising \$2,000 each toward the goal of \$48,000 this year. The race is September 27-28, 2019.

Faith Lutheran's own Keegan Sullivan is one of the runners who has committed to this race. Please consider contributing toward his efforts to support Living Waters Ministries through this run for scholarships. Checks may be made out to "Living Waters Ministries" with "Runner: Keegan Sullivan" in the memo line. Or you may donate by going to the Living Waters Ministries website, click the red "donate" button, select "2019 Run the Race" under the Campaign heading drop-down options, and then select "Keegan Sullivan" under the Purpose heading drop-down options. Many thanks for considering this opportunity to support Living Waters Ministries Programs.

Living Waters Ministries website: <http://www.elcalivingwater.com/>

Update on our Relationship with the Latvian Lutheran Church

At its latest meeting our Council decided to continue into the next phase of working with the Latvian Lutheran Church to draft a contract regarding how we might share our facilities with their congregation in the future. Council members said that comments they had received from FLC members to this point have been consistently positive in regard to welcoming the Latvian Lutheran congregation. We would ask that members of Faith Lutheran Church please let our council members know of any thoughts, concerns, or anxieties you might have regarding this action so that when the contract is ironed out and submitted to the council for approval we can take action on it as soon as possible in a manner that truly reflects the congregation as a whole. Thank You



Happy Birthday!

9/5	Max Bultman	9/6	Dominick Brock
9/7	Bobbie Bollinger	9/7	Sue Denyes
9/7	Ron Fraiser	9/8	Steve Carter
9/9	Chris Verheek	9/15	Paula Nienhuis
9/17	Matthew Batten	9/19	Elaine Laity
9/21	Jim Mull	9/25	Kaleigh Hanlon

Happy Anniversary!

Robert & Christina Newman	9/8/1990
Dawn & Lane Bennett	9/11/1992
Steve & Claudia Zimmerman	9/12/1969
Michael & Amanda Woodworth	9/14/2013
Mike & Louann Thomason	9/15/2007
Deb & Michael Sypien	9/25/1993
Mike & Debra Novak	9/26/1986
Carol & Jerry Smedley	9/27/1997

PRAYER REQUEST

Irene Smestad	Myrtle McLain	Cecilia
Jo Hall	Betty Wolters	Cheryl Streb
Marcia Kozak	Elaine Laity	Marie Morrison
Marge Trylch	John Wieck	Nora & Olivia Bossardet
Kim Granzotto	Tim Christianson Friend of Linda Slager	Denny Hovingh Son of Dorothy Hovingh
Jim Johnson Brother of Paula Nienhuis	John Zimmerman Brother of Beth Foskett	Vince & Bob Vanderveen Sons of Dee Scales
Steve Hall Son of Jo Hall	Spencer Johnson Cousin of David & Kevin Lyons	

Our condolences to the family of: Mary Lou Hicks

Prayer Chain Contact: Dee Scales at 616.365.4131

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

Faith Lutheran Church

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Grand Rapids, MI 49505-2679**

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