



FAITH NEWS

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 2023

A LETTER FROM PASTOR

On April 30th, following worship I made my way north to Ann Arbor for a rather interesting evening. Typically I would have been in the parking lot on the last Sunday of the month for Taco Sunday, though even in my absence we handed out 138 meals, and I heard that people had a wonderful time, rain notwithstanding.

I was headed up Rt. 23 to the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor for a conversation between Rainn Wilson and David Bentley Hart. Many of you may know Rainn Wilson from his portrayal of Dwight Schrute on “The Office” which ran on NBC for 9 seasons. David Bentley Hart is a world renowned theologian, author, and educator currently teaching at the University of Notre Dame.

What topic brought an actor from California and an academic from Indiana together in Michigan? Spiritual Revolution.

To borrow from the dust jacket of Wilson’s book (which he was promoting on this speaking tour), *“The trauma that our struggling species has experienced in recent years— because of both the pandemic and societal tensions that threaten to overwhelm us— is not going away anytime soon. Existing political and economic systems are not enough to bring the change the world needs.”*

The evening consisted of a conversation, Hart asking question and Wilson answering them, *exploring, “the problem-solving benefits that spirituality gives us to create solutions for an increasingly challenging world.”* I also borrowed that italicized line from Rain’s book “Soul Boom” because it was so beautifully worded.

The world, and this very much includes our country as well as our city, is scary, disconnected, and seemingly growing more violent by the day. On April 25th and May 1st of this year, parts of I-71 were shut down because of shootings on the interstate. On May 1st while the interstate was shut down, Nazi’s across town marched in the streets of Franklinton protesting a “drag brunch” at a brewery.

It is easy to see and be scared by the world outside. Yet, for two hours in a theatre in Michigan the topic was “what hope can spirituality and faith bring to our fractured and shared world?” It was a lovely reprise.

Wilson spoke with joy about the photo of Earth on Dec. 7th, 1972 taken from the Apollo 17 spacecraft. He pointed to the excitement that photo (the “blue marble”) inspired and the truth it showed, that we are all human beings living together on a shared planet. The photo was a sign of equality, and would hopefully be a great step toward world peace. Following what was something between great stage timing and the settling of something ominous, he pointed out that no one talks about world peace anymore, it seems like an antiquated idea of a naive and unrealistic time.

The message was clear, the evening was about hope and what spirituality and faith can bring to our lives, our communities, and the world we share.

Listening to Wilson speak, it struck me as interesting that this wonderfully spoken and deeply reflective man is one of the most culturally recognizable people chiming in on the “religious-spiritual” conversations of the modern era. This actor, best known as the beet loving employee of a fictitious Pennsylvania paper company, was using his fame to have conversations discussing the positivity and hope that can be found in spirituality.

I left that theatre with hope thinking about the people who came out to hear Wilson’s musing on spiritually, as well as the people who might have heard “the guy from The Office is in town” and showed up to be surprised.

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On the drive back home that night our conversation in the car drifted to the cost of the event. The price of admission included a copy of Wilson’s new book. I wondered how much Wilson or Hart made for the “show?” I wondered who fronted the cost of all those books? I wondered if the publisher sold them at cost (or below) knowing that in this era of social media a few cases of books would generate millions of dollars in publicity as many in the Michigan Theater would post, tweet, or retweet #rainnwilson, #soulboom, and #theoffice. I know I did.

I wondered how many people, seeing a retweet or a repost, took the time to investigate the book, the message, or simply the idea of faith & spirituality.

I left Ann Arbor feeling hopeful and excited. My optimism was about Wilson, Hart, those who came to listen, and those that might stumble upon the benefits of spiritual practice and faith thanks to hashtags and social media.

I find people of faith often represented as polemic caricatures, widening chasms across our nation and around the world. It was nice to be reminded of the sincerity and kindness so often overlooked.

As we live in a land and time of immense extremes, I’ve often made the comment that a large part of my call as a pastor is to be a representative of faith “without being a jerk.” It’s a line that is always good for a laugh. More than that however, I believe it’s a call we all have as people of faith as we seek to live our lives as witnesses to the grace, peace, love, and mercy of God Almighty.

When I woke up on May 1st, before the shooting on 71 and the Nazis in Franklinton, I still felt that hope and excitement from the night before. As I drove to church that morning I was still pondering how wide the ripple of that event was, and what might come from it.

As the day went on, despite my heart breaking and then breaking again, I never lost hope, though my hope was joined by a great sense of urgency for what faith has to offer the world: grace, love, acceptance, and a peace that passes all understanding.

Pastor Hill



Busy Bees

- Thanks to all those who brought food for the hive to eat during Easter brunch!
- Thanks to LeRoy Pherigo for making our wooden butterflies and all those who colored them last month!
- Join the hive for Adult Forum after church at 10:35 in the Blue room for insightful stories and buzzing discussions!
- Thanks to Alan Mittermaier for fixing our sidewalk!



March 2023 Treasurer’s Report

Linda Mittermaier

Operating Fund Results	Monthly		
	Mar. 2022	Mar. 2023	Budget 2023
Support and Revenue	\$ 18,520	\$ 15,080	\$ 15,717
Expenses	18,524	18,395	18,193
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (5)	\$ (3,314)	\$ (2,476)

Year-to-Date		
Mar. 2022	Mar. 2023	Budget 2023
\$ 51,916	\$ 51,400	\$ 47,151
56,983	54,838	54,579
\$ (5,067)	\$ (3,438)	\$ (7,428)

The month of March saw a deficit of \$3,314, about \$900 greater than our budgeted deficit. However, due to a large surplus in February, our year-to-date deficit of \$3,438 is less than the budgeted deficit of \$7,428. As of the end of March, the Operating Fund has a balance of \$18,052.

Offerings to other funds and causes during March included Then, Now, Forever Fund, \$470 and Cause of the Month (Community Development for All People), \$410. We also received \$10,870 for the Property Fund, which included a large one-time gift. Because of the offerings we have accumulated in that fund, we were able make an extra principal payment of \$10,000 in April.



CAUSE OF THE MONTH B.R.E.A.D.

BREAD is an organization that addresses community problems with public officials to create solutions by means of direct action. By engaging our community as a whole, BREAD focuses on specific needs of our neighbors here in Franklin County and how to supply those needs in bigger and better ways.



Faith Lutheran Church
2nd annual **5K Run/Walk** will take place **Sunday July 9th**. All proceeds of this event will be supporting Center of Hope, a wonderful food pantry right here in Whitehall. The run/walk

will be mostly on neighborhood roads and a loop around Lamby Lane Park before heading back to the finish line. The course is flat and on paved surfaces.



[@730Collingwood](https://www.youtube.com/@730Collingwood)

[@faithwhitehall](https://www.instagram.com/@faithwhitehall)



[@faithlutheranwhitehall](https://www.facebook.com/@faithlutheranwhitehall)

BIRTHDAYS

01 DAVID APPEL	18 DORRIE MAYER
01 VICKIE SCHMOLL	19 GLENN SOUTHWARD
03 SADIE FORD	20 DANIEL HILLE
05 PAT VON VILLE	22 GEORGE LESLEIN
08 SUSAN MILLWATER	31 AMANDA ALLEN
11 JOAN PURPURA	31 KAREN EVANS
15 LOIS KUEHN	

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

09 HERB & BEV SCHOLES
31 KEVIN & ANGELA OLIVA

Prayer Requests

- Bob Gebhart, Alice Sherman's brother in law, who is dealing with a pulmonary disease.
- Norma Anderson, Karen Evan's son's mother in law, who is recovering from ankle surgery.
- Sue Wille, who is dealing with a cancerous tumor located in her thigh.
- Lisa Robinson-Boyer, sister of Karen Brown.
- Jennie Brown, mother of Sue Parr, who broke her hip.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Holidays in BLUE - Festivals and Commemorations in GREEN						
	1 7:00PM Praise Board	2 Athanasius, Bishop, 373	3 10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom) 12:00PM Quilters	4 9:00AM Men's Breakfast @ Tee Jay's 8:00PM Resource Board	5	6
7 9:30AM Sanctuary 10:35AM Adult Forum 11:35AM Zoom	8	9 1:00PM Circle Bible Study 7:00pm Outreach Board	10 10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom) 12:00PM Quilters	11 7:00PM Council	12	13
14 9:30AM Sanctuary 10:35AM Adult Forum 11:35AM Zoom Mother's Day	15	16	17 10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom) 12:00PM Quilters	18 Ascension of Our Lord King Erik, Martyr, 1160	19 Dunstan, Archbishop, 988	20
21 9:30AM Sanctuary 10:35AM Adult Forum 11:35AM Zoom John Eliot, Missionary, 1690	22	23 Ludwig Nommensen, Missionary, 1918	24 10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom) 12:00PM Quilters Copernicus, Teacher, 1543	25	26	27 John Calvin, Renewer, 1564
28 Pentecost 9:30AM Sanctuary 10:35AM Adult Forum 11:35AM Zoom 5-7PM Taco Sunday	29 Memorial Day	30	31 The Visitation	<h1>May</h1>		

Would you like your ministry included on the church calendar in the Faith Newsletter? Please contact the office at (614) 237-4241 (or) faithoffice@faithwhitehall.com



Faith Lutheran Church

faithwhitehall.com

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Support Faith Online Here

Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 7:00AM - 4:00PM

