

Newsletter
November 2020

Faith Lutheran

Growing Through Living God's Word

Rev. Brett Satkowiak
Pastor

Karen Eck
Deaconess

Pat Brackman
Administrative Secretary

Patty Sojka
Preschool Administrator

Worship Schedule
Saturdays 5:00 p.m.
Devotional / No Music

Sundays 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Divine Service
Bible Class/Sunday School
9:15 a.m.

Communion celebrated at all
regular services

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Blessings from the Booth

Every Thanksgiving since the days of President George H.W. Bush, the commander-in-chief issues an official presidential pardon to a “lucky” turkey, sparing him the fate of being killed, gutted, plucked, brined, roasted, and served with gravy the following day. I imagine the turkey stuck at the center of this whole display sits and wonders, “Why? What could I have possibly done wrong that I need to be pardoned of?”

The short answer to that is this: it’s not anything you’ve done, but who you are.

The church is all about forgiveness; that’s what it was created to do. But just like I tell my kids when they say they’re sorry ... it doesn’t mean all that much if you can’t say what you’re sorry for.

It’s just as important for us when we come to receive the sacrament of the altar. Paul tells the church in Corinth that everyone should “examine himself” before coming forward, or else you may actually receive it wrongly and so receive something negative rather than the good promised there (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). If you’re coming forward to receive forgiveness for your sins, then like our tasty holiday friend, you must ask yourself ‘why?’

How do you determine what you need to be forgiven of? We tend to try to think back through our day or week, attempting to remember the details of your encounters with others or the stuff you did while you were alone, and lay out a list of sins. I cursed out that truck on the expressway who cut me off ... I took an extra 20 minutes on break last Tuesday because I just didn’t want to get up and head back to work ... I went that website again that I know I shouldn’t be looking at.



George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum/NARA

“Even our good deeds are stained by selfishness.”

But there’s a better way to do it. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the 20th century German Lutheran pastor and theologian said, “The guilt we must acknowledge is not the occasional mistake or going astray, not the breaking of an abstract law, but falling away from Christ, from the form of the One who would take form in us and lead us to our true form.” (*Ethics*, 1949)

We examine ourselves in light of how we have fallen away from “the form of the One who would take form in us.” As God’s will and righteousness come to us in the person of Jesus the Christ, He takes form in the world today through us as His body (1 Corinthians 12:27), His arms and legs, hands and feet. He sends us out into the world to be what HE is for all of humanity, for those around us (John 17:18, 20:21). Without the need to enumerate some list of vices and stumbles to temptation, we know that we have not embodied Christ for others.

Jesus Christ also calls us to be formed as He has been, to shape our entire lives according to His example. In that way, we see His desire not simply to love us in spite of our sins, but to reform us back to our true form, the righteous way that God created and designed us to be before sin deformed us into something unrecognizable.

So it isn’t just about the fact that I used a naughty word while driving down the highway, but that even my civil speech, when I’m not screaming obscenities that only Jesus and I can hear, falls short of Christ’s purity. It isn’t just about stealing time from an employer, but that even when I’m working, I struggle to do in such a way that honors, glorifies, and gives thanks to God (Colossians 3:17). It isn’t about the moments of lust and temptation when I look at or think about someone other than my spouse, but that even in my marriage, when I’m exercising sexuality in the ways God has given to me, I do it with my own selfish desires, rather than the sacrificial ways that Christ loves His bride, the church. That’s because even our good deeds are stained by selfishness compared to Jesus the Christ, who loved us completely selflessly.

Bonhoeffer again, “Genuine acknowledgement of guilt doesn’t grow from experiences ... But for us who have encountered Christ, only by looking at the form Christ has taken.” When we encounter Jesus in His word, it’s hard to imagine that all we need forgiveness for is a few isolated moments of indiscretion.

And that’s why Holy Communion is offered and received regularly, not just once, because there we are promised forgiveness for those isolated moments as well as for our sinful form that is not yet like Jesus, who offers Himself there for you, to deliver forgiveness, life, and salvation there each time we gather. And that’s plenty to be thankful for as well.

~ Pastor Brett Satkowiak

Voters’ Meeting – November 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Voters’ meetings are opportunities for us to come together to hear about what our various staff and boards are doing and to be a part of the decision-making process in guiding and shaping the life of faith here at Faith. So make a plan to attend as many of these meetings as possible so that you can ask questions about all that’s going on here and let your voice and ideas be heard as well.

At this meeting, we will elect new representatives for Church Council and our leadership Boards.

Christmas Cards for Veterans

Once again, members of Faith are being encouraged to write Christmas cards to residents at the Indiana Veterans' Home in Lafayette. There are currently 162 veterans living at the home. Two cards from each member in your family would go a long way to making sure that each one of those residents gets a special greeting this Christmas.

Please sign your cards (you can include the church name too), and seal them in their envelope. Then place them in the special box in the Narthex from November 1st through November 29th.

Help us bless with our service those who blessed us with theirs during this season of hope.

Play Faith SCATTERCAREIES!



Want to help the food bank and have some fun? If you have heard of the game Scattergories, it involves having categories of things -- such as ice cream favors or kitchen items -- then you roll the dice and come up with things that start with the letter it lands on. For example, if the dice lands on a 'C,' then you could put 'Chocolate' for ice cream favor, and 'Cup' for kitchen item. However, in THAT game if someone else picks the same thing, you don't get points; in our game it just means double the food for those who need it!

Many are struggling during this time and pandemic and hardship. Local food banks are running desperately low on supplies, and grocery stores are having difficulty stocking their own shelves with certain items. As members of Faith who have been called to love our neighbors by Christ, our Lord, we should be able to offer some help.

This month we rolled the letter C and the category is: food items to be given to our local Good Neighbor Food Pantry.

That could be obvious items like ... canned corn or carrots, cereal, or chocolate chips.

But it could also include Campbell's soup, creamy peanut butter, cut green beans, canola cooking oil, or something even more creative! Obviously, ANYTHING you want to donate would be appreciated immensely. But this is a fun way to keep it fresh in your mind. Maybe even have a competition with your friends at Faith to see who can come up with the farthest "out there" way to connect your items to the letter. If the food you buy doesn't start with 'C,' it's still Caring!

The pantry is especially in need of canned items (specifically carrots and peas) which works great for our letter. All items given to the food pantry are quarantined for a couple of weeks SO definitely only nonperishable items. This also means that what we donate now can be used by people in need for Christmas time, so think of your favorite Christmastime foods in a nonperishable way.

In the last two weeks we have donated just over 65 items! Keep up the good work! Just a side note to those wondering You can drop your items off at church, and we'll be happy to take them up to the Good Neighbor Food Pantry for you.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Jen Satkowiak (586-850-5623 or Jennifer.satkowiak@gmail.com).

Know A Family in Need?

This Advent season, Faith is going to work to bless families in our community who are in need. Starting around Thanksgiving, we will share information about some of these families so that you – the awesome members of Faith Lutheran Church – can purchase items to bless them this Christmas.

But maybe you know of a family already who needs help. If so, please contact Pastor Brett Satkowiak or Deaconess Karen Eck to share their information.

We have been very blessed by God, this year and always. Our prayer is that we can also be a great blessing to others as we all together celebrate the coming of our Lord in the person of Jesus Christ.

LWML November News

The Finish Line...for the 2021 LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky, is getting nearer, but not yet in sight. Members of the Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio Districts and the LWML 2021 Host Convention Committee are “Running the Race...Looking to Jesus” toward June 24–27, 2021.



The convention theme is from Hebrews 12:1-2. Let us run with endurance the race set before us, looking to Jesus. Let each of us witness the joy we have knowing that Jesus endured the cross for us. With this joy, we will be nourished with worship, Bible study, and inspiring speakers. Pray for the Host Convention Committee and all workers who have signed up to assist with the 2021 Convention. Share your excitement and be an encourager to those in your society, zone, and district to attend the convention. Check the Call for Workers form at the LWML Indiana District website, www.lwmlindiana.org, to see where your time and talents can be used. Order a 2021 Convention Logo Polo Shirt. A form is also available at www.lwmlindiana.org. Give thanks to God for His blessings and remember His goodness. Pray that God continues His guidance for the LWML 2021 Host Convention Committee. With thanksgiving and praise for God’s gifts we look to Jesus.

Artists! The Indiana District needs your help!

The 2021 District Convention will take place next summer, and the Indiana District wants your help in designing their logo for the event. Your artwork could be featured at the convention!

For more information and official submission guidelines, contact Aaron Nielsen at education@in.lcms.org. The deadline for submissions will be December 15th, 2020.

New Bible Class – Church’s Choice!

Once our Lutheran Mind class is over (around the end of November), we’ll be diving into a book of the Bible on Sunday mornings. And Pastor wants to know which book YOU’D like to study!

Go to tinyurl.com/FaithDemotteBC to cast your vote OR fill out a paper copy in Bible class this Sunday.

A New Kind of Christmas Tree – 2020 Advent Emphasis

“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.” (Isaiah 11:1 ESV)

The Jesse Tree is Christ’s family tree. Filled with symbols from creation to the cross to His second coming, the Jesse Tree shows you your place in God’s family through Jesus.

Get your family ready to start a new family tradition as our Faith family prepares to celebrate Advent and the coming of “the shoot of Jesse,” our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God. Be on the lookout for more information about this new church-wide emphasis that will teach us all about our place in the story of Jesus, the Christ.



Pre-School Minute

During Fire Safety Month, all four classes were visited by Keener Township firefighters. They gave an age-appropriate presentation on fire safety, then students were able to tour the fire trucks!

The projector that was purchased for this school year is working out very well in the classroom! We are able to project things such as Bible stories as well as videos that help to reinforce counting and letter recognition. We are very grateful to the members of Faith for your generosity in the purchase of that very useful piece of classroom equipment!

Conferences have been moved to Thanksgiving week in November and will not be in-person this year. We have adapted our conferences to mimic how KVSC is handling their conferences. Parents will have a choice of a phone conference or a virtual conference. Classes will not be in session on those days, in order to accommodate for conferences.

The preschool will be participating in the Faith "SCATTERCAREIES" food drive. Children love being helpers and what better way to help than by joining in on a great idea that is already put in place by the church. We want to help out our neighbors who are food insecure during these very difficult times, as Jesus would have us do.

In His Service,

Patty Sojka

Pre-School Administrator



Deaconess' Corner



"Nor anything else in all creation." (Romans 8:39)

This past week I was watching a video on parish nursing. The instructor was inviting the participants to share a verse that was especially meaningful to them, a verse that they could also share with others to bring comfort in their distress. A few people responded, and then she shared this portion of Romans 8:39 as a verse that comforted her.

We're all familiar with those words ... "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The world is full of scary things right now: COVID-19, the election, violence in the streets, just to name a few. Perhaps you are going through a very difficult, painful time in your life. However, never forget that we have God's promise that absolutely nothing can separate us from His love in Christ Jesus our Lord. If the perils listed in the first part of these verses are not the ones troubling you, cling to God's promise that absolutely nothing can separate us from God's love.

I love the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace, thrown into the flames because they would not worship the idol built by Nebuchadnezzar (recorded in Daniel 3). God could have kept them out of the furnace, but instead He was there with them IN IT. "Didn't we cast three men, bound, into the fire? ... but I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods." Daniel 3:24-25

Whatever difficulty you are facing in life at this time, remember God is with you. **NOTHING IN ALL CREATION CAN SEPARATE YOU FROM HIS LOVE.**

May peace and joy and comfort be with you.

Deaconess Karen

New Member Weekend, October 10-11, 2020

Welcome to all new members of Faith Lutheran Church!

ROGER AND BETH CLARK

Transfer from St. Michael Lutheran Church in Hebron, IN

PHYLLIS FRANZMAN

Transfer from St. Michael Lutheran Church in Hebron, IN

JAMES, SAMANTHA, AND LEONARD FUGATE

Transfer from Salem Lutheran Church in Blue Island, IL

BILL AND KAREN JENKINS

Transfer from St. Michael Lutheran Church in Hebron, IN

CARL KIZMAN

Transfer from St. Michael Lutheran Church in Hebron, IN

DOROTHY KOHNE

Transfer from St. Michael Lutheran Church in Hebron, IN

MIKE, CINDY, AND KIMBERLY MCGRAW

Transfer from Trinity Lutheran Church in Crown Point, IN

LARRY AND JUDY PANOZZO

Transfer from Bella Vista Lutheran Church in Bella Vista, AR

CASEY, CASEY, LEVI, AND WAYLAND SHELTON

Casey (Mrs.) and the boys transfer from Trinity Lutheran Church in Crown Point, IN

Casey (Mr.) is received by Affirmation of Faith

JOE, AMY, LEVI, AND WESTON VERBURG

Transfer from Demotte United Methodist Church in Demotte, IN

MARY JEAN WOLFE

Transfer from St. Michael Lutheran Church in Hebron, IN