



# Pastor's PONDERINGS

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

## FEBRUARY 2, 2023 EDITION

Today is Groundhog Day - the day when it's determined whether there's six more weeks of winter, or only four. Depending on whether or not Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, of course. That is, if you put much stock in groundhogs. And why would we? I mean, everyone knows winter doesn't officially end until March 21, anyway. Which, here in Michigan, doesn't really mean a thing, since we often get snow clear up into April. All we know is that, sooner or later, winter will come to an end. It's hard to imagine, now, when we're chipping ice off our windshields and even the dog refuses to go outside, but fair weather will soon be here. Trees will begin to blossom, the grass will turn green, and flowers will begin popping up out of the earth that's currently frozen as hard as concrete.

It's hard to imagine. But what's even more difficult to imagine is that the time is coming when Jesus will return, as well. Indeed, His return is even more certain than the coming of spring. Yes, the world we're living in seems lost, without hope, frozen in the grips of sin. But its full redemption is growing nearer with each passing day. We know this. It keeps us going, even when everything else in life seems to be going wrong. And we have something more certain than a superstition about groundhogs that tells us so. We have the very Word of God. So, when life is tough, and this world seems a little more than you can stand, hang in there. Jesus is coming, just as He promised. And you don't need any mangy old groundhog to tell you so.

Have a blessed Groundhog's Day, anyway.

-Pastor Scott





# Faith Family Encouragement

February 2nd, 2023

## HEADING OUT

*A column by Joel Zander*

It was the coldest day in January. I kept my boys inside a little longer than normal before sending them out into the sub-zero temperatures to wait for the school bus. They were getting a little anxious to get to the bus stop on time. To pass the time, I gave each a hug and spoke the blessing I normally give to them at half the usual speed. And then I sent them on their way at 8:08. By 8:11, they had strolled down our driveway and made it all the way to the next neighbor's driveway. Two more to go! So much for being in a hurry.

How do you send your children or other family members out for the day? Do you tell them that you love them and to have a good day? This is a great chance to send them off with a blessing. Sharing a blessing on the way out of the house will remind your family members that Jesus is with them - and perhaps increase their awareness of what Jesus is doing around them. This is an easy thing to do every day, taking just a few minutes at a time.

The blessing that I use is based off of Philippians 4:7, which says, "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." I say, "God's peace guard your heart and mind in Jesus! I love you!" It's short and I hope it sends them off with a sense of confidence that Jesus is going with them to school (or wherever) and that He will give them His peace.

Of course, this kind of blessing can be applied in any situation where you are dropping off your child or saying farewell to anyone. You might even consider sneaking in a written blessing. If you pack a lunch or snack, you might drop a "Jesus' love" note in. What if you included this blessing of the gracious presence of Jesus and His love for them to see in the middle of the day? Even better!

There are many verses that can serve as a basis for a daily blessing in your family. Here are just a few verses and blessing ideas:

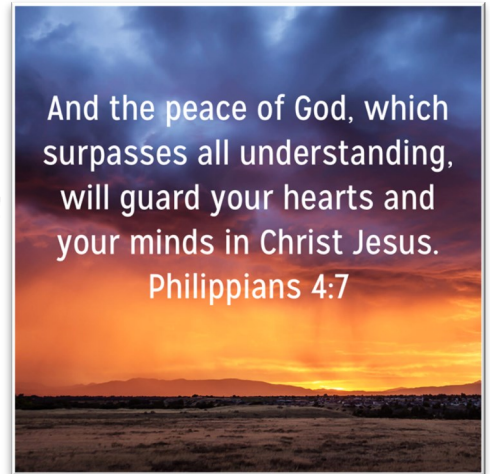
"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

*"Be strong and brave because Jesus is with you wherever you go."*

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17

*"You are baptized! You are in Christ! You are a new creation in Him!"*

May God bless you as you continue to grow closer to Jesus every day a few minutes at a time!





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### THOSE IN NEED OF URGENT PRAYER

Don Bauer

### THOSE FAITH MEMBERS ON ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY

Anthony Bryant-Ott, Noah Hall, Harry Helmick, Cassandra Horne, Nathan Priestap

### THOSE IN NEED OF ONGOING PRAYER

Tonya Agle	Nancy Gerard	Pat Kamin	Tom Repp
Janet Andreski	Vanessa Jones	Tom Kernen	Linda Robinson
Corri Argenti	Erica Gober	Alissa Kielian	Chuck Ruby
Tom Beck	Rochelle Gober	Chuck Kimber	Connie Schmitz
Charles Blain	Zachariah Gober	Joshua Koglin	Jean Striber
Sharon Bond	Robert Granville	Carol Krueger	Linda Swaim
Jason Boone	Kendall Groves	Tom Lake	Deb VanTol
Amy Booth	Fred Hensler	Kris Murphy	Lee Verbow
Marshall Boyde	Carl Hetzner	Matt Olson	Janet Walworth
Margaret Chisholm	David Hovis	Dustin Poszywak	Michael Wayne
Lydia Clor	Burt Jackson	Phyllis Powers	Dorothy White
Susan Cook	Barb Kaiser	Michael Reinke	Rhea Wright
Anne Frank	Bob Kamin		

### 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.*

Krystal Butterfield	Michael and Kelli Carter
	Taylor Carter
	Nolan Carter
Luke McMurray and Debra Freid-McMurray	
Ethan McMurray	Michael Gibis
Ian McMurray	Joshua Gibis
Dillon McMurray	Andrew Gibis

John and Rochelle Boehnke

*Pray without ceasing.*  
**1 THESSALONIANS 5:17**

# Stewardship GIVING AT FAITH

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**STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK: Matthew 20:13-16** - "But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last."

### STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCE

Last Week's Offerings	\$8,987.27
Weekly Amount Needed for 2022 Budget	\$22,180.00
Fiscal Year to Date Offerings Received as of 12/31/22	\$806,876.19
Fiscal Year to Date Amount Needed for 2022 Budget as of 12/31/22	\$1,057,276.00
Endowment Fund as of 12/31/22	\$161,826.46
CEF Consolidated Loan Balance as of 12/31/22	\$209,945.07



### STEWARDSHIP NEWS

**Appreciated Securities Donations:** If you are donating appreciated securities (mutual funds, stocks, etc.) to the capital campaign, 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 in 2022 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](#).

*Freely you have received;  
freely give.*  
**MATTHEW 10:8B**



# 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.*

## FEBRUARY 2, 2023 EDITION

### COMMITMENTS

Total amount pledged as of 1/1/23	\$997,297.00
Percentage of goal	72%

### FUNDS RECEIVED

Total funds received as of 1/29/23	\$276,874.03
Percentage of goal	20%



### 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, replacing the roof over everything but the preschool, asphalt replacement for the main parking lot, replacing the sanctuary lighting dimmer system, and paying off our existing mortgage. 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](http://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.



# Home FAITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE HOME

**Additional FBRJ Devotions:** Congratulations to all those who have completed our Faith Bible Reading Journey. I can't believe two years have passed! Most of you are aware that I wrote a devotion for each week of our journey. There are 103 in all. I know some of you have been collecting these, as well. However, there are 15 weeks missing, from when I was in the hospital. You may or may not be happy to learn that I am going to go back and write the devotions for weeks 50 - 65, so that you can complete your collection. We will begin sending those out via email each week, and I will publish them on the Faith Bible Reading Journey [Facebook group](#), as well. Thanks for being such devoted readers for so long! -*Your Fellow Traveler in Christ, Pastor Scott.*

**AmazonSmile ending February 20th:** Amazon.com's charity support program, AmazonSmile, is ending February 20th, 2023. Donations through Amazon purchases will still be available through February 20th. Thank you to all that designated Faith Lutheran as their AmazonSmile recipient. Over time, we received \$921.55!

# Church FAITH OPPORTUNITIES INVOLVING THE CHURCH

You can view a **list of Faith's educational opportunities**, including Spring 2023 Faith Legacy classes, [HERE](#). Printed copies are also available at our Welcome Centers. **NOTE:** Our March Faith Legacy class has been rescheduled for one week earlier and Wednesday Adult Bible study dates have been revised due to 1/25 snow cancellation.

**A 2023 school year calendar** of Youth events can be viewed [HERE](#). Printed copies are also available at our Welcome Centers.

**Covering the Next Generation Commitment Cards:** Commitment cards for the *Covering the Next Generation* capital campaign can now 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. For more information, please review a campaign brochure or visit [faithgb.org/covering-the-next-generation](https://faithgb.org/covering-the-next-generation).

**West Entrance Doors on Sunday Mornings:** Starting THIS Sunday, February 5th, the West entrance doors (4W; back parking lot) will be locked on Sunday mornings between 8:30 and 9:15 a.m. and then again starting at 11:00 a.m. Anyone arriving during or after those times can still enter the building through doors 1S or 2N.

**Nursery Survey:** The Board of Congregational Ministries (BCM) is conducting a survey regarding the use of the nursery that is located across the hallway from the Heins Hall kitchen. Parents or expecting parents of children under 3 are invited to take this survey. You can use this [Google form](#). Paper surveys are also available at the Welcome Centers. BCM is collecting responses through the end of February.

**Youth Breakfast!** Dear Faith Family, please plan to enjoy a pancake breakfast THIS Sunday, February 5th, between 9 and 10:30 a.m. and support our youth ministry in the process! A free-will donation will be collected in support of our summer 2023 youth programs! Please help us meet a generous \$500 match!

**Parent's Night Out!** Let us entertain your kiddos while you entertain yourselves! We'll entertain children from ages 4 through 11 (5th grade) and up to 4 children under 4 years of age Friday, February 10th, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Space is limited, so register soon [HERE](#)! Activities will include gym time, arts and crafts, a brief movie/tv program, snacks, and story time. This is a free event sponsored by our Youth as a service opportunity.

**Faith Alive Adult Bible Study Feed My Lambs:** Join Deaconess Christie Hansard for "Feed My Lambs," a Bible study exploring how members of the body of Christ demonstrate love and compassion to people in need as an expression of faith. This class will meet at 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays February 15th through April 26th (no class 3/29 or 4/5) in the Library.



**ALL Youth Hangout**

Grades  
**K-12**

**Valentine Service Project!**

**Sunday, Feb. 12**

**3:00-5:00 PM**

**Meeting earlier due to the "Big Game"!**

**February All Youth Hangout:** Youth grades K-12 are invited to come and hang out on Sunday, February 12th! We will meet at a SPECIAL TIME from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., and part of our time will be spent making Valentines for a special group of women in our Faith Family. Please come and be part of making a positive difference in someone's life!

**What's Faith? Class:** Starting Thursday, February 23rd, from 10:00-11:30 a.m., Faith staff members will begin a six-week class called *What's FAITH?* This class is a great way to learn about our Christian faith in general and to learn about how that faith is received and lived at Faith Lutheran Church of Grand Blanc. Participation will be especially beneficial to anyone considering officially joining Faith, but would certainly also be edifying for anyone who simply wants to grow in faith at Faith. To register or ask questions, please contact the office.

**Faith Legacy "Towel and Basin" Class:** Parents of 6 and 7-year-olds are invited to attend the *Faith Legacy* Series class called "Towel and Basin" on Sunday, March 12th, at 9:30 in the basement Room B3. This class will build on skills to talk about God at home, specifically in regard to family devotions, service, and handling money. A blessing event for the parents and children will occur in the 10:45 worship service. Please note that this was previously scheduled for Sunday, March 19th, but has been rescheduled for Sunday, March 12th. See more and sign up [HERE](#).

# World

## SERVICE, OUTREACH, AND OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND OUR DOORS

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

**Youth M&Ms Fundraiser!** If you haven't returned your coin-filled tubes, please do so by this Sunday! Thank you for your generosity! (We'll still take whatever you've got later, but the display is coming down and this is the final reminder).

**Social Ministry Reading Mentors:** We have finished our first week of meeting with the children at Grand Blanc Academy. The staff is very excited to have us there, and the children are receptive to getting some extra help with sight words and reading. We have 8 volunteers that meet with 6 classrooms once a week. They spend one hour helping as many students as possible. After the first week, I can say that I wish we had many more volunteers. We are not just there teaching reading skills - we are there being the Hands, Feet, and Face of Christ. If you would like to have some fun and show the love of Christ, please contact Marcy Montez at 810-869-4479. -*Marcy Montez*

**Youth Breakfast Sunday, February 5th:** Here's how youth and parents can help! We will set up on Saturday, February 4th, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Additionally, we invite youth and parents to serve at one or more of three shifts on Sunday morning. Please check out the SignupGenius for more details and to sign up [HERE](#)!

**Parents' Night Out Youth Volunteers:** We need at least five youth 12 and older who love children and want to serve Jesus by entertaining some kiddos on Friday, February 10th, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. We also need at least 3 adults to help supervise. Plan to arrive by 5:45 and leave at about 8:45. Let us know if you intend to help [HERE](#)!

**Serving at Franklin Avenue Mission this month!** Our teams this month are in need of volunteers to serve at Franklin Avenue Mission. Join us Tuesday, February 14th, or Thursday, February 16th, starting at 4:00 p.m. All ages are welcome! We are assembling meals for residents of Flint's east side. Contact Dick Gookin at [dick.gookin@gmail.com](mailto:dick.gookin@gmail.com) with any questions or if you would like to help. Caps are required for all servers. See more about Franklin Avenue Mission [HERE](#).

**Youth Bowling:** Youth 3rd grade through 12th grade are invited to go bowling on Sunday, February 26th! We'll meet at Faith at 5 p.m. and begin with a devotion and prayer and then carpool to Galaxy Lanes. The cost for this event will be \$10 and will include 2 hours of bowling, shoe rental, 2 slices of pizza, and a small drink. Youth and adult drivers/leaders, please sign up [HERE](#) by Sunday, February 19th.

**The annual MI District Jr. High Youth Gathering** is June 2nd-4th at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth, MI. This event is open to youth currently in 6th grade through 8th grade. The theme is "Enough" based on Galatians 2:20-21. Check out the [promo video](#)! Watch closely to see some of your Faith Family members! You can find more information and registration [HERE](#). Registration is due by Sunday, March 19th.

**MI District Sr. Youth Gathering:** Less than ONE WEEK remains to register for the MI District Sr. High Gathering on Mackinac Island which takes place June 25th-28th! All youth in 8th grade and older are invited to register by Wednesday, February 8th. Please don't miss out on this faith-impacting opportunity! For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

**HOME PLATE** is an annual outreach event held at Comerica Park at which current and former members of the Detroit Tigers, along with other professional athletes, share about their careers as professional athletes and their faith in Jesus Christ. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, June 10th. See more and order tickets at [www.homeplatedetroit.org](http://www.homeplatedetroit.org).

**Worship Anew for this Sunday.** Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. produces a weekly, 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service called *Worship Anew*. Each service includes music, scripture readings, prayers, and a Pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. Broadcasts can be viewed on Worship Anew's homepage at <https://worshipanew.org> or on TV on TCT, AFN, and several more stations (click [here](#) for local stations and times). The sermon for this Sunday, February 5th, is "Beyond Our Imagination" based on 1 Corinthians 2:9.



# Calendar

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

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

### **SUNDAY - February 5th**

8:15 a.m. - Worship/Communion

9:15-10:30 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast (Family Life Center)

9:30 a.m. - *The Chosen* Adult Bible Study (Sanctuary)

9:30 a.m. - Pre-Communion Class (basement B3)

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School

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

10:45 a.m. - Worship/Communion - [Click here for the livestream.](#)

### **MONDAY - February 6th**

2:00 p.m. - Student Hospitality

6:30 p.m. - Adult Handbell Choir

7:00 p.m. - Youth Board Meeting

### **TUESDAY - February 7th**

10:00 a.m. - H.O.T. Ladies Bible Study (Music Room)

6:30 p.m. - KOOL Ministry (KOOL Room)

6:30 p.m. - Euchre (Heins Hall)

### **WEDNESDAY - February 8th**

6:30 a.m. - Men's Virtual Bible Study (Google Meet) - [Click here to join.](#)

9:30 a.m. - Tiny Tots

4:30 p.m. - Puppet Club (basement B3)

5:30 p.m. - Faith Alive Dinner

6:00 p.m. - Faith Alive Bible Studies

- Adult: *Passing on the Faith* (Music Room)
- Middle School (Living Room)
- Grades K-5 (Basement Classrooms)
- High School (Youth Lounge)

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

### **THURSDAY - February 9th**

5:30 p.m. - Women's Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

6:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

7:00 p.m. - Male Chorus Practice (Sanctuary)

### **FRIDAY - February 10th**

6:00 p.m. - Parents' Night Out (Family Life Center)

6:00 p.m. - Game Night (Heins Hall)

### **SATURDAY - February 11th**

### **SUNDAY - February 12th**

8:15 a.m. - Worship/Communion

9:30 a.m. - Adult Bible Study

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School

10:45 a.m. - Worship/Communion

3:00 p.m. - Youth Hangout

**Readings:** Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37.

## Upcoming Dates TO REMEMBER

February 23rd - *What's Faith* class begins  
February 26th - Youth Bowling  
March 12th - *Faith Legacy* Towel and Basin

## 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](https://faithgb.org/links).

## Sunday Morning LINKS

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

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 livestreamed, 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, February 5th, 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](#).