



Pastor's PONDERINGS

A FEATURE OF **FAITH HAPPENINGS E-NEWS** | FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, GRAND BLANC, MI

MAY 16, 2024 EDITION

First Steps

They may be small, but a toddler's first steps are cheered, photographed, and remembered as monumental. Pentecost was a BIG first step for the church, a step we continue to celebrate. But what is God's end game? On that day when 3000 people were baptized, God envisioned the day when every person in the world would know they are loved by God.

What are my "first steps" in that process by which God would "make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19)? I believe it is to work to learn more and more of who God is and to have an interest in YOUR story, whoever YOU may be. It is to realize in my heart the depth of the love God has for each and every person. I am learning to ask people to tell me their story. It helps me appreciate them and gives opportunity for me to see how God might love them through me. That brings us one step closer to EVERY knee bowing at the name of Jesus.

God, teach us to take first steps and celebrate them. AMEN.

Eyes on Jesus,
Pastor Heimsoth



Prayers

OUR WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

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Use this list as a daily reminder for your prayer time. If you would like a prayer noted in upcoming weeks, please contact the church office at 810-694-9351 or churchoffice@faithgb.org. Requests may be made for you, a family member, or a friend. Those noted on our urgent prayer list will remain for a period of two weeks, and those noted on our ongoing prayer list will remain for a period of two months; after that, they or a family member may call to remain listed for an additional period of time.

THOSE IN NEED OF URGENT PRAYER

Tonya Agle, David Beaudry, Julie Carr, Valerie Dome, Nancy Lake, Deb Magryta, Bruce Richards, Leo Ruebke, Norm Storms
Family and friends of Pat Palmer, who passed away

THOSE IN NEED OF ONGOING PRAYER

Susan Aidif	Bob Granville	Mary Frances Marks	Beth Tatum
Winston Calhoun	Hope Helton	⭐ Michael Reinke	Marge Taylor
⭐ Rochelle Gober	Dennis Karlson	Derek Rhodes	Dan Trevillian
⭐ Zachariah Gober	Lorna Liley	Sandy Siegel	⭐ Michael Wayne

⭐ = Other active military

FAMILIES OF OUR CONGREGATION

During the year, we remember in prayer each of the homes of our congregation. Please hold these specific children of God in your prayers this week.

Brad Kaiser	Chris and Connie Green	Scott and Alicia Lee
Dennis and Terri Besser	Mikayla Green	Lauren Lee
Martin and Dolores Stefan	Adam and Emilia Green	Matthew Lee
		Tim Rose

THIS SUNDAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's altar flowers are given by Rayna Bryant-Ott in celebration of her birthday.

Pray without ceasing.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

Stewardship

GIVING AT FAITH

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STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK: John 16:13a - "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth."

2024-2025 GENERAL FUND TITHES & OFFERINGS SUMMARY

Last Week's Offerings (General Fund)	\$27,187.00
Weekly Amount Needed for 2024 Budget	\$15,770.00
Month to Date Offerings (General Fund)	\$43,739.00
Monthly Budget	\$68,333.00
Year to Date Offerings (General Fund)	\$254,940.00
Year to Date Target (General Fund)	\$236,550.00
Annual Budget	\$820,000.00
Endowment Fund as of 4/30/24	\$183,582.15
CEF Consolidated Loan Balance	\$0 - paid in full



STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Appreciated Securities Donations: If you are donating appreciated securities (mutual funds, stocks, etc.), please call the office at 810-694-9351 and ask for Alicen Dub. She will give you instructions on making the transfer.

QCD Donations: If you have donated a Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from your IRA or the like to Faith Lutheran Church and have not received a letter of confirmation, or if you still plan to donate with a QCD, please call Alicen Dub at 810-694-9351.

Save on Taxes While Giving to Faith! If you are at least 70 ½ years old, you can give directly from your IRA through a Qualified Charitable Distribution to the church, without needing to pay taxes on the distribution. This transfer will also count toward your annual RMD. If you are interested in learning more or have questions, please call Ken Duetsch at 810-287-7002.

Another tax-savvy way of giving is to donate appreciated stock or mutual funds. This can be done by families or individuals of any age. If you are interested in learning more or have questions, please call Ken Duetsch at 810-287-7002.

Easy Estate Planning. A very easy and inexpensive way for individuals to include the church in their estate planning is to simply add Faith Lutheran Church as a Beneficiary of their IRA. If left to individuals, this money would be taxable, but the church would receive this gift tax-free. If you are interested in learning more or have questions, please call Ken Duetsch at 810-287-7002.

ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

Via text: Text "FaithGrandBlanc" to 732-56.

Online: Set up automatic withdrawals by signing in to your member account [here](#).



Covering the Next Generation

Psalm 48:12-14

Walk about Zion, ... consider well her ramparts, that you may tell the next generation that this is God, our God forever and ever.

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COMMITMENTS

Total amount pledged as of 5/12/24	\$1,002,297.50
Percentage of goal	73%

FUNDS RECEIVED

Total funds received as of 5/12/24	\$671,618.00
Percentage of commitments	67%
Percentage of goal	49%

WHAT IT IS:

Covering the Next Generation is a 3 year capital campaign (October 2022 kickoff) with the goal of renewing and improving our building and facilities to provide the next generation with a place to unite with Jesus . . . for eternity.

Funds will be used for constructing a pavilion, replacing carpet in the church (*Narthex and hallways completed April 2023*), replacing the roof over everything but the preschool (*shingled roof over the sanctuary and Heins Hall replaced September 2023*), asphalt replacement for the main parking lot, replacing the sanctuary lighting dimmer system, and paying off our existing mortgage (*completed January 2024*). Total project cost is estimated at approximately \$1,377,200.

Faith's mission statement says we're seeking to unite everyone with Jesus for eternity. Most of our activity toward this end takes place on the church grounds.

To have facilities to "cover the next generation," we'll need well-carpeted floors, a well-covered parking lot, a well-covered roof, and a well-lit sanctuary. By renewing these aging areas, we're providing an enduring place where the Gospel will be proclaimed, the Sacraments will be received and relationships will grow.

We'll also ensure future growth by bringing and welcoming newcomers into Jesus' love. A great place to do that will be in a new well-covered picnic pavilion on the back lawn. Working with many community connections, we'll be known as the place that welcomes everyone into our sheltering care for bodies and souls.

Our investment now will be "Covering the Next Generation" with a place to unite with Jesus...for eternity.

Psalm 48:12-14, "Walk about Zion, ... consider well her ramparts, that you may tell the next generation that this is God, our God forever and ever."

Visit www.faithgb.org/covering-the-next-generation, text "generation" to 810-207-3060, or grab a brochure from the displays near the church entrances for more information. Commitment cards for *Covering the Next Generation* can be found near the tracking puzzle on the baptismal font and are included in brochures in campaign displays. The campaign is still actively seeking contributions, and we encourage those who may not have made a commitment to prayerfully consider making one.



Church

FAITH OPPORTUNITIES INVOLVING THE CHURCH

Summer 2024 Youth Calendar: A calendar of summer 2024 youth events can be found [HERE](#). Printed copies are also available at the Welcome Centers.

Thank You Faith Educators! The Faith Family would like to give a big thank you to all our dedicated teachers who taught in Sunday School, on Wednesday nights for Faith Alive, and other weekly Bible studies. Your commitment to these programs is greatly appreciated. You are truly a blessing to our congregation and to those you teach!

Class of 2024: We want to help honor our graduates by displaying their photo during the June 2nd worship service and publishing their name in the *Faith Happenings* newsletter. If you have a Faith Lutheran Preschool, high school, or college graduate in your household, please send a portrait with their name and the name of the school they are graduating from, as well as degree title for college graduates, to churchoffice@faithgb.org by May 17th. Together we can praise the Lord for all He is doing in their lives!

Adult Bible Study and Sunday School: The last session of our study on Season 3 of *The Chosen* was Sunday, May 12th. Sunday School finishes for the school year on Sunday, May 19th. Sunday, May 19th, will feature our first Intentional Interim Report from Pastor Heimsoth. A Bible study opportunity WILL be held Sunday, May 26th, in the Library (this differs from what has previously been communicated). Summer Bible study opportunities for adults will begin Sunday, June 2nd. Sunday's Cool Sunday morning hangouts for youth will also begin Sunday, June 2nd. Look for further announcements in this email for each opportunity!

Intentional Interim Report: During Education Hour (9:30 a.m.) THIS Sunday, May 19th, Pastor Heimsoth will present his first Intentional Interim Report, "Who Are We?" Join us for the discussion on what Pastor Heimsoth has learned during his first few months at Faith!



Springfest 2024! Join us THIS Sunday, May 19th, from noon to 3:00 p.m. for Springfest, a good old-fashioned church potluck picnic with games, entertainment, and lots of fellowship! What to bring: A side dish to pass & Lawn chairs and/or blankets. What's provided: Hot dogs, Chips, Ice Cream, and Beverages (lemonade, water, iced tea). It's ok to wear your comfy picnic clothes to church that day! Hope we will see you there for the fun!

Summer Bible Studies: Journey with us into some great Bible adventures this summer! These all-inclusive trips are free and you need not drive any further than 12534 Holly Road. We invite you to join us for any of the following!

- Great Stories of Jesus: June 2, 9, 16, 23
- Thank, Praise, Serve, & Obey: June 2-August 18
- Grace: The Refining Truth of the Reformation: August 4, 11, 18
- Sunday's Cool (Youth K-12): June 2-August 18

See more details on our Summer Bible Excursion Itinerary [HERE](#) (printed copies are available at the Welcome Centers). The full schedule of *Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey* Sunday morning Bible study can be found [HERE](#). Sign up to attend [HERE](#). Please note a Bible study WILL be offered next Sunday, May 26th, in the Library.

Interested in Being a Part of a Women's Faith-based Book Club? Whether you've never been part of a book club, or are part of another group, join us at Faith where the richness of our fellowship relates to everyday faith and blessings from our Lord. Join us on Thursday, June 6th, to discuss "Back Home Again" by Melody Carlson. Sleepy little Acorn Hill is in for a big surprise when three sisters reunite after the death of their father, a beloved minister. Each has inherited a share of his worn-down Victorian house. They decide to turn their family home into a bed-and-breakfast, but are as different as sisters can be. They encounter many obstacles along the way but learn to trust in God. We will meet in the church library at 10:00 a.m., and this discussion will be led by Roxanne Steffe. You may share one of the eight copies in our church library generously gifted through a Wave Grant and a Thrivent Action Team Grant, enjoy the book via Audible for free, or possibly borrow from the local Grand Blanc Library. Book Club participation is open, depending on your availability each month, with remote access also available via Zoom. Invite your friends to join this enjoyable fellowship any time! Church membership is not required. Check the bulletin board outside the church library, or the church website [HERE](#) for a list of upcoming titles and meeting dates. Questions? Contact Roxanne Steffe at 810-280-1399.

Sunday's Cool This Summer! Youth K-12 will have regular opportunities to get together this summer on Sundays June 2nd through August 18th from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. (no class July 7th). The youth lounge will be staffed by young adult volunteers so that youth can hang out. A brief group devotion and snacks will be provided. Come on the Sundays that you can! Let us know you're coming [HERE](#)! Registration is not required, but we want to know if you're interested in attending.

VBS registration is open to children 4 years old through 6th grade! Youth 6th grade through 12th grade are invited and encouraged to sign up as a volunteer! VBS is June 24th-28th from 9 a.m. to noon. Register at faithgb.org/vbs.



You can view a running list of our regular service opportunities [HERE](#).

Altar Guild: The Altar Guild is seeking new members - of all backgrounds - families and men included! Preparing the sacramental elements for Holy Communion is an essential support ministry for the congregation. Training is provided. If you are interested, please contact the church office by June 1st.

Lutheran Choralaires Spring Concert: Support Concordia University Ann Arbor and enjoy some great choral music at [The Lutheran Choralaires Annual Spring Concert](#), Saturday, May 18th, at 4:00 p.m. The concert will be held at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Livonia. Freewill donations will be taken at the door, with all proceeds going to Concordia.



All Youth Mini-Golf! Youth of all ages are invited to join us at Cops & Robbers: Great Escape (5154 Flushing Rd, Flushing, MI 48433) at 3:00 on Sunday, June 9th, for an afternoon of mini-golf and ice cream! We'll meet at Faith at 2:30 p.m. or Cops & Robbers at 3:00 p.m. Please [sign up](#) by Wednesday, June 5th. Bring \$5 towards your mini-golf and ice cream! Parents who are willing to help youth have a positive experience, please contact Mr. Zander. We'll cover the first 3 parents! Sign up [HERE!](#)

VBS Volunteers! Faith Family! We have an opportunity to share the good news of Jesus' love and forgiveness with children in our community at our very own VBS this June 24th-28th! The volunteer registration form is live and available. There are many opportunities of various kinds for each morning as well as opportunities leading up to VBS including decorating. You are invited and encouraged to consider how you might join this mission to our very own community [HERE](#). Look for the volunteer button with the heart.

LAST CALL! The Michigan District Jr. High Youth Gathering, where youth in middle schools from all over Michigan gather for growing closer to Jesus and each other, is July 30th through August 1st (Tuesday 11 a.m. to Thursday 2 p.m.) in Frankenmuth at the Bavarian Inn. Register ASAP [HERE](#) through Wednesday, May 22nd.

Church Extension Fund (CEF) is a unique ministry where LCMS members can invest their funds and earn interest. In turn, these funds provide a source of low-cost loans for new church sites and upgrading current facilities. Visit with Faith's Congregation Representative Greg Baehr, view CEF's [FAQ page](#) or website www.mi-cef.org, or call 800-242-3944 and learn how your invested dollars make a difference! CEF's rates for May can be found [HERE](#).

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church Food Distribution: Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 7234 Fenton Rd. Grand Blanc, will be offering a free food distribution on the third Saturday of every month, May through October. Their first distribution is Saturday, May 18th (see more details and the full schedule [HERE](#)). They welcome volunteers to help beginning at 8:00 a.m. and plan to begin distributing food around 9:00 a.m. to the first approximately 200 households who arrive. Individuals do not need to meet any income or address restrictions to receive the food. If there are any questions, please call the Holy Spirit church office at 810-424-6707.

Calendar

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

SUNDAY - May 19th

8:15 a.m. - Worship/Communion
9:30 a.m. - Intentional Interim Report: Who Are We? (Sanctuary)
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School

- Grades K-5 Basement Classrooms
- Grade 6 Library
- Grades 7-8 Confirmation Music Room
- Grades 9-12 Youth Lounge

10:45 a.m. - Worship/Communion - [Click here for the live stream.](#)
12:00 p.m. - Springfest

MONDAY - May 20th

7:00 p.m. - Board of Directors

TUESDAY - May 21st

6:15 p.m. - K.O.O.L. Ministry (K.O.O.L. Room)

WEDNESDAY - May 22nd

7:00 p.m. - Worship/Communion - [Click here for the live stream.](#)

THURSDAY - May 23rd

FRIDAY - May 24th

SATURDAY - May 25th

SUNDAY - May 26th

8:15 a.m. - Worship/Communion
9:30 a.m. - Adult Bible Study (Library)
10:45 a.m. - Worship/Communion

Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8; Acts 2:14a, 22-36; John 3:1-17

Upcoming Dates TO REMEMBER

June 2 - *Sunday's Cool Starts*
June 2 - "Great Stories of Jesus" starts
June 2 - "Thank, Praise, Serve, & Obey" starts
June 24-28 - VBS
July 30-August 1 - Jr. High Youth Gathering

Sunday Morning LINKS

ONLINE COPIES OF OUR **WORSHIP BULLETINS AND OTHER HELPFUL LINKS.**

See the schedule of our summer 2024 Sunday morning Bible study opportunities [HERE](#). The full schedule of *Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey* Sunday morning Bible study can be found [HERE](#).

Our Sunday morning 10:45 a.m. service can be viewed [HERE](#).

NOTE: *To keep in compliance with copyright laws, our services can legally be live-streamed, but we are not able to keep recordings of several parts of our services. Our Sunday service is streamed at 10:45 a.m. and Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. After this, the full service will not be available; however, the pastor's sermons will be archived on our [YouTube channel](#) after the service.*

The complete order of service for Sunday, May 19th, can be found [HERE](#).

We also have Sunday morning children's bulletins for the children in our Faith family. You can print them from the following links:

- 3-6 year old [HERE](#)
- 7-12 year old [HERE](#)

Our COVID-19 response plan can be found [HERE](#).

Other ministry LINKS

VOLUNTEER SIGNUPS AND OTHER HELPFUL LINKS TO KNOW.

ALL FAITH LINKS:

- Event Signups
- Volunteer Signups
- Social Media

CAN NOW BE FOUND AT faithgb.org/links.