



# Leighton Church

Proclaiming New Life in Jesus Christ

**Rev. David W. Meister**

## Week of March 5, 2023

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

4180 2nd Street  
Caledonia, MI 49316  
(616) 891-8028  
office@leightonchurch.org  
www.leightonchurch.org  
Office Hours: 9a-3p  
Tues/Wed/Thurs

**Sunday Worship:** 9:30a  
**The Discovery Place:** 10:45a  
Classes for children, youth & adults

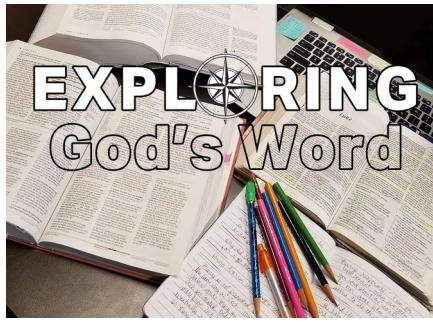
**Board of Elders:**  
Scott Pollmann (Chairman),  
Todd Galloway, Art Hooker,  
Wayne Ingersoll, David  
Kaechele, Doug Thaler,  
Pastor Dave Meister

*Hearing assist system  
available from the sound booth  
at the back of the Sanctuary.*



@LeightonUMChurch

Sunday, March 5	<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i> Gym & Kitchen in Use Noon-4p Youth Group 4:45-7:00p
Monday, March 6	Gym in Use 6:00-7:00p Men's Basketball 7:00p
Tuesday, March 7	Adult Bible Study 1:00-2:30p Leadership Meeting with District Superintendent 6:30p
Wednesday, March 8	Kids Musical Practice 5:30p Family Dinner 5:30p Kids Worship 6:00p Pre-Teen Bible Study 6:00p Lenten Bible Study 6-7:30p Praise Team Practice 7:00p
Thursday, March 9	Health & Safety Team 6:30p
Sunday, March 12	<i>Third Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> Youth Group 4:45-7:00p



# The Discovery Place For Children, Teens & Adults

## THE DISCOVERY PLACE CLASSES, TEACHERS & LOCATIONS

Toddlers, Preschoolers & Young 5's: Connie Blain & Britney Bredeweg (Room 4)

Kindergarten-2nd Grade: Jan Geukes & Terri Farmer (Room 3)

3rd-5th Grades: Jackie Corwin & Annah Smith (Rooms 12/13)

6th-8th Grades: Cindy Herring (Room 9)

9th-12th Grades: Brad & Sarah Geers (Youth Room)

Adults:

Young Adult/Career (Prayer Room): Mark & Ronda Kaechele

Drew Corwin (Rooms 15/16) - Powerful Messages from the Minor Prophets

Bill & Stacey Aman (Rooms 7/8) - The Twelve Disciples

Doug Thaler (Lounge) - Jesus Speaks To Your Church: Studies in Revelation

Jerry & Nancy Slagh (old Library) - Men are Like Waffles, Women are Like Spaghetti



Activity bags are available for the kids to use during the worship service.

The bags include a variety of small, quiet toys, books, puzzles, etc.

The bags will be on a rack near the main entry to the Sanctuary. There will be blue bags for boys and pink bags for girls.

Please place the bags in the white return basket after the worship



Kids age 4 thru 3rd Grade are dismissed to Children's Church immediately following the Children's Message.

In Children's Church, kids are discovering the "super heroes" of the Bible and how God sees each one of them as "super heroes" too!

Children's Church meets in Room 3.

A group just for Teens!  
All students in 6th-12th grades welcome!



### SCHEDULE:

March 5: Good to Know

March 12: Good to Know

March 19: Echo

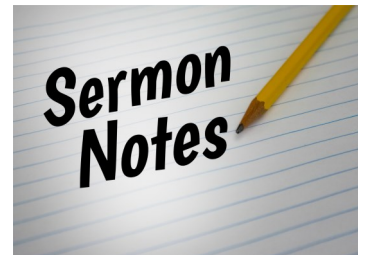
Youth Group is held from 4:45-7:00 p.m. on Sunday nights.

Invite your friends to come along!

Questions? Contact Brian Smith, Director of Youth Ministries  
youth@leightonchurch.org or 616-881-1488

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## Hey kids....3rd-8th Grade...



You're growing up and are too old to attend Children's Church, so what do you do during church? How about tuning in to what Pastor Dave is teaching on?

Pick up a clipboard out of the blue tub in the Lobby, fill out the sermon notes paper and turn it in to Sarah Geers or Mark Kaechele after the service to get a prize.

There's a spot for you to write the name of the sermon (hint....watch the screen!), words you didn't understand, what verses were read from the Bible, and the name of a song that was sung during the service.

After awhile, you'll discover how much you've learned about God and how the Bible is important in developing a relationship with Him.

**KIDS**



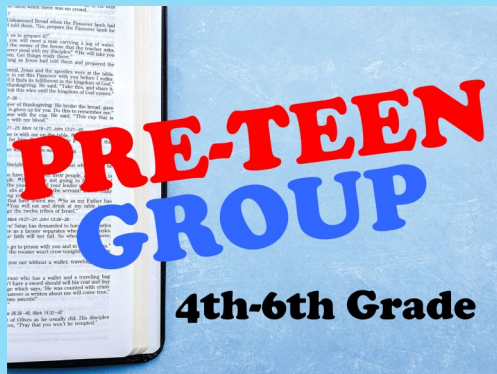
**WORSHIP**

# Wednesday Night Ministries for

## Kids and Pre-Teens

### **KIDS WORSHIP 6:00-7:00 P.M.**

For kids in Kindergarten thru 3rd Grade  
A mid-week spiritual pick-me-up for kids with high-energy music, interactive Bible lesson and hands-on crafts.



### **PRE-TEEN BIBLE STUDY 6:00-7:00 P.M.**

For boys and girls in grades 4, 5 and 6  
A time to hang out together, do Bible puzzles and play Bible games and learn about a Christian worldview through "FORGED" Bible study.

## **Wednesday Nights**

**5:30-6:30 pm in the gym**

**This is open to the community.**

**All are welcome!**



Take the night off from cooking dinner and doing dishes and gather around the table in the gym at Leighton Church on Wednesday nights

5:30-6:30 p.m. thru March 29

Everyone is welcome! All food and beverages are provided.

There is no set cost, but donations are appreciated to help off-set expenses.

### **Family Dinner Weekly Menu:**

March 8—Meatballs, veggie pizza, ham and cheese rolls, Pickle wraps, fairy cakes

March 15—Taco Bar, Cake

March 22—Corned Beef, Cabbage, Roasted Veggies, Chicken Nuggets, Pie





## **JUST OLDER YOUTH LUNCHEONS**

Let's get together for lunch!

Those age 50+ are invited to gather for lunch the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 1:00pm at an area restaurant.

**March Luncheon:**

**March 16th at 1:00 p.m.**

**Curley Cone, 12850 W. M-179 Hwy, Wayland**

The ground rules are: everyone pays for their own meal and there will be no discussion of politics or church business. This is an opportunity for seniors to gather together for fellowship and to get better acquainted.

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## **We Care Card Ministry**

Receiving a card in the mail is encouraging and can uplift one's spirit.

Stop by the table in the Lobby to sign cards for those who haven't been at church for some time, for those who are recovering from surgery or illness, and for those who just need a word of encouragement. Each week a new set of cards is set out.



Questions can be addressed to Sharon Kaechele  
(616) 891-1020



In the event of inclement weather:

- Ministries and events happening Monday-Saturday will be cancelled if Thornapple-Kellogg schools cancels school and/or events
- Sunday morning services will be cancelled based on weather/road conditions.

Any cancellations will be posted on WOOD TV stations. An email will be sent out church-wide and an announcement will be posted on Facebook.

When in doubt, use your best judgment as families come from so many different areas with weather conditions varying in those areas.



## WE'RE NEARING OUR GOAL!!!

We are getting so close to reaching our goal of \$16,000 to upgrade the church's digital sign at the corner.

The current sign is over 13 years old and replacement parts are no longer available.

There are 65 giving families in the church. If each family gave just **\$80**, we could easily meet our goal.

Some have contributed about and beyond for which we are very grateful. The goal is in sight! Help us get there so we can share about the many ministries happening at Leighton Church with the large number of people driving by our corner on a daily basis.

If you wish to contribute toward this need, you may make checks payable to Leighton Church and designate your gift SIGN or give safely and securely online and select the Sign Upgrade Fund. [www.leightonchurch.org/give](http://www.leightonchurch.org/give).

Questions can be directed to Chris Herring, Board of Trustees Chair. (616) 437-3484 or [herring@iserv.net](mailto:herring@iserv.net)



**GOAL = \$16,000**

**RECEIVED = \$11,285**

**NEEDED = \$4,715**



On January 18, 2023, Leighton Church implemented a Health & Safety Team made up of 10 members of the congregation.

At the first meeting, we identified multiple areas of health and safety concerns. Since that meeting, we have reached out to health and safety professionals and tapped into their expertise to address the needs of Leighton Church. We have scheduled training in CPR/First Aid/AED use. In addition, a police officer from Allegan County did a walk-through the building and provided information on ways to make our facility a safer place to be.

A BIG thank you to the Norris family, who purchased and donated 3 fully packed First Aid kits (pictured at left) and to Pastor Meister for purchasing and donating a blood pressure monitor and pulse oximeter.



The Health and Safety Team is working towards a safer environment for Leighton Church. The Mission statement of the Team is: Protecting the health and safety of the leadership, the congregation, and guests within the facility of Leighton Church.

~Wayne & Noreen Ingersoll, Co-Chairs of Health & Safety Team

# Hear Ye! Hear Ye! We needeth thee to reach children in our community thru Vacation Bible School!



**Job Descriptions available  
at the VBS Display table.  
Contact Cindy Herring  
with questions.  
(616) 299-0083  
bigcowdoc@yahoo.com**

Sunday, June 25-Thursday, June 29  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Volunteer Recruitment has begun!  
There's a spot for men and women and teens (must  
be at least 12 years of age) to get involved!

### **OPEN POSITIONS:**

Prayer Coordinator  
Game Coordinator  
Missions Coordinator  
Sound/AV Coordinator  
Games Helper (2)  
Security Helper (1)  
4 Year Olds & Young 5's Assistant (1)  
K-1st Grade Teacher  
2nd-3rd Grade Teacher  
K-1st Grade Guide (1)  
2nd-3rd Grade Guide (1)  
4th-6th Grade Guide (2)  
Registration/Sign in (2)  
AV Assistant (1)  
Substitutes (5)

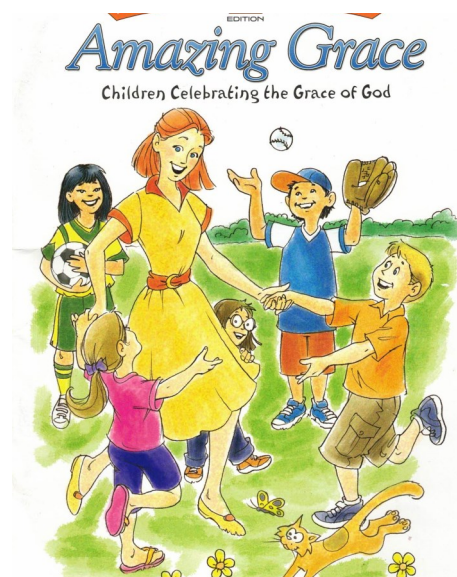
## Kids & Youth Musical Practice Underway It's not too late to join!

It's "Amazing Grace" and it's a musical for kids and youth from  
ages 5 to 18.

Practices are on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:15 p.m. in the  
Sanctuary.

There are speaking parts and singing parts available.  
Practice CD's/MP4 files are available for kids to take home to  
practice.

Performance date is Sunday, May 7th during morning worship.  
Questions? Contact Jamie Shira (616) 552-2798







# David Eschenbach

## Peru, South America

David Eschenbach has his own non-profit called Eschenbach International Ministry. He has been ministering in Peru for over 20 years.

The county of Peru is currently in a state of crisis. A civil war has broken out in the southern part of the country. More than 80 people have lost their life in the war. Major roads are blocked, airports are closed, and truck traffic is closed to the jungles because of strikes and landslides. There is a food shortage and gas stations are closed. Inflation is very high.

The people of Peru are broken, hurting and need the strength of the Lord to get through the turmoil. Pray that David can be used of God to lead people to Christ and encourage them.

David helped with small groups at Vacation Bible School. He also filled the pulpit one Sunday for a local pastor who had recently lost his wife.

David has many invitations to come and teach and preach; in Peru, Argentina, and Nicaragua. Pray that the Lord provides the funding needed for David to travel to these locations to spread the Gospel.

David has many health issues. God has sustained him and continues to bring healing. Pray specifically for relief and healing from arthrosis, a chronic sinus infection, eye infections, and lower back pain.

*Your support to the Faith Promise Missions Fund of Leighton Church supports the ministry of David Eschenbach and 13 other missionaries around the world.  
Thank you for giving!*

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### **“Consider”**

Consider the lilies of the field whose bloom is brief:  
We are as they; like them we fade away, as doth a leaf.

Consider the sparrows of the air of small account:  
Our God doth view whether they fall or mount, he guards us too.

Consider the lilies that do neither spin nor toil,  
Yet are most fair: What profits all this care and all this coil?

Consider the birds that have no barn nor harvest-weeks;  
God gives them food: Much more our Father seeks to do us good.

—Christina Rossetti





# Thank You for supporting our missionaries in their time of need.



Missionaries Terry & Melinda Ganka, who are involved with aviation ministry in Papua New Guinea are in need of our support. The Ganka's middle son, Tyler, is experiencing a mental health crisis; to the point of wanting to harm himself. Melinda and Tyler have flown back to Wayland, Michigan to get Tyler the help he needs. They have a house to live in while they are here, but will need groceries, gas money, etc. \$245.00 has generously been given to help the Ganka's during this difficult time. On top of that, Leighton Church will be contributing \$800 from the Good Samaritan Fund. Continue to pray for the Ganka family during this difficult time.

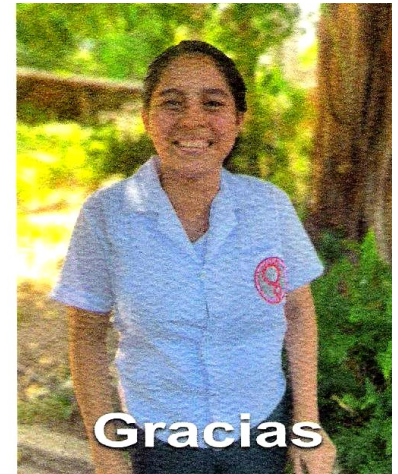
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## Providing An Education

Meet Yeny Yamileth Castillo  
She is a 10th grade nursing student at the Choluteca Vocational School in Choluteca, Honduras.  
Yeny is 18 years old.

Leighton Church is sponsoring her education for three years through the Marian Aubil Bequest to Faith Promise.

Pray over Yeny and her education.  
It is our honor and privilege to help her get this education for her career path.



The flowers at the front of the Sanctuary are placed in celebration of

Art Hooker's 84th birthday

Which was March 3rd.  
Happy Birthday, Art!



## **WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

### **MARCH 24 & 25**

### **NEW LIFE CHURCH, WAYLAND**

New Life Church in Wayland is hosting IF: 2023 on Friday, March 24th from 6:30-9:30 pm and Saturday, March 25th 10:00 am-4:00 pm. This is a recording of the original livestream event.

IF 2023 is where women all over the world gather, worship, get equipped and discover the next step in their calling to go and make disciples. IF: 2023 is a time for women to be reminded that God is who we need and God will provide.

IF is for women and girls (middle school on up). The cost is \$45 per person (register before March 24th) or \$50 at the door. This includes the conference, dinner on Friday, lunch on Saturday and a few surprises along the way.

Let's have a great group of girls and ladies from Leighton attend! Register at [Newlifewayland.org/ifgathering](http://Newlifewayland.org/ifgathering). We don't want anyone to be hindered because of cost. Contact Stacey Aman for more details. (616) 891-8028 or [office@leightonchurch.org](mailto:office@leightonchurch.org) If you plan to attend, sign the clipboard in the Lobby or online at [www.leightonchurch.org/womens-ministries](http://www.leightonchurch.org/womens-ministries)

New Life Church is located at 160 Pine Street, Wayland

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## **SPECTRUM HEALTH HOSPICE VOLUNTEERING**

Compassionate caring hearts and helping hands are needed for Spectrum Health Hospice patients receiving end-of-life care. Volunteer opportunities are available for:

Licensed Cosmetologists, Singers, Instrumentalists, Visiting Pets, and for those who can offer friendly visits and caregiver relief.

Consider offering your gift of time, care and presence to patients during this critical time in their life. Spectrum Health Hospice serves patients in 11 counties throughout West Michigan in both home and facility environments. The program is flexible.

The next volunteer orientation sessions are March 21 and 28 from 9a-1p (must attend both). Contact hospice. [Volunteers@spectrumhealth.org](mailto:Volunteers@spectrumhealth.org) or 616-391-4240 to learn more.



A link to an online Lenten devotional was sent out by email last week to all in the church.

If you do not have the ability to access this devotional or would prefer a hard copy, you may pick one up from the information table in the Lobby.

The devotional packet contains a Scripture lesson, reflection question, and spiritual exercise for each week during Lent.

There are also Scripture passages to reflect on each day of Holy Week (from Palm Sunday to Resurrection Sunday).

Lent is a time to reflect and prepare for Easter Sunday, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's a time for repentance and self-examination to reaffirm your relationship with Christ.

The online devotional can be found at:  
[United.edu/create-in-me-lent-2023/](http://United.edu/create-in-me-lent-2023/)



## Wednesday Nights

6:00-7:00 p.m.

March 8, 15, 22, 29 & April 5

Is your heart heavy with the troubles of this world and the struggles in your own life? Does anxiety and stress rule in your life day-to-day? Learn how to rest in God's love and set your troubles at the foot of the cross through this video-based study by Max Lucado

*"HE CHOSE THE NAILS"* will take you through the last moments of Jesus' life showing that Jesus' journey to the cross was not by chance. God chose the path; he selected the nails. God was never more sovereign than in the details of the death of His Son. And in those details are gifts Christ provided for us...the cross. The thorns. The nails. The seamless robe. The empty tomb.

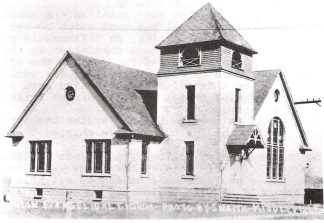
Men and women of all ages and phases of life are welcome to come Wednesday evenings in March from 6:00-7:00 p.m. to:

- Experience Lent as a time not to just give up something, but to prepare to receive good gifts from God
  - Take comfort that Jesus understands everything that you face in life
- Stand firm in the promise that you are forgiven and are welcome in God's presence no matter what you've done.

Questions? Contact Pastor Dave (269) 876-7204



# *Celebrating 160 Years of Proclaiming New Life in Jesus Christ 1863-2023*



2023 is the 160th Anniversary of Leighton Church. Several people are attending Leighton Church now that were not here 10 years ago for our 150th celebrations which included year-long, weekly oral presentations of church history. Therefore, this year we will be having historical reports printed in the weekly news bulletin to inform (or remind) people of our church's beginnings and events.

## **WHO WE WERE—WHO WE ARE: A FAITH JOURNEY—Part 9**

### Second Church—Reconstruction ((1910--1911):

The first church building on the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 142<sup>nd</sup>, built in 1894, was very soon too small. Membership had continually increased so that within just 6 years (1900) more space was needed. Since there was no basement, the sanctuary was used for all the Sunday School classes. The SS hour was not only crowded but also noisy. Likewise, whenever there were special church occasions, it became difficult to accommodate the increased number of people.

There were discussions and meetings about a possible addition but because Leighton would be the host of the Michigan Conference Annual Meeting in April 1908, it was decided to paint and redecorate the church interior instead of any construction. Of course, the cramped conditions just continued to worsen.

In August, 1910, an unexpected event occurred. Lightning struck the church. Even though it was not disastrous, there was damage that would need to be repaired. (Perhaps after 10 years of overcrowding, the Lord was giving a nudge to do something about it.) It was decided NOT to repair the damage, BUT INSTEAD reconstruct the entire building and add a wing to the south side.

It was also decided to take "subscriptions" from the congregation for the amount each would pledge toward the reconstruction. There were many sources that helped pay for the reconstruction. Money was borrowed from 3 individuals, 90 individuals contributed toward the cost. The Sunday School department gave \$50.00 and the Young People's Missionary Alliance gave \$24.00. Another source of income for the reconstruction came from the sale of the Caledonia Evangelical Church which had closed in 1909. The \$25.00 yearly rent from the Caledonia Church was also used. The reconstruction that began in September, 1910, was completed in October, 1911, and dedicated on November 9, 1911.

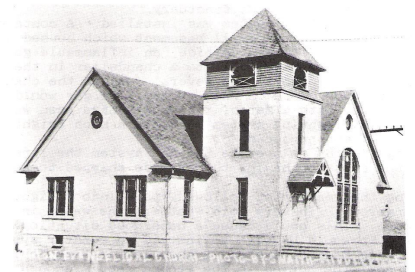
In 1911 and 1912, the church had to raise an EXTRA \$100.00 to meet operating expenses. At the end of 1911 they were sixteen cents short but at the end of 1912, they had a balance of #3.01!

The picture of the original church is a north side exposure. The picture of the reconstructed church is a south side exposure. A shed for the horses was on the north of the reconstructed church. It is believed that these horse sheds were built around 1900. The sheds were a series of stalls for the protection of the horses. The number of stalls built was determined by the number of people who purchased one and the cost would be divided equally among them. At the first church building (at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 146<sup>th</sup> Ave.), thirteen people bought a stall at a cost of \$17.00 each with a total cost of \$221.00. It is not known how many stalls were built or the cost of the sheds at the 2<sup>nd</sup> St. and 142<sup>nd</sup> Ave. location. Betty (Frey) Lewis would often tell that when she, her brother (Zale), and sister (Helen) were walking home from Weber School they liked to play in the "church sheds" (1929-1936). She also said that when people got cars, they used the sheds to park their car in when they attended church events.

(To be continued....) by Luann Snyder



**First Building**



**Reconstruction**



# CHANGES TO OFFERING COLLECTION

The offering plates have returned to the table in the Lobby instead of passing the plates during the worship service. This is being done to help stop the spread of COVID and other infectious diseases.

You may place your offering in the plates on your way in or out of the worship service. You may also give safely and securely online at [www.leightonchurch.org/give](http://www.leightonchurch.org/give).

If you would like to have your own set of offering envelopes at no charge, please contact Stacey Aman in the church office. (616) 891-8028 or [office@leightonchurch.org](mailto:office@leightonchurch.org)

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**Take note of the following meetings that are scheduled for the coming weeks:**



Tuesday, March 7—Board of Elders & Leadership Team meet with Rev. Dr. Margie Crawford, District Superintendent 6:30 p.m. (Rooms 7/8)

Thursday, March 9—Health & Safety Team 6:30 p.m. (Rooms 7/8)

Tuesday, March 14—Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 16—Staff Parish Relations Team 6:30 p.m.

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A wide variety of spring flowers are available for purchase to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter morning in honor/memory of your loved ones. Flowers will be available to take home after the worship service on Easter morning, April 9th.

Options include Easter lilies, daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, African violets, orchids, azaleas, hydrangeas, and spring bulb gardens.

Order forms are available in the Lobby and will be an attachment to the Leighton News sent by email.

Orders are due MARCH 12TH. Questions can be directed to Stacey in the church office.

(616) 891-8028 or [office@leightonchurch.org](mailto:office@leightonchurch.org)



# Service in Action

## How do I get involved?

<b>GREETER MINISTRY:</b> March 5: Scott & Terri Farmer March 12: The Syswerda Family March 19: Jan Geukes & Kim Bender	<b>Get involved:</b> Diane Porter, Coordinator (616) 617-0269, dianepor93@gmail.com
<b>Intercessory Prayer:</b> March 5: Michael & Christine Syswerda March 12: Kim Bender March 19: Mike & Sandy Shanahan	<b>Get involved:</b> Alverna Truax, (616) 891-8219, truax616@gmail.com Pray during the worship service. Serve every 6-8 weeks.
<b>Nursery:</b> March 5: Sarah & Makiah Geers March 12: Cindy Herring & Britney Bredeweg March 19: Christine & Ava Syswerda	<b>Get Involved:</b> Sarah Geers (616) 299-6898, sarahgeersbb@gmail.com Must attend Child Protection Class and have a background check done.
<b>Coffee Bar:</b> March 5: Drew & Jackie Corwin March 12: Chuck & Jane Hannan March 19: Colin Mead & Lori Haselden	<b>Get Involved:</b> Contact Connie Hooker (616) 891-8742 or sign up at the Coffee Bar
<b>Treats for Coffee Fellowship:</b> March 5: Rebecca Shanahan & Jackie Corwin March 12: Sarah Geers & Ronda Kaechele March 19: Christine Syswerda & Judy Hanlon	<b>Get Involved:</b> Contact Nona Steeby, (616) 891-1567
<b>Acolytes:</b> March 5: Cameron Acker & Keagan Shanahan March 12: Hollie Lepeak & Amelia Geers March 19: Makiah Geers & Abbi Pollmann	<b>Get Involved:</b> Luann Snyder (616) 891-8348, luannlewis@yahoo.com
<b>Children's Church:</b> March 5: Diane & Ian Norris, Jean McCaul March 12: Robbi & Anabelle Hilton, Makiah Geers March 19: Rebecca Shanahan, Valerie & Hollie Lepeak	<b>Get Involved:</b> Sarah Geers (616) 299-6898, sarahgeersbb@gmail.com
<b>Kids Worship:</b> March 8 –Lesson: Valerie Lepeak & Jackie Corwin Crafts: Britney Bredeweg & Makiah Geers March 15—Lesson: Valerie & Hollie Lepeak Crafts: Britney Bredeweg & Rebecca Shanahan	<b>Get Involved:</b> Valerie Lepeak (616) 366-1162 babspoiled9@yahoo.com
<b>Praise Team</b> March 5- Sound: Scott Pollmann Media: Colin Mead Vocals: Cindy Herring, Stacey Aman, Jack Syswerda Michael Syswerda Instruments: Jerry Slagh (guitar), Josh Aman (bass) Jerry Shira (drums), Jamie Shira (piano)	<b>Get Involved:</b> Contact Jerry Slagh if you are interested in joining the sound, media, and/or praise team. jdsmusic@aol.com