

Faith Lutheran Church
1187 C.R. 128
Fremont, OH 43420-9797

MARCH
2025

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2025 Church Council

President: Dave Kocsis **Vice-President:** Marie Reiselt

Secretary: Laurie Krynock **Treasurer:** Ann Waggoner

Elders: Carol Trick, Amy Wagner

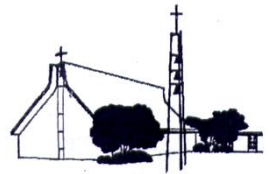
Trustee: A.J. Green

Deacon: Mike Fought

Endowment: Randy Koch, Larry Leow, Debra Clark, Mike Schneider, Roy Burgoon, Marie Reiselt, Pastor Tim Miller

The Messenger

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.faithfremont.org



MARCH 2025

From the Pastor's Desk...

Greetings children of God.

March is upon us, and so is the season of Lent. March 5th is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. The season of the year where we focus on our sins and all the ways we fell short of God's glory. The season of the year where we journey with Jesus to the cross, and his death, a death that should be ours. It's a solemn time. We don't like being wrong. We don't like making mistakes. We don't like being the sinful creatures that we are, and when we are faced with our sin, we withdraw into ourselves. When we are reminded of our sin, especially in such a tangible way as on Ash Wednesday when our foreheads are marked with a black, ashen cross, we can't help but feel the shame associated with our failures.

But March is also the time of rebirth. In the month of March, Spring begins. Days grow longer and nights grow shorter as our part of the world starts to awaken from its winter slumber. The bright green leaves of daffodils and tulips begin to break through the surface, and not long after that, the beautiful, vibrant flowers begin to bloom. It's a time of rebirth. This reminds us that Lent is a season that only lasts five weeks. And it reminds us that, as the Apostle Paul wrote, in Romans, "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." So, while our sins are before us, while we will spend the next several weeks reflecting on our shortcomings, while we will come before God with repentant hearts, we will also be able to rejoice.

And we are able to rejoice because of our baptism, our rebirth into Jesus. Yes, we are in the season of Lent, but we know the story. We know that Jesus died on the cross, was buried in the grave, and that he rose on the third day, leaving all our sins in the grave forever. And in our baptism, we have been washed clean of those sins. In our baptism, we have been claimed by God as his beloved children. In our baptism, we have been

made heirs with Jesus, and we have been connected to his death and resurrection, thereby giving us the gift of eternal life! Lent is an important time. It's imperative that we take this time to slow down, reflect on our lives over the last year, look at the areas where we fell short of God's glory, review our sinful moments, and come to God in honest repentance for what we've done. And then it's just as imperative that we give God thanks and praise for sending us a Savior who did what we couldn't do. With repentant hearts, we give thanks and praise to God for Jesus, crucified and risen for the world.

God's blessings,
Pastor Tim

OHIO SUMMER YOUTH RETREAT – Save the date: **June 29th-July 2nd**.

This year, there is going to be a statewide youth summer retreat at **Hopewood Pines (LMC)**, in Marengo, OH, which is about 1 1/2 hours south of us. This will include youth from all three synods. If you have a child that will be entering 6th grade through 12th grade next school year, they are eligible to attend.

The retreat will be from Sunday June 29 to Wednesday July 2. Check in is June 29 from 2:30-4:30 and check out is Wednesday July 2 at 1pm. There will be programming, worship, and campfires. And the youth will be able to sign up for activities like kayaking, low ropes, archery, climbing wall, hiking, ziplining, etc.

We would need at least 1 adult per every 10 kids, and it would be great to have 1 male and 1 female leader, but that's not an absolute. Each adult will need to have an updated background check done. The kids will be grouped together in cabins. I'm guessing by age but I do not have that information yet. **The deadline to register is tentatively set for May 31** but since the camp can only accommodate so many people at a time, the sooner we can register, the better. The cost is \$150 per youth and will be paid for by Faith Lutheran Church. Adult chaperones are free. If this is something your child would be interested in doing, or if you would be interested in being an adult chaperone for this, please let Pastor Tim know as soon as possible.



CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – FEBRUARY 18, 2025

* Finalized Dinner Church plans for Lenten services. A light meal will be served followed by a skit-based service followed by discussion opportunities.

* Reviewed annual congregational meeting including a discussion of the member response and ranking of proposed projects. Council will continue efforts to obtain information on the highest ranked projects which include handicap automatic door openers for entry doors, new exterior doors for the narthex and new entry way by fellowship hall to include ramp accessibility and awning.

* Discussed proposal to LIFT VBS inquiry that Faith will host 2025 VBS if it is acceptable to do in the mornings, due to lack of adequate air conditioning later in the day. LIFT will consider the needs of its prospective participants. If it is determined that VBS needs to be held in the evenings, then it will probably be hosted elsewhere.

* Faith has accepted a request to host the NWOH Synod's Affirmation of Vows for the rostered leaders of the Synod. Event is scheduled for April 15th. Faith will provide a hospitality team to assist with the event. Council members will be part of this team.

HERE ARE THE GUIDING STATEMENTS for Faith Lutheran Church.



Core Values –

F aithful fellowship

A ffirming worship

I ntentional service

T ransformative growth

H onoring tradition

Mission Statement – Equip all to become God’s agents of change in the world.

Vision Statement – A community freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Tagline – Gather, Grow and Go

Narrative Paragraph – At Faith Lutheran Church, we honor tradition by immersing people into faithful fellowship, affirming worship, intentional service, and transformative growth, to equip all to become God’s agents of change in the world, so all may gather, grow and go, creating a community freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

FAITH'S MISSION AND OUTREACH PROJECT FOR ATKINSON SCHOOL

TESTING WEEKS - We are continuing our partnership with Atkinson Elementary this year as the students in grades 3-5 approach state testing. The testing begins the last week in March and extends through the first week of May. The Faith Mission and Outreach Committee is again asking our congregation to help by purchasing snacks for the students during those testing weeks.

During the school day, many students eat their lunches earlier in the day and then require a snack later in the afternoon. Mr. Ward, the principal, said that the teachers often provide a small snack for the students to eat. Some of the snacks may include **PRETZELS, LANCE PEANUT BUTTER CRACKERS, GOLDFISH CRACKERS, FRUIT SNACKS, CHEEZ IT CRACKERS, and GRANOLA BARS**. These treats need to be in **single prepackaged units** for sanitary reasons.

A display will be set up in the narthex of our church showing the variety of items needed. A basket for monetary donations is also available if you would like us to do the shopping. Our committee is hoping to make its first delivery of items near the middle week of March.

I hope you will prayerfully consider joining us in this endeavor to support the staff and students of Atkinson Elementary. Thank you.

In Christian Love,

Randy J. Brown/ Project Coordinator

LIGHT SUPPERS FOR LENT 2025: Light suppers will be provided prior to the Lenten services on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., between Mar. 12th-Apr. 9th. **THANK YOU** to the following groups that have volunteered to provide a meal before the Wednesday Lenten services in the Fellowship Hall!

March 12	Faith Church Council
March 19	Both Adult Sunday School classes
March 26	Faith Fellowship Group
April 2	Faith Women of the ELCA
April 9	Christian Worship Committee

Many hands make light work. **Please join us and consider bringing a dish to share!** A sign-up sheet to assist these groups with additional salads, sides, and desserts will be posted on the bulletin board in the central gathering area for anyone who wishes to share their culinary talents.

Thank you for sharing with others your bountiful blessings from God!



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Dorothy Swedersky. Dorothy joined the church triumphant on Saturday, February 15, 2025.

THE YOUTH & GROWTH COMMITTEE is in need of a Sunday School Teacher for the 1st thru 3rd grade class. Thank you.

THE CHOSEN, SEASON 3

- The viewing of *The Chosen, Season 3* will begin in the Faith Lutheran Church **Sanctuary Wednesday, March 12th at 5 p.m.** and will continue Wednesdays at 5 p.m. through Lent (March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23rd (after Easter)).
- These episodes are longer therefore, there will not be time for a discussion.
- If you are interested in *The Chosen, 40 days with Jesus, Book Three* devotion, sign up on the bulletin board by Sunday, March 2nd. If you are interested in covering the cost, \$8.04 (as of 2/18/25) on your offering envelope line item to Christian Education.
- You can find *The Chosen* at a library or stream through Chromecast, Amazon Firestick, Apple TV, and Roku or TheChosen.tv/app for more information.

Questions should be directed to Cheryl Paeth at 419-205-3659.

SPAGHETTI DINNER to benefit St. Paul Veterans Memorial will be held, **Saturday, March 15th, from 4-6 p.m.** at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 541 S. Church Rd., Marblehead, OH. Dine in or carry-out for \$12 each. Dinner includes Spaghetti/meat sauce, Salad, Bread, Dessert and Drink. Raffle basket (\$2 per ticket or 6 for \$10), craft and bake sale tables, fellowship and fun!! Call the church office at 419-734-1662 for more information.

2025: THE YEAR OF LISTENING MEMORY VERSE: ISAIAH 55:3A

“Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live...”



THANK YOU – The Women of the Church would like to thank everyone who baked or bought delicious items at our February Bake Sale. We received \$500 to help out the sewing ladies with their quilt projects!

THANK YOU to my Faith Family for all the Birthday Cards and well wishes I received for my 90th Birthday. Ron Root.

THANK YOU to Pastor Tim and all of my friends at Faith for all the prayers, Christmas gifts and homemade candy. Thank You! Thank You! Love, Ruth Gerber.

DEAR FAITH FAMILY – Thank you for all the yarn donations! It will help keep me busy creating prayer shawls for your ministries. Sincerely, Ann Roth.

HELLO FAITH FAMILY – I am sending many thanks to you, the Women of the Church, for the cards, gifts and those Special Members who send cards every month. Thanks to the Elders and Pastor Tim for communion and to those Special Members who operate the computer for Sunday services, so we can attend services online. This means so much to me and many other members. Thanks again, as I feel very blessed. Yours in Christ, Joan Bolen.

TO MY FAITH FRIENDS I want to thank the women of Faith for all the visits all last year and for the Christmas present. The cross is so beautiful. Every time I look at it, I think of Denny. I really love it. The candy was real tasty. Thank you to Pastor Tim and Carol and Becky for bringing me communion this last year. Sorry this note is late. God Bless you all, Nancy Mylander.

THANK YOU for your generous gift of \$2,059.00 to ministries of the ELCA through ELCA Good Gifts. As a church, we are freed by the transformative life of Christ, and this freedom emboldens us to love and serve our neighbors just as Christ has shown us. Your gifts help people around the world feel the power of God’s love. Your Good Gift is a very good gift indeed. Through resources such as seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles and blankets, you equip God’s people – around the world and around the corner – with what they need to live abundant lives. Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you. With gratitude, Rachel Wind, Executive for Development, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



THE LENTEN DESERT

During the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year), Christians figuratively follow Jesus into the desert. Just as our Savior spent 40 days fasting and facing temptation, we focus on self-reflection and contrition.

In an 1873 hymn, Claudia Hernaman wrote, “O Lord, throughout these forty days, you prayed and kept the fast. Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.”

The desert experience of Lent serves a clear purpose, filling us up rather than depleting us.

“This is what Lent is meant to be,” writes theologian Ron Rolheiser. “Time in the desert to courageously face the chaos and the demons within us and to let God do battle with them through us. The result is that we are purified, made ready, so the intoxicating joy of Easter might then bind us more closely to God and each other.”

FASTING AND FEASTING

During Lent, consider this practical — and biblical — advice from Arthur Lichtenberger, a former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church:

- Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.
- Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.
- Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.
- Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.
- Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.
- Fast from pride, and feast on humility.
- Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.
- Fast from fear, and feast on faith.

RESTING IN JESUS

An old hymn declares:

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest.

Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”

I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad.

I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad. (Horatius Bonar, 1846)



Many people these days feel exhausted by division, the news, hatred that seems louder than love. More than ever, we who are “weary, worn, and sad” need to hear Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest.”

Jesus wants to be our resting place — but not so we can hide forever from reality. Instead, he offers a place of refreshment where we can relax long enough to remember that not everything is bad; there is gospel to share. Not everything is hatred; God’s love is stronger.

Resting in Jesus, we focus on God’s goodness. We are reminded of love shown by kind people to those in trouble, bold voices speaking for justice, warm friendships that brighten our days. Gladdened by rest, we rise again. Jesus walks with us, as always. We can lean on him every step of the way.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



ALTAR GUILD:

Expressing Gratitude to Judi Neill, Heidi Tooman and Ann Waggoner for your service on the Altar Guild last month, February - Thank You!

March's Altar Guild Members are Brianne Harder and Ginger Walker.

Ginger Walker - Altar Guild Chair



HERMAN FUNERAL HOMES GRIEF

SUPPORT, 900 North Street, Fremont.

Grief 101 with Stein Hospice will offer a bereavement support group free of charge to the public where you can find a safe space to

explore your grief, engage in discussions, or simply listen to shared experiences related to the loss of an adult loved one. Meetings are quarterly this year and will be held **Thursday, March 20, 2025 from 4-6 p.m.** RSVP by calling 419-332-7391 by March 17, 2025.

Refreshments provided.

NEW ADDRESSES:

Linda Woessner, Apt. 202, Otterbein Assisted Living, 20311 Pemberville Rd., Pemberville, OH 43450.

Minnie & Jamie Weber, 507 Brentwood Drive, Gibsonburg, OH 43431.

REMINDER... *When Sandusky County is under a Level 3 Snow Advisory the church will be closed. This includes Sunday services as well as all weekday events, meetings and activities for that day. If we are under a level 1 or 2 snow emergency, the church will be open and if it's on a day of worship, we will have worship.*

CHECK IN AT FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH! Faith has WiFi for everyone to use – find Faith (guest) and the password is: welcometofaith Be sure to like the Facebook **Faith Lutheran Church - Fremont, Ohio** page and keep up to date with all of the latest happenings.



FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE SEW DAY

Come out and join the fun. We meet the first and third Thursdays of the month and begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. but come and leave whenever you wish. We work on quilts, health kits and sewing kits. Greeting cards are made and are available for purchase in the Fellowship Hall for a donation. Come join the fun!



PRAYER CHAIN IS AVAILABLE FOR YOU!

Please remember that we have a working prayer chain ready and waiting to pray for you or your loved ones in whatever way you would like. Our prayer warriors will lift you up in prayer to receive God's Blessings. To request prayer or to be a prayer

warrior, please contact Barb Kocsis at 567-219-2603 or e-mail her at dbkocsis@gmail.com. Thanks.



PRAYER REQUESTS: Please contact the Church Office to include or continue an individual prayer request. Each prayer request will remain in the bulletin for 4 Sundays. At that time, you may contact the Office to continue. Thank you for your assistance.



NOISY OFFERING UPDATE –

“Change for Change” The Noisy Offering collected on February 16th, was \$83.89. The Noisy Offering is given so Children from our Companion Parish of Bumila Lutheran Church have the opportunity to attend school in the Mpwapwa Region. Thank you for your support of the children of our sister congregation in Bumila, Tanzania.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN NEWS

SAVE THE DATE: May 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Come with us to the home of President Hayes and First Lady Lucy Hayes. We will take a tour through the beautiful home and grounds. We will learn about the home and the 1700 trees. Some of the trees date back to before President Hayes time on the property. Hear about George Washington's tulip poplar seed and many more interesting facts. Touring the home is \$7 and the tour of the trees is \$10. Afterwards, we will go to lunch at a surprise destination. We look forward to seeing you on our adventure.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

The next FLCW Board meeting will be March 3rd, 2025 at 7 p.m.

LMC
at HopeWood Pines

49TH ANNUAL LMC
**MAPLE SYRUP
FESTIVAL**

**MARCH
9TH**

**11AM
TO 3PM**

Pancakes | Syrup Demos | Live Music

**Lutheran Memorial Camp
At HopeWood Pines**

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT "CAMPERSHIPS." HELP SEND A CHILD TO CAMP!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS - 2025

- 1-Anne Gerner
- 4-Rebecca Fox
- 5-Larry Ackerman, Carrienne Roberts
- 6-Meghan Reed, Pastor Tim Miller
- 8-Dianne Fought
- 10-Christian Tooman
- 11-Patsy Copley
- 14-Larry Hinline
- 16-John Neill
- 18-Andrew Tooman
- 19-Michael Fought
- 20-Lillian Harder
- 21-Jagger Frey
- 24-Randy Koch, Anna Norris, Matthew Reed
- 25-Shane Durnwald, Kyle Neill
- 27-Thomas Neill
- 30-Lincoln Johnson
- 31-Emily Riehle





Happy Anniversary!

Mar. 10, 1989	Terry & Susan Bolen	36 years
Mar. 14, 1985	Dorothy & Jerry Downing	40 years
Mar. 26, 2005	Kelly & Mike Masella	20 years
Mar. 28, 2008	Mark & Cheryl Paeth	17 years
Mar. 29, 2014	Jamie & Ryan Smith	11 years
Mar. 31, 2007	Steve & Brianne Harder	18 years

The "50" and Over Club - Happy Anniversary!

Mar. 4, 1960	Willis & Carnetta Weber	65 years
Mar. 11, 1967	Bill & Noelle Leutenegger	58 years
Mar. 20, 1971	Larry & Teri Hineline	54 years



A Birthday Card Shower is being given for those members age 90 and over whose birthdays are in March. Patsy Copley will be 92 on March 11th.

*Please send your birthday wishes to Patsy
At: Elmwood of Fremont
1545 Fangboner Rd., Room 512
Fremont, OH 43420*



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

1187 CR 128 Fremont, OH 43420

Please call the church office if you need
Pastoral Care.

Church Office: 419-332-6820

Pastor Tim Miller

E-mail: pastortim.L.miller@gmail.com

Church E-mail: faithchurch@amplex.net

Website: www.faithfremont.org

Facebook: Faith Lutheran Church-Fremont, Ohio

Office Hours:

Pastor's schedule – Monday thru Thursday

Secretary's schedule – Tuesday thru Thursday

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



Worship 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

Holy Communion Celebrated: Every Sunday

Newsletter Articles Due: 3rd Sunday of the Month

Core Values –

Faithful fellowship

Affirming worship

Intentional service

Transformative growth

Honoring tradition