

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

FEBRUARY  
2023

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## 2023 Church Council

**President:** Alexis Brickner      **Vice-President:** Niki Wasserman

**Secretary:** Annie Gazdecki      **Treasurer:** Cheryl Durnwald

**Elders:** Carol Trick, Becky Fox

**Trustee:** Ken Walker, Jr.

**Deacon:** Dave Ring

**Endowment:** Stan Moyer, Miranda Garlock, Phil Trick, Randy Koch, Larry Leow, Niki Wasserman, Pastor Tim Miller

# The Messenger

*Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
www.faithfremont.org



FEBRUARY 2023

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## From the Pastor's Desk...

Greetings children of God.

God can accomplish more through one simple act of obedience than the most talented leaders can accomplish in a lifetime on their own. As disciples, this is something we are called to do. The following article was written by J.D. Greear and he describes this part of discipleship.

“When I was in college, I was the leader of a small campus ministry. By small, I mean that there weren't more than 10 of us in the whole thing. We decided we wanted to host a big evangelistic event on campus. We booked the largest auditorium on campus and did all the usual promo—booked a local worship band, passed out fliers promising free hot dogs, etc. The day before the event, I had that huge knot in my stomach that always comes on the eve of massive, humiliating failure. (I've had enough failures in my life to know exactly what it feels like when one is moments away. It's like the ache in his bones my granddad used to get before a big rain.) Our leadership team was sitting in the school cafeteria working through the final details of our event. I was bracing myself and our team for the worst when I heard a small commotion coming from just over my left shoulder. I turned, and there on top of the table stood one of the girls on our leadership team. She was small, quiet and shy. But there she stood, stamping her foot and calling for the attention of all 400 to 500 people in the lunchroom. Yes, it was as awkward as you are imagining it.

“I'm sorry to interrupt your lunch,” she said, “but I wanted to invite all of you to an event we're hosting tomorrow night in the campus theater. One of our friends is going to share his story about how he came to know Jesus and tell you how Jesus can change your life, too. And we really want you all to be there because Jesus is the greatest thing in our lives. Please come.” And then she started to sit back down. “Oh, and

there will be free hot dogs,” she added. We all stared at her. She quietly resumed her lunch. “Uh, what was *that*?” I asked, glancing into her glass to see if someone had added in a little something interesting to her Diet Coke. “I’m not sure,” she said, “I just felt like the Spirit of God wanted me to do that.” I’m not saying that obedience to the Spirit means you start standing up on tables in public dining facilities. On the whole, I’d counsel against it. But I will tell you that more than 700 people showed up the next night, and 51 people made first-time professions of faith. God does his greatest works through small acts of obedience from seemingly insignificant people. Earlier this year I saw this happen at our church through a guy named “Derrick.”

Derrick got saved through the prison ministry at our church, and after being released from prison, he joined that ministry as part of the leadership team, going back into the same prison he once was held in. He hasn’t been able to get his license yet, so he takes a Lyft each week to church. On the way to church, he shared his testimony with the driver. The driver said that he had grown up a Muslim, but had recently had a series of dreams in which he thought Jesus might be speaking to him. When they pulled into our church’s parking lot, Derrick told him, “Listen—I think you need to come into church with me.” He did, and that night, when I gave an invitation, he came forward to profess his faith in Christ and be baptized. Because of the gift of the Holy Spirit, it’s not about the abilities you bring to the table, but the willingness you lay on the table. God doesn’t call the equipped; he equips the called. What makes you capable of extraordinary things is not extraordinary gifts, but an extraordinary willingness to be used by God. As D.L. Moody used to say, “The world has yet to see what God can do through one man or woman fully submitted to him.” Maybe you’re supposed to be “that one.”<sup>1</sup>

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Tim

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<sup>1</sup> <https://outreachmagazine.com/features/discipleship/60351-the-power-of-simple-acts-of-obedience.html>

**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.

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FROM JANUARY 17, 2023



- \*\* Annual Meeting Jan 29<sup>th</sup> between services
- \*\* Sponsoring Lent Meal March 1st
- \*\* Additional rider insurance coverage for outdoor sign
- \*\* Changed policy for all church activities to be canceled when Sandusky County is at a level 3 snow emergency
- \*\* Discussed upcoming projects



**THANK YOU** – I want to thank my Faith family for the Christmas gifts from the variety of groups. You all have blessed me with many thoughts, prayers, and well wishes. Thank You again and blessings to all for your thoughtfulness and kindness. Carnetta Weber.

Thank  
You!



**THANK YOU** for your Christmas Eve donation of \$320.00 to the Liberty Center. The funds will be used to provide safe shelter, nutritious meals, case management and life skills training to homeless individuals and families. Our goal is to assist our residents in breaking the cycle of poverty that some have experienced for years. Many of our residents have become self-sufficient, independent members of our community. In coming years, we expect to serve at least 130 homeless residents at the shelter. Thank you so much for supporting the Liberty Center and making a difference in the lives of the homeless individuals and families in Sandusky County.

**HERE ARE THE NEW GUIDING STATEMENTS - 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.

**LINDA WOESSNER’S NEW ADDRESS:** Apt. 728, Otterbein Senior Living, 20311 Pemberville Rd., Pemberville, OH 43450.

**DOROTHY SWEDERSKY’S NEW ADDRESS:** Elmwood Assisted Living, 1545 Fangbner Rd., Apt. 206, Fremont, OH 43420.

**SANDUSKY COUNTY SHARE AND CARE CENTER,** 129 Bidwell Avenue, Fremont, Ohio is open to the public to drop off donations or shop every Tuesday and Thursday from 10-7 p.m. and every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday from 10-3 p.m. They now have a second location – **Twice Blessed** – at 1209 Oak Harbor Rd., Fremont (next to the Key Bank building). Twice Blessed is open to shopping only (no donations accepted at this location) every Monday and Wednesday from 10-7 p.m. and every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday from 10-3 p.m.

**Armor of God / Unseen** study.

Papa God, we praise Your name in all events in our lives. Thank you for our deeper understanding of Your Armor You give to us, renewed daily. May we continue to put on our Belt of Truth and Breastplate of Righteousness. Let us continue to understand the Shoes of Peace that cover our walking in Your Ways. Amen.

|     |    | <b><u>“Armor of God” for Adults &amp; Teens</u></b> | <b>Adults</b> | <b>Teens</b> | <b><u>“Unseen” study for Children</u></b> |
|-----|----|---|---------------|--------------|---|
| Feb | 5  | Week 4, Day 3                                       | p. 106-112    | p. 110-115   |   |
|     | 12 | Week 4, Day 4                                       | p. 113-117    | p. 116-119   |   |
|     | 19 | Week 4, Day 5 + Digging Deeper                      | p. 118-121    | p. 120-123   | Meeting 5                                 |
|     | 26 | Shield of Faith<br>DVD 35:50 + Week 5               | p. 122-123    | p. 124-127   |   |



Why should we observe Lent? This 40-day season of repentance and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday has three important purposes. Lent helps us STOP, LOOK and LISTEN.

We observe Lent because it tells us to STOP and rest awhile — and to stop sinning. Lent tells us to LOOK inward for an honest self-examination, to look upward to see the cross of Jesus with healing and love, and to look forward to the hope of the Resurrection. And we observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN — to the voice of God, the words of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

STOP, LOOK and LISTEN! These commands that are so crucial for travel safety are also important for our journey through Lent.

**TRAVELERS:** We invite all of you to attend the **party potluck** for the 2023 announcement of the Faith Filled Travelers trips. We welcome anyone interested in traveling with us for this year. We have a very friendly, fun, adventuresome group of travelers who welcome new travelers and enjoy seeing returning ones. This event is from **3 – 6 pm on February 12, 2023** in the **Fellowship Hall**. We include pictures from last years' travels, announce the new trips for the year and then join in eating together while we enjoy each other's company. **Please RSVP** (419 307-1774) so I know how many to plan for. More information is available on the hall bulletin board and the coatroom bulletin board.

Please bring a **dish to share** for the potluck, **table service**, and **your beverages**. Also bring pictures you may have taken from our 2022 trips if you traveled with us. Look forward to seeing you there!

### **THE CHOSEN, SEASON I- DVD SERIES DURING LENT**

*The Chosen, Season 1* DVD series will be shown beginning Wednesday, March 1st at 5 p.m. sharp. Discussion will follow, if interested.

If you are interested in the 40 day devotion, *The Chosen, 40 days with Jesus, Book One*, sign up on the blue sheet on the bulletin board. The book is there if you'd like to look through it. We'll need to order these soon, **please sign up by January 29th**. If you are unable to sign up in the church, send Cheryl Paeth a text (419-205-3659) or email the church ([faithchurch@amplex.net](mailto:faithchurch@amplex.net)) with your name and # of books.

Invite friends and family members. If they want a devotional, sign them up, too.

*The Chosen* will continue through Lent and afterward, if there is interest.

### **TEEN ARMOR OF GOD STUDY**

This group is now **online** through an app named Band. Weekly questions are submitted for review and application of the Armor of God throughout life. Send Cheryl Paeth a text 419-205-3659 if you are interested in being linked into the Band app. Include your name in your text. Keep in God's word, teens. **God is good in all things, events, and your purpose**. Put on your Armor of God every day: Belt of Trust, Breastplate of Righteousness, Shoes of the Gospel, Shield of Faith, Helmet of Salvation, Sword of the Spirit, and *above all, prayer*.

## FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN NEWS

**2023 FLCW BOARD MEMBERS:** President: Barb Kocsis, Vice-President: \_\_\_\_\_, Secretary: Sarah Wilson, Treasurer: Marilyn Ring, Coordinator of Programming: Ginger Walker, Assistant Coordinator of Programming: Carol Trick, Coordinator of Fellowship and Service: Teri Hine, Assistant Coordinator of Fellowship and Service: Deb Fahle.

The next FLCW Board meeting will be  
February 6, 2023 at 7 p.m. in the Lounge.



### **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 this difficult and unprecedented time of uncertainty. Our prayer warriors will lift you up in prayer to receive God's Blessings. To request prayer, please contact Barb Kocsis at 567-219-2603 or e-mail her at [dbkocsis@gmail.com](mailto:dbkocsis@gmail.com). Thank you.



**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.

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

## **WHY GO TO CHURCH?**

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. He wrote: “I’ve gone for 30 years now, and in that time, I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can’t remember a single one of them. So, I think I’m wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.”

This started a real controversy in the “Letters to the Editor” column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

“I’ve been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!”

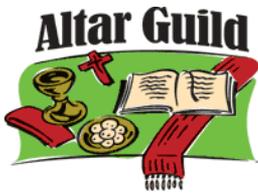
When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

**IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL,  
YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL!**

**B.I.B.L.E.** simply means: **Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!**

**FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE** – After the inventor of the Frisbee died in 2002, family members honored his final wish: to have some of his ashes molded into a flying disk! The point, according to toy legend “Steady Ed” Headrick, was for his loved ones to have fun playing with him even after he had passed. “He lived for Frisbee,” said his widow, and now he lives on in one.

Thankfully, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday aren’t cremains. But they do have special significance. They’re often made by burning branches from the previous year’s Palm Sunday celebration. By tying together seasons, the practice of receiving ashes reminds us of cycles: sin, repentance and forgiveness, plus life, death and resurrection — Jesus’ as well as our own.



**ALTAR GUILD:**

A BIG Thank You to Kim Smith and Brenda Tooman for giving special care to the Altar for the month of January. Your service is greatly appreciated.

February Altar Attendants are Judi Neill, Heidi Tooman and Ann Waggoner.

*Ginger Walker - Altar Guild Chair*



**FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE SEW DAY** Come out and join the fun. We are meeting 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 Lounge for a donation. Come join the fun!



**NOISY OFFERING UPDATE** –

***“Change for Change”*** The Noisy Offering collected on January 15th, was \$136.23. 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.

“Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day.”

—Sally Koch

“You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist.”

—Indira Gandhi

“To love another person is to help them love God.”

—Søren Kierkegaard

## **LIFT LENTEN DEVOTIONAL RESOURCE**

After receiving positive feedback on our Advent devotional resource, during Lent we plan to create another opportunity for folks from LIFT congregations to reflect and share. It will again be a printed resource and content shared on social media. The theme will be *Sing with All the Saints in Glory*. It is a chance to learn more about the saints who are commemorated in the church calendar during Lent, including Patrick, Joseph, Oscar Romero, and Sojourner Truth. Also, it is a chance for us to remember the saints in our lives and communities who have been faithful witnesses of God's love. Additionally, this topic builds on the year's theme for the ELCA Northwestern Ohio Synod—the year of Story. As we tell the story of Jesus, we encounter how God is at work in the lives of God's people. If you choose to write a submission, send a piece roughly between 200-400 words to Pastor Paul Bailie ([bailiepaul@gmail.com](mailto:bailiepaul@gmail.com)) by February 15 responding to this prompt: *What person in your life has shown you God's glory and love?* Maybe it's the person who taught you to pray or invited you to worship. Or perhaps someone who has modeled generosity and service. Or maybe an example of perseverance and faithfulness? We look forward to hearing your stories.

## **BRIDGE OF HOPE: open Wednesdays**

The Bridge of Hope food pantry, housed at Hayes Memorial United Methodist Church has added hours—Wednesdays from 10-11:30 AM. This is in addition to the current schedule of Mondays from 5-6:30 PM and Thursdays from 10-11:30 AM. Donations are needed especially for, rice, canned meats, green beans, canned soups, tomato sauce, spaghetti sauce, pasta, macaroni and cheese, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, chips, corn, ravioli, peas, powdered drinks, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, canned fruit, pancake mix, syrup, canned chili, canned beans, cooking oil, diapers (all sizes), baby wipes, pullups, tissues, tooth brushes. For more information about Bridge of Hope, contact Annie at (419) 463-2683.

## **WHAT'S NEW AT EMMANUEL?**

Beginning this Thursday, Jan.12 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, we are beginning a new opportunity for fellowship called "DROP IN FOR COFFEE AND A DONUT." This is meant to be a casual time of conversation or discussion of topics meaningful to you and sharing of spiritual resources you have found helpful. If you are looking to being more active, walking in our spacious parking lot is a possibility. The possibilities are endless. All are welcome! Coffee and donuts will be supplied!

**BACKPACKS:** LIFT continues with the backpack meal program at Lutz Elementary School. We are thankful for all the generous donations, especially now with an overabundance of fruit snacks, granola bars, cookies, popcorn, and sandwich crackers. However, going into the new semester, there is a special need for cold cereals, to-go peanut butter, Ramen noodles, applesauce, fruit cups, pudding cups, pasta cups, and chicken noodle soup with pop-top lids. Look for black baskets at LIFT congregations. Make checks out to LIFT, with Backpacks in the memo.

**DRIVE-THRU ASHES:** On Ash Wednesday (February 22nd), pastors from LIFT congregations will be available for distribution of ashes in the parking lot of Grace Lutheran Church (705 W. State) from 12-5 PM. Many of our congregations will also offer in-person worship that day. This drive-thru option is designed to help us be visible in the community and to offer safer worship opportunities.

**LOVE ACES THE TEST** – Author Adele Calhoun describes life as “our ‘open-book’ test on love.” How can we ace it? In *Invitations From God*, she points out that daily decisions are the make-or-break factors: “Day in and day out as we plan, work, produce, commute and relate, we make life-altering choices to either love or neglect others.”

For another study guide, reflect on St. Augustine’s timeless words: “What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of [people]. That is what love looks like.”

# BRING HOPE TO OUR SCHOOLS

*We're in this together*

Today's school students are carrying many burdens. The challenges teachers and staff face continue to increase. Bullying and safety are very real concerns in virtually every school.

*Is there hope for our schools?*

There most certainly is. And we believe the key is prayer.

At **Keep Watch**, you will find resources to equip and mobilize your community to pray in your local schools, with the confident expectation that God will move and bring change.

God is the only true source of hope for our world and only He can bring transformation. As we invite Him to do so through simple, non-intrusive prayer walks, God brings hope to our schools.

The vision for the Keep Watch movement is that our cities and communities are transformed, with our schools at the epicenter of that change.

Our job is simple: get equipped and join the movement. God will do the rest.

**A MOVEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY  
PLEASE JOIN US AND VOLUNTEER!**

*Find out more about Keep Watch and to register go to:  
[keepwatchprayer.org](http://keepwatchprayer.org)*





## *FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS - 2023*

3-Lilly Riehl

6-Mary Burmeister, Steven Fox, Michael Roach, Sr.

7-Ronald Root, Evan McBride

8-Matthew Reed

9-Karly Paeth

12-Knox Frey

13-Robert Krumnow, Lauren Gazdecki

15-Marcia Ackerman, Justin Reed, Jacqueline Seibert

16-Bonnie Overmyer, Sadie Pollard

18-Martha Wise

19-Mark Paeth

21-James Nord

22-Amanda Conti, Minnie Weber, Cheryl Paeth

23-Barb Gormley

27-Peggy Koch

### *The "50" and Over Club - Happy Anniversary!*

|               |                       |          |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Feb. 6, 1960  | Kenneth & Gloria Root | 63 years |
| Feb. 8, 1953  | Ronald & Nancy Root   | 70 years |
| Feb. 26, 1965 | Gil & Pat Root        | 58 years |

# 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](mailto:pastortim.L.miller@gmail.com)

Church E-mail: [faithchurch@amplex.net](mailto:faithchurch@amplex.net)

Website: [www.faithfremont.org](http://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.



Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> – May 2023

Worship 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time at 9 a.m.

Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

Holy Communion Celebrated: Every Sunday

Newsletter Articles Due: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month

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## Core Values –

F aithful fellowship

A ffirming worship

I ntentional service

T ransformative growth

H onoring tradition