

Faith Lutheran Church

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We're in the season when people try to take on new habits and shed "bad" ones. Eating healthier, exercising, reading more. All of these are common goals at the start of a new year. What goals are you trying to achieve? Have you considered how prayer might fit into your plans?

St Paul writes in Philippians 4, *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

It's certainly appropriate that we would ask for God's guidance, wisdom, direction as we face the new year, the new month, even a new day! Perhaps pursuing a discipline of prayer is a worthy enough goal in itself?

Prayer is enigmatic. It's simple enough that a child can do it, yet it calls upon the power of God. It's speaking our hopes, worries, thanksgivings, praises, and confessions, to a Father who already knows exactly what we need. It's the first thing people say when they don't know what to say; it's the one thing many admit that they don't know how to do.

To that end I'd like to invite you to join me next month at a workshop, being held by our LCMS Michigan District called **Be Constant in Prayer**. It's a conference for church members, who want to learn more about prayer.

Presenters will help us understand that prayer is more than just a wish-list to God, that he answers prayer even if he doesn't answer the way we want, and that it's ultimately about being aligned with his will. Specific information can be found at <http://michigandistrict.org/theological19>. Look for a sign up sheet in the coffee room soon.

Jesus prayed often, and He tells us to be constant in prayer. I'm praying for you, that you and your family would know the peace that can only be found and understood in Jesus Christ!

Pastor Moyer

Be in
Constant

PRAYER



Living Faith Stewardship Campaign

Applying Biblical Teachings

The formula “ e equals mc^2 ” is familiar to many, but is understood by only a few people. Most of us know it had something to do with Einstein and was the formula that led to the release of enormous energy. Similarly, in the operation and ministry of a local church, “ e ” might stand for *effectiveness*, “ m ” for *members*, “ c ” for *commitment*, and the “ 2 ” for the *effort multiplied by itself*. The fruit of that kind of effort is much more powerful than what Einstein discovered.

We here at Faith Lutheran Church have been given the power of the Gospel. We are a congregation blessed with people who have many talents and gifts. Trusting in God, we have great vision, for we know what God has stated about His Word: “. . . It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11).

Yet, at times our trust is found lacking in the *effectiveness* of the promise. When trust is lacking, we set up for ourselves stumbling blocks that affect our faith. One such stumbling block is the use and giving of our wealth and money.

Jesus Himself gave a warning, “So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?” (Luke 16:11).

We may think we understand the formula for great *effectiveness*. Do we? Let’s look at the formula.

The “ c ” is the *commitment* of Jesus, as Lord and Savior, to the *members*, “ m ,” of His church. The *effort multiplied by itself*, “ 2 ,” is the never tiring work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

God’s work is done *effectively* through us. His *commitment* to His members and His *effort multiplied by itself* many times over equals the *effective* carrying out of His desires.

Our faith embraces and keeps the true riches, the heavenly goods, and exhibits itself by doing what God desires. The stumbling block is avoided, for genuine, God-given faith cannot be wrong.



Minutes From Faith Lutheran Church Voters Meeting

December 19, 2018

In attendance: Dean Ayers, Pastor Moyer, Kathy VanGordon, Karen Cowart, Bill Erfourth, Bill Kiley, Jacque Rhodes, Sherry Hanovich, Guy York, Steve Tino, Laura and Neil Hornbacher

The Voters Assembly was called to order by President, Dean Ayers at 7:50 p.m. Dean started the meeting with our Opening Prayer.

Previous meeting minutes were read by Sherry Hanovich. One change was requested by Pastor. Motion was made by Karen to accept minutes; seconded by Bill Kiley and approved.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Moyer reported they've been busy preparing for our Special Services. The Angel Bible study on Sundays has been well attended and received.

Board of Education – Laura reported that Tracie has been leading the Faith Legacy program. The girls outing went very well, Tracie is now preparing a boys and fathers outing, Sunday, March 17th. Tracie is requesting a few males step up to help with the outing. Laura's three year elected BOE position has ended, she accepted another three-year term. There will not be Sunday school on December 23, 2018. Next board meeting is Sunday, January 20th, 2019. Report on file.

Board of Elders – Bill Kiley gave the Elders report. Geri Lightfoot has been approved into membership via transfer from Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, East Tawas, MI. Three year elected elders are Guy York, Stan Nelson, Neil Hornbacher, Tom Tesolin, Mike Stanley, Gary Tino, Steve Foradori and Tom Lombardo. The one-year appointments are D. Ayers, Bill Kiley, and Carl Lemke (seasonal). Installations take place in January 2019. Mike Stanley requested that all elders attending Christmas Eve services wear their elder badges whether on duty or not and be willing to assist elder on duty. Living Faith Readers for second Sunday in January will be Bill Erfourth (early service), and Tom Lombardo (late service). Next elders meeting: January 13th after late service. Report on file.

The Board of Faith Family and Community Outreach – Kathy VanGordon reported all Outreach programs have wrapped up. The committee continues discussions for the 2019 projects. Next Outreach meeting: January 12th, 2019. Report on file.

Board of Trustees - Steve Tino announced the new projects for 2019 will be replacing floor in Sanctuary, building an awning for the new door entrance and boiler repair/replacement. The Trustees are considering having an extra person in the office or a camera during counting time. The pavilion planning continues, trustees are generating a detailed drawing of plans and ideas to generate funds. Our water heater will be replaced when the boiler is replaced. There is a slow leak in the Sunday school room. Trustees will remove rolling panels until the leak can be repaired.

Treasurers Report – Bill Erfourth presented the Treasurers Report. There was a discussion regarding funds for the youth gathering conference in 2019. Bill Kiley motioned to accept and seconded by Karen and approved. Budget on file.

Music Ministry – Jacque is enjoying the joint service music preparation with Pastor Moyer. The dress rehearsal for the 5:30 Christmas Program will take place this Sunday (December 23rd). Jacque wants to thank the Sunday School staff for their help and support, Phyllis Acree, Mickey Dietrich and Nancy Lombardo for costuming, F.L.Y. and Sunday School youth for the "stage managing" and Pastor for his guidance through the service and program preparation. The 10:00 Christmas Eve service will include a combined number, selected by Sue Rapp, which includes the Adult Choir and Chimes. Thank you to all for enhancing our worship with your gift of time and music. Report on file.

Communicant membership applications or transfers – Karen Cowart motioned to accept Geri Lightfoot's request into Faith Lutheran membership from Grace Ev. Lutheran. Bill Erfourth seconded and all approved.

Old Business – Bill Erfourth reported the new altar flower stand has been built. The flowers will still be supplied by Flowers of the Lake. We will have two sets of flowers that will create a single presentation placed on the new stand versus the current two vases on altar. The cost of flowers is \$40 with an additional delivery charge of \$5, \$45 total. Discussion took place on options of handling the way we order/pay for the flowers. Currently two people can purchase a vase of flowers each week. Bill Erfourth will develop a new policy. The first new flower arrangement will start January 6th, 2019.

New Business – Bill Erfourth motioned to approve the resolution for Pastor's housing, Guy York seconded, all approved. Pastor suggested we have Tom Lombardo be our lay delegate for the election of synodical officers. Bill Erfourth motioned to accept Tom as our lay delegate and Bill Kiley seconded. All approved. Karen suggested we take down Christmas décor, Saturday – January 5th. All agreed. Karen also suggested that we start handing out a small present to all children who attend Christmas Eve services, starting next year. Discussion took place and it was decided that Laura and Karen would try to accumulate 30-50 small stockings on clearance this year in order to fill them and hand out Christmas Eve Services 2019. Jacque requested the Fellowship Hall from 7-9 p.m. for the Community Chorus rehearsals. Practices will start January 8th and go through April 29th. Bill Kiley motioned to allow usage of Fellowship Hall and Dean seconded. All approved. Jacque presented a check as a thank you from the Community Chorus. Jacque also reported that some of the chimes need to be sent in for refurbishing. They will be sent to MalMark after Christmas and return the first week of February in time for Easter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 by Dean. Dean closed the meeting with our Closing Prayer and the Lords Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Hanovich, Recording Secretary



Congratulations to those celebrating birthdays in

January:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Laurie Flores | 14 Taylor Buckthorpe |
| 2 Dennis Goers, Jr. | 15 Morgan Jones |
| 4 Thaddeus Moyer | 17 Paula Robinson |
| 5 Tracie Smith | 18 June Parmeter |
| 6 Jon Rickle | 21 Bill Black |
| 9 Bonnie Delor | 21 Martha Born |
| 9 Patti Larzelere | 21 Teagan Smith |
| 10 Mike Fischer | 24 Pam Friend |
| 10 Tim Holland | 24 Kaitlyn Russell |
| 11 Joseph Ennis | 26 Laura Hornbacher |
| 11 Madeline Hannewald | 27 Jim Scrivo |
| 13 Mike Acree | 28 Megan Ennis |
| 13 Amanda Goers | 30 Julia Russell |
| 13 Tessa Miller | 31 Andrea Blumberg |



Congratulations to those celebrating

anniversaries in January:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Mike & Karen Genson | 1-04-1975 |
| Mitch Gorkiewicz & Kat Schatz | 1-23-2010 |
| Bill & Judy Kiley | 1-31-1981 |

A Heartfelt Thank You

Thank you to all those who participated in the **Sock Tree** and the **Christmas Families Gift Board** this year.

The families and children were very thankful for your generous gifts and gift cards. (There are thank you notes on the board at the bottom of the stairs.) The Sock Tree was full to bursting with your wonderful gifts. We collected 16 hats, 4 headbands, 26 pair of mittens/gloves, one scarf and 416 pair of socks!!!

Thank you for showing Jesus' love by caring for those in need.

May the Lord bless you & those you love in the coming year!

Look for the thank you notes from the families in this newsletter.

-The Outreach Committee

As organist and this year's Sunday School Program director, I wish to THANK the Sunday School staff for help and support. Also, thank you to Phyllis Acree, Mickey Dietrich and Nancy Lombardo for Costuming. The help from F.L.Y. and Sunday School youth is greatly appreciated for 'stage managing.' Special music during the candle lighting presented by an ensemble of Sunday School students and parents added a special 'glow' to our service. Finally, but not least thank you to Pastor Moyer for his guidance through the 'service, music and program prep process.' I wish to express my appreciation for the gifts of all volunteers.

Musically Yours,
Jacqueline Rhodes

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



Our mission is to welcome and unite God's people to nurture faith through the Gospel, and provide opportunities and commitment to serve Christ through our ministry within the congregation and the community.



Faith Family members participating in the Holiday Extravaganza Parade in Pontiac

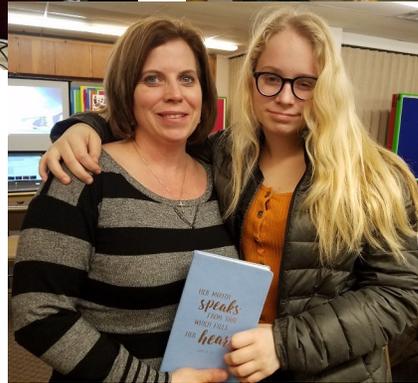
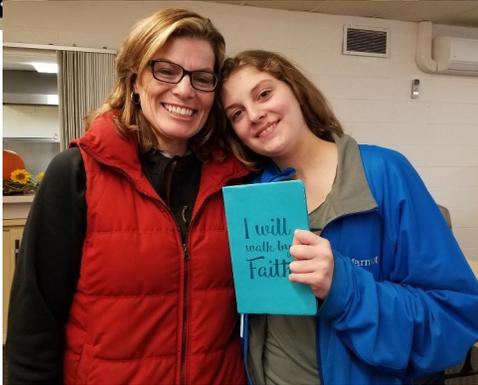


Faith Family members at the West Hickory Haven Nursing Home Christmas Caroling Event.

Faith Family having a blast at the Boot Scootin' Boogie Country Hoe-Down at the Lazy J Ranch.



Faith Legacy Mother/Daughter Event



Merry Christmas Faith Family,

Our youth have been busy with the Sunday school play, Blessings in a Bag for the homeless, cooking our Advent dinners, Christmas caroling and working hard on getting to the LCMS Gathering in 2019.

Please keep all those bottles and cans from your holiday gatherings. FLY is having a Can/Bottle Drive January 12th 2019 at the Church from 11am to Noon.

We are looking forward to 2019 and all God has in store for us.



Caroling at West Hickory Haven Nursing Home.

Don't forget Family
Game Nights are back
on January 25th.
Games begin at 7pm.



**Family
Game Night**



Blessings in a Bag event for the homeless.

We're Back: Men's B n B January 12th



We will have a Men's B n B on Saturday, January 12th starting at 11:30. We will meet at the church for a short devotion and travel across the road to Sparky's (SW corner of Duck Lake and Highland roads). Please join us in good Christian fellowship. Mark your calendars now to avoid a scheduling conflict, or a senior moment.

Father/Son Event Coming Soon

The Father/Son Event will take place **Sunday, March 10th, 2019** at Faith Lutheran from **12:30-5:30 pm**. More information will be coming as the event draws near.



Altar Flower Changes



Beginning January 6, our altar flowers will become "Chancel" flowers. To start, we will have two sets of flowers (left side and right side) creating a single presentation. The total cost of \$40.00 from prior years is increasing to \$45.00. Flowers of the Lakes had not been charging a \$5.00 delivery fee to cover the cost of the driver and vehicle.

We have a new flower stand which will be to the left of the altar (from the congregation's perspective). While initially, there will be two flower arrangements, we are working with Flowers of the Lakes to design an approach in case we need to go to a single presentation at the same cost of \$45.00. If you would like to purchase flowers for the church and take them home after the second service, the **cost will be \$22.50 for one vase and \$45.00 for both**. Your payment should be placed in an envelope in the collection plate with your name and a notation of the date for which you are paying. The new calendar has been posted. Thank you.

Also note, beginning in January, if flowers are not picked up by Tuesday morning, Pastor will gladly distribute the flowers during visits with shut-ins and people in the hospital.

Your patience with the new program would be appreciated as we work out the bugs.

Be Constant in Prayer

February 2, 2019 at Our Savior, Lansing 8:30am—3:00pm

BE IN
CONSTANT
PRAYER



Prayer is dangerous. It can change you. It can disrupt your life/routine. Don't pray, and let everything be the way it is. Pray, and receive peace, guidance, understanding,

faith, purpose, protection from evil, and a deeper relationship with God. Jesus prayed often, and He tells us to be constant in prayer. Join us at "Be Constant in Prayer" and learn more about this gift from our heavenly Father. Conference location is: Our Savior Lutheran Church, 7910 E. St. Joe Hwy, Lansing, Michigan. OPEN TO ALL.

Specific information can be found at
<http://michigandistrict.org/theological19>.

Look for a sign up sheet in the coffee room soon.

It's Time to Take Our Christmas Decorations Down

We could use some help taking the Christmas decorations down for another year. We will be doing this on **Saturday, January 5th beginning at 10:00am**. It shouldn't take long at all if we have enough help.

Thanks in advance for you helping !!!



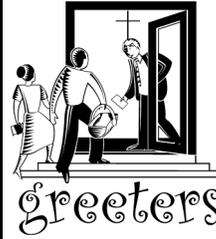
PLEASE NOTE



If we have not received an updated photo of your family, please send one to the church office at: office@faithhighland.com

Our hope would be to soon produce a new church family Photo Directory.

Thanks in advance for your assistance!



The 2019 Greeter Sign-Up Sheet

is on the bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs at church. We are in need of greeters and we'd love to have you sign up to greet your fellow members and visitors. This makes people feel warm and welcome when entering our church. If you are available, please sign up to greet for a month or a Sunday at either the 8:30 or 11:00 am service on Sunday morning. This is a great way to serve. If you have any questions about greeting, please feel free to contact Connie Redman—248-887-4475 or Connie Schutt—248-887-5846. Thanks for your prayerful consideration.

Senior Fit at Faith Lutheran Church – Winter Session Beginning in January

Stay healthy by improving your endurance, strength, flexibility, and balance. Geared for adults age 55 and up, Senior Fit is aimed at improving stamina, lowering blood pressure, and decreasing the risk of osteoporosis among senior adults through regular exercise.

Classes resume in January in the Community meeting room, 3 days a week. Each session is one hour, from 11:00 am to noon. ***There is plenty of room to join!!***

You dress comfortably – loose clothing and sensible walking/running shoes. You will get a fitness stretch band and will need hand weights – your choice of 2, 3, or 5 pounds. Most people bring water.

People are encouraged to exercise to their limit. Not every participant is at the same fitness level and many have not exercised before. The class is not a competition. You want to challenge yourself without over-doing it.

There is ***no fee*** to participate. All individuals participating must have a medical clearance form completed by your primary care physician. *To join, you need to complete the forms and send them to Cindy Dixon at St. Joseph Hospital.* She will then call you to confirm.

Remember – ***Any exercise is better than none at all!*** And, this program presents a great opportunity for fellowship within our congregation, as well as for you to invite a neighbor or two who has no home church.

If you would like to join this group, please see Linda in the office for the forms you need to fill out.





These are two thank you notes and a picture received from our Christmas families. Thank you so much for your generosity this year!!!

Thank you for giving us your time, treasure and talent.

Thank you for lending Jesús your arms, legs, heart and love for our family this Christmas.

I believe that everything good comes from God.

Thank you for your generosity.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



God can make all grace abound for you, so that you always, in every circumstance, have everything you need, and all good work abound in you.

2 Corinthians 9:8

Que te conceda lo que tu corazón desea que haga que se cumplan todos tus planes.

Salm 20:4

Jesús Loves you



I Pray for you!!!



Thank You for the Presents God is with you for ever God is the Person who made all of us special and died for us and he is our dad.



to the family we don't know

From family Velazquez

but God knows



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Faith in Action



LESSONS IN WISE FAITH

“The Magi teach us true faith,” said Martin Luther. Given the obstacles they encountered, we would understand if they had given up altogether!

First, the travelers were “off the mark,” coming to Jerusalem to seek a newborn king in a “royal palace.” Then, directed to Bethlehem, the wise men found a sight “so utterly out of keeping with a king” — a poor young woman and child, in a “poor hut” — that one might expect them to head straight home. “But,” declares Luther, “with a great, strong and full faith they ... follow the word of the prophet and the witness of the star in all purity of heart,” bowing to worship and honor the Savior.



*O come, let us
adore him!*

—Based on Luther’s sermon for the Festival of the Epiphany (1522), Luther’s Works