

# The Lantern

Faith United Methodist Church, Edmore MI



## From Pastor Lem's Desk

September is a month of changes. In Edmore, we will go back to school, celebrate Labor Day, we will remember 9/11, attend High School ball games, and celebrate potatoes. We will buy back-to-school supplies. We will have a Labor Day picnic with the family, full of fun activities. We will stop and possibly play taps on 9-11. We will spend evenings at ball games and track meets. We have been working hard on the potato festival. We work hard and play hard, and stay busy. We will be constantly attending to all the changes. Busy. Busy. Busy. So good to be busy. Wow, how did I get this far into my monthly column without mentioning God or church? Distractions. Yes, distractions can come from ordinary life. The letter to the Hebrews addresses this. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith". (Hebrews 12:1-2a)

The activities of life can become distractions, the things that hinder. There is nothing wrong with all the activities I have talked about. But when those activities keep us from a deeper walk with Jesus Christ, we falter in our race to follow Jesus Christ. The key is to keep these wonderful activities in balance with our spiritual focus on Jesus Christ. If we let these things distract us from our spiritual life in Jesus Christ, we lose focus on what God wants us to do. The popular worldly activities take our focus off Jesus Christ, and our life decisions are made by human values.

So how do you remain focused on Jesus Christ? Well, do not neglect daily devotions. Read the devotions from the "Upper Room Devotional" we provide for all of you, or a devotional of your choice. Pray about what you have read from the devotional and the Bible readings from that devotional. Attend church, the community of faith, so that you can encourage others in the faith and be encouraged. Pray for those around you. Enjoy all the wonderful activities of September. Living a life that seeks to do good, do no harm, and definitely stay in love with God.



*a Movie*

## REVIEW

by  
Sallie  
Horner

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Everything in the Lajterman's life is good. They had three healthy children, successful jobs, and a community of neighbors and friends with whom they interacted regularly. When they discover their youngest son, Danny, dead in his bedroom from an overdose, their entire world is turned upside down.

This movie is based on a true story available on Prime Video and BritBox. It is rated 4.3 out of five. There are no famous actors in this one. Still, those who acted in the movie did a great job of depicting the depression, guilt, and brokenness that family members faced when they realized that their son was heavily into drugs. Many people in the neighborhood knew about Danny's problems but failed to inform his parents. This is a common occurrence in death by drug overdose.

It is a movie that follows the sadness and grief the family faces after Danny dies. It would be a good one to watch if you have someone in your life who is in trouble due to drug use. It is a good review of what can happen when a family is faced with loss because of drugs.

The Bible verses I chose are below:

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit."—Psalms 34:18

"Cast all your anxieties on him because he cares for you: --1 Peter 5:7

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you."-- Psalms 56:3

## Person(s) of the month Eric & Sallie Horner

The person(s) of the month for September are Eric and Sallie Horner. Eric is our beloved photographer. He does such a super job catching people on camera in their best poses. You can tell he really enjoys doing this and we enjoy the pictures. Sally is a member of the United Women in Faith and she contributes a movie review to the newsletter every month. She is strong in her faith and a very sharp dresser. They are such a sweet couple! Your church family loves you and appreciates all that you do.







## Noisy Offering

Remember to bring your spare change on September 21st for our Noisy Offering! Every little bit helps, and your donations will support the Back to School Program.



## Happy Birthday

**September 06** Jean Croll  
**September 06** Nicole Croll  
**September 07** Donna Schmidt  
**September 17** Edna Dyer  
**September 19** Ruth Perkins  
**September 20** Jackie Topper



## August

### Offering

**8/3 - 8/9** \$2,503.00  
**8/10 - 8/16** \$  
**8/17 - 8/23** \$  
**8/24 - 8/30** \$

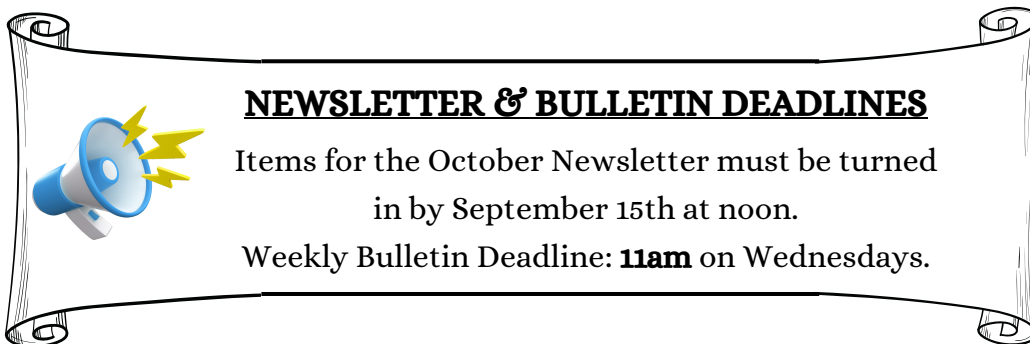
### Attendance

**8/3** 41  
**8/10** 48  
**8/17** 54  
**8/24** 45  
**8/31** ..

## Happy Anniversary



**September 02** Lem & Colleen Granada  
**September 03** Mark & Margo Ellis  
**September 08** Lonny & Jane Hagen  
**September 22** Arnie & Donna Schmidt  
**September 28** Don & Hazel Christensen



### **NEWSLETTER & BULLETIN DEADLINES**

Items for the October Newsletter must be turned in by September 15th at noon.

Weekly Bulletin Deadline: **11am** on Wednesdays.

# Prayer requests



Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:16

## *Please Pray*

Terry Davenport (Priscilla's friend) suffered injuries from a motorcycle accident.  
Leta Guild for the loss of her brother.  
Michelle's Aunt is recovering from surgery for cancer.  
Nancy Rogers' Son is in hospice care.  
Sallie Horner has a fractured rib.  
Dolores Hansen for healing from injuries in a car accident.  
Pray for all affected by wildfires out west.  
For Texas residents dealing with flood damage.  
To all those bravely fighting cancer.

## *Give God Praise*

Sallie is doing better.  
Dolores is home.  
Michelle's new co-worker is working out well.

## *Current Service Men & Women*



Chris Arganbright  
Paul Clouse  
Asher Felty

Adam Griswold  
Joshua Guild  
Robert Nemetz

Joseph Schmitt  
John Withey



"Almighty God . . . Lead them [our troops] straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith. They will need Thy blessings . . ."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

## *Assisted Living/ Nursing Home*

Sue Isham  
United Memorial - Long Term Care  
615 Bower Street  
Greenville, MI 48838

Jean Sabin  
Arbor Grove  
1320 Pine Avenue  
Alma, 48801

Gracious God, shower our elderly with Your boundless care. Strengthen their bodies, uplift their spirits, and surround them with a community that embodies Your love in practical ways.



President Janella opened the meeting of seventeen women by reading Psalm 42:8a, which reads "Through each day the Lord pours His unfailing love upon me." Then the group recited the Mission Statement.

Jean read the meeting minutes from July 1, 2025. The minutes were accepted as read.

Georgia gave the treasurer's report. The total before today's offering is \$1629.37. Pat K. moved to pay our 2025 pledge. Seconded by Sara. Motion passed.

Old Business: Becky talked about the Potato Tent progress. The elephant ears have been rolled. Tomorrow there will be a meeting to discuss next steps. A sign-up sheet will go out soon for donations. Will start browning the hamburger next Monday.

New Business: August Potluck: Having potluck on August 31st. The ham will be provided.

Cathie Naru's Celebration September 6: The family is furnishing meat. We are to supply dessert, salads, and drinks. Thinking 50-75 people.

Texas Flood Victims: Pat K. made a motion that we donate \$200 to UMCOR for flood victims. Kathy, motion carried.

Election of Officers: Motion made to keep our officers for another year. Officers were willing to do this. Motion carried.

Jean passed information about the Central Bay District United Women in Faith Annual celebration around the table. It is in Alma on October 4, 2025. Cost is \$18.00 per person. Six ladies signed up. Will wait until our September meeting to mail in.

Cards: Hazel will send a card to Sally's daughter for continued healing.

Sally gave the program. She read some excerpts from books she really enjoyed. "Who Me?", "My Life is in your hands" and "Don't throw away your confidence." They certainly made us think.

Next month: The hostess is Tina, and the program will be given by Sara.

It was agreed that having the meeting first gave us more time to enjoy the goodies and talk without being in a hurry.

The meeting was adjourned after reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Thank you, Kathy, for the bars, veggies, and fruit.

Jean Croll, Secretary

Members Present: Jane Beach, Leann Smith, Becky West, Georgia Bohne, Pastor Lem, Lisa Longnecker, Leonard Jordan

Note: The following member will need to receive communication via regular mail, as she does not have e-mail: Georgia Bohne

1. The Finance Committee Meeting was called to order on August 12th, 2025, at 11 AM.
  - Prayer was led by Pastor Lem.
2. Review of previous minutes:
  - July 8th, 2025, minutes were reviewed and accepted as printed.
3. Treasurer's Report –Leann provided copies of church financial reports.
  - July 2025: Income: \$9,963.68 Expenses: \$10,358.07 Net: **-394.39**
    - There was a quarterly tax payment of \$418 that negatively affected the balance this month.
  - YTD: Income: \$71,013.82. Expenses: \$80,029.12 Net: **-\$9,015.30**
  - All bills and Ministry Shares are paid.
  - There is a Congregational Update scheduled for near the end of August regarding finances. The same information will be in the newsletter.
  - Discussion about what a savings occurs because Pastor Lem uses his retirement health care, not the church sponsored health care. Edmore Faith saves over \$20,000 annually due to this blessing.
  - Monthly Income, Expenses, and Year-to-Date Balance will be printed in the bulletin once a month to keep the church family more informed.
  - Discussion about trying to have a thorough budget review this year when setting the 2026 budget—having more time and really looking at what was spent to inform decisions for 2026.
4. Old Business
  - Audit?
5. New Business
  - None currently
6. Around The Table
  - Lisa Longnecker asked if we need to keep so much money available in the General Account. Lisa had information about setting aside some General Fund money and earning income on it. Leann will look through the General Fund and see what subfunds are included to give us a better idea of what money might be available for other options that could benefit us financially. To be continued next month.
7. Next meeting – September 9th, 11 AM



# Financial Update

Dear Church Family and Friends,

It has been about 5 months since we last presented a financial update.

Our church continues to have many blessings! Perhaps most church family members are unaware of what a tremendous blessing Pastor Lem and Colleen are. We all certainly benefit from their ministry and their involvement in numerous church activities. In addition to their ministry, **Pastor Lem uses his retirement health insurance, which means Edmore Faith saves over \$20,000 annually** by not having to provide health insurance. Wow! \*Pastor Lem is also listed as a half-time pastor, but we all know we see him far more than that. Thank you, Pastor Lem and Colleen!

We have a wonderful church family who care deeply about each other, about our surrounding communities, as well as those farther away that we help through our mission work. Our church is full of joy—coffee hour finds folks chatting and laughing. We have willing workers keeping our church and parsonage in the best shape possible. Sunday worship is enjoyed by all. We see a few new faces joining us for worship. We are happy to share our wonderful church home with groups needing a spot—AA and Euchre groups meet regularly, as well as our monthly Friends and Fellowship. The Men's bimonthly Bible Study and monthly Grief Group (including non-church family members) are great additions to church life!

The Finance Committee continues to monitor finances and suggest adjustments if/when needed to be the best stewards of our funds. It was hoped that the return to nicer weather would have a positive impact on our financial situation, but that has not been the case. As of August 2025, **we are down approximately \$9,015**. This is obviously an area of concern that needs to be shared with you.

Please keep our church in your prayers always, but especially at this time. Despite this financial challenge, the business of the church continues—bills to pay, repairs to the church and parsonage as needed to keep them in good condition, as well as unexpected costs that can pop up at any time.

Please do continue your faithful giving. Edmore Faith is blessed by so many giving at the maximum for their life situation---so thank you! Your giving allows our church to continue to be the beacon of hope and help for the community for which it is so well known.

Please prayerfully consider ideas for enhancing the financial health of Edmore Faith.

# Financial Update

(continued)

One Option to consider:

Consider increasing your giving by 10%. Often this is such a slight increase, it may not always feel different, BUT everyone's 10% increase in total could make a difference for Edmore Faith. If the weekly offering for Edmore Faith was, \$1,900, a 10% increase on the total offering would change that amount to \$2,090. If a church family member currently gives \$10 weekly, a 10% increase would mean that would change to \$11. A chart is provided to show 10% and 20% increases for a variety of giving amounts.

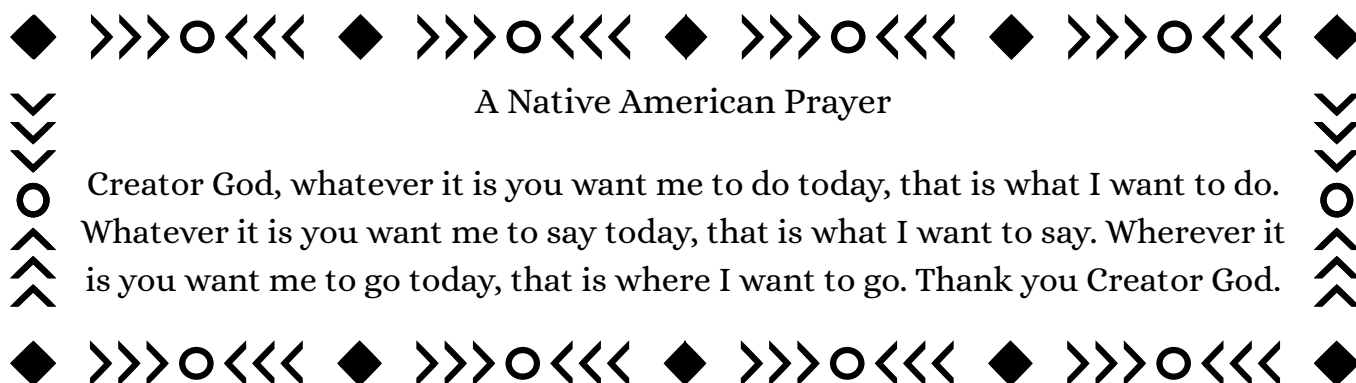
A future dessert auction is being considered. This is always a fun fellowship time and provides some much-needed funds as well.

Brainstorm fundraising and cost-cutting ideas and bring those ideas to Church Council—a fresh perspective on a challenge can often be just what is needed.

Pray, Pray Pray with FAITH---God has great answers to this concern!

The Finance Committee will continue to closely monitor the financial situation to determine if further action is needed. Thank you for being such an important part of this church family.

*\* FYI: A number of people have asked about Pastor Lem's half-time pastor status mentioned in the Congregational Update. We are extremely blessed that Pastor Lem is listed as a half-time pastor, and his benefits are related to that half-time status. However, we all know that Pastor Lem works far more than half the time. As also mentioned, Pastor Lem and Colleen are using Pastor Lem's retirement health insurance—another great savings for Edmore Faith Church. Both the half-time status and the insurance situation are extraordinary benefits for Edmore Faith Church! We are grateful!*





Present: Pastor Lem, Leonard Jordan, Georgia Bohne, Linda Dobbrastine, Becky West, Calley Currier, Jane Beach, Kathy Helms, Jean Croll

Prayer - Pastor Lem opened the meeting with a prayer.

## Becky - Potato Tent Event

- Our first elephant ear rolling session was yesterday, Monday, July 28.
- August 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM, there will be a Potato Tent meeting.
- Leonard picked up oil for the elephant ears.
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## United Women In Faith

Had a nice meeting for July. It was a potluck.

- We will need to elect officers again.
- The district meeting will be in October in Alma, and people will need to sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board. Jean is attending.
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## Trustees

- Waiting until it cools off a little before we move forward with some projects.
- They believe they figured out the blinking light issue.
- Working on getting the lights changed on the cross.
- The gutter is cracked, got an estimate from Kieff's for the price of \$2650.00. This includes them cleaning the gutters, repairing them, and putting on gutter guards. The trustees made a motion and passed it.
- The center patio has a lot of weeds and grass. It was discussed to have someone clean it out and put cement in the area. This will prevent rain from seeping into the sanctuary during a heavy rain. The funds for this project will come from the Lee Robert Fund.
- Leonard got rid of the heavy green chairs.

## Missions

- Linda brought some brochures for a camp that the Women In Faith donated \$100 to for Pat Loveless' granddaughter to go to camp.
- Discussion on whether we want to change direction on the camp that we support. This camp has day camps, week-long camps, and day camps for special needs.
- Finance has discussed the camp and how they want to proceed with it. They have also decided that the camper will need to be active in our church if we are going to support them.

## SPRC

- The charge conference will be coming up. There is a webinar that will be covering forms that will be slightly different from previous years.
- There was discussion about Sunday School and Nursery staffing. By law, we are supposed to have 2 people in each room. Anyone who helps out in those rooms needs to have a background screening. Calley will make a sign-up sheet for the screenings. This will be passed along during the service.
- We discussed reconfiguring the setup of the 2 rooms so they are open to each other, creating the need for only 2 adults instead of 4 with the following ideas and thoughts:

## SPRC (continued)

- Putting a door or window in between the nursery and the Sunday school room. The cost of putting in a door would be very high. We would have to re-route the heat and electric, and there was a question about whether it is a supporting wall.
- Change the library to the Sunday school room. By moving the half door between the current library and the nursery. (Leonard checked, and the doors are not interchangeable.)
- Putting a window in the door between the current library and the nursery.
- Switch the counting room and the nursery. (But, there has been a lot of work done on the current nursery, so it would be a shame not to use it as the nursery anymore.) There is no door between the counting room and the Sunday school room.
- Jane will speak to Priscilla about the possible changes.
- Linda mentioned that she needs a sign-up sheet for the people who work with the Friends and Fellowship group for background screenings.
- It has been difficult getting help for the nursery. When they are asked to help, they respond, "Not today".
- Pastor Lem mentioned that we set up a list of people and rotate people through to work in the nursery.
- The responsibility of the second person is to just sit and be a second set of eyes. There is a speaker in the nursery, so you can still hear the service.

## Education

- The Adult Sunday school class is up to 6 regular attendees. Just finished I & II Peter and now moving onto I John. Jean is looking at another possible study that she thinks would be interesting about chocolate.

## Finance

- The balances: May + \$1,168.33                      June: - \$989.16                      YTD - \$8,620.91
- They discussed speaking to the congregation again. We will add our financial status to the newsletter as well.
- We will start putting a financial update in the bulletin again.

## Worship

- Jean was thinking we could have a hat Sunday.
- Thinking about doing a hymn sing, possibly in October. Fletcher is ready and willing to do it again. He really enjoys playing for them.

## Calley-Secretary

- Handed out Charge conference paperwork. Leonard would like last year's copies to have something to go by.
- Calley would like to use last year's order forms for the potato tent and print the new items on them to save paper. But the costs have changed, and we have added a few items, so we will need to print new ones.



## Pastor

- Pastor Lem will be applying to be an associate member, which gives him a permanent license to preach. He will be doing a lot of paperwork to move forward with this, and he needs to do a psychological exam online. Being an Associate Member will allow him to do sacraments and the like outside the parish as needed. (Side Note from Pastor Lem: "This doesn't mean I will be going away".)
- The men's group is going well. We keep inviting others.
- The Pierson church has a community garden, and they are looking for recipes for vegetables that would be included in the garden. They are looking for some basic instructions to use the vegetables. This is included in the August Newsletter.
- Discussion about using our land to start one here.
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## New Business

- A church in Six Lakes has recently closed. Linda Helms came here from that church last Sunday. We could reach out to their congregation and invite them to attend here.

## Around the Table

- Joan Rasmussen reached out to Jane regarding the Texas flood situation. She thinks it would be nice for our church to mention the Texas flood relief effort and how we can donate to it. Joan's daughter works with Texans on Mission (they have a 501C3), and they immediately go to flood areas. We typically donate to UMCOR, and we will mention it during church. Calley will look into information to donate to UMCOR so that it goes to the Texas Flood relief effort.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

### Monthly Bible Study

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday every month.

Dinner at 5:30 pm

Bible Study afterwards

The M&M Group will continue to meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays of each month at 10 AM. All women are welcome!

## POTATO TENT

at Faith United Methodist Church  
833 South First Street, Edmore

POTATOES  
ARE  
BACK!

Baked  
Potato

Loaded  
Baked Potato

Baked Potato  
w/ Stroganoff

Elephant  
Ears

Hot  
Dogs

Friday, September 19 11 AM - 7 PM  
Saturday, September 20 11 AM - 4 PM

### SUPPORT

Grief Support Group  
Open to anyone  
struggling with grief.

September 13<sup>th</sup>  
at 3:00 PM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Closed for <b>LABOR DAY</b> 7 pm AA Meeting	2 1 pm WIF meeting	3	4 1 pm Euchre	5	6 11:00 am Memorial Service for Cathie Naru  Luncheon to follow
7 Noah from YFC will be speaking after the Children's Sermon <b>Holy Communion</b> 	8 8 am Mens Group 10 am M&M's 7 pm AA Meeting	9 11 am Finance Meeting	10	11 1 pm Euchre  SPRC Forms due	12	13 3:00 pm Grief Support Group
14	15 7 pm AA Meeting  Newsletter Deadline	16 10:00 am Worship Meeting 10:30 am Church Council Meeting	17 6 pm Friends & Fellowship	18 1 pm Euchre 5:30pm Soup & Bible Study  4-5 pm - sign up 5 pm - food distribution	19  <b>Potato Fetival</b> September 19-21 11-7 Potato Tent	20 11-4 Potato Tent
21 Noisy Offering Back to School 	22 8 am Mens Group  7 pm AA Meeting	23 10:00 am Nominations Meeting	24	25 1 pm Euchre  All other Charge Conference Forms are due  8:00 pm SPRC Zoom meeting for Charge Conference	26 James Southerton funeral and luncheon 11-1	27
28	29	30				