

Faith Lutheran Church

FAITHLINES

FROM PASTOR CODY

Cody Blust, Pastor
 Pat Hoar, Secretary
 Rebecca Keck, Music Director
 Shelley Grubb, Bell Choir
 Steve Conrad, Grounds
 Randy Peck, Custodian

NOTHING IS
IMPOSSIBLE,
 THE WORD
 ITSELF SAYS
"I'M POSSIBLE"!
 - AUDREY HEPBURN

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May brings us an important time of year. So many things will happen this month. We celebrate the motherly figures in our lives, graduations at every level of schooling, and we will take time to remember those who are no longer with us. At Faith, we will celebrate one of our youth as they confirm their faith, and prepare for exciting new outreach opportunities this summer. This May we will begin to try some new ways of being our Faith community as we connect with the Mount Vernon community.

Beginning with summer we will start to explore new areas where we can live out the great commission and the message of Pentecost. We will continue to do the things we have done and now we are trying some additional things. We will try being present at First Fridays

downtown. At First Fridays we will get the chance to be visible to the community as we gather to celebrate the summer. We will have the chance to show the town who we are in fun and exciting ways. We get to share who we are and what we do in a new way. I will need help with this though, and our booth is a community effort. If you want to volunteer at the booth there is a signup sheet to be at the booth. If you would prefer not to be in the booth, please feel free to stop by and say hi as you enjoy these events.

May is a time of beginnings and change and the church is going to be part of that as we celebrate life changes and begin a new outreach. May starts something new for many reasons and as we step into this new season we can be excited for the ways God will use us.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Collection of items has begun! Stuffed animals and toy cars are arriving! Thank you! We are asking the congregation for donations of Matchbox or Hot Wheels cars for the boy boxes (need 200), hair accessories for the girl boxes, and standard Beanie Baby-sized stuffed animals for all boxes. (Not necessarily beanie babies, just that size.)

We have a beautiful basket in the Narthex for the donations. We also have a shoebox wrapped in Christmas paper on the table near the bulletin board if you prefer to make a cash donation.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the OCC team: Polly Norberg, Kathy Noblit, Jenny Grinstead, and Cheryl Johnson. If you would like to be a team member, please let us know! Thank you!

JESUS CALLING

The Jesus Calling Bible study group will be meeting on Monday, May 6, at 11:00 am. We will be reviewing chapter 10 of the book “*Unshakable Hope*” by Max Lucado. Penny Daniels is our assigned leader for the month of May. Bring a lunch to eat during our fellowship time together after the study.

EUCHRE

We will meet Friday May 17 at 6pm for our card fellowship in the kitchen area. All are welcome, and we are willing to teach the game as well. Bring a friend, and a snack/beverage to share. It is a lot of fun!!!

THE COMPOSERS' CRAFT

Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676)

This month's featured composer is perhaps not one very familiar to most of us, but was one of the most prolific writers of hymns in Lutheran history, and is often described as second only to Martin Luther as a writer of Lutheran hymns. In our service book, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Gerhardt is represented by no less than eight hymns. Gerhardt was a Lutheran pastor who studied at Wittenberg to prepare for the ministry, and eventually became a parish pastor in Germany. He suffered through many trials and tribulations in his life, which is reflected in his writing of lyrics for hundreds of church songs. Four of his five children preceded him in death, and the entire Thirty Years' War was fought during his lifetime. He lived through a plague. Gerhardt was dismissed from his first call as a pastor, about when the Thirty Years' War ended, because he would not disavow the *Formula of Concord*, the main confessional of the Lutheran faith, which was not permitted to be used or preached in the part of what is now Germany that contained his first parish. His hymn *Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me* reflects his great faith and perseverance. As Gerhardt was primarily a writer of lyrics for hymns, many of his works had music written for them by Johan Cruger, someone more familiar to Lutheran congregants, a man a bit older than Gerhardt who served as cantor in Gerhardt's first call. Hymns written by Gerhardt in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* include #241, *Oh Lord How Shall I Meet You*, #273, *All My Heart Now Rejoices*, # 340, *A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth*, #s 351 and 352, *O Sacred Head Now Wounded*, #378, *Awake My Heart, With Gladness*, #568, *Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow*, #761, *Evening and Morning*, and #788, *If God My Lord Before Me*. Just reading Gerhardt's inspiring words as found in his many hymns is devotion in and of itself. DK

DEVOTIONALS

The April-June quarter of our daily devotional books *Portals of Prayer* or *Christ in Our Home* are available in the rack inside the entrance door.

MISSION ENDOWMENT

The Mission Endowment Committee reported that 19 proposals were submitted for 2024. After our Tithes to the Synod, we have \$11,467 to distribute and the requests totaled \$13,700. A vote by the congregation will take place on May 19th. Results of the vote will be used by the Mission Endowment Committee to determine the grant amounts. A summary of the various proposals is included.

More information about the proposals will be available on the bulletin board by the Church office.

ELCA NEWS

North American Church Leaders Call for Peace in Holy Land

CHICAGO The leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) and The Episcopal Church (TEC) have released the Churches Beyond Borders 2023 Advent Cycle of Prayer.

The prayer resource calls for justice and peace, especially for churches impacted by the war in the Holy Land, and for lifting up Palestinian Christian communities and ministries and the congregations and institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

In a letter to accompany the Advent resource the leaders write, "We call, and pray for, an end to the war in Gaza, Israel, and the West Bank. We call for a ceasefire, an end to violence in the West Bank and the opening of humanitarian corridors in Gaza."

The church leaders contributed prayers for the four Sundays of Advent, focusing on the themes truth, justice, peace and hope.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

The preschool continues to meet the mission set forth based on Matthew 19: 13-14; Providing opportunities for children to come to know Jesus and to minister to the whole child. We currently are servicing 65 children and their families.

We are still accepting registration for new students for the 2024-2025 Preschool year. We have 5 class offerings. Registration forms are located on the bulletin board in the Narthex and online at FaithLutheranPreschoolMTV.com.

Thank you for your participation in our Stoller Fundraiser. We hope you enjoyed your delicious products!

The children have enjoyed their classroom visits from Pastor Cody. Pastor also attended our 3 year old Nursery Rhyme programs. We appreciate his willingness to share and visiting with our students and families.

The school year is coming to an end with the last day of classes on Friday, May 10. Graduation will be the evening of Friday, May 10 at both 6pm and 7pm. Weather permitting, we plan to hold graduation in the Stone Garden.

Thank you for your continued prayers and generous support.

UPDATE ON RACHEL NEUERER, (almost MD)

Linda Gehrisch shared the following information about Rachel: As a preschooler, Rachel knew she wanted to be a medical doctor. Throughout her school years she took classes to meet her goal. She attended Baldwin Wallace University and majored in pre-med. At the end of her sophomore year, she had already been accepted into Northeast Ohio Medical University. She has now completed her four years of education there. On March 15, Match Day for medical schools, she received an offer for a three-year residency at Akron Children's Hospital. On May 4, she will graduate with a degree in medicine, with Pediatrics being her specialty.

Please pray for Rachel as she moves forward to the next phase of her life and provides care of some of God's children.

Rachel Neuerer, 609 Parkhill Drive, Apt 13, Fairlawn, Ohio 44333

BIRTHDAYS

05/02 Melissa Dexter, Karen Hensel,
Art Lund
05/04 Vickie Blubaugh, Katie Delmatto,
Judy Mustaine, Stephen Volz
05/05 Pastor Clarence Hensel
05/07 Greg Lust
05/09 Pat Hoar
05/12 Karen Smith
05/22 Carl Greever, Dan Werner
05/23 Doug Michela
05/25 Olivia Matulich
05/27 Robbi Rice
05/31 Teah Hoffman-Ulmer, Amanda Peck



ANNIVERSARIES

05/05 Eric & Jackie Driscoll
05/11 Bryan & Christine Ulmer
05/18 John & Betsy Nixon
05/22 George & Karen Smith
05/29 Ray & Cathy Adamski
05/31 Nick & Cheryl Myrda



PERSONAL CARE KITS

Update on the Personal Care Kits. We now have:

Nail Clippers,	have 117	still need 13
Tooth Brushes,	have 139	Complete
Wide Tooth Combs,	have 24	still need 106
Soap	have 96	still need 164
Towels	have 38	still need 92

Donations can be put in the beautiful box in the Narthex. Thank you for all you have given. Contact Martha Denman with any questions.

SPECIAL THANKS

A Big Thank you to all who came, sent cards and helped us celebrate our 50th Wedding Anniversary! A special thanks to Jackie, JoDell and Dan Nagy! It meant a lot to have you all with us! Blessings, Stan and Jill

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Memorial Day, Sunday May 26 there will be one worship service at 10am in the Shelter House. Summer Worship Service Schedule will be June 2 through August 25. Our worship times will be: 8:00 & **10:00 am** each Sunday.

Labor Day, September 1, we will have one service in the Shelter House at 10:00 am.

Weather **not** permitting, the services on Memorial Day and Labor Day will be in the sanctuary.

SOUTHERN OHIO SYNOD NEWS

Siblings in Christ,

Late on Thursday evening, several communities within our Synod experienced storm damage from tornadoes and high winds. We continue to hold these communities in prayer, especially Russells Point & Lakeview. Cleanup crews have been hard at work since the storms on Thursday night. There is still much work to be done. I have been in regular contact with Pr. Karen Torrez (Galilee Lutheran Church, Russells Point) and Lutheran Disaster Response, to coordinate a response that meets the most immediate needs. Indian Lake High School is serving as Command Center for the response. This afternoon, Galilee Lutheran Church is receiving a variety of categories of supplies to continue serving as a Distribution Center for the community. Local authorities are still requesting that those who want to help continue to hold off as roads are still being cleared and should be used for EMS, First Responders, and supply vehicles. If you are curious for ways to help, please be in touch with the Southern Ohio Synod Office for more information. If you would like to donate to the relief efforts across our Synod, you may:

1. Mail a check to the Southern Ohio Synod's P.O. Box
2. Donate online, designating it for "SOS - Disaster Relief"

Thank you all for your prayers and your willingness to serve your neighbors! We are Stronger and Better Together ... Joining Jesus in the Restoration of the World.

In Christ,

Bishop Dillahunt

BOOK CORNER

Jamison, Kay Redfield, *Touched By Fire: Manic-Depressive Illness and the Artistic Temperament*, The Free Press, New York, 1993, 370 pp.

While this work by a psychiatrist at Johns Hopkins University departs from the previous reviews in this space that had Christian themes, it is nonetheless applicable to our daily Christian lives through a better understanding of mental illness, and the connection between mental illness and the lives and work of artists, including authors, composers, musicians, and visual artists and mental illness, especially bipolar disorder. This work includes many composers and artists who were Christian and whose work reflected their faith. Jamison, with meticulous attention to detail and most anecdotal research, as most of her subjects lived before the time of modern psychiatry, gives us a broad look over hundreds, even thousands of years of history, and dispels some myths, but comes to conclusions that are at once every bit as interesting and informative as the myths, and more. She also makes use of genograms that chart the lives of various famous figures in the arts, and others not as well known, that looks at the artist and his or her family background, relationships in the family, and the history of mental illness, if any, in their families. Most of this is highly readable, aside from some of the technical scientific and statistical terms and detailed explanations, which can be waded through to get background until you get to the narrative of the main topic of the book. Clearly the author is well qualified to write such a work, and can truly be said to empathize with the subjects studied therein. This is a fascinating work that helps the reader to better understand the nature of mental illness, and make a connection more personal than their artistic creations to composers, authors, and visual and music artists some of whom had work that reflected and shared their Christianity. A fascinating read. Dodie Melvin would find this interesting and make good use of the descriptions and conclusions it contains. Highly recommended. DK

ACT AS IF YOU WERE ALREADY HAPPY AND THAT WILL TEND TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.

.....Dale Carnegie

ELCA NEWS

Southern Ohio Synod receives a \$1,25 Million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.
April 3, 2024

The Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has received a \$1.25 Million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.

Funds will support the Synod's new ministry, Paraclete Post, designed to equip families to grow in their faith together by providing age-appropriate books, art, and materials for spiritual play and conversation through the mail. These thematic parcels will draw upon the rhythms of the liturgical calendar. Caregivers are met where they are with resources to engage the divine and pass on the faith while creating at-home faith-libraries.

Lilly Endowment made the grant through its Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative. The aim of the initiative is to help parents and caregivers share their faith and values with their children.

The Synod's Director for Evangelical Mission, Pr. Katie Kerrigan, is excited about this new outreach to children and their families: "We are delighted to be able to support families in this way, by providing high quality books, art, and other resources to support parents and caregivers as they explore faith with their children. Our dream has been to make these resources freely available, and this generous grant from Lilly Endowment helps us to get started."

"Our baptismal promises charge each of us with the task of passing on the faith to the next generation," said Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt, Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod. "Empowering children and families to hear, read about, and grow in their faith is part of the mission of Paraclete Post. This ministry is a response to our baptismal calling and will strengthen the entire body of Christ, starting with children and their caregivers. I am thrilled we received this grant and pray that families will be engaged in reading and sharing their faith because of this ministry."

The Southern Ohio Synod is one of 125 organizations that have received grants through the Parenting and Caregiving Initiative. Reflecting the diversity of Christianity in the United States, the organizations are affiliated with mainline Protestant, evangelical, Catholic, Orthodox Christian and Pentecostal faith communities. Many of the organizations are rooted in Black church, Hispanic and Asian Christian Traditions.

"We've heard from many parents who are seeking to nurture the spiritual lives of their children, especially in their daily activities, and looking to churches and other faith-based organizations for support," said Christopher L. Coble, Lilly Endowment's vice president for religion. "These thoughtful, creative and collaborative organizations embrace the important role that families have in shaping the religious development of children and are launching programs to assist parents and caregivers with this task." Lilly Endowment launched the Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative in 2022 because of its interest in supporting efforts to help individuals and families from diverse Christian communities draw more fully on the wisdom of Christian practices to live out their faith fully and well passing on a vibrant faith to a new generation.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Steve Conrad participated in the Brown Family Environmental Center's "Keep it Wild! Earth Day Festival" at the BFEC last Saturday and was able to distribute 90 seed packets that you see in the adjoining picture. Since this was so successful, we may try to do this at our "Frist Fridays" booth. Steve did a great job in describing the seeds, how to plant them and how long it would take for their maturity. Thanks Steve for doing this ministry.



CONGRATULATIONS - DISTINGUISHED EAGLE SCOUT AWARD!!!

The Distinguished Eagle Scout Award (DESA) was established in 1969 by the National Eagle Scout Association to recognize Eagle Scouts who achieve extraordinary national-level recognition, fame, or eminence within their profession and/or service to the nation and have a strong record of voluntary service to their community.

The DESA is thus the National Eagle Scout Association's (NESA) highest honor for Eagle Scouts.

Stringent criteria begin with a minimum of 25 years "Time in Service" from the official record date an Eagle rank was earned. That requirement was determined by the average time most nominees need to establish a career, earn peer recognition, awards, fame/eminence, and other factors that are considered for DESA selection.

Why am I telling you all this?? Our own Pierre "Frank" O'Hare II will be receiving this honor on Thursday, May 9th, at 6:30 pm at the VFW Post 1058, 1318 Putnam Avenue, Zanesville, Ohio 43701!!

See the insert for additional information as well as brochures on the bulletin board in the hallway of the church.

FIRST FRIDAYS

Faith Lutheran will be having a booth at the "First Fridays" this summer to reach out to the community regarding our Church and the many things that we offer. We will be located in front of the Edward Jones office, 126 South Main. We are going to need volunteers for each of the monthly Fridays, so please sign-up on the sheet on the bulletin board to offer your services.

LENTEN SPECIAL GIVING

As you know, Church Council designated this year's Lenten Special Giving to go to the Mount Vernon Police Chaplain's Association. We are pleased to announce that Faith Lutheran was able to give them **\$1,202** from our Lenten Special Giving this year. Thank you for supporting this ministry!!

HYMN SUGGESTION BOX

We have a "Little Church" box in the narthex for your hymn suggestions for this summer. Here is your opportunity to suggest your favorite hymns to be sung during this time. Please submit your suggestions by May 12th.

CPR CERTIFICATION

Council would like to have a list of anyone who is certified in CPR, or is a nurse, or in other health care fields to help in case an emergency would arise. Please send an email to the church office at: faithlutheranmtvernon@gmail.com with this your information if you are in one of these categories. Then we will keep this information in the AED box should we ever need the assistance of these folks. Thanks for your help.

**BLESS WHO YOU ARE, BLESS WHAT YOU DO,
MAY GOD TAKE YOU FAR, MAY GOD HOLD YOU TRUE**

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Our Mission Is To Know and Share God's Love



We're on the Web!
FLCMTV.org

Worship Sunday 8 & 10:30 am
Sunday School 9:15

THANKS!!

Thanks to the ALL-STAR BREAKFAST CREW for their hard work on Easter morning. Those helping were: Hank Antill, Rick Keaton, Alan Dexter, Joe Curran, Tom Noblit, Greg Maxwell, Bob Atwell, Tim Williams and Will "The Eggman" Melick. Great job guys and I hope I didn't forget anyone...Kevin Mishey
Update: Faith was able to send a nice check to the HopeWood Pines Camp from the many donations!!

GIVING UPDATE

Antic. Need to date	3/31:	\$ 57,311.50
Receipts to date	3/31:	\$ 41,951.57
Spent in Mission and Ministry	3/31:	\$ 59,524.05

