

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

MARCH
2021

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2021 Church Council

President: Annie Gazdecki **Vice-President:** Niki Wasserman
Secretary: Dianne Fought **Treasurer:** Alexis Schneider
Elders: Randy Brown, Becky Fox
Trustee: Ken Walker
Deacon: Dave Kocsis
Endowment: Randy Koch, Stan Moyer, Mike Schneider, Scott
Miarer, Miranda Garlock, Niki Wasserman,
Pastor Tim Miller

The Messenger

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.faithfremont.org



MARCH 2021

From the Pastor's Desk...

Greetings children of God.

We are in the season of Lent, during which repentance is one of our main focuses, but what is repentance anyway? The blog Lutheran Lenses describes it well.

“In both the Old and New Testaments, the Scriptures speak about the importance of repenting. But what is repentance, anyway? Does repenting mean the same thing as being sorry for our sins? Does repenting mean the same thing as confessing our sins? Does repenting mean trying to make things right? The doctrine of repentance is frequently misunderstood by Christians. And, what a shame that is since repentance is such an integral part of our faith! Thankfully, one may gain significant insight into what repentance really is, and how it works, by studying 2 Corinthians 7:10 - ***“Godly sorrow produces repentance, which leads to salvation, leaving no regret. On the other hand, worldly sorrow produces death.”***”

Let's start at the beginning. Many people think that “godly sorrow” means being sorry because they love God. However, this passage of Scripture makes it clear that sorrow and repentance are not the same thing at all! Instead, godly sorrow *PRODUCES* repentance. Furthermore, godly sorrow isn't something that you and I can produce ourselves. *Only God can produce “godly sorrow”* which means that *only God can produce true repentance.*

Honestly, it's a horrible corruption of Christian doctrine to tell an alarmed sinner that he must first be sorry enough or repentant enough

BEFORE God will forgive him.¹ To expect someone to be sorry enough or to expect that person to go ponder what he or she has done so that they can change their own hearts in the hope that God will forgive them or so that they will escape punishment is, quite frankly, to cause the “worldly sorrow that can only produce death”.

If we could ever be sorry enough to be forgiven, then we wouldn't need Jesus. If we could repent in our own strength, and thus be forgiven, then the cross was useless. If our confession was all that was required, there would be no need for the Gospel. You and I can be sorrier for what we've done than any person in the history of the world. But on our own, all that sorrow will do is drag us deeper and deeper into despair with no hope of recovery. That is very much the worldly sorrow that produces death. Therefore, we must not imagine that repentance is a “good work” that we somehow do. Not at all! Repentance is something that God works in us.

In his Word, God gives us both Law and Gospel. We really like to focus on the Gospel! But we should recognize that we have the Gospel because of the law, which is still active, even in the New Testament, and which is very much at work in our lives. Martin Luther once wrote that the Law is the thunderbolt of God (SA 111:3, 2). It's through the Law that God reveals our true sinful state, the true afflictions of our heart and the fear of the death that you and I very much deserve. God, through his Law, then leads us to confess our sins. Our confession is nothing more than our acknowledgement that God is right and that we are not. Our confession is to agree with God's verdict: that we are guilty and that we are in bondage to sin and death and we can do absolutely *nothing* to free ourselves. But even our confession is not what saves us.

As such, God's Law then produces a godly sorrow in us; the realization that we are dead. Once God has produced godly sorrow in us, it is God and God alone who produces true repentance in us. To repent is to change. And, for the record, any attempt to do so on our own will fail

¹ Walther, C.F.W. In *Law & Gospel: How to Read and Apply the Bible*, edited by Charles P. Schaum, John P. Hellwege, Jr., and Thomas E. Manteufel, translated by Christian C. Lewis. Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2010, pg. 264.

100% of the time. We cannot change our hearts in our own strength. Not even a little bit. We are powerless to change our trajectory and turn ourselves toward God. We are powerless to fix or change anything about our spiritual condition at all!

Now, it should be noted that while the Law brings death, the Law is also a gracious gift from God because it is only under God's Law that we finally realize how much we truly need to be saved by him! This is the very core of the repentance that God works in us. Simply put, the Law is what points us to the Gospel. And, it is only then, when we finally experience that godly sorrow which produces true repentance – the knowledge that we need to be changed and that only God can change us – that God enables us to truly receive the sweet, sweet consolation of the Gospel. Thus, godly repentance leads to salvation. And, salvation is 100% Gospel!

The Gospel is God's pure gift to you! Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God, in his great love for you, has chosen to be merciful and gracious to you. It is through the Gospel that we hear God's words of absolution, through which he personally declares to you that you *are* forgiven of all your sin – ALL of it! Everything that you were guilty of under the Law has been washed away by the Gospel, washed away by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. It is through the Gospel that God reaches down and pulls you out of your pit of despair, lifts you up from your place of sorrow, quenches your thirst, refreshes your soul, creates a new heart in you, floods you with his peace, makes you his own holy and blessed child and ultimately sets you free.

Thank the Lord that our repentance isn't left up to us anymore than our salvation is. We can do neither on our own, nor can we contribute to either in any way. But God has worked both your repentance and your salvation so that you will have life! This is not at all by your own doing, but is the gift of God for you."²

With the love of Christ,
Pastor Tim

² <https://lutheranlenses.com/2020/09/11/what-is-repentance-anyway/>

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – FEBRUARY 18, 2021

- Alexis Schneider reported to council that we are running in the black
- Elders have added Bob & Janet Schneider and Bob Goehring to the list of people to visit
- Ken Walker reported for the trustees that things are moving in the right direction and getting things done.
- Both boilers were serviced and set up for yearly maintenance.
- Changing council time- 6:30pm Executive Council and 7pm Council

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PROPERTY COMMITTEE. We are looking for people who want to share their time and talents maintaining the church and parsonage properties. We can use plumbers, electricians, painters, carpenters, landscape artists, project leaders, helpers and others on our team. We especially need a person who is available during the day who can perform minor repairs, get quotes, and work with visiting contractor(s). If this sounds like something for you, or you would just like to help, please call or text **Trustee Ken Walker at 567-201-6537.** We will be having our second meeting of the year on **Tuesday, March 9th at 7pm.** All are welcome to attend. Give it some thought, and a prayer.



ONLINE GIVING: We are excited to offer the ability for people to give online through Tithe.ly. You can do this one of two ways. You can logon to our website at <https://www.faithfremont.org> and click on the "Give" button or, if you have a smart phone, you can download the app for Tithe.ly and give through that. You can choose to give a "one time" gift or you can select "recurring".



ALTAR GUILD:

A Big Thank You to Judi Neill, Heidi Tooman, and Ann Waggoner for giving special care to the Altar for the month of February. Your service is greatly appreciated.

March Altar Attendants are Bonnie Overmyer, Denny & Deb Fahle.

Thank You to the special person(s) who donated the red carnations that were given to each member/visitor at the February 14th worship service. It was such a wonderful Valentine surprise - Thank You

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 February 21st was \$76.49. 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.



As we celebrate the Word made Flesh, we also celebrate
God's Gift of Scripture.

Please join us in 2021, as we read through the entire **New Testament in Chronological Order**. Not Matthew to Revelation, but James to Revelation. You may be surprised to know that many of the New Testament Letters were composed before the Gospels were written.

<u>MARCH 1</u>	ROMANS 12
<u>MARCH 2</u>	ROMANS 13
<u>MARCH 3</u>	ROMANS 14
<u>MARCH 4</u>	ROMANS 15
<u>MARCH 5</u>	ROMANS 16
<u>MARCH 6</u>	PHILEMON
<u>MARCH 7</u>	COLOSSIANS 1
<u>MARCH 8</u>	COLOSSIANS 2
<u>MARCH 9</u>	COLOSSIANS 3
<u>MARCH 10</u>	COLOSSIANS 4
<u>MARCH 11</u>	EPHESIANS 1
<u>MARCH 12</u>	EPHESIANS 2
<u>MARCH 13</u>	EPHESIANS 3
<u>MARCH 14</u>	EPHESIANS 4
<u>MARCH 15</u>	EPHESIANS 5
<u>MARCH 16</u>	EPHESIANS 6
<u>MARCH 17</u>	MARK 1
<u>MARCH 18</u>	MARK 2
<u>MARCH 19</u>	MARK 3
<u>MARCH 20</u>	MARK 4
<u>MARCH 21</u>	MARK 5
<u>MARCH 22</u>	MARK 6
<u>MARCH 23</u>	MARK 7
<u>MARCH 24</u>	MARK 8
<u>MARCH 25</u>	MARK 9
<u>MARCH 26</u>	MARK 10:1-31
<u>MARCH 27</u>	MARK 10:32-52
<u>MARCH 28</u>	MARK 11
<u>MARCH 29</u>	MARK 12
<u>MARCH 30</u>	MARK 13
<u>MARCH 31</u>	MARK 14:1-11



A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR LOVING FAITH FAMILY. Your prayers, cards, phone calls and goodies after my knee surgery are so greatly appreciated. I also wanted to thank the women of the church for the lovely flowers. I'm healing well and am eager to get back to doing my part in the ministry of Faith. Love and blessings to each of you. Noelle Leutenegger.

THANK YOU for partnering with us to serve the homeless. Your Christmas Eve donation of \$947.00 is very much appreciated and will help us to continue serving those in need. The funds will be used to provide three meals a day, safe shelter, and case management services to assist our residents in becoming self-sufficient and independent members of the community. Once again, thank you for your support. Sincerely, The Liberty Center.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN NEWS

The next meeting of the FLCW Board will be in the Lounge on Monday, March 1st, at 7 p.m. Thank you.

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.

FAITH FILLED TRAVELERS

Happy 2021 and the New Normal Year,

Just sending a note to all who have been associated with Faith Filled Travelers for a while to let you know where we are for trips for 2021. If you have received this note and have others with whom you associate that do motorcoach travel, check to see if they have gotten this letter. I have sent this to those that remain on my email list – for those you know that have not received this, tell **them to send or call their new email address** to me. If I do not hear from them, they will not receive updates. If you received this note and are not interested in travel with us anymore, let me know and I will remove you from the list.

Here is the latest update:

I have **5 trips** planned for this year – **3 are day trips** and **2 are multi-day trips**. I cannot tell you any more about the trips since they are not even priced yet. That is the reason you are hearing nothing – I have not even receive any answers back from the attractions/businesses/locations since everywhere they are having questions about their own stability (“Will we be open in another couple of months or will we be closed?” “Will we need to raise our prices **or** can we lower them to enable more people to travel **or** can we afford to keep them the same?” “Will we be closed by the governor or mayor of our city?”, etc.) I can understand their reasons for not confirming with us, but I cannot contact any of you either so you can make plans.

Last week, I heard back from one of the day trips for the summer which resulted in a question that has not been answered back to me yet - so I will let you know about that one as soon as I have my return answer.

Frequently Asked Questions

Are you having trips in 2021 and when will I hear about them? *Yes, and you will find out about them as soon as I get the information.*

Are we going to have a potluck and 'reveal' like other years? *No. This is not a normal year like the others and we would be over the allowable limit in numbers and what we do with serving food to a crowd would not be allowed.*

Will I be notified about the trips that are being offered? *Yes. If you received this letter, you will receive the information unless you ask to be removed from this list.*

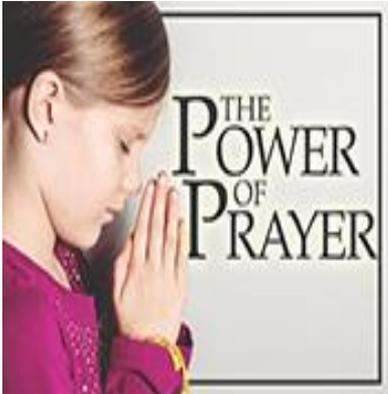
I sought out information on the 5 trips back in September 2020 and still cannot put out information about them. I remain cautiously optimistic about the possibility of trips, but will continue to listen to the governor, the Center for Disease Control and recommendations from local health boards. Everyone's health and safety is the important thing to remember.

Blessings,

Yvonne Vogel

rayvon9607@att.net

419 307-1774



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. 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.

HOSPITAL VISITS: Please remember to call the church office (419-332-6820) if you or a loved one is admitted to the hospital. The hospitals no longer contact the churches or publish a list, so we depend on your help. Thank you for your understanding and assistance.

NEWS FROM SANDUSKY COUNTY SHARE AND CARE CENTER

This pandemic has put us in a huge need for volunteers. We have hired some employees because of the lack of volunteers. We have been open on Thursdays until 7 pm for almost a full year now. In April, we will be increasing our hours on Tuesdays until 7 pm as well. This opens an opportunity for volunteers that work during the day and who have always wanted to help. Volunteers are welcome to come for a few hours or the entire shift. You are also welcome to bring snacks and we always have water/drinks available for them. We appreciate and **NEED** all volunteers that we can get! You are welcome to volunteer anytime.

Share and Care is open to anyone that would like to shop! Our prices remain the same; T-shirts .25, long sleeve shirts .50, pants \$1 and jeans \$2. Name brand items may be priced higher.

Need a service project? You could take one of our Saturdays and provide a crockpot of soup, some sandwiches, or snacks for our shoppers. Most shoppers are not attending church.

We are still amazed after serving the community for 30 years that some people still do not know about us! Why should you help at the center?

1. Because we help many in our community with very low-priced items for their homes.
2. We help the homeless by providing clothing and necessities.
3. We give items away at no cost in need situations.
4. We pay for utilities, rent, gasoline, hygiene items and other needs for people with demonstrated needs.
5. Everyone that comes into the center for assistance fills out a budget worksheet and we encourage them to be good stewards of their resources.

Please remember that we never take televisions, large exercise items, encyclopedias, broken/dirty items or pianos/organs. We are not allowed to take some baby equipment, cribs, activity centers, highchairs, car seats, etc. We **NEVER** take mattresses.

We take furniture, but it **MUST** be in good condition and be from a non-smoking home. It is difficult to give out stained/torn chairs or couches. We sanitize any item that has stuffing

Nothing is ever allowed to be left outside of the center. We have a donation bin that can be used for clothing items. However, breakables need to be brought in while the center is open. For a special time to drop off items, we ask you to call in and make that arrangement with us. We are happy to meet people outside of our open hours.

Center Regular Hours:

Tuesdays 10 am – 3 pm (In April, open until 7 pm)

Thursdays 10 am – 7 pm

First Saturday of Each Month 10 am – 3 pm

Third Saturday of Each Month 10 am – 3 pm

Location: 129 Bidwell Avenue, Fremont, OH 43420

Phone #419-334-2832

Like us on Facebook: Sandusky County Share and Care Center (please follow and share our posts).

Thank you for all you do and for your church's part in this ministry.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely, Lynette Kirsch, Executive Director



A BREATH OF FRESH PRAYER

Norwegian theologian Ole Hallesby described prayer as simply letting God into our lives. God “knocks,” he said, “not only in the solemn hours of secret prayer” but “in the midst of your daily work, your daily struggles, your daily grind ... when you need him most.”

Prayer, added Hallesby, is as essential to life as air. “As impossible as it is for us to take a breath in the morning large enough to last us until noon, so impossible is it to pray in the morning in such a way as to last us until noon,” he said. “Let your prayers ascend to [God] constantly, audibly or silently, as circumstances throughout the day permit.”



MARCH BIRTHDAYS - 2021

- 1-Anne Gerner
- 3-Barb Chovanec
- 4-Rebecca Fox, Nancy Roach, Julieanne Smith, Diana Thompson,
- 4-Ashley Ward
- 5-Larry Ackerman, Carrienne Roberts
- 6-Pastor Tim Miller, Lorna Overmyer, Meghan Reed, Abigale Stover
- 7-Matthew Willey
- 8-Dianne Fought
- 10-Sandra Schneider, Christian Tooman, Adele Wagner
- 11-Pat Copley
- 14-Larry Hinline
- 16-John Neill
- 18-Andrew Tooman
- 19-Mike Fought
- 20-Lillian Harder
- 21-Kayla Johnson, Adam Wagner
- 22-Rev. Daniel Mohr
- 24-Randy Koch, Anna Norris, Matthew Reiselt
- 25-Shane Durnwald, Kyle Neill, Lori Sherman
- 27-Thomas Neill
- 28-Heather Ring
- 30-Lincoln Johnson
- 31-Emily Riehle



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

March 10, 1989	Terry & Susan Bolen	32 years
March 14, 1985	Dorothy & Jerry Downing	36 years
March 26, 2005	Kelly & Mike Masella	16 years
March 29, 2014	Jamie & Ryan Smith	7 years
March 31, 2007	Steven & Brianne Harder	14 years

The "50" and Over Club - Happy Anniversary!

March 4, 1960	Willis & Carnetta Weber	61 years
March 11, 1967	William & Noelle Leutenegger	54 years
March 20, 1971	Larry & Teri Hinline	50 years

2021: THE YEAR OF GENEROSITY MEMORY VERSE

**Matthew 6:21: "For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also".**

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 schedule – Tuesday thru Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship Service:
9:00 a.m.

Holy Communion Celebrated: Every Sunday
There is no Sunday School at this time.

Newsletter Articles Due: 3rd Sunday of the Month

Mission Statement:

*Faith Lutheran Church exists to gather the people
to worship and praise God, to equip them in faith,
and to send them into the world to make a difference in
His name.*