

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

MAY  
2024

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## 2024 Church Council

**President:** Niki Wasserman   **Vice-President:** Dave Kocsis

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

**Elders:** Becky Fox, Carol Trick

**Trustee:** A.J. Green

**Deacon:** Dave Ring

**Endowment:** Phil Trick, Randy Koch, Larry Leow, Debra Clark,  
Mike Schneider, Dave Kocsis, Pastor Tim Miller

# The Messenger

*Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
www.faithfremont.org



MAY 2024

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## From the Pastor's Desk...

Greetings children of God.

No Farm, No Food. This popular statement is most certainly true. In Northwestern Ohio, as in most states, farming is a way of life for many who sit in the pews of area churches. As the Church, let's take the time to honor and celebrate this important work. How can the Church assist farmers during the planting season? Rogation Days is an ancient church blessing of farms, farm animals, and farm equipment, around the time of Ascension Day, which is 40 days after Easter. The word rogation comes from the Latin verb *rogare*, meaning "to ask", which reflects the beseeching of God for protection from calamities. As the Book of Common Prayer puts it: "Rogation Days are the three days preceding Ascension Day, especially devoted to asking for God's blessing on agriculture and industry."

Since mediaeval times there's been a tradition of "beating the bounds" of the parish, praying for God's blessing upon the crops and thus the well-being of that particular settlement. It's still observed by some parishes today, with a procession, prayers, and a sharing of hope in God's goodness to nourish every endeavor which enables people to flourish. The Sixth Sunday of Easter (the fifth Sunday after Easter Sunday) is traditionally known as "Rogation Sunday" in the Church of England's calendar of festivals. This is because the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the following week are known as the "Rogation Days," days for fasting and prayer. The Thursday of that week is the feast of the Ascension, which comes on a Thursday, the 40th day after Easter (when Easter Sunday is counted as the 1st day). Rogation invites people to ask for blessings, for a particular place; for all its inhabitants; for every endeavor to promote the common good. It's totally inclusive, joining everyone in seeking sustenance and a commitment to play their part in its provision.

Starting in Europe during the time of the Reformation, church leaders would bless the ground, and animals that would provide the food at the fall harvest. Many congregations in our synod celebrate Harvest days in the fall; we should also do the same at the beginning of the cycle of planting, growing, and feeding what will produce that harvest in the fall. I have heard several parishioners make the comment that their grandfather never planted a seed until after Ascension Day. This idea certainly comes from the European tradition of Rogation Days. While times have changed and planting is dictated by different metrics, receiving the gift of God's blessing for the creation of food for God's people, is a metric that is timeless.

In keeping with this tradition, let us bless our farmers, their fields, livestock, and equipment... Almighty God, we thank you for making the earth fruitful, so that it may produce what is needed to sustain our life. Bless those who work in the fields, bless their equipment, and bless their livestock; give us seasonable weather for planting, bless the seed that is sown that it will grow strong and produce a good yield, and grant that we may all share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God's blessings.  
Pastor Tim



### **CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – APRIL 16, 2024**

- Youth CD to be used to rehab current basketball court and be more of a multi-purpose space.
- Worship Screen Team is working on gathering information from multiple companies.
- A new TV will be placed in the fellowship hall to be used for meetings, gatherings, etc. to replace the pull-down screen to be seen better.



**KIERSTEN REISELT RECEIVED FIRST COMMUNION ON APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

Kiersten is the daughter of Marie Reiselst and granddaughter of Mike & Margie Roach.



**GET ON BOARD!**

**FAITH FILLED TRAVELERS TRIPS**

**Faith Filled Travelers** news is basically the same – we need more people so get those traveling shoes ready to join us and have fun and adventure.

All trips can take more passengers, **but three trips NEED more passengers** to be contracted and the cut off time will soon be upon us.

**Sites of Toledo & Area** (day trip) – needs **9** people.

**West Virginia – *almost heaven*** – (multi-day trip) needs **7** people.

**Daniel and Much More** – (multi-day trip) needs **1** person

Trip descriptions are on the boards in the coatroom & Fellowship hallway area. Please feel free to take whatever you are interested in and I will replace them. Any questions – call **419 307-1774**. Yvonne Vogel



**THE SCHEDULES FOR OUR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES** are in the office on the shelf. Please consider attending and supporting our youth. Thanks.

## **QUOTES**

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.”

—Anne Bradstreet

\* \* \*

“None can believe how powerful prayer is, and what it is able to effect, but those who have learned it by experience.”

—Martin Luther

## **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.



**THANK YOU TO MY CHURCH FAMILY** for all your prayers, thoughts, cards, and phone calls during my recent hospital stay. A special "Thanks" to Pastor Tim for visiting me and praying with me. Also a "Thank You" to Faith Church Women for the beautiful flower given to me. You all are "very special" and it is so comforting to know and to feel the love you all share with others! In Christian Love - Ruth Ann Seibert

**DEAR FAITH FAMILY,** You made my baptism such a special and memorable event! Thank you to Pastor Tim for taking the time to meet with me and for assembling a beautiful service. Additional thanks go out to everyone who helped me prepare for this day. I appreciate you all welcoming me into the church, and I am excited to continue this journey together with you as your sister in Christ! Blessings, Betty Nielsen

**THANK YOU FAITH FAMILY** for all the prayers, concern, phone calls and texts during my illness in Florida and since we've been home. A special thank you to Pastor Tim for checking on me throughout our time there. Your prayers made all the difference. Den Fahle

**I'D LIKE TO THANK** the women of the church for the very nice Christmas gifts. We had a wonderful visit with Marilyn Ring. Thank you to Pastor Tim for his visits and bringing us communion. We also appreciate all the cards sent to us by various members of our Faith Family. We so look forward to getting them. Thank you! Bob and Janet Schneider

**A BIG THANK YOU** to the Handbell Choir and Senior Choir for their recognition of my recent retirement complete with ballons and sweets. Thank you all for the cards and well wishes and hugs too. I have a tremendous amount to be thankful for and I am, as there was a time I was afraid I was not going to be able to work and I am humbled that I am able to retire. Thank you again, Martha Wise

**DEAR FRIENDS OF FREMONT CITY SCHOOLS:** At its regular meeting the Fremont City Schools Board of Education accepted your donation of mints and snacks for testing to Atkinson Elementary School. Your involvement in our schools is a positive step in making good schools even better. We are extremely fortunate to have supporters, such as you, who are willing to share their talents and resources with our students. You are a blessing to us! Thank you! Jon C. Detwiler, Superintendent of Schools



**ALTAR GUILD:**

A BIG Thank You to Sandie Reed and Sarah Wilson for giving special care to the Altar for the month of April. Your service is greatly appreciated.

An additional Thank You to Lillian Harder who gave special care to the Altar for the month of March. Your service is greatly appreciated. My apologies for omitting Lillian's name from last month's newsletter.

May Altar Attendants are Margie Roach and Marie Reiselt.



**Altar Flowers**

I would like to Thank ALL who purchased flowers for Easter Sunday. Our Sanctuary looked and smelled amazingly beautiful with a record 70 Lilies, Tulips, Daffodils, and Hyacinths.. Also, Thank You Sandie for the additional beautiful arrangements on the cross and large pots.

*Ginger Walker - Altar Guild Chair*



**WANTED:** Dave Ring is looking for more volunteers to learn how to run the camera and tape the services for Facebook. There is a need for both Sunday services. Youth are welcome as well. We really need more help and would love to teach you the ropes. Either talk to Dave or call him at 419-334-4145. There is a sign-up sheet in the coat room area. Please prayerfully consider giving it a try! Thank you!



## MOTHER – AND MORE

Though I've primarily known God as Father — along with metaphors such as rock, eagle, shepherd, potter — I also learned of Scripture passages portraying God as mother. For example (all NIV):

- “For a long time I have kept silent. . . . But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant” (Isaiah 42:14).
- “As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you” (Isaiah 66:13).
- “Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them” (Hosea 13:8).
- In others, God is pictured doing traditional “women’s work”: making clothes (Genesis 3:21), sweeping (Isaiah 14:23), preparing and hosting a meal (Proverbs 9:1-6), baking bread (Luke 13:21).

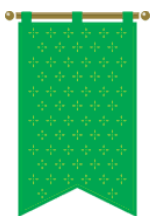
One of my favorite images of God is tucked in Hosea. While many modern dads nurture their toddlers this way, the tender words surely call to mind a mama’s care: “It was I who taught [Israel] to walk. . . . To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them” (Hosea 11:3-4). Most importantly, God — however known — is loving and good.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

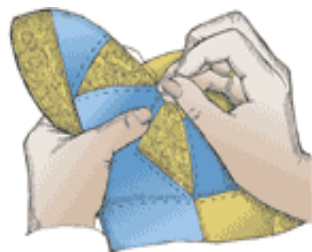
## YOU ARE MY WITNESSES

John White (1924-2002) was a medical missionary, psychiatry professor, church planter and prolific author who wrote about faith and outreach. He refuted the notion that being an effective witness for Christ is akin to being a salesperson. Christians are representing and sharing a person, he said, not touting a product.

“A good witness is like a signpost,” he added. “It doesn’t matter whether it is old, young, pretty, ugly. It has to point the right direction and be able to be understood. We are witnesses to Christ; we point to him.”



**CHRISTIAN SYMBOL - GREEN** — Green is the traditional liturgical color for the weeks after Pentecost (as well as the season of Epiphany). The Pentecost season largely overlaps with spring and summer, which is fitting because green symbolizes growth: growth of plant life and crops, and growth of the church in discipleship and faith.



QUILTING GROUP

**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 Lounge 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 this difficult and unprecedented time of uncertainty. 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 April 21st, was \$167.45. 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

**FAITH WOMEN'S 2ND OUTING** - We will be going to Norwalk to Naturally Country, a home decorating, specialty gifts, and more shopping experience. Then from there we will be going to Angel Welcome B & B for a special homemade lunch (\$30 = full lunch, gratuity, and special angel story). For this wonderful experience, we will meet here at the church at 9 a.m. to carpool on Tues, July 23rd. ALL Men & Women are WELCOME.

The next FLCW Board meeting will be June 3, 2024 at 7 p.m.



**GRADUATES:** Please let the church office know of any upcoming graduates. We'd like to keep them in our prayers and send them words of congratulations and encouragement. Office Number is 419-332-6820.



### **OPEN HANDS**

Liturgical scholar Balthasar Fischer (1912-2001) shared an “a-ha” realization about the significance of praying with open, outstretched hands, an ancient practice. The opposite gesture, a closed fist, is used to threaten others or even inflict violence. We also grasp things in closed fists, refusing to let go, to share, to hold gently or loosely.

When we pray with open hands, Fischer explained, we're saying before God that we renounce “all highhandedness, all pride in [our] own sufficiency, all violence.” We hold up our empty hands to God, saying, “I have nothing that I have not received from you, nothing that you have not placed in my empty hands. Therefore I do not keep a frantic hold on anything you have given me; therefore, too, I desire not to strike and hurt but only to give and to spread happiness and joy.”



Benefitting People Served  
by the LSS Emergency  
Choice Food Pantry



**LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES**  
of Northwestern Ohio

*Strengthening People in Body, Mind and Spirit*



**Friday, May 17**  
**11 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern  
Ohio Toledo Office  
2149 Collingwood Blvd.

Bring your donation for our  
Emergency Choice Food Pantry  
to our Toledo Office and let us  
unload it!



**Wish list:**

- Canned Meats
- Canned Fruits
- Canned Soups
- Peanut Butter
- Cereal
- Oatmeal & Grits
- And More!

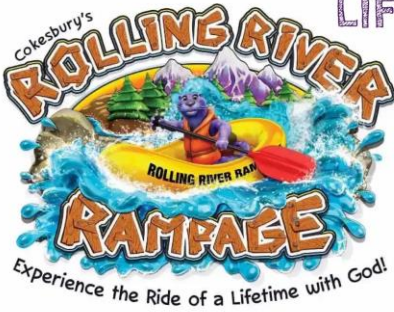


Contact Jeremy at 419-243-9178 for  
more information and ways to support  
or visit our website at [www.lssnwo.org](http://www.lssnwo.org)

**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.

## LIFT ASCENSION WORSHIP

LIFT will celebrate Ascension Day with a healing service of anointing and prayer at St. John's on May 9 at 7 p.m. Forty days after Easter, Ascension will always fall on a Thursday. As we remember Jesus blessing his disciples while ascending into heaven, we celebrate the blessings of his continued presence with us on Earth. It's an opportune time to worship together as people of LIFT. Prayers with anointing oil will help us tangibly feel the power of Christ.



LIFT Vacation Bible School  
June 24-27, 2024  
6-8 PM  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Fremont, OH



Several Churches  
Together  
PreK-Middle  
School  
Free!

**LIFT VBS: We have a VBS theme—Rolling River Rampage!** LIFT Vacation Bible School will be June 24-27 from 6-8 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church in Fremont. It is for kids in grades preK-middle school. Register children or sign up to volunteer at [www.myvbs.org/LIFTFremont](http://www.myvbs.org/LIFTFremont).



## ***MAY BIRTHDAYS - 2024***

- 1-Ann Waggoner, Linda Avers
- 2-Randy Copley, McKenzie Frey
- 3-Edgar Schneider
- 6-Eric McBride
- 7-Robert Reed, Vicki Weickert
- 8-Landon Riehle
- 10-Mark Root
- 11-Sue Boyer
- 14-Mark Clark
- 16-Sally Sleek
- 17-Oakleigh Frey
- 19-Bryan Neill
- 20-Becky Dymond
- 21-Brian Fox, Nathan Clark
- 22-Archer Conti, Sal Copley
- 25-Dennis Krumnow
- 31-Dave Kocsis



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

May 1, 2003	Mark & Katrina Fahle	21 years
May 2, 1987	Cheryl & Ron Durnwald	37 years
May 3, 2012	Carol Wattley & Leon Wright	12 years
May 10, 1980	Dale & Sal Copley	44 years
May 13, 2017	Tim & Angi Miller	7 years
May 22, 2004	Bruce & Annie Gazdecki	20 years
May 27, 1978	Rebecca & Thomas Sterling	46 years

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

May 5, 1972	Letty & Thomas Rusch	52 years
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**SUMMER CAMP** – Registration for 2024 Summer Camp is now open at [www.hopewoodoutdoors.org](http://www.hopewoodoutdoors.org) Remember that the Women of Faith Lutheran Church and the Endowment Committee will both offer assistance for your child/children to go to camp. Let the office know at 419-332-6820.

# 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.



September 10<sup>th</sup> thru May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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

9:15 a.m. Fellowship Time and

Sunday School

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