



"Together in Christ's love, we joyfully serve, actively witness, and dedicate ourselves to caring, teaching, and growing through the Word."

Faith Lutheran Abilene

March 2021

³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 8:38-39



Greetings Faith Lutheran Family and Friends,

Time keeps on going no matter what is happening in your life. It is hard to think that around this time last year we were beginning to hear the ominous rumblings of Sars-Covid-19. Many people have been affected by this virus that impacts people in a variety of ways. I have watched people that I know (including myself) lose precious time with family and friends, lose their businesses and livelihoods, lose hope in the nation and in seeing an end to this pandemic.

In times of suffering, the Church continues on no matter the circumstance. The church may look different outwardly, but inwardly is the same church—people gathered around to hear God's Word and to receive the Sacraments. This doesn't change because the promises of Jesus, the Word of God made man, never change.

God never changes His mind about His grace, forgiving our sins, or giving eternal life to all who believe. This and this alone aides us as we face an ever changing world. The world's challenges and difficulties try to assail us, but instead get us to realize more and more that this world, this life is temporary. God offers what relationships, businesses, politicians, and vaccines cannot offer—a sure and certain future with Him!

Salomo Franck, penned the Hymn, "I Leave All Things to God's Direction." The last stanza points to this hope that is our through Jesus:

**My God has all things in His keeping;
He is the ever faithful friend.
He gives me laughter after weeping,
And all His ways in blessings end.
His love endures eternally:
What pleases God, that pleases me.**

Text: Public domain

The mission of the Church is a "cause that produces an effect"—people are being cultivated faith in Christ through Word and Sacrament, so that in unwavering faith they may enter into the joys of eternal life with God.

I know that there are members who are not worshipping in-person. I am thankful for the technology we have, so that you can hear God's Word! I want to encourage you to personally reach out to me. I am happy to serve you all of God's gifts.

In Jesus,
Pastor Joseph Barlau



LENTEN MIDWEEK 2021 — WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30 PM

Lenten Midweek services are designed for continued study and growth in God's Word as we reflect on our Savior's passion for our sins.

Make plans to join in worship on March 3, 10, 17, and 24

*****Junior confirmation class will be held Wednesdays at 5:30.*****



Notes from Mindy: * Sunday School and Bible Study for all ages begins at 9:15 and ends at 10:00 a.m. Please plan to join us! Adult bible study meets in the sanctuary and nursery through high school meets downstairs.

* Thank you to everyone that joined us for winter midweek! Midweek will start again in Fall 2021.

* Summer Sunday School begins Sunday, June 6th! Please be watching for more information to come.



*****We are in need of Sunday School snacks.** If you would be willing to donate individually packaged snacks, please place them on the counter in the kitchen. Thank-you!***

Easter Sunday Easter Egg Hunt:



Last year we brought our annual Easter egg hunt to YOU! This year, join us directly after Easter Sunrise Service (April 4th @7:00 a.m.) for our Easter egg hunt. Students in nursery through 6th grade are invited to bring their buckets, bags, and pails and join us for a traditional Easter egg hunt at 8:15am on Sunday, April 4th.

****→→ If you would like to donate money, candy, or small treats for the Easter eggs, please bring your donations to church before Sunday, March 28th!**

LWML will meet **Monday March 1 at 6:30** at the church for Bible Study led by Pastor Barlau. All women of the congregation are encouraged to attend. Light snacks will be served. Any questions, contact Donna Ascher 785-280-3120.



****Men of Faith** will meet **Saturday, March 6, 8am**, in the church basement for breakfast and Christian fellowship.

*****Palm Sunday, March 28th. Please note there will be No Palm Sunday breakfast this year.*****

Daylight Saving Time begins again on **March 14th**.
Set your clocks ahead 1 hour!



LYF will meet Sunday, March 21st after the second worship service for lunch to discuss where we go for a mission trip late May-early June. After our meeting we will play games and have a devotion.



Faith Lutheran Church welcomed ***River Knox Carlsson*** by baptism into the Christian faith on February 21st. River was born December 23, 2020, to Briannah Layne Feeney and Matthew Dennis Carlsson. Standing with the family and Pastor Barlau are River's sponsors, Ryanne Feeney and Jason Zook.





Together In Mission – Faith Lutheran Church proudly supports
 Rev. Daniel Conrad and Rev. Jacob Gaugert -missionaries to Mexico and Africa.
 Please keep them in your daily prayers

<http://www.faithabilene.org/mexico-and-west-africa-missionary-support.php>

March 3rd – Macey Maddy
 Lori Wischer

March 5th – Larry Herrs

March 7th – Anthony Westendorf

March 10th – Tanya Byarlay

Matt Gustin

Fred Herpich

Madison Jenkins

Natalie Jenkins

March 11th – Eli Panzer

March 12th – Kaye Ostermann

Mandi Wilson

March 13th – Michael Schmersey

March 15th – Robyn Hughes

March 16th – Pat Martin

March 19th – Makayla Jenne

March 20th – Sharon Byarlay

James Holland

Steven Sare

*Happy
 Birthday*



March 21st – Jacob Minson

March 22nd – Misty Brunk

Kelly Schmersey

March 24th – Justin Byarlay

March 28th – Laurel Manning

March 30th – Katelyn Capsey

March 31st – Jessica Lenegar

Happy Anniversary

Ryan & Adrienne Feeney 3-16-2004

Laird & Shawna Riffel 3-18-1995

David & Laura Fortier 3-18-2008

Randy & Lois Soliday 3-21-2009

Brandon & Ashley Depew 3-26-2011

Ethan & Sara Backhus 3-28-2015

Save the Date - May 1st: The annual *Eisenhower Marathon* is scheduled for **MAY 1st** and we have the opportunity to participate in our community while we provide a water table for the runners. We typically have to be out there and ready to go at about 6:30 or 6:45 a.m. and we're typically done by noon. Mindy will know more as we get closer. She is looking for about 8 volunteers from all ages for this outreach ministry!




Faith Lutheran Choir

Join us as we lift our voices to God! Choir practice is at 5:30pm Wednesdays. We are a multi-age choir and enjoy having younger voices mix with more experienced ones.

Faith Lutheran has a Prayer Chain

To begin a prayer request call Kathy Minneman (785-819-2167) or Pastor Barlau (785-263-1842).

***Prayerfully consider a Lenten Wednesday offering for each service. It will be designated in support of the, "KS District Educational Loan Repayment & Scholarship Fund."  Learn more about this important part of LCMS future at: Grants and Scholarships | [LCMS Kansas District \(kslcms.org\)](http://LCMS Kansas District (kslcms.org))



Faith Lutheran is on "Facebook."
 Like us and follow us.

Website

www.faithabilene.org

Faith Lutheran is on YouTube
 Search for "Faith, Abilene."





February 11th Council Meeting Recap

A copy of the meeting minutes are posted on the narthex bulletin board. **Education:** VBS will be June 7-10th. Heide Rippert joined the board. **Elders:** Work continues with Pastor Barlau to best adapt to the pandemic in worship services. Additional times & services for shut-ins, during Holy Week & Easter may be announced. **Old Business:** Many areas of potential need are being researched for costs and how best to proceed. **New Business:** Lenten offerings will be forwarded to the LCMS KS District Educational Loan Repayment and Scholarship Fund.

Women's Book Club is Sunday, March 28, 3 PM. The book is, **HEARTLAND** by Sarah Smarsh. All ladies are invited to participate! Please contact Karen Schoenbeck (479-7013) if you would like more information.



2021 Vacation Bible School

GOD'S WONDER LAB: Jesus Does the Impossible

is the theme for this year's VBS → Monday, June 7 through Thursday, June 10 with a closing program on Thursday evening, June 10th. ** Volunteers for music, crafts, kitchen, and groups will be needed. ** Please join us and start spreading the word! ** Sign-Up for volunteers and participants will begin March 21st.



FAITHful SERVANTS for the month of March 2021



Elder: B. Hageman

Organist: K. Gilchrist

Altar Guild: A. Kuntz & L. Fortier

Church Service	Lectors	Ushers	Bulletin Bureau
Wed Lenten - 3rd		J. Rogge	G. Sanders
March 7 - 8:00am	M. Aufdemberge	J. Rogge	K. Minneman
10:15am	Tim Rahe	L. Riffel	
Wed Lenten - 10th		Tom Rahe	G. Sanders
<i>Daylight Saving Time begins March 14th. Set your clocks ahead one hour.</i>			
March 14 - 8:00am	G. Taplin	A. Minson	K. Gilchrist
10:15am	B. Zwiebel	B. Minson	
Wed Lenten - 17th		B. Minson	G. Sanders
March 21 - 8:00am	E. Panzer	G. Minson	J. Graves
10:15am	Tom Rahe	Tom Rahe	
Wed Lenten - 24th		G. Minson	G. Sanders
March 28 - 8:00am	K. Horsfall	J. Rogge	J. Schenck
10:15am	G. Minson	L. Riffel	

NOTE: A master assignment list reflecting any changes will be posted in the upstairs living room/classroom

February 5, 2021



A Pastoral Statement on “Coming Back to Church”

“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’” (Psalm 122:1)

Dear Friends,

The word “church” literally means “gathering.” We come together to fellowship with God and with one another. We come together to participate in the liturgy of the church as God speaks to us and we speak back to Him the very words He has given us to speak in Holy Scriptures. We receive His true body and blood in the unleavened bread and wine of Holy Communion for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith.

Your pastors have done extraordinary things during this time to make sure that you are spiritually fed. Whether it be through small group services, phone calls, mailings, radio broadcasts, live-streaming or church in the parking lot, God’s Word has continued to go out.

Now, some of us haven’t been able to attend church in-person due to a variety of reasons that includes health concerns. Still, we must be a people who love the Scriptures. We read, mark, learn and inwardly digest what our Lord gives to us through His Word. Having taken in that Word, we must live it out in our words and deeds. This hurting and suffering and dying world needs the Good News that you and I possess in Jesus Christ.

As COVID comes to an end and as more vaccines are administered, God help us, Amen, how will your life be formed? What decisions will you have to make when it comes to in-person worship? Look, I know that it’s much more convenient to watch church from my couch in my pajamas. I can watch a sermon at any time of any day of the week now. But is this church? Is this what God intended for His baptized to be doing? Yes, the challenging work remains of getting people back to church—getting people from spectatorship to participating and gathering once again.

We know that with the advent of livestreaming services, many churches are struggling to have their members come back to in person worship. Here a tension emerges: We may receive the **full** Gospel, yet still long for the **fullness** of the Gospel.

What does this mean? Rev. Trevor Sutton, St. Luke Lutheran, Haslett, MI writes, *“In the midst of a pandemic, when many people must remain home and listen to a live-streamed message, the **full** Gospel is proclaimed. The Holy Spirit can and does work through the Word proclaimed – even when that Word comes to us through invisible waves, speakers, and screens. Yet, this does not negate the **fullness** of the Gospel that can only be experienced in the physical gathering of the local congregation as they go about baptizing, partaking of the Sacrament of the Altar, administering the Office of the Keys, and through the mutual consolation of the brethren. We are able to say that there is a fullness of the Gospel that can only be experienced in the assembling of the Christian Church.”* (Virtual Christianity: The Full Gospel and Its Fullness)

To put it simply, the church must be the church. Rev. Dr. Joel Bierman, professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis writes, *“We must gather to worship. We must find ways to faithfully celebrate together God’s gifts to us in Word and Sacrament as our Lord intended. We must provide the structure to guide Christian living not only on Sunday morning, but throughout the week. We must create and schedule and keep the events and opportunities that will help to reestablish the pious habits of God’s people. The church must act like the church: the gathered saints of God celebrating the gifts of God, living out the story of God in all of life, and actively encouraging one another along God’s way.”* (The Post-Pandemic Pew: A Reflection for Pastors)

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I certainly can’t force you back to church, nor plan what your daily life looks like. It’s going to take you saying, “Yes” to your pastor when he invites you to a small group service to receive Holy Communion if you’re still not comfortable being in larger crowds. It’s going to take you encouraging your family, your neighbor, your fellow member to come back to the place where God desires His people to gather.

To close, each of your congregations have received information about a District wide “Day of Repentance” on Ash Wednesday. I encourage all of our congregations to commit to doing this as we “walk together” as the Synod in this place. But most of all, I encourage you to participate—in whatever way you can, in whatever way your health allows. We need one another now more than ever!

In the service of Christ,

Rev. 

President Justin A. Panzer

Your Support is Appreciated!



Faith Lutheran Youth collect aluminum cans (please place behind the wooden fence) and ink cartridges/cell phones (please place in the church narthex). Monies raised go to help our youth group. Since September '03, the LYF group has collected 8,732 pounds and \$3,314.48 and mailed in ink cartridges/cell phones for a total of \$1108.44. Thank you for recycling!



Dillons Community Rewards (DCR #KA839)

Faith Lutheran is signed up as an eligible non-profit to receive rewards every time you shop. If you have a Shopper's Plus Card, please enroll your number in Community Rewards. In your browser type in www.dillons.com/communityrewards and sign in using your new or existing online account. Click on "Enroll now." Enter "Faith Lutheran Church – Abilene" or our organization number **KA839** and click on "enroll." Monies received benefit our "Mercy Fund."

**19 households' use resulted in \$85.33 donated to FLC the 4th Qtr 2020. A total of \$1,930.22 has been now been received!

**Please note that Faith Lutheran Church is not endorsing Dillons nor encouraging you to shop there. We are asking you to please take advantage of this reward offered.*



"Giving back for the benefit of our communities"

BEST CHOICE



Faith Lutheran Women in Mission collect *Best Choice* and *Boxtops for Education* labels! The collection box is on the parament cabinet. It may seem like a small thing, but we were

able to receive hundreds of dollars in the past from sending in these labels. That money was then used to support our various mission projects.

Boxtop for Education labels are given to Immanuel Lutheran Preschool, Junction City, for their use.



If you are a member of Thrivent, please consider directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Faith Lutheran Church – Abilene, KS. All

proceeds benefit both the "Youth Group" and the "Contingency Fund."

Online:

1. Visit Thrivent Choice – www.thrivent.com
2. Click on "log in" at the top right of your screen and enter your MyThrivent user ID and password. (If you haven't registered on Thrivent.com, click on "register now" to register for full access.)
3. Look for your designated Choice Dollars on the right side of the screen.
4. Click on "Direct Choice Dollars" in the Thrivent Choice® box on your MyThrivent page.
5. Search the catalog of organizations to find Faith Lutheran Church – Abilene, KS.
6. Click on "Direct Choice Dollars Now" to direct your designated Choice Dollars to FLC – Abilene, KS.

By Phone:

1. Call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."
2. When prompted, say, "Choice Dollars."
3. Say or enter your Social Security number.
4. Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or press 2 to hear the Thrivent Choice program terms and conditions.
5. A representative will then work with you to direct Choice Dollars to FLC – Abilene, KS.



Consider using smile.amazon.com/ instead of just amazon.com. The sign-

on is the same and so are all the products. Type: **"Faith Lutheran Church, Abilene, KS"** as the charitable recipient of .05% of your purchases, and hit the search button. Faith Lutheran Church, Abilene, KS will appear for you to select. Amazon will send a check quarterly of all of our Faith-Abilene designated purchases. You only need to designate once, and every time you use the smile.amazon.com portal to make a qualified purchase, you are donating to Faith.

MARCH 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5:30pm Altar Guild Meeting 6:30pm LWML @ Faith Jeremiah 41-43	2 Jeremiah 44-45	3 5:30pm Choir Practice 5:30pm Pastor's Confirmation Class 6:30pm Lent Worship Jeremiah 46-49	4 Jeremiah 50-51	5 Jeremiah 52	6 8 am Men of Faith 9:30am LWML Zone Board of Director's Meeting Lamentations 1
7 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> 8:00am Worship w/Lord's Supper 9:15am Sunday School/Adult/ Youth Bible Studies 10:15am Worship w/Lord's Supper	8 5pm Elders Lamentations 2-3	9 Lamentations 4-5	10 5:30pm Choir Practice 5:30pm Pastor's Confirmation Class 6:30pm Lent Worship Ezekiel 1-2	11 6:30/7:30pm Boards/Council Ezekiel 3-5	12 10am Pastor's Confirmation Class Ezekiel 6-7	13 Ezekiel 8-9
14 <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i> <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i> 8:00am Worship w/Lord's Supper 9:15am Sunday School/Adult/ Youth Bible Studies 10:15am Worship w/Lord's Supper	15 Ezekiel 10-11	16 Ezekiel 12-13	17 5:30pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Lent Worship Ezekiel 14-15	18 Ezekiel 16-17	19 Ezekiel 18-19	20 <i>Spring Begins</i> APRIL CALENDAR ITEMS DUE TOMORROW Ezekiel 20-21
21 <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> 8:00am Worship w/Lord's Supper 9:15am Sunday School/Adult/ Youth Bible Studies 10:15am Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:15am LYF Meeting @ Faith	22 Ezekiel 22-23	23 Ezekiel 24	24 5:30pm Choir Practice 5:30pm Pastor's Confirmation Class 6:30pm Lent Worship Ezekiel 25-27	25 Ezekiel 28	26 Ezekiel 29-32	27 Ezekiel 33-34
28 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 8:00am Worship w/Lord's Supper 9:15am Sunday School/Adult/ Youth Bible Studies 10:15am Worship w/Lord's Supper 3:00pm Book Club	29 Ezekiel 35-36	30 Ezekiel 37-39	31 5:30pm Choir Practice Ezekiel 40-42	Read the Bible in 2 years! By reading the verses printed at the bottom of Monday-Saturday, you will accomplish reading the Bible in 2 years. "Search the Scriptures, because they are these which testify about Me." John 5:39		

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH – 1600 N. BUCKEYE – ABILENE, KANSAS – PH. 263-1842 – www.faithabilene.org

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