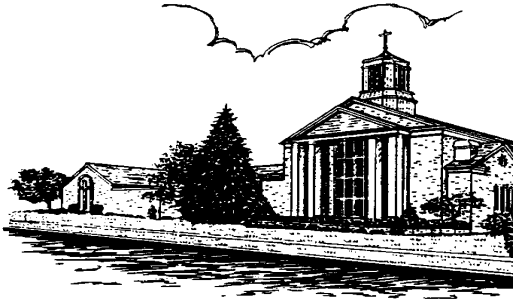


**FAITH UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
4543 DOUGLAS ROAD
TOLEDO, OH 43613**

FEBRUARY 2023

FAITH CHRONICLES



Faith United Lutheran Church
4543 Douglas Road – Toledo, Ohio 43613
419-473-1369

Email: faithunitedlutherantoledo@gmail.com
Website: www.faithunitedlutherantoledo.com or
www.faithunited.church

Pastor: Pr. Tom Schaeffer

Secretary: Jan Weatherly

Organist: Patricia Haase

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Worship Services: Sunday – 10:00 am

Choir Director: Rick Napierala

In case of an emergency, you may reach Pastor Tom at 419-481-3891 or Donna Morrin at 419-290-8997

A Message from our Pastor

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A new journey begins! Our first Sunday under our expanded banner as Faith United was a wonderful one. It was a true blessing to see and hear so many praising God together. I know it was a bittersweet day for many and healing will take time. But it also was a day of hope and possibilities as we consider the plans that God has for us in the days ahead.

Nonetheless, the first order of business is unity. Unity within the Body of Christ is something St. Paul speaks of frequently and is clearly of great importance to Jesus Christ who is the head of the Body. So, it must be something we, too, give great care to maintaining. The health of the Body that is Faith United depends on it.

First, I want to speak to those who have been part of Faith United since the beginning. We all know what it is like to close a church. We understand those emotions. But, I want us all to recognize also that the situation in which our newest members join us was and is very different. The original predecessor churches considered closing and consolidating for years. They shared pastors for years. The same is true of ministries. In short, consolidating was something that most members had a decade to contemplate and ultimately accept.

This was not true for our newest members. Their predecessor church was warned in recent years of the potential for closing. Even then, the decision came in a manner that felt sudden for many, even though the alarms had been sounded. Moreover, they do not have the benefit of being a part of that initial experience of forming a brand new church. For these and many other reasons, not the least of which that it is the character with which Christ calls us to live, we need to extend an abundance of grace and hospitality to our newest members. Go out of your way to be friendly. Go out of your way to be welcoming. Do all that you can to encourage unity in the Body of Christ.

To our newest members, I want to say that I recognize your grief. It was a difficult, but brave decision that you made. But know that you are welcome here. I hope you feel that. I hope you see that. As surely I know that your brothers and sisters of Faith United are excited and happy to have you join the family as well as they are understanding of the heartache that led this to happen.

For all of us, one thing is certain and very important. We are now one church. We remember our predecessor churches, but we are Faith United. In this way, perhaps we are like a marriage of churches. In Ephesians, St Paul writes, “we are members of his body.”³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”³² This is a great mystery, but I am speaking about Christ and the church.” St. Paul is speaking about the church but he quotes from Genesis 2 concerning marriage to make his point.

One of the things I tell engaged couples is that they need to learn from their history with their families, but when they get married they will be a new family making new traditions and their own history. That is true for all of us at Faith United.

Through this marriage of churches it is time for us to make new traditions and to move forward forging a new history for our church. To that end, we make a covenant with one another to be faithful to one another and to our God and in our coming together we share a common name—Faith United.

United in Faith,

Pastor Tom

Special Services

The first Sunday of each month will be a Healing Service. The second Sunday of every month we will use the Haugen Hymnal Service Supplement for the liturgy portion of worship, including guitars.

WHAT'S NEW AT FAITH UNITED

Facebook Page: If you haven't been to Faith United's Facebook page yet, please visit there (and Like us.) Anyone is welcome to share photos of church activities, say hello to one another and just keep up on news. You can also share upcoming events with your Friends. It is called Faith United Lutheran Church.

Web Site – The church's Web site, www.faithunitedlutherantoledo.com or www.faithunited.church, is a great source for information for you and you can tell friends to check out the site to find out what is happening at Faith United!

Church Office Hours –The church office is fully open to visitors again. Office hours are 10:00 – 3:00 M-F.

Church Supplies – the church is always in need of paper towels, toilet paper, and hand soap. You can bring supplies to the church office or drop off on the next Sunday we are together.

FROM THE OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Our first Family Fun Night of 2023 is now set. On Friday, February 24th, we will be having "Not Your Mother's Meatloaf" night. Make your old standby meatloaf or go all Iron Chef on us and create a gastronomical delight. There are countless recipes online if you're going for a change of pace. Aren't interested in messing around with hamburger, you can bring a bag of salad (we have a gazillion bottles of dressing in the fridge), a vegetable (cold or hot), a dessert (obviously the best part of the meal), or anything else you might like to bring. Don't want to go the food route period, just bring your appetite, and join the fun.

There will most likely be a little Trivia corner (if you have a category you'd like to see on the list, please let me know), and there are other games available for your after-dinner enjoyment. The doors will open at 6:30, but we will hold off a bit on actually sitting down to eat so as to give everyone coming time to bring their contribution. Beverages will be provided (if you'd prefer something special there's always BYOB – not the alcoholic version).

To really start making these monthly gatherings truly part of Faith United's Outreach, please invite your relatives, friends, neighbors, the mailman, your Amazon delivery guy, your barber, or anyone else who might enjoy a home-cooked meal and some fun. The whole purpose of these nights of fellowship is to bring people to our church. We don't have a lot in the way of an advertising budget, so word of mouth is our best form of reaching others.

The Outreach Committee, and by that, I mean me, has some interesting plans for the rest of the year. Have an idea for a fun evening, by all means let me know. Really looking forward to expanding this program throughout 2023, so if you've never joined us before, please come on over and have some fun.

Thanks to our newest members from Augsburg, we have a couple of brand new, to us, programs that I strongly encourage everyone to help out with. On the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, from 10:30-12:30, anyone will be able to get some help on obtaining a copy of their Ohio birth certificate and/or a state ID card. On the 2nd Friday of every month, we will be hosting a Food for Thought pantry. Volunteers will be needed, so if you can spare a couple hours, please let the office know, and you will be contacted about helping out.

Jesus told his disciples, which we are part of, to go OUT and make disciples. Faith United seriously can't afford to stay inside our 4 walls anymore. We need to reach out to our community and let them know we are here, along with offering to introduce them to the Amazing Grace they too can receive from Christ our Lord. I have never been much of an outgoing person, but I have definitely stepped out of my safe zone over the past few years. I encourage others to join me and the other members helping to make a difference in people's lives.

Yours in Christ
Jan Weatherly, Outreach Coordinator

Schedule for Lent

Ash Wednesday – Feb. 22. Worship is at Our Savior Lutheran Church. 2820 W. Alexis Rd. 7:00

Wednesday – Mar. 1 – Worship at Faith United. 7:00

Wednesday – Mar. 8 – Worship at Faith United. 7:00

Wednesday – Mar. 15 – Worship at Faith United. 7:00

Wednesday – Mar. 22 – Worship at Faith United. 7:00

Wednesday – Mar. 29 – Worship at Faith United. 7:00

Sunday – April 2 – Palm Sunday. 10:00am

Thursday – April 6 – Maundy Thursday – Worship at St. Luke's Lutheran Church. 1690 W. Sterns Rd., Temperance, MI
7:00

Friday – April 7 – Good Friday – Worship at Faith United. 7:00.

Sunday – April 9 – Easter Sunday – Festival Worship at Faith United. 10:00am

Lenten Worship

As you can see from the schedule on the previous page, we will be joining with two other sister congregations for three services: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. We hope you are all able to attend these special services. The choir is planning to sing at all three locations. Additionally, we are planning midweek worship during Lent. The dates and times are in the above schedule. Of course, we have worship every Sunday. Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday were mentioned because they are SPECIAL!!!

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

I just wanted to make a brief mention about the office. The office is open from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. There is no need whatsoever for any member of the congregation to call the office to ask if you can stop in for whatever reason. This is a part of your church, and the doors are open unless I must step out briefly or leave for some reason.

I am in the process of putting together a new, updated church directory. When it is finished, I will print off a very few copies for those without an email address. For everyone else, I will email the document to you in both Word and .pdf formats. I will be going off the list of email addresses I received from Katy Pushka for our newest members. If your address is not on that list, you can email or call the office and write that information on your attendance card Sunday mornings. As always, I ask everyone to check your information in the directory. If there is anything needing to be changed, please let me know right away so it can be fixed.

As most of you know, new name tags have been made for everyone who has been in attendance for the past 2-3 weeks. I think it's rather important, at least for the first couple of months after the merging, for everyone to wear their name tag, so we can all start putting names to faces. I am working on a place to hang those up in the Narthex. You are certainly welcome to take them with you at the end of the service. Just remember to bring them the following week.

A reminder to everyone transferring from Augsburg. You may continue to use your Augsburg envelopes until Faith United ones can be issued. Just be sure to write your name on the envelope. You may also use the pew pocket envelopes. Write down your name and AUG on these envelopes. New envelope packets are being assigned according to those who are giving weekly, as we have only a small supply of Faith United envelopes available at the moment.

WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

Ladies, come one, come all! Come once in a while, come all the time! WELCA is for ALL ladies of Faith United Lutheran Church. If you have a friend who would like to come with you, she is welcome too! In February we will meet on Saturday, February 4 at 10:00 am in the lounge.

For our Bible Study we will be looking at Commandments 3 & 4. "Some might say the Old Testament commands Remember the Sabbath and Honor Your Folks seem outdated and quaint. After all, didn't Jesus routinely break the Sabbath? Didn't Jesus (on occasion) talk back to his mother? Yet these commandments are far from outdated. Find out how these commands offer a source of peace and inspiration in today's often hectic and generational segregated society and church,

Our morning will continue with fellowship and discussion about future events.

Our first quarter Mission: Action project will be, once again, supporting Cherry Street Mission Ministries which includes The Sparrows Nest women's shelter. Your donations of socks, hats, gloves, and scarves will be much appreciated as we strive to help keep folks warm throughout the rest of the winter months.

Looking Ahead: Saturday, March 4, WELCA Bible Study and fellowship
Saturday, April 1, Women's Communion Breakfast

If you are looking for an online daily devotion for Lent, I suggest "A heart Journey Through Lent", information at info@clarenceheller.com

Living Awake
Cindy Sauppé

Thank You to all who prepared the food, set up Luther Hall, or helped clean up after our Welcome Breakfast. The food was yummy and the fellowship was exceptional!!!

Sunday School Teachers We are in need of a few folks to volunteer to be Sunday School Teachers. This would not necessarily be an every week commitment, depending on how many of you volunteer. If you are willing to serve, please see either Sheryl Johnson or Pastor Tom.

REGULAR BUILDING USE-FEBRUARY 2023

Monday	12:00-1:00	Open-Minded AA	Lower Educational Wing
	5:30-8:30	Kylie & Co.	Luther Hall
	5:30-9:45	Driving School	Lower Educational Wing
	7:00-	Church Council	Conference Room (2 nd Monday each month)
Tuesday	12:00-1:00	Open-Minded AA	Lower Educational Wing
	4:30-9:30	Volleyball	Luther Hall
	5:30-9:45	Driving School	Lower Educational Wing
Wednesday	12:00-1:00	Open-Minded AA	Lower Educational Wing
	5:30-8:30	Kylie & Co.	Luther Hall
	7:00-10:00	12-Step West AA	Lower Educational Wing
Thursday	12:00-1:00	Open-Minded AA	Lower Educational Wing
	5:30-7:00	Basketball	Luther Hall
	5:30-9:45	Driving School	Lower Educational Wing
	6:00-6:50	Bell Choir	Sanctuary
	7:00-9:00	Choir	Sanctuary
	7:30-9:30	Volleyball	Luther Hall
Friday	5:00-9:00	Volleyball	Luther Hall

SPECIAL BUILDING USE-FEBRUARY 2023

Saturday	02/04/2022	Lounge	W.E.L.C.A. Meeting
Sunday	02/05/2023	Luther Hall	Private Event
Saturday	02/11/2023	Luther Hall	Private Event

IN OUR PRAYERS

Home: Bethany Collier, Karen & Mike Isbell, Tom Hillesheim, Joanna Ranes, Molly Brown & family, Rob Young, Carole Haugh, John Kusz, Freider Kempf, Carol & Chuck Dolt, Corinne Olinger, Marcia Conn, Bill & Mary Ann McDermott, Art Schroeder, Julie Boesenhofer, Randy Collier, Judy & Al Schaarschmidt, John Bailiff, Sandy & Steve Drake, Larry Matzinger, Gloria DeMerritt, Lori Knous, Lydia Latsch, Jan Leonard, Colleen Krebsner.

Hospitals/Care Centers: Char Bowlus (Charter Senior Living of Oak Openings); Libby Ketterman (Swan Creek); Pastor Nick Mays (Charter Senior Living of Oak Openings); Michael Morrin.

Friends & Family: Janice Blazey; Laura Sams, daughter of Sue & John Kusz; Carol Struckholz; Peggy Thomas, Karen's mother, Tom Steedman; Cody by Sharon Kaczmarek; Julie Hipple by Ruth & Roger Stygles; Sue & Gary Faber, Devan & John, Patti, Jenny & Hunter, Tom & Teri, Linda & Fritz, Don, Dennis, Al, Bryan & Lisa, David, Kim & Dan, Lou & Barbie, Naomi & Delano, Cathy & George Andre.

In the military: Roy Oberhaus, Bill Myers, Ashley and Jason Weatherly, Kyle Dietrich, Kyle Mikolajczyk, Kayla Fowler, Sean Ray, Logan Hillesheim, Chris, Tyler Coulter, Pete Christoff, Nicholas Kerchvall, Andrea Perry

Happy Birthday to the following who celebrate their birthdays in February!

- 2 Diana Coyne, Joyce (Wow) Wagner, Molly Brown, Frank Navarre
- 5 Joanne Kraus, Jane Mullikin, Tyrone Rupp, Eric Sarnecky
- 7 Shearl Schmidt, Michele Flick, Logan Wagner
- 11 Connie Billian
- 14 Paul LaClair, Arthur Stewart
- 16 Caroline Dolt
- 17 Harper Paluga
- 18 Richard Kaetzel
- 19 Colby Wells
- 20 Tonya Schmidt, Danny Jaques
- 21 Griffen Gist
- 24 Madison Smith, McKenna Smith
- 25 Hannah McArthur, Haley McArthur, Gale Rose
- 26 Kenleigh Carmony

Happy Anniversary to the following couples who celebrate in February!

- 12 Mike and Barb Link
- 15 Phil and Nancy Sieja

If your birthday does not appear here, please contact Peg Hinds at pdhinds@gmail.com so I can add your birthday to the list. Also, I do not have anniversaries for any former Augsburg members. If you would like to be recognized on your anniversary (of course you do!), send me an email with your name and date.

Bible Readings for February

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 1 | Luke 6:17-26 | 15 | Matthew 19:1-12 |
| 2 | 1 John 5:1-5 | 16 | 1 Corinthians 10:23 – 11:1 |
| 3 | James 3:13-18 | 17 | Galatians 5:2-6 |
| 4 | Mark 7:1-8 | 18 | Matthew 7:1-12 |
| 5 | Matthew 5:13-20 | 19 | Matthew 17:1-9 |
| 6 | Romans 11:2-10 | 20 | Romans 12:9-21 |
| 7 | 2 Corinthians 4:1-12 | 21 | Hebrews 12:14-16 |
| 8 | John 8:12-30 | 22 | Luke 18:18-30 |
| 9 | James 1:12-16 | 23 | Philippians 2:19-24 |
| 10 | 1 John 2:7-17 | 24 | Philippians 2:25-30 |
| 11 | Matthew 15:1-9 | 25 | Luke 11:14-23 |
| 12 | Matthew 5:21-37 | 26 | Matthew 4:1-11 |
| 13 | James 1:2-8 | 27 | Hebrews 10:32-39 |
| 14 | James 2:1-13 | 28 | 1 Corinthians 4:6-21 |

LENT



PRAY



FAST



GIVE