



# *Pathways of Faith*

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Faith Lutheran Church

March 2024

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## *The Pastor's Space*

Grace, Peace and Love:

On Ash Wednesday, February 14, the church entered the Liturgical Season of Lent. Ash Wednesday begins a forty-day journey of prayer and repentance that concludes on Holy Saturday, March 30, 2024. It prepares believers for the celebration of Easter. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We die to sin and evil and continue our life in God's will.

The Lenten tradition calls us to practice self-discipline throughout the season. During Lent, we are asked to devote ourselves to seeking the Lord in prayer and scripture. Lent is to be a time of repentance. These forty days are set aside to praise and worship the Lord.

Lent signifies a solemn forty-day period preceding preparation for the celebration of Easter. Between Ash Wednesday and Easter our spirit focuses on redemption. It is the redemption of all that acknowledge the faith that Jesus was sent to impart to humanity.

The Christian meaning of Lent revolves around preparation, reflection, and penance as we reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Sin has separated us from God. The story of Lent tells of what Jesus had to endure to save believers from sin, death, and evil. Lent is an opportunity to contemplate what our Lord really did for us on the cross.

In an ever-changing world of uncertainty, reliability brings comfort. The challenge for the believer in the 21st Century world we live in is to recognize the change that's before us and discover divine presence in the change. The spirit of Lent in these uncertain times brings certainty to the journey given to travel. As our situations change from year to year, the Season of Lent provides spiritual guidance through uncertain changing times.

The Lenten spirit helps the faithful to embrace the uncertainty. We discover new truths amid the change and uncertainty of our lives. It is my prayer that this Lenten season will be a blessed one for you, even amid your uncertainties.



## ***Message from the President***

Holy Week – Such a meaningful time of year. Please join us as we celebrate every blessed event here at Faith, culminating with Easter Morning service of worship and music followed by a delicious brunch!

Thank you to Patti Hamilton for leading our Sunday School for the little ones. Thank you to Tad Wicklander for agreeing to lead our Property Team at this time. Thank you to the 2024 Faith Lutheran Church Council for their willingness to serve & dedication to keep Faith Lutheran moving forward in doing God's work. Thank you for your diligence in helping me maintain transparency in all areas of church leadership.

Please keep your eyes peeled for new social ministry projects to start soon. Have some ideas? Please come to a council meeting or just let a member know. It takes many hands and hearts to keep Faith Lutheran up and running. Please pray and discern where you can lend a hand. There are many opportunities, just ask!

In the Lord's Service,

Laura Olson



## ***Treasurer's Report***

We are off to a good start for the year with net income (income less expenses) of \$23,218 for the month of January. Please note that some members elect to make annual contributions and January reflects those total-year offerings.

A financial audit was completed on January 31<sup>st</sup> with no issues noted. Thank you to Jerry Mikulski, Rich Eames, and Charlie Hoyle for volunteering their time to conduct this important review. Thank you also to Yvonne Magill for keeping our records and reports organized and accurate. That certainly makes the audit process go smoothly.

As you know, our insurance costs skyrocketed last year and so one of the first items for this year was to look for any opportunity to lower our premiums. Not surprisingly, our agent at Brown and Brown informed us that Property Insurance rates have increased yet again and we will not be able to get a better rate at this time. We will revisit this in June, but I am not very optimistic that a decrease will happen. The way the insurance market is now, we could very well see another increase. We will just have to wait and see.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 561-251-3594.

Blessings,  
Karen Otis  
Treasurer  
[klotis24@gmail.com](mailto:klotis24@gmail.com)

## ***Vice President's Report***

March is a very busy time here at Faith. Lent is a great time for reflecting on our lives and our faith.

We have the opportunity to be a part of the worship service not only on Sunday, but also the Wednesday night gatherings. Pastor Keeley does a wonderful job and brings to us many inspirational messages.

There is also the Holy Week services, starting with Palm Sunday and continuing with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. I have always found these services to have a special meaning and message in my life. I always try to make it to these services, to enhance the celebration of Easter Sunday. The times for each of these services are in your bulletin insert.

May God's peace be with you as we each make our Lenten journey.

Wendy Eames  
Vice President

## ***Property Report***

Property Day will be March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Beginning in April, property days will be the second Saturday of the month. Looking forward to that Spring weather! Thank you, Tad Wicklander, for stepping up to manage property tasks. Let's all come out and give him a hand in beautifying our grounds.



## ***Social Ministry***

Thank you all for your 'Souper Bowl' donations to the Salvation Army pantry. Much appreciated!

On our way to Ash Wednesday service, a homeless person was standing with a Mylar blanket around his shoulders. Thank you for your donation to this cause.

This month we will be dedicating the 'Plarning mats' for use in the Ormond Beach area. What a blessing to the homeless during the chilly weather. Thank you again to our members of the Plarning group: Barbara Neunfeldt, Marge Sykes, Elisa Amaro (mother of Nancy Sykes), Marge Cullen, Carol Webster, Ceil Masterson, and Bat Masterson, and those who make anonymous plarning balls for this ministry.

Julie Hoyle

## ***Fellowship Report***

Well, we slid from short February right into March. We tackled much road traffic due to snowbirds and the Daytona Speedway activities. Watch out for yourselves and motorcycles in March.

From what we hear, you all certainly appreciated the delicious chili and soup meals along with cornbread, crackers, cheeses and desserts. A big thank you to the folks who filled those 7 crockpots with yummy flavors. February's Birthday celebration was another hit!

Remember the Advent service gatherings are another occasion for breaking bread followed by Easter Brunch. Please check out all opportunities to share food with our congregation. Pastor's Lenten series on "Change" is bound to be a memorable discussion time.

God Bless us all as we continue through the Lenten journey together.

Lynne Meinhold & Cathy Neuhardt

## ***Thank You***

Thank you to Kathy Mikulski and her personal assistants, Jerry, Jason and Tyler. How wonderfully they update the Narthex bulletin board, keeping the Church's congregation apprised of each Church calendar season, You are truly appreciated!

## ***Council Meeting***

The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend.

## ***Plarning***

Our plarning group makes beautiful mats for the homeless. The plarners will meet on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, from 1:00 to 3:00. We welcome anyone who wants to join us.

## ***Unity Men's Fellowship 2024***

March 9, 2024, 8:30 a.m.

Faith Lutheran Church

- Welcome and Opening Comments
- Unity Breakfast
- Devotion led by Pastor Keeley entitled "Seasons"
- "Laughter with Luther, Martin that is!"
- Closing prayer and departure

Peace....John Meehl



## ***Game Night***

Join your fellow church members for a fun evening out. Our next game night is scheduled for March 22nd at 5PM in Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy some pizza, play some games and share good company!



## ***Bridge of Hope***

The next Bridge of Hope opportunity to feed the homeless will be Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 AM.

Location: Hope Place  
1340 Wright Street  
Daytona Beach, FL 32117

Come join us for a very rewarding experience!

Please contact Kathy Mikulski with any questions.  
(410)507-2826

## ***Member at Large***

### TWO POINTS TO PONDER

#### #1 Update: 2024 Crismon Project

I had the opportunity to speak with Bat Masterson on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. He shared several thoughts about our future Crismon project. He will assist with the technical and detail areas. We are fortunate to have his expertise and assistance. Thank you, Bat.

This project was shared with Council, and our goal would be to engage interested members and others to create 2024 Christmas Crismons!

An idea was shared to announce the project to UNITY church members and other friends, as this project will be an excellent opportunity for our friends and families from Faith, Hope and All Saints to come together for a meaningful holiday activity for each church. Please share with those you feel may enjoy this activity. Oh yes, food will be part of our work!

#2: Council approved celebrating National Boy Scouts Day 2025. We will be discussing this with our Boy Scout troop and hopefully, partner with other troops in the celebration. If you would like to help, let me know. Thank you, Bob Neuhardt, for contacting our troop.

Other ideas are in the “blender” and will be shared in the future. If you would like to share ideas and volunteer to help me with these two projects and others, let me know.

Peace....John Meehl



***Altar Flowers***

03 Lent – No flowers

10 Lent – No flowers

17 Lent – No flowers

24 Bat & Ceil Masterson – In celebration of our anniversary

31 Joe & Pat Cromwell – In celebration of our anniversary

***Bulletins***

03 ----

10 ----

17 Bob & Marylou Aldrich -In celebration of Bob's birthday

24 Ken & Pat Huntley -In celebration of son Scott's birthday

31 Lynne Meinhold -In loving memory of husband Bob's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of birth

***Candles***

Bob & Cathy Neuhardt – In celebration of Cathy's mom's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday



March 16

Bill Navarra

March 17

Bob Aldrich

March 23

Tim Webster

March 29

Patti Hamilton

HAPPY  
anniversary



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March 27

Bat & Ceil Masterson

March 29

Joe & Pat Cromwell