

Faith Lutheran Church  
**The Messenger**  
April, 2024

Note  
from the  
pastor



March Madness: Busted Brackets and Empty Tombs

Dear Friends,

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

The grocery stores are already heavily discounting chocolate bunnies and moving on to their next “seasonal display” (Derby, at least in Kentucky). But we in the church know that Easter is a season, not a day, and that this season lasts for 50 days. So, I send along to you a heartfelt “Happy Easter!”

For fans of a certain university’s men’s basketball team, March did not go as planned, and April couldn’t come soon enough. Across the country, the trendy pick to make the Final Four (at least) got upset in the first round of play. Losses like that hurt. They just do. We may say it’s only a game, we might try our best to be good sports, to put things in perspective... but it still hurts.

College basketball is not war. It’s not life and death. In a certain sense, the outcome of an amateur athletic competition played by young men, several of whom will soon be millionaires, may seem rather trivial. But a lot of people did react with sadness and disappointment. Of course, others are overjoyed (and still others apathetic). But I don’t serve a church next door to Oakland University. I serve here in Lexington, where you can make small talk about Coach Cal as easily as the weather.

And let’s be honest: the disappointment and the frustration are real. In our culture, we have the crazy idea that our emotions need permission. I can’t tell you how many times I have heard someone clearly hurting at a funeral say something like, “I’m not family, but...” Ok. Maybe you’re not a blood relative... but your grief is real. And valid.

And then there are times when people feel there’s something “wrong” with how they are feeling. I think about caregivers, those saints who honor their parents or uphold their marriage vows, spending years taking care of a gravely ill loved one. And when it is all over, and a sense of relief comes over them, sometimes people ask: is it bad that I feel this way?

No, it’s not. It’s not bad. It’s human. And if you are reading this, I am guessing that you’re human. And humans feel things whether we give ourselves permission or not. Jesus certainly did. That is part the of the wonder and beauty and mystery of the Incarnation. The center of our faith is the belief that Jesus of Nazareth was not only fully God, but that he was fully human too.

Think about when Jesus goes to the temple and sees money lenders exploiting the people for profit, and he gets angry and drives them out. Anger is not a bad emotion. It's a human one. Likewise, when his friend Lazarus dies, Jesus weeps for his friend. Grief and sadness are not bad emotions, they are human emotions. [Side note: a pox on any pastor who tells people not to cry at funerals!] If the savior of the world can be angry, sad, disappointed, tired, anxious, thirsty or in need of a nap, well what kind of permission would the rest of us need to feel the same?

On Good Friday, Jesus cries out in agony from the cross, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" Jesus speaks as a man utterly scorned. He's exhausted and humiliated and alone. Those are real feelings. And chances are, as you go through life, you will find yourself calling out in pain too. Part of being human is that our feelings do not need permission. We feel what we feel. It is true for Jesus, and it is true for us.

Sometimes people share their vulnerabilities with an addendum. Something like, "I'm not looking for sympathy." Well, maybe not, but you wouldn't be wrong to seek it. Aren't we all in this together? If imagining the cross can break our hearts, why wouldn't the pain of our sisters and brothers move us to compassion? If Jesus did not silently bear his pain, why on earth would you expect yourself to do just that? How could anyone expect that of you?

We can talk about taking responsibility for those feelings and stewarding them another time [Sidenote: the next Healthy Congregations workshop is coming in May]. For now, it is enough to remember that emotions are not "good" or "bad;" they are human. And as human beings, as the people of God, individuals capable of feeling love and hate, anger and peace, jealousy and admiration, greed and contentment, depression and jubilation, all the feelings, let's talk about how we feel about this thing we call the resurrection.

Viewed objectively, the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is the best news ever uttered in human history. The empty tomb is a sign for all of us that our destiny is not a moldering grave or an eternity among the dead. It's life eternal with and through Jesus Christ. This has been a source of comfort and strength for countless Christians throughout the ages.

But we can say with conviction that the tomb is empty, that death has been defeated, and that Christ has risen, without saying anything about how we feel about these things. So how do you feel about it? If you are willing, I would love to hear your reflections on Easter. Send me an email. Let's find a time to grab coffee. How have you experienced the resurrection recently?

My own experience of the church is that we often treat Easter like a kind of pep rally and the resurrection like a cheer. Looking at scripture, though, makes it evident that the first disciples on the first Easter felt an incredible range of feelings. Fear, disbelief, amazement, wonder, hope, doubt, relief. My guess is, especially over the entire season, there will be times when we feel some of these things too. Easter isn't one endless pep rally. And the resurrection is more than a slogan to rally the crowd.

Therefore, my hope for this season, these 50 days of Easter, is that we ponder and pray about being the very human followers of Jesus, fully God and fully human. That we strive to be community of love and compassion, a place where people are allowed to express vulnerability and doubt, and not have to seek permission for feeling as they do. A place where one can indeed sing with joy about the empty tomb, and still be sad that their bracket is busted. That's not silly, it's human.

In Christ,

Pastor Dana



Don't miss  
**BUILD's**

# ***NEHEMIAH ACTION***

**Tuesday, April 30 at 7:00**

**Central Bank Center, 430 W. Vine St.**

6:15 Sign in begins

5:45 Meet at church

for light supper and carpooling

6:30 Leave church for Central Bank Center

## **Issues:**

| Affordable Housing |

| Micotransit |

| Elder Care |

**For more information talk to Shane Hadden, Pastor Barry  
Neece or Richard Heine**



# A Joyous Easter to All!

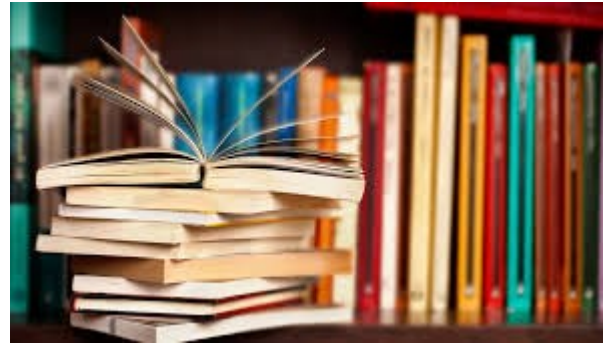
from  Kathy



## God's Pantry

April's God Pantry Items will be: **Breakfast Foods: Boxed Cereals, Oatmeal, Granola Bar, Biscuit and Pancake Mixes.** Please bring all food items to place in the God's Pantry labeled blue bin, located behind the privacy screens in the Narthex! Thank you so much!

## Used Book Sale



FLC will hold its annual used book sale on the following Sundays: April 14th, April 21st and April 28th! Anyone can donate books now by leaving them in the boxes under the coat racks in the Narthex. If any questions contact Donita Henry at [henrydonita@gmail.com](mailto:henrydonita@gmail.com). Thanks so much!

## Prayer Pals

In Western Christianity, Eastertide, or the Easter Season, begins on Easter Sunday, and lasts seven weeks, ending with the 50<sup>th</sup> Day, Pentecost Sunday. The day of Pentecost is known in the Christian Church as the day on which the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles. This year, Pentecost will be on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> and the Evangelism Committee is offering the congregation the opportunity to randomly pair up with another member of the congregation to pray for each other, and offer each other encouragement and support for the next 50 days. If you would like to participate, e-mail Gayle McGrath, chair of the Evangelism Committee, at [gayle.mcgrath@outlook.com](mailto:gayle.mcgrath@outlook.com) and let her know your contact information. Beginning April 7<sup>th</sup>, members of our congregation who would like to participate will become "prayer pals", through e-mail or phone calls. Celebrate the season of Easter with prayers for each other!

## Save the Date

The next Healthy Congregations Workshop will be Saturday, May 11. We would love for you to join us!



Dear brothers and sisters,

I am writing to you with heartfelt gratitude towards the congregation. It all began back in 2009 when a group of missionaries, including Pastor Ron Luckey and my grandma Patricia Mundt, arrived through CFI (Christian Flights International).

Although our initial intention was to visit people and share the love of God, we unexpectedly found ourselves hiking in the hills. Despite this unforeseen challenge, I eagerly supported my grandma aka Patricia Mundt in navigating the terrain.

As I approached the end of high school, I took a chance and asked if assistance could be provided for me to attend college. Pastor Ron then entrusted this responsibility to Patricia.

Following my schooling, and with plans to study in the US, Pastor Ron, Patricia, and Sherri, along with the church, ensured that we (the four of us) had a place to live, food on the table, and even helped with necessities such as charging our phones with minutes (courtesy of Linda Kinney), as we were unable to secure employment. I am deeply grateful for your generosity.

Despite several unsuccessful attempts to secure study opportunities in the US, we began university in Haiti, thanks to your unwavering support.

In 2015, I arrived in Lexington after finally gaining entry to the US for an observership in Le Mars, Iowa. Steve Kinney drove from Indianapolis to Lexington to welcome me. As I crossed the Ohio bridge and saw the sign welcoming me to Kentucky, I felt as though I had found a second home.

During my time in Lexington, the church arranged for me to give a presentation. Dr. Jimmy and Cortney Lee were in attendance and graciously invited me to shadow them. It was during this period, while observing Dr. Cortney Lee's work, that I developed a fondness for country music. The University of Kentucky became a dream for me, and I returned each summer to shadow US physicians.

Once again, this year, the church supported me immensely during the residency application season, both financially and spiritually.

On March 15th, I received the wonderful news that I had matched in Radiology at the University of Kentucky.

I conclude with Psalm 113:7-9: "He raises the poor out of the dust, and lifts the needy out of the ash heap, that He may seat him with princes— with the princes of His people. He grants the barren woman a home, like a joyful mother of children. Praise the LORD!"

I am eternally grateful and believe that God will bless each one of you abundantly. I cannot thank you enough.

A special thanks to Pastor Dana and Debbie for ensuring that I had everything I needed in a timely manner.

With sincere appreciation,

Johnson Deshommes

## Sophia Group

Sofia will be reading “The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store” by James McBride for our

April 22 meeting. We will gather at Carole Seibert’s home at 7 pm. Carole lives at 2913 Tabor Oaks Ln. Diann Terry is the host and you may RSVP her at [deterry1672@aol.com](mailto:deterry1672@aol.com) or 859-7714721. Everyone is welcome!

## Pride Festival



**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH & LEARNING CENTER –  
LEXINGTON PRIDE FESTIVAL, SATURDAY, JUNE 29,  
2024**

**“As followers of Christ, we embrace, reflect,  
and proclaim God’s unconditional love.”**

This is who we say we are at Faith Lutheran Church and what we are called to do, both in our local community and in the world.

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, Val Dutcher has worked with Pride Event organizers to secure a booth for Faith Lutheran Church & Faith Lutheran Learning Center at the Lexington Pride Festival scheduled for Saturday, June 29th, 2024, kicking off at 11 AM.

If you are interested in staffing this booth to answer questions, to help take photos with those wanting to use our ‘rainbow’ cut-out frames, and to share information about Faith Lutheran Church/Learning Center, please contact Val Dutcher. Her cell phone number/text message is (859) 270-9866 and her e-mail is [valjdutcher@gmail.com](mailto:valjdutcher@gmail.com)

We’ll be hosting another painting party at Pinot’s Palette - stay tuned for more details !!

## Thank You

Dear Friends,

On Tuesday of Holy Week, I was especially honored and proud to serve as your pastor. A few months ago, Faith Lutheran was asked to host the final Chrism Liturgy of Bishop Bill Gafkjen’s service to our synod, and wow did this congregation respond to that invitation! Our parish life and worship committees went above and beyond, and working together Faith hosted a beautiful service, honored our bishop, served a delicious meal (during the busiest week of the year for the church!), live-streamed the service for folks unable to make the drive (including several pastors from across the synod), and kicked off Holy Week with an extra measure of grace. It was a beautiful testimony to the hospitality and faithfulness of this congregation and the many hands that make this place run smoothly. Thank you for this start to Holy Week and for having me as your pastor.

In Christ,

Dana

## Youth Fundraiser



Thank you so much to everyone who has helped make our soup lunch fundraisers for the National Youth Gathering successful, especially to those who brought soup! Our next soup lunch will be April 28th after the 11:00 service. If you would like to bring in a soup for this fundraiser, please reach out to Paige Barricklow and let her know what you're bringing. If not, please plan to stay after church on the 28th for a bowl of soup!

## Prayer List

The persons on the parish prayer list are lifted in prayer as part of a rotation during the Sunday services. If you would like to be on the prayer list or no longer need to be on the list, please call or email the parish office.

If you would like a pastoral visit or home communion, you may contact Pastor Dana by calling the church office or by email (pastordana@faithlutheranchurch.com)

The prayer/care ministry invites you to join them in connecting with persons on our prayer list. You can volunteer to connect by phone or email, by a personal visit, or by agreeing to add one specific person to your daily prays. Contact Pastor Dana for more information or to become part of this ministry.

### Members of the Parish (ongoing concerns):

Nancy George, John Atkerson, Gary Chastain, Diana Seidel, Pete Gross, Bea Rosenberg, Wayne Schedler, Bette Lawrence, Rebecca Chapman, Bonnie & Cary Chastain and Joe Swanson.

### Friends of the Parish:

Johnson Deshommes, Linda Davis (sister of Barbie Moore), Barbara Babcock (mother of Val Dutcher), the family of Jim Buchanan, the family of Guy Rion, Richard Lee (friend of Judy Page and Elaine Billington), the family of Faye Gross, the family of Nancy Krause, Chelsea and Jeremy Back, Aleisha Hampton, Linda Davis, Charla Heersche and Todd Felske.



- 2 Griffin Farrar  
Jim Knauss
- 3 Scott Gralheer
- 4 Gary Chastain
- 14 David Fegley
- 15 Katherine Filchak
- 16 Dave McGrew
- 18 Jim McGrath
- 21 Richard Michel
- 22 Chris Reynolds
- 23 Gordon Grotrian
- 27 Victoria Lockhart
- 28 Kevin Carey
- 29 Daniel Lau

- 5 Stephanie & Britton  
Farrar
- 10 Alann & Kristi Karow
- 20 Richard & Cindy Heine
- 26 JoEllen & Neil McComb
- 29 Shane & Amy Hadden



## February Financial Summary

February 2024	Total Income - <u>Month</u>	Total Expense - <u>Month</u>	Actual Total Income Less Actual Total Expense	Total Income - <u>YTD</u>	Total Expense - <u>YTD</u>	Actual Total Income Less Actual Total Expense
Budget Forecast	\$24,935.83	\$34,780.21		\$49,871.66	\$69,560.42	
<b>Actual</b>	<b>\$27,208.70</b>	<b>\$38,143.35</b>	<b>(\$10,934.65)</b>	<b>\$59,554.31</b>	<b>\$65,292.50</b>	<b>(\$5,738.19)</b>
Variance	\$2,272.87	\$3,363.14	(\$10,934.65)	\$9,682.65	(\$4,267.92)	(\$5,738.19)
%	109.1%	109.7%		119.4%	93.9%	

## Faith Lutheran Church

1000 Tates Creek Drive  
Lexington, KY 40502  
Phone: 859-266-7621  
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Email:  
office@faithlutheranchurch.com

## Church Council 2024

Bob Henry, President  
Gayle McGrath, Vice President  
David Templar, Secretary  
Debbie Rosenberg, Treasurer  
Pastor Dana Lockhart

Steve Hayes  
Urton Anderson  
Sue Anne Lau  
Brian Lundborg

## Financial Secretary

Jennifer Carey

## Sunday Worship Schedule

In-Person Worship 8:30 and 11:00 AM  
Online Streaming, 11:00 AM

## Staff

### Pastor Dana Lockhart

859-266-7621  
pastordana@faithlutheranchurch.com

### Amanda Nord

Parish Administrator  
office@faithlutheranchurch.com  
859-266-7621

### Kathy Egnor

Director of Music  
music@faithlutheranchurch.com  
859-266-7621

### Neil McComb, Sexton

859-229-8834

### Paige Barricklow, Youth Assistant

pebarricklow15@gmail.com  
859-940-0631

### Charla Heersche, Learning Center Director

fhc859@gmail.com  
859-268-0108

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