

# Beacon of Faith

Worship God. Grow in faith. Offer hope.

Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool

March 2024



## Welcome Statement

In response to God's unconditional love and grace, the people of Faith Lutheran Church seek to follow Jesus' commandment to love God, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. We express that love in our commitment to racial equity, and in our welcome of people of all ages, races, economic status, intellectual and physical abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, along with their families and friends, to join with us as we worship God, grow in faith, and offer hope.



Sunday, March 10

## Inside this Issue

Pastor's Pondering	2
Key Dates	3
Outreach	6
Operations	12
Growth & Learning	13
Prayers	18
Schedule to Serve	19
Monthly Calendar	20



## Holy Week and Easter Arrive in March

### March 24 Palm Sunday

Worship at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary and 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall  
Blessing of the Palms  
First Communion

### March 28 Maundy/Holy Thursday

Worship at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar

### March 29 Good Friday

Worship at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
Bidding Prayer and Procession of the Cross  
*A special welcome to the choir and members of  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Akron, who will be joining us for worship!*

## CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION!!

### March 31 Easter Day

Worship at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary  
Two Identical Festival Services  
Guest Musicians and Choir  
Holy Communion

### Easter Breakfast

10-10:45 a.m.  
Welcome Center and Youth Room  
Pastries and other Delectables  
Fruit Salad  
Coffee, Tea, Juice

Please Note: the Church Office will be closed on Monday, April 1, as the celebration of Easter continues.



**Pastor's Pondering**  
**Pastor Jean M. Hansen**



A number of people have commented to me that Easter is early this year and have wondered if this year's date is the earliest Easter can be. So, to boost your trivia-playing skills, I will let you know that Easter can be even earlier than March 31! There are 35 dates on which Easter can take place. The earliest possible date for Easter is **March 22** and the latest possible date is **April 25**. Easter takes place on the first Sunday after the full moon, after March 21, which is the date set by the ancient church for the vernal equinox. If the full moon is on a Sunday, Easter is celebrated on the following Sunday.

This year the first full moon after March 21 is on March 25, so Easter is on March 31.

But you may ask, why is the moon's phase involved in determining the date of Easter? That's because Jesus' death and resurrection occurred at the time of the Jewish Passover, which was celebrated on the first night of the Full Moon following the vernal equinox.

In 325 CE, the Council of Nicaea established the formula now used to determine Easter. However, it's still true that not all Christians observe Easter on the same date. Most Orthodox Christians still follow the Julian rather than Gregorian calendar, which means that Easter falls between April 3 and May 10 for them.

In some years, Orthodox Easter falls on the same day as western Easter. The next time the two Easter dates coincide will be in 2025 (April 20).

That may be more information than most people care to have, but if nothing else it is a reminder that we are connected to Christians and Jews who preceded us by thousands of years. We 21<sup>st</sup> century believers continue to come together for the same purposes as our forbearers. Our Jewish friends gather for *Passover* (*Pesakh* in Hebrew) to retell the story of their ancestors' Exodus from Egypt. We Christians gather during Holy Week to remember the events of the last week of Jesus' life and, on Easter, to celebrate the most important day and event of our faith, our Lord's resurrection.

As we come together on March 31, 2024 may we be bolstered by the knowledge that we stand in a long line of those who have proclaimed, "He is risen! He is risen, indeed!"

## Key Dates

You're invited!

**Spaghetti Dinner** (Dine in or Take Out)  
hosted by our Scout Troops 390 & 7390

**Saturday, March 2**  
**4:30 - 7 p.m.**  
**At Faith**

Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, Beverage, Dessert

**Adults: \$10**  
**Kids: \$8**  
**Under 2: Free**



**Girl Scout Cookie Sale**

**Sunday, March 3**

**in between the services**

**\$6/box**

Buy a box(es) for yourself or donate them to the Kinship Café.

Look for **Faith members Hannah and Alexis Williams** at their table in the Welcome Center.



Order your Easter flowers now to decorate the altar for Easter Sunday.

**Deadline is March 10!**

Yellow order forms can be found on the counters and tables around the church, on e-news and inserted into your Weekly Beacon. You may also call the office, 330-836-8811.

*Easter Lilies*

*Tulips*

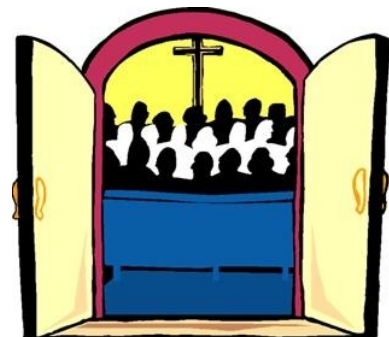
*Daffodils*

### Special Congregation Meeting

**Sunday, March 17**  
**10 a.m.**

Faith members,

Your attendance is requested for this Special Congregational Meeting that will be held in-between the services to vote on ratifying and/or approving expenses related to the recent sewage back-up. These expenses exceed 5% of the annual budget; therefore a congregational vote is constitutionally required.



**Congregational  
MEETING**

# Key Dates



## 2024 Interfaith Justice Alliance Series *Uniting for Public Safety*

### **Wednesday, February 21 - Faith Lutheran Church**

#### *The Law: Legal and Social Environment*

Speakers: Martin H. Belsky, former University of Akron Law Dean  
Bernard Smith, former Assistant United States Attorney

### **Wednesday, February 28 - Temple Israel**

#### *Local Public Safety Initiatives*

Speakers: Representative from Citizens Police Oversight Board  
Representative from Office of Mayor Shammias Malik (TBA)

### **Wednesday, March 6 - New Hope Baptist Church**

#### *Safer Communities Through Mentoring*

Speakers: Dads on Duty - Russel Neal; Inner City Soccer Club - Dele Olabisi

### **Wednesday, March 13 - St. Hilary Church**

#### *Public Safety: How Schools Strive to Be Safe*

Speakers: LaCresia Beecher - principal at Buchtel Community Learning Center  
LaShawna Grimes - teacher at Buchtel Community Learning Center  
LaMonica Davis - principal at Helen Arnold Community Learning Center  
Denise Williams - teacher at Helen Arnold Community Learning Center  
Jennifer Woodman - principal at St. Hilary School

### **Wednesday, March 20 - Prince of Peace Baptist Church**

#### *The Voices of Youth: A Cry for Safety*

Speakers: a panel of young people

#### **Evening Schedule:**

5:45-6 p.m. - Registration

6-6:45 p.m. - Shared Meal

7-7:30 p.m. - Worship

7:30-8 p.m. - Presentation

8-8:45 p.m. - Table discussions

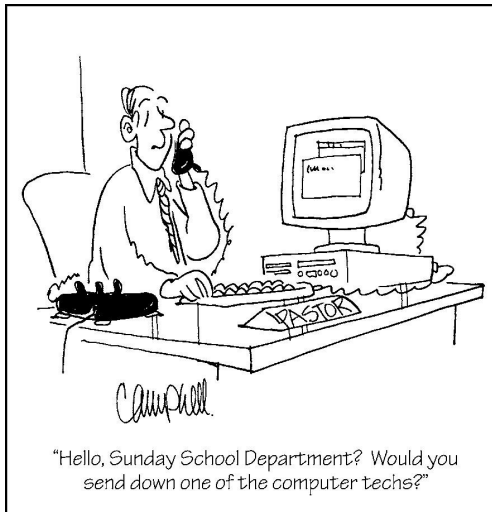
\*\*Each session will be livestreamed.

For all details and to register,  
visit [sthilarychurch.org/2024Interfaith](https://sthilarychurch.org/2024Interfaith)  
or call your congregation's office.



## Key Dates

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### Calling all techies....

We are looking for technologically-abled volunteers to be "tech tutors" on Sunday, April 21, to our less experienced church friends for an hour or two. If you're comfortable with technology and would like to help, email Troy Kozee at [troysafe@headfreeze.net](mailto:troysafe@headfreeze.net).

### Tech Tutoring Session

**April 21**  
**11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.**  
**(Immediately following the Informal Service)**  
**In the Youth Room**

**1-on-1, 15 minute sessions**



This tech tutoring session is for church members who want to learn a new skill with their devices, church-related or not. This is **not** a tech support/troubleshooting sessions. If you are interested or have questions, please email or talk to Faith member, Troy Kozee at [troysafe@headfreeze.net](mailto:troysafe@headfreeze.net).



### Bystander Training

*Violence Prevention*  
*Bystander Intervention Strategy*

**Saturday, April 27**  
**10:00 a.m. - Noon**  
*at Faith Lutheran Church*



To sign up, please call the church office, 330-836-8811 or click here to sign up [Green Dot Bystander Training](#).

# Outreach



**David Simpson**  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
[Outreach@faithlutheranchurch.org](mailto:Outreach@faithlutheranchurch.org)  
330-836-8811



## INTERFAITH JUSTICE ALLIANCE

The 2024 series was initiated here at Faith Lutheran on February 21. Our speakers were Martin H. Belsky, former University of Akron Law Dean and Bernard Smith, former Assistant United States Attorney. In attendance were about 150 people from 5 different congregations along with some guests from the community. Our Faith Family Fellowship team members planned a wonderful meal and other volunteers managed the logistics for the event. Pastor Jean led an Evening Worship service including Matthew's words regarding the two greatest commandments: "Love your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind... and... love your neighbor as your-self."

The two speakers provided a thorough review of the current state of gun laws as well as the history of how they evolved over nearly 80 years in the United States.

Turn to page 4 of this newsletter to learn more about the series.



Evening Worship



Bernard Smith



Pastor Jean, Martin Belsky



Table Discussions

# Outreach

## RIC

"Safe Space Ally Training 101 Workshop" took place on January 27. The seminar was very well attended. The content and presentation were excellent. Feedback indicated that more interaction and participatory dialogue would be recommended. Organizers believe that it would be beneficial to repeat the presentation possibly through another organization. One suggestion was to encourage Akron Area Interfaith Council (AAIC) to host it as an interfaith project. Here is a message of appreciation from Dana Singer to the Faith Endowment Team which provided funding for the program:

*On Saturday, January 27, 2024, Faith Lutheran hosted the Safe Space: Ally Training 101 (SSA). The speaker, Kent State University LGBTQ+ Center Director Ken Ditlevson, spoke in a two-hour workshop. It would be safe to say Ken held the crowd's attention for the entire workshop. He was an engaging, educational, passionate supporter of the LGBTQ+ community in which he lives. The SSA was limited to 60 participants. Of the 57 attendees, 37 or 74% were Faith Lutheran members. Of the remaining 20 attendees 10 were friends of FLC members, 3 were from Akron Area Interfaith Council (AAIC) and 7 were outside guests. Hopefully, through continued education like SSA, we will learn how to treat others with the kindness, respect and human-ness that Jesus expects.*

*Both the Outreach and RIC Teams thank the Faith Endowment Team for the generosity that made this day possible.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Dana Singer*



Speaker Ken Ditlevson,  
Director KSU's (LGBTQ+) Student Center

The new composition of the RIC Team now includes these members: Marilyn Wilson (coordinator), Em Antal, Joe Gardner, Tom Peyton and Dana Singer.





# Outreach

## MITZVAH DAYS

This annual community service program of Temple Israel will take place on June 1 and 2. Most of the activities have not yet been defined. However, here are a few that are taking shape.

Akron-Canton Foodbank
Angels in Blue Jeans
Home Repairs for Veterans
Brown Bag Lunch
Ronald Mc Donald House
Access Slumber Party

The organizing committee is planning to have details for all the projects as well as registration information on the Temple's website within the next few weeks. This information will be posted on the Outreach bulletin board. Please consider checking these opportunities and also volunteering where possible.

## LOADS OF FAITH LAUNDRY MINISTRY

We are looking forward to a video, produced by Danny Hyter, that is being developed and will be used to tell the compelling story of this ministry as we begin our third year of operation and seek continuing funding.

Another laundry service has been initiated by the City of Akron. The following news item was in the Beacon Journal on February 13:

*Today, Mayor Malik is announcing the City of Akron will host a **Tumble Together Thursday** event at the Super Clean Laundromat located at 1739 Brittain Rd. on Thursday Feb. 15 from 4-8 p.m. The event provides free washing and drying for up to two loads of laundry per person. The event is only open to City of Akron residents.*

*The city has hosted two previous **Tumble Together Thursday** events in the last month helping 50 families do over 100 loads of laundry. This program was made possible through grant funding from ServeOhio, the state's Commission on Service and Volunteerism. The city has partnered with the Summit County Continuum of Care to help run and promote these events.*

*"We've seen a real need for these free washing and drying events in our communities," said Mayor Malik. "Not everyone has access to a washer or dryer in their home or apartment and when you're on a tight budget, clean laundry can become a luxury. I believe everyone deserves the dignity of clean clothing and I thank ServeOhio for their initial grant funding which made this program possible. We are now looking into how we can keep providing this service on a more permanent basis." City representatives will be on hand for Thursday's event to help residents get their free washing and drying.*

## AKRON AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL (AAIC)

Thanks to Thomas Peyton for volunteering to be one of our two voting participating members in this group. Here is a little background information from the AAIC website:

### HISTORY & VISION

*The Akron Area Interfaith Council exists to initiate, coordinate and enable effective interfaith responses to the social, moral, ethical and cultural issues of our community and to promote freedom of religion, equality and understanding.*

### VISION

*We envision a strong network of faith communities that collaborate to make our city a haven for all.*

*Continued on next page.*



# Outreach

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## HISTORY

*The AAIC was founded in 1980, when Akron area faith leaders collaborated toward better understanding. From the start, the AAIC focused on issues of peace, finding common denominators among different faith traditions. Members do not proselytize, convert, or emphasize one view over another.*

*For centuries religion has been misused to cause wars, hate and division world-wide. The AAIC is a witness to the power of love and compassion for all humankind which is the basis of every faith tradition. Our organization seeks to contribute to peace in the midst of a world which continues to suffer from divisions among and between religious adherents.*

The annual **AAIC Hunger Walk will be May 7.** As in the past the turn around point and water station will be in front of our Market Street entrance. We will need three or four volunteers to staff the water station. In past years this service was provided by members of the RIC Team. Please contact David Simpson if you would like to volunteer for this service.

## DLM

The DLM ministry continues to thrive along with our partnership with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Participants have shared how important this service is based on both their experience interacting with the families and individual clients served as well as the gratitude which they express. One of our volunteers shared the story of how a young boy was able to get an appropriately sized and styled pair of shoes to replace what he had been wearing—an old pair of his mother's shoes. Throughout the years we have had many of our congregants volunteering for these special Saturday morning events. With much appreciation to all who have helped/are helping including:

Deb Allen	Daniel Hyter	Cora Solberg
Cindy Boswell	David Johnson	Emily Solberg
Duane Daily	Melissa Johnson	Mason Solberg
Kyle Daily	Art Kaufman	Seth Solberg
Loralee Daily	Joyce Lange	Garry Steiner
Polly Dobkin	Flo Mackall	Penny Thompson
Bobbie Fitt	Brenda McShaffrey	Terry Vernon
Deb Gottas	Mildred Murphy	Mark Watkins
Pastor Jean Hansen	Carla Ringer	Darlene Weaver
Denise Henkel	Sarah Shook	Richard Weaver
Nancy Hooper	Ruth Simpson	Linda Weidrick
Colleen Hruska	Dana Singer	David Weida
Amanda Hyter	John Singer	John Weisend

Please let David Simpson know if anyone has been omitted from this list. Apologies if that is the case.

## ELCA "GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS" AND FIRST SERVE

The date for this year's projects has been set for Sunday, September 8. Once again First Serve coincides with our own ELCA God's Work, Our Hands day. We will seek ways for participation in, and success for both of these programs as we move forward and as specific projects are developed.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

Our gardeners will soon be amending and tilling the soil in preparation for another harvest in the service of OPEN M. There will be volunteer opportunities for 'green thumbs' and others throughout spring, summer and through harvest. A sign-up sheet is on the Outreach Bulletin board, along with pictures from this past year.



## OUTSIDE OUR WALLS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

### **SPOKES TO FOLKS**

I recently became aware of an interesting ministry provided by the Brecksville United Methodist Church. It is named **Bike Ministry – Giving Spokes to Folks**. It was initiated in 2015. Through it bicycles are donated year-round. They are cleaned, repaired, and made 'road ready' to give to those who may benefit from them. Here is a picture of a bicycle wheel Christmas tree from their array of decorations this past December.



### **BRAVER ANGELS**

This organization also came to my attention recently. Its mission is to “*Build a House United*” by igniting a civic renewal movement. Here is information from their webwebsite <https://braverangels.org>.

*America’s polarization crisis has been building for decades and is now deeply rooted in our major institutions. Turning the tide is an enormous task; it requires repair in citizen-to-citizen relationships as well as meaningful changes in the rules and practices of many of our major institutions. Americans on opposite sides of the political spectrum don’t only disagree on issues — they increasingly dislike one another. This growing animosity is the crisis of our time and threatens our nation.*

*Braver Angels is a membership organization that hosts local meetings throughout the country which include people with very different views and beliefs. Here is a list of their guidelines:*

We state our views ***freely and fully, without fear.***

We treat people who disagree with us with ***honesty, dignity and respect.***

We welcome ***opportunities to engage*** those with whom we disagree.

We believe ***all of us have blind spots***-none of us are not worth talking to.

We seek to ***disagree accurately***, avoiding exaggeration and stereotypes.

We seek common ground and try to ***find ways to work together.***

We believe that, in disagreements, ***both sides share and learn.***

In Braver Angels, ***neither side is teaching the other*** or giving feedback on how to think or say things differently.

One Ohio Braver Angels group meets in Brecksville. Membership and meeting information is on their website.



# Outreach

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## LOOKING AHEAD

- DLM – Saturday, March 2 (Full 2024 schedule is below.)
- Loads of Faith – Wednesday, March 27 at both North Hill & Wallhaven from 5 to 7 p.m.
- Interfaith Justice Alliance started on February 21 at Faith Lutheran Church, and was held at Temple Israel on February 28. Remaining dates are:

**March 6** (New Hope Baptist)  
**March 13** (St. Hilary)  
**March 20** (Prince of Peace Baptist)

- AAIC Hunger Walk, Sunday, May 7
- Mitzvah Days – June 1 and 2

## FUTURE DLM DATES

2024 DLM DATES		
	In person	Delivery
March	2	15
April	6	19
May	11	24
June	15	28
July	13	26
August	10	23
September	14	27
October	12	25
November	9	22
December	14	20

## FUTURE Loads of Faith Laundry Ministry DATES

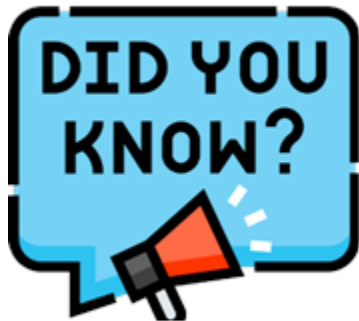
(These will be all on the last Wednesday of each month except in December.)

March 27  
April 24  
May 29  
June 30  
July 31  
August 28  
September 25  
October 30  
November 27  
December 18



# Operations

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Faith Lutheran Church has an AED machine in the office hallway, just outside the Fellowship Hall and Pastor Jean's office? It is available to anyone who needs it!



*This information is brought to you by the Safety & Security Team: Mike Whitney, Judy Vernon, Nancy Tobar, Dineen Dowling, Darryl Anderson, Keen Lee, and Andrew Fligor.*

## Thank you

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Dear Faith Lutheran Church,

On behalf of **He Brought Us Out Ministry** and the **North Hill Community House**, we would like to say thank you for your donation of \$200 to the Ministry.

Again, thank you for the generous support. Your donations, along with the donations of others will allow us to continue to provide the necessary resources to the less fortunate families in our community.

Sincerely,  
Gary & Patricia Wyatt

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Faith Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your support (\$200) for Barberton Area Community Ministries (BACM). These donations have allowed us to continue our mission of **Nourishing Our Neighbors**.

Your support of BACM helped us provide 656,691 meals to the 12,693 households we served in our pantry in 2023. Our referrals to Catholic Charities helped them provide assistance to clients with rent and utilities via their Akron office.

Warmest Regards,  
Dorothy Suchka Somerville

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Faith Lutheran,

Thank you for your generous donation of soup! Veterans experiencing homelessness living in the Summit County area and across Ohio turn to Valor Home for help and we are here to give them the critical programs and support that they so desperately need.

The thoughtful donation you recently made couldn't have come at a better time. As you may know, Valor Home is the only male shelter in Summit County that provides emergency shelter and supportive programming to homeless Veterans. The demand for shelter continues to rise, and you have made it possible for us to continue to provide safety and comfort to Veterans.

Your support gives Veterans opportunities to achieve their goal of having a safe place to call home.

Sincerely,  
Cheryl Arnold, Program Manager



### Vacation Bible School

June 17-21, 2024

9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Faith Lutheran Church

Participants = 4 years/PreK to  
having finished 4th Grade

Volunteers = youth having finished 5th Grade,  
Confirmation, High School Youth, and Adults  
who want to share the Good News in a Scuba Fun Way!

### Here's what it takes to host a successful Vacation Bible School:

- 😊 **Craft Leader & Craft Assistant** - plan a week of crafts for each crew
- 😊 **Music Leader & Music Assistant** - teach the daily songs at music
- 😊 **Games Leader & Games Assistants** - organize the daily games station
- 😊 **Snack Leader & Snack Assistant** - plan and serve snacks to each crew
- 😊 **Bible Story Leader & Puppet Masters** - tell an interactive Bible story
- 😊 **Deep Dive Station Leader & Lab Assistant** - exploring the coral reefs
- 😊 **Registration/Check-In** - help with registration, welcoming at check in
- 😊 **Crew Leaders** - walk around a crew to all the stations each day and get to know kids
- 😊 **Crew Assistants** - assist with walking a crew of kids around each day
- 😊 **Photographer/Slide Show** - take pictures throughout the week, develop prints for frames
- 😊 **Opening Skit Actors** - help with skit at opening
- 😊 **Decorations (think coral reefs)** - collect and decorate the church for SCUBA
- 😊 **Service Project Organizer** - work with the co-directors on ways to give
- 😊 **Prayers and more!**

**Adult Volunteers are needed to lead the way! Youth volunteers assist. Great for service hours!**

**But, more importantly, a great way to serve a God who welcomes all in friendship!**

**We always have a fun and spirit-filled week.**

**Co-Directors Dineen Dowling & Sarah Courtney are ready to dive in!**

**Contact the church office at 330-836-8811 if you can join us this summer!**

**A list of donations needed is coming soon! Watch for specific snacks, craft items,  
and anything that relates to scuba diving, snorkeling, and the coral reefs!**



# FaithKids & Junior Youth Group

## First Communion Retreat

**Sat, March 16, 10 a.m. – Noon**

Every year during Lent, Faith Lutheran Church holds an “Introduction to First Communion Retreat” for those students in 3rd grade (along with their parent) to help prepare them to receive the sacrament for the first time. Pastor Jean leads a lesson on the holy supper, tells about the history behind Jesus’ words of institution, and shares why we continue to partake in the bread and wine today. She shows the items used at communion (paten, chalice, flagon, etc.) and concludes the retreat with baking of unleavened bread. It is a special and meaningful milestone. All children in 3rd grade (or older if they have missed this retreat or younger if they are showing an interest and have talked with Pastor Jean) are welcome! Speak to Dineen for more information. And then, on Palm Sunday, your child takes their first communion at whichever service your family attends.



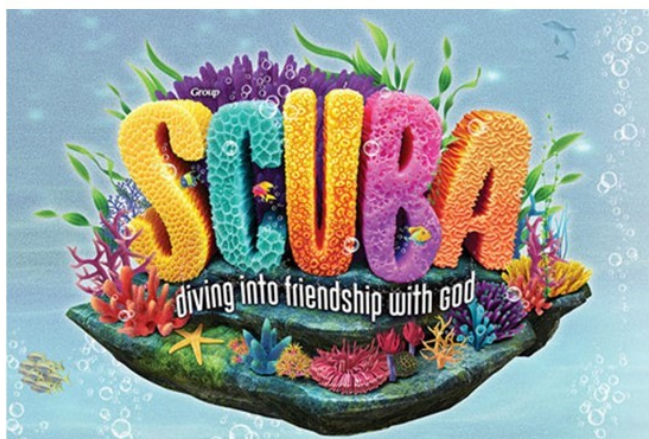
## Family Lenten Devotions

The season of Lent is a time to draw closer to God as an individual, as a family, and as a church. We have child-friendly family devotions for you to use at home with your children. The topics and questions are good to talk about and reflect on as we turn inward in our preparation for Holy Week and Easter Sunday!

## What's Good about Good Friday

**Fri, March 29, 10 a.m. – Noon**

Why do they call the day Jesus died “Good”? This and other questions will be addressed at a Friday morning “retreat” for children 4 years through 5th grade. FaithKids and Jr Youth are probably off school for Good Friday, right? Why not have them join us at Faith for a look at this important holy day of the church year. Sarah Courtney and Dineen Dowling will lead this session about Holy Week and preparation for Easter. Please RSVP with Dineen so we can plan. Thank you!



**Save the Date!**  
**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**June 17-21, 2024**

**In search of volunteers to make this a great week! Speak to Dineen or Sarah Courtney.**

**We're diving in!**



# Faith PRESCHOOL



## Registration

is open for the 2024-2025 school year! If you know someone who is searching for a preschool, please recommend Faith!

Our class offerings include:

**Mom, Dad & Me for 2 year olds**

**T/Th Class for 3 year olds**

**M/W/F Class for 3 year olds**

**M-Th Class for 4s/5s**

**M-Fr Class for 4s/5s**

**All Day M-Fr Class for 4s/5s**

Extended Care includes Lunch Bunch, Kids Club and Kindergarten Connection. More information is available online at [www.faithlutheranchurch.org](http://www.faithlutheranchurch.org)

Email for a Registration form:  
[preschool@faithlutheranchurch.org](mailto:preschool@faithlutheranchurch.org)

Or call 330-836-8827 to schedule a tour!

We are a wonderful, warm place to begin a lifetime of learning!



Space week at Faith Preschool is a fun time to learn about the planets and make a solar system display! Check out the downstairs classroom (Nursery/Meeting Room) to see the planets hanging from the ceiling! Our preschoolers made those!



Students practice Yoga in the Big Room (Fellowship Hall) to work on finding balance, breathing, moving their bodies into fun poses, and calming their minds. It is a great way to center ourselves so we can be ready to learn!

**In God we live and move and have our being. Acts 17:28**

## Growth & Learning

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Eric & Abby Jezewski  
Youth Leader & Co-leader  
330-836-8811/  
[faithlcyouth@gmail.com](mailto:faithlcyouth@gmail.com)

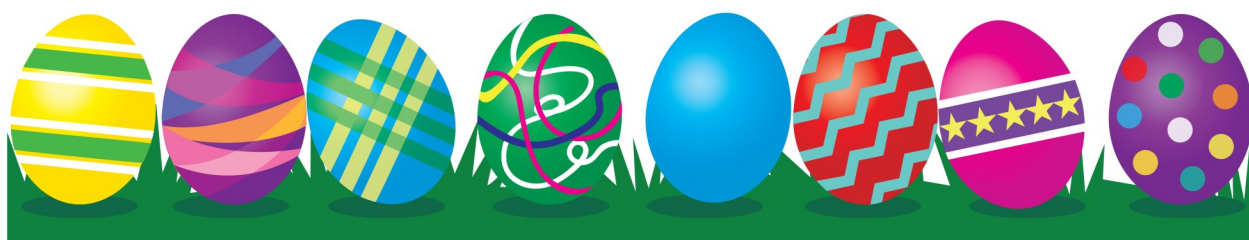
Our third confirmation Learning Saturday of the year was held on Saturday, February 3. All four of our 6th grade youth were in attendance. Parents of 7th grade youth, if you have questions about whether or not your child still needs to attend, please contact Eric or Pastor Jean!

On Sunday, February 11, we held a meatball sub fundraiser to benefit our youth and leaders who will be attending the National ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Thank you to all congregation members who supported this fundraiser!

All youth (and families) in grades 6-12 have been invited and encouraged to attend the upcoming Interfaith Justice Series. As mentioned in the email that went out to all families, this programming will replace our monthly Mid-Week Meal & More gatherings. It would be great to have a larger showing of our families and youth at these programs as they really are informative and educational. Its such a great opportunity to experience different styles of worship and to engage on issues that effect all of our youth and families daily!

All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join us on **Sunday, March 3 for a Meal, Movie and More!** There was a typo on the Youth Calendar that incorrectly had the date as March 6, which is a Wednesday night! We will meet immediately after second service for lunch and then head out to the theater for a movie. As always, you are more than welcome to bring a friend or two, just include them in your RSVP!

**All youth in grades 6-12 will gather on Saturday, March 30 for Easter Sunday Breakfast preparation from 8-10 a.m. at the church, and then again on March 31, after the first service to help serve/refresh the Easter breakfast.** The signup sheet for needed pastries and fruit will be sent via email again this year. We ask that all families please plan on donating some items needed, regardless of if you are in town or travelling! Thank you!



## Growth & Learning

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### **Third Thursday Bible Study** **Thursday, March 21** **10 a.m. in the Youth Room**

Third Thursday Bible Study will meet on Thursday, March 21, at 10 a.m. in the Youth Room at Faith. All women are invited.

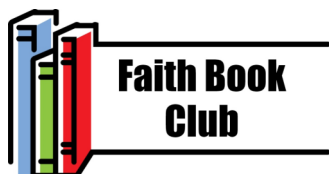
The theme revolves again around the study of the Holy Spirit. After viewing a video entitled *Five Incredible Things Happen* discussion will revolve around three of the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, and peace.

For questions contact Bonnie Janelle, 330.606.3230 or email at [janellebonnie@gmail.com](mailto:janellebonnie@gmail.com)

### **Men of Faith** **Bible Study and discussion group** **9 a.m. in the Youth Room** **March 16**



**Men of Faith, a Bible study and discussion group** meets the third Saturday of each month in the Youth Room. For more information contact Geoff Whidden, [geoffrey.whidden@gmail.com](mailto:geoffrey.whidden@gmail.com) or Karl Demuth, [karl-demuth@gmail.com](mailto:karl-demuth@gmail.com).



### **Faith Book Club's March Pick** **EVENING CLASS** **By Maeve Binchy**

It was the quiet ones you had to watch. That's where the real passion was lurking. They came together at Mountainview College, a down-at-the-heels secondary school on the seamy side of Dublin, to take a course in Italian. It was Latin teacher Aidan Dunne's last chance to revive a failing marriage and a dead-end career. But Aidan's dream was headed for disaster until the mysterious Signora appeared, transforming a shared passion for Italy into a life-altering adventure for them all . . . bank clerk Bill and his dizzy fiancé Lizzie: a couple headed for trouble . . . Kathy, a hardworking innocent propelled into adulthood in a shocking moment of truth . . . Connie, the gorgeous rich lady with a scandal ready to explode . . . glowering Lou, who joined the class as a cover for crime. And Signora, whose passionate past remained a secret as she changed all their lives forever. . . . From the New York Times bestselling author comes a novel filled with Maeve Binchy's signature warmth, wit, and sheer storytelling genius--a spellbinding tale of men and women whose quiet lives hide the most unexpected things. . . .

Did this introduction to *Evening Class* get your attention? Come and join the discussion on **Tuesday, March 19, at 2 p.m. in the Youth Room at Faith**. We can promise a lively discussion. If you have any questions, contact Steve Thompson or Marilyn Wilson; looking forward to seeing you.





## **In Our Prayers:**

### **Health Concerns:**

Tommy Gorman  
Faith member Tim Keeler  
Faith member Donna Manning  
Keith Nosel, spouse of staff member Annette Nosel  
Faith member David Sweval  
Faith member Terry Vernon

For Faith members Marian, Liane, Donna, Shirley, Martha, Jo-Ann and Ann who are in assisted living facilities, or receiving nursing care.

### **In Times of Loss:**

For Faith members David and Fedearia Sweval, and family, upon the unexpected death of Fedearia's sister, Freda, that they may be strengthened and comforted.

For the family and friends of Faith member Sally Hauth upon her death on February 18, especially her son Nick, that they may be comforted. A Memorial Service will be held at 1 p.m. on March 9 at Faith Lutheran Church.

### **Special Prayers**

As the Season of Lent begins, that through repentance and forgiveness we may draw closer to God and one another.

### **With Thanksgiving:**

For the Interfaith Justice Alliance and the congregations of Faith Lutheran, New Hope Baptist, Prince of Peace Baptist, St. Hilary Catholic and Temple Israel, as they come together on five Wednesdays in February and March, that relationships may be strengthened, and that all may grow in their commitment to justice.

### **QR Code Prayer Requests:**

For Paul and Amanda, that their marriage would be totally reconciled.

For Holly, that she may be strengthened, guided and comforted.

For Cynthia, that she may experience good health/restored health.

For Larry and his family, that they may experience good health/restored health.

For Chris, for strength, guidance, perseverance and comfort.






## Schedule to Serve

Date	Service	Altar	Communion	Flowers	Lay Reader	Ushers	Youth
<b>3</b>	9 a.m.	Dana Singer	David Weida - SE Linda Weigand - SE Nicole Vincent - SP Darlene Weaver -SP Karen Nevergall - B		Nicole Vincent	Linda Lewis Tim Lewis	<b>Acolyte:</b> Treader Anderson <b>Assistant:</b> Matthew Bauer
	10:30 a.m.	Deb Allen	Deb Allen			Geoff Whidden	
<b>10</b>	9 a.m.	Dana Singer	Linda Weigand - SE Corie Miller - SE David Weida -SP Fedearia Sweval - SP Sandy Selby - B		Hannah Kozee	Linda Lewis Tim Lewis	<b>Acolyte:</b> Cy Jezewski <b>Assistant:</b> Adam Schafer
	10:30 a.m.	Nancy Hooper	Nancy Hooper			Paula Lundell	
<b>17</b>	9 a.m.	Dana Singer	Karen Nevergall - SE Fedearia Sweval - SE Nicole Vincent -SP Dana Singer - SP David Weida - B		Art Kaufman	Linda Lewis Tim Lewis	<b>Acolyte:</b> Kaylan Hyter <b>Assistant:</b> Cayden Cloninger
	10:30 a.m.	Tana Fligor	Tana Fligor		Dana Singer	Kim Kennedy	
<b>24</b>  <b>Palm Sunday</b>  	9 a.m.	Dana Singer	John Weisend - SE Loralee Daily -SE Karen Nevergall - SP Fedearia Sweval -SP Polly Dobkin -B		Fedearia Sweval	Linda Lewis Tim Lewis	<b>Acolyte:</b> Elyse Vincent <b>Assistant:</b> Treader Anderson
	10:30 a.m.	Deb Allen	Deb Allen			Nancy Tobar	
<b>28</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b>  	7 p.m.	Dana Singer	Dineen Dowling - SE Em Antal - SE Tom Antal - SP Joe Antal -SP Karen Nevergall - B			Linda Lewis Tim Lewis	<b>Acolyte:</b>  <b>Assistant:</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Good Friday</b>  	7 p.m.	Dana Singer			Pr. Richard Weaver Pr. Sandy Selby	Linda Lewis Tim Lewis	
<b>31</b>  <b>Easter Sunday</b>  	9 a.m.	Dana Singer	Karen Nevergall - SE Fedearia Sweval - SE Nicole Vincent - SP Polly Dobkin -SP Dineen Dowling - B	Pastor Jean	Karen Nevergall	Linda Lewis Tim Lewis	<b>Acolyte:</b> Matthew Bauer <b>Assistant:</b> Cora Solberg
	11 a.m.		Dineen Dowling - SE Nancy Hooper - SE Deb Allen - SP Tana Fligor -SP Melissa Johnson - B		Dineen Dowling	Cathy Medlen	



## Calendar of Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8:30 a.m. Ribbon Festival 10:30 a.m. DLM 4:30 - 7 p.m. Scout Spaghetti Dinner
<b>3</b> 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Ed. 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound Youth Meal/Movie 7:30 AA	<b>4</b> 11:45 am Preschool Staff 6 p.m. Preschool Bd. 8 p.m. AA	<b>5</b> 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	<b>6</b> 5:45 p.m. Interfaith Justice Series - New Hope Baptist Church 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>7</b> 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 1 pm Sally Hauth Memorial Service & Interment, Fellowship
<b>10</b> 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Education 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 7:30 AA	<b>11</b> 8 p.m. AA	<b>12</b> 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	<b>13</b> 4:30 Outreach Advisory Team 5:45 p.m. Interfaith Justice Series - St. Hilary 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>14</b> 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 7 p.m. Digital Ministry 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	<b>15</b> 6 - 8:30 p.m. Preschool PJ Party	<b>16</b> 9 a.m. Men of Faith 10 a.m. First Communion Class
<b>17 Newsletter Deadline</b> 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Ed. 10 Congrega- tional Mtg, Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 7:30 AA	<b>18</b> 7 p.m. Congregation Council 8 p.m. AA	<b>19</b> 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 2 p.m. Book Club 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	<b>20</b> 5:45 p.m. Interfaith Justice Series - Prince of Peace 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>21</b> 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 3rd Thurs. Wom- en's Bible Study 10:30 a.m. SC Conference Clergy Mtg Noon - FFF 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 First Communion/ Palm Sunday</b> 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Ed. 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 7:30 AA	<b>25</b> 7 p.m. Gardeners of Gr. Akron 8 p.m. AA	<b>26</b> 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	<b>27</b> 5 p.m. Laundry Ministry 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>28</b>  10 a.m. Prayer Shawl <b>7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship Service</b> 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	<b>29</b>  <b>7 p.m. Good Friday Worship Service</b>	<b>30</b> 8 a.m. Easter Breakfast Prep. 10 a.m. Easter Choir Rehearsal
<b>31</b>  9 & 11 Sanctuary Worship Services 10 - 10:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast 7:30 AA						





Please visit our website.



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**Worship God. Grow in faith. Offer hope.**