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# Faith Notes

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2576 Browncroft Blvd. Rochester, NY 14625 Office: (585)381-3970 faithpenfield.org



## FEBRUARY 2024

As we have done in previous years, this year we will have Wednesday evening worship throughout the season of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we will begin with Imposition of Ashes at 12:00 noon, a youth-sponsored spaghetti dinner at 5:30, and Worship (with Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion) at 6:30. On the subsequent five Wednesdays we'll gather for dinner and fellowship at 5:45, followed by worship at 6:30. There will be a signup sheet at the Information Center on which you may sign up to provide soup, salad, or dessert for the weekly suppers.

### Ash Wednesday, February 14

12:00 noon – Imposition of Ashes

5:30 – Spaghetti Dinner in the Auditorium and Community Room

6:30 – Worship & Holy Communion

### February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20

5:45 – Dinner & Fellowship in the Auditorium

6:30 – Worship in the Sanctuary

**Thank you from Pastor Peter**

*“Ponder anew what the Almighty can do!” Thank you Faith for calling me to be your pastor and for walking alongside me for so many years. It is an honor and joy to serve and walk alongside all of you as we grow in Christ together. Many thanks to all who worshiped, served, and volunteered on Jan. 14. It was a beautiful and memorable service and reception! Let’s keep GOing and making disciples together in the name of Jesus! To God be the glory!*

**CONNECT \* GROW \* SERVE**

# Faith Child Care and Nursery School

2576 Browncroft Boulevard, Rochester, New York 14625-1530

Phone: (585) 381-3970

Phone: (585) 385-2360

Office Hours: Mon-Thur, 9am-4pm; Fri, 9am-12pm

Hours: 7:00am-5:30pm

Website: [www.faithpenfield.org](http://www.faithpenfield.org)

Website: <https://faithpenfield.org/faith-child-care>

## Church Staff and Faith Child Care Staff

### PASTORAL and EDUCATION

#### PASTOR

Rev. Peter Johnson  
ext. 16

[peter@faithpenfield.org](mailto:peter@faithpenfield.org)

Direct Line 485-0146

#### CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Shannon Wolf - Interim Sunday  
School Director

[sundayschool@faithpenfield.org](mailto:sundayschool@faithpenfield.org)

Stephanie Johnson - Interim VBS  
Director

[vbs@faithpenfield.org](mailto:vbs@faithpenfield.org)

Taylor Saunders - Nursery

### MUSIC

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ ORGANIST

Dianne Christensen  
ext. 17

[dianne@faithpenfield.org](mailto:dianne@faithpenfield.org)

DIRECTOR OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

Elizabeth Balentine  
ext. 11

[elizabeth@faithpenfield.org](mailto:elizabeth@faithpenfield.org)

### OFFICE

CHURCH SECRETARY

Kris Cronk  
ext. 10

[secretary@faithpenfield.org](mailto:secretary@faithpenfield.org)

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Kay Gerlach  
ext. 12

[finance@faithpenfield.org](mailto:finance@faithpenfield.org)

Direct Line 485-0142

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS MANAGER

Kurt Finkbeiner  
ext. 15

[building@faithpenfield.org](mailto:building@faithpenfield.org)

### FCCNS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mari-Beth Schembri  
381-3970 ext. 21

[mbschembri@fccnschildcare.com](mailto:mbschembri@fccnschildcare.com)

Direct Line 485-0151

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND  
OPERATIONS

Lori Connolly  
381-3970 ext. 20

[laconnolly@fccnschildcare.com](mailto:laconnolly@fccnschildcare.com)

Direct Line 485-0150



Traditional Worship---8:30 AM Sundays

In-House and Livestreamed

Contemporary Worship---10:45 AM Sundays

In-House and Livestreamed

Holy Communion Celebrated on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

### Christian Education Opportunities

Sunday School Classes (Age 3 through Grade 6), Sundays, 9:45-10:40am

Jr. FLY Confirmation (Youth in grades 7-8), Sundays, 9:45-10:40am

Sr. FLY Bible Class (Youth in grades 9-12), Sundays, 9:45-10:40am

**Sunday Night FLY** (Youth in grades 7-12), 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, 7-8:45pm

Adult Bible Study Class - In-person and Livestreamed classes, Sundays, 9:45-10:40am

## Pastor Peter's Perspective

### "Identity and Belonging"



*"Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture," Psalm 100:3.*

In junior high, I struggled to find a group of friends to belong to. I bounced around from friend group to friend group. I joined the golf team, track team, cross country team, jazz band, and concert band. Those years are tough enough for a teenager, and I just couldn't find a place to belong... I didn't know how to identify myself... a golfer? A runner? A musician? Something else? It was a struggle.

Do you ever struggle with identity or belonging? When we don't know how to define ourselves, it can be easy to let the world and the culture around us define us. We can get caught up in how others might perceive us. We worry about letting others see the "real me." We get lost in a whirlwind of labels, fears, and anxieties. When we struggle with our own identity and a sense of belonging, our lives are typically defined by problems and worries.

Read Psalm 100:3 again at the top of this page. Our amazing God has not left you stuck in the place of problems and worries. He has not left you to wander through life in search of identity and belonging. Rather, He has rescued you from all fears and worries. He has given you a forever identity as His child. And He daily pursues you with His incredible love and grace.

Your identity above all else is a child of the living God. "It is He who made us, and we are His." Doesn't that take your breath away?! It should. The God who created the universe also created you... and cares deeply about you! He loves you like no other. And out of this love, He sent His Son to bring you back to Himself. The search is over for an identity and belonging. You and I belong to God. Period. My struggle in junior high ended when God led me on my first mission trip and I joined the youth group. I had a place to belong.

"We are His people, the sheep of His pasture." We have a place to belong. In Baptism, we are united with Jesus and His Body: the Church. It is here in this community of fellow sheep that we are reminded of our identity as God's people... and you and I belong here. It is here where we are forgiven and forgive; where we receive God's grace again and again; and where we connect, grow, and serve alongside each other. Belonging is not a solitary journey, it is a communal experience where we find support, encouragement, and love from fellow believers. Our belonging transcends boundaries of race, ethnicity, and social status. In Galatians 3:28, the Apostle Paul emphasizes, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

So Faith, keep inviting your loved ones, neighbors, coworkers, coaches, teachers, supervisors, therapists, contractors, babysitters, cashiers, and everyone you meet to this community of belonging. Come as you are and discover and be reminded of your identity in Jesus Christ. Welcome to Faith, there's a place for you here!

# Stewardship Message from the Faith Leadership Board

## STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FROM THE FAITH LEADERSHIP BOARD

We give thanks for the blessed support that our congregation continues to provide for the ministries that are so important to us and the community in which we serve. As we look to "Connect, Grow & Serve" within and outside our church community, it is important to keep up on our financial support of the operating budget. **Envelope giving for December exceeded budget by \$2,945 which helped to reduce the year-to-date shortfall to a total of \$31,074 less than budget and by \$15,880 vs. the same period last year.**

We had over **160 households** participate in the Pavilion Capital Campaign whose generosity **helped us to meet our \$300,000 goal** for this ministry project. Our Finance Team has received some questions as to whether the Pavilion Capital Campaign impacted giving to Faith's general operating fund by our members. Our contribution data supports that the households that contributed to the Pavilion Capital Campaign have also provided year-to-date gifts to the general operating fund that are collectively above and beyond what they gave to Faith as of the same time last year. In addition, the pavilion project brought **30 new givers** to Faith! Look at what God can do!

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the **106 households** who have already submitted their 2024 pledges totaling **\$390,439**. We will continue to accept 2024 pledges in the church office. You can submit your pledge by dropping it in the Concourse pledge box, mailing it to our church office (2576 Browncroft Blvd, Rochester, NY 14625) or calling the church office at 585-381-3970 with your pledge information.

We have also been very blessed to receive a robust response from many of our members indicating the ministries in which they have pledged to participate in the coming year. Exciting times are ahead of us as we embark on this new chapter of ministry together with Pastor Peter and our many ministry teams.

*Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 4: 1 & 2, "This how is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful."*

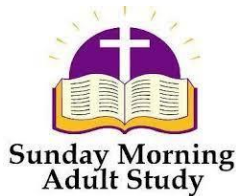
### FAITH'S STEWARDSHIP RESPONSE FOR PRIOR MONTH:

#### ENVELOPE GIVING

December 2023	Voter Approved Budget	Actual	Variance from Budget	% Variance	Prior Year Actual
1st Sunday	\$7,000	\$11,382	\$4,382	63%	\$3,742
2nd Sunday	\$7,000	\$8,530	\$1,530	22%	\$6,207
3rd Sunday	\$7,000	\$7,620	\$620	9%	\$5,834
4th Sun./Christmas Eve & Day	\$11,000	\$16,530	\$5,530	50%	\$5,732
2023 Gifts deposited in 2024	\$10,000	\$3,225	(\$6,775)	0%	\$21,930
Online Giving	\$25,000	\$25,416	\$416	2%	\$25,190
Festival Giving	\$8,000	\$5,242	(\$2,758)	-34%	\$6,913
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>	<b>\$77,945</b>	<b>\$2,945</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>\$75,548</b>
<b>Year-to-Date Total</b>	<b>\$690,000</b>	<b>\$658,926</b>	<b>(\$31,074)</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>\$674,806</b>

## Adult Education

### "World Religions Class" for Adults & the Sr. FLY Class



**Sundays @ 9:45am on Feb. 4 & 11**

Come hear about the history, commonalities, and differences of five of the most popular world religions. We will discuss cultural and historical impacts when these religions started and as they spread, and how we, as Christians, support our beliefs in conversation with others. Join us!

The class is led by Diane Van Auken.

### "Lifting the Lid-Livability" for Adults & the Sr. Fly Class

**Sunday Evenings 7:00-8:30 2/25, 3/10, 3/24, 4/14, 4/28, 5/5**

Liz Wood MSED and Rebecca Lazzaro LMSW will lead a 6 week bible study exploring God's heart for mental health.

'My soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have **hope**: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.' Lamentations 3:20-22

1 in 4 people will have a diagnosable mental health condition within their lifetime. Each week we will learn about a specific mental health diagnosis-causes, treatments and how churches (Christians) can help.

We will be looking at well known Bible stories to understand how God treats those who feel exhausted, rejected, hopeless and heartbroken. We will look at God's approach and use that to explore how we can support those in our families and communities with mental health struggles or how we can view our own mental health struggles through the lens of God.

You are welcome to attend, whether you struggle with a mental health diagnosis yourself or you want to learn more about different diagnosis and how you can support our community. The class will maintain confidentiality.

Please contact Liz, Rebecca or Pastor Peter if you have any questions.

### **Meet our DCE Search Committee!**

In late 2023, our Faith Leadership Board tasked Pastor Peter with forming a new committee to search for Faith's next Director of Christian Education (DCE). The DCE will be responsible for Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at Faith.

The following people have agreed to serve on the DCE Search Committee:

**Steve Ford \* Carrie Steiner \* Kim Nadritch \* Sharon Phillips \* Pastor Peter Johnson**

This committee will be commissioned at both worship services on Jan. 28. The committee has already been in communication with our Eastern District office and have received access to online profiles of potential DCE candidates. This process takes time, as candidates' names are received, researched, interviewed, and prayerfully called to serve at Faith. The DCE Search Committee will keep our congregation updated on the search process through our weekly bulletin announcements, monthly Faith Notes, and occasional verbal updates on Sunday mornings. Please pray for this search process and for our committee, and that God would prepare the DCE who will answer the call to serve at Faith.

***\*Many thanks to our committee for agreeing to serve and to many more for offering to serve on this committee!***

## From the Mission Board



The annual **Easter Basket Food** project will begin the last week in February. There will be an online sign up as well as a sign-up opportunity in the concourse. We will be filling more than 60 baskets for families in need in the community. Items can be dropped off at church beginning March 1<sup>st</sup> and will be due to church no later than Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Baskets will be filled and delivered on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you know of a family in need, please let the church office know by Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. We would LOVE to have volunteers to help sort, pack, and deliver the baskets!! (You can go online or sign up in the concourse to volunteer.)

All **Penny Tower** funds collected from now until March 24<sup>th</sup> will go towards the Easter Baskets.

With great thanks -  
Marguerite McKee, Missions Ministry Chair

## Ways you can SERVE

Dear Faith Family,

In order for our ministries to strengthen and expand, we are looking for people to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus in the following areas & more:

**Altar Guild:** Preparing communion and the chancel area for worship.

**Lay Readers:** Proclaiming the Word of God to your brothers and sisters.

**Eucharist Assistants:** Serving the Body of Christ to your brothers and sisters.

**PowerPoint Operators:** Clicking the slides to facilitate singing and spoken parts of worship for your brothers and sisters.

**Ushers:** Greeting your Faith Family, handing out bulletins, and helping them get situated in the sanctuary as needed.

**Livestream Producers:** Running the worship services online every Sunday.

**Joseph Guild:** Maintaining, fixing & painting our beautiful church facility on a regular basis.

**Gardeners:** Weeding & maintaining Faith's gardens once or twice a month.

**Stephen Ministry:** Lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Knit or Crochet prayer shawls for people needing comfort due to illness or personal issues in their lives. Meet with the group on the second Monday of the month at church and/or work at home to complete your projects.

**Dorcas Group:** Please bring your lunch and join us for some socializing and making of pillows, bears, walker bags and shirt savers. Everyone is welcome to join us the second Thursday of every month.

**FCCNS:** looking for volunteers to rock babies, classroom readers, classroom project helpers, craft/basement organizer.

If you are able to assist in any of these areas, please contact Elizabeth Balentine and she can direct you accordingly ([elizabeth@faithpenfield.org](mailto:elizabeth@faithpenfield.org)) and/or check the Worship Volunteer Sign Up for some general available slots found at this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0544afaf2eabfd0-worship1>

# Children's Ministry



In Sunday School, Feeding the 5,000 was concluded in January. This Spring we will continue to learn about Jesus' love for us through the stories of Wise and Foolish Builders, Mary and Martha, Lazarus and more. Thank you to all of our Volunteers who help out every Sunday morning!

A HUGE Thank You to all who donated blankets, sheets and pillows to vulnerable adults in need! They were extremely appreciative of the donations!

Kidz Konnect will be filling Blessings Bags for our next service project. We will be collecting personal hygiene items including: shampoo, bars of soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and granola bars for the Open Door Mission and Bethlehem Family Services. Donations will be collected in the bins located in the concourse by March 24th. Stay tuned for the date of our next Kidz Konnect get together in March.



Families are invited to join us Friday, February 9th at 5:45pm for Sledding Night! Pizza dinner will be served followed by sledding out back. No Snow? Snow problem! We'll watch a movie in the auditorium instead. Please register on the sign up sheet in the concourse by 2/7. Don't forget to bring your sleds!

The Parents of Young Children group will meet on February 17th at 11:30am. Please email Mark Harstad at [mnh1alfred@gmail.com](mailto:mnh1alfred@gmail.com) to RSVP or for more info about the group.

Save the Date - VBS 2024 returns July 29th-August 2nd! This years theme is "The Great Outdoors." Registration will go live on the Faith website 1/27/24. Please contact Stephanie Johnson with any questions ([vbs@faithpenfield.org](mailto:vbs@faithpenfield.org))



# Goings on at Faith



## Faith Congregation Annual Meeting

The Faith Leadership Board is inviting all members to join us for the upcoming in-person Congregational Meeting on February 4, 2024 at 12:30pm. This meeting will include the presentation of nominees for the Faith Leadership Board, Financial and Committee Reports, along with the proposed 2024 Budget and Pavilion project update. A Zoom Link will be forthcoming for those who cannot attend in person. The full packet and agenda will be available on January 28<sup>th</sup>. A free-will offering lunch will be provided at 12:00.

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## Schedule for Lenten Dinner Groups: Spaghetti Dinner – 5:30pm, Pot Luck Dinners at 5:45pm

February 14<sup>th</sup> - **Ash Wednesday** - Spaghetti Dinner (Youth)

February 21<sup>st</sup> - Potluck - ( )

February 28<sup>th</sup> - Potluck - (Music Ministry)

March 6<sup>th</sup> - Potluck (FCCNS)

March 13<sup>th</sup> - Potluck (Stephen Ministers/Visitation Ministry)

March 20<sup>th</sup> - Potluck ( )

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## Men's Breakfast Group

Join us as we start the day together in fellowship!

When: **Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> @ 7am**

Where: **Browncroft Diner**, 2501 Browncroft Blvd, Rochester, Ny 14625



It is intended to gather men of all ages together at the beginning of the day.

Whether you are on your way to work, enjoying retirement, dropping the kids

off at school or just taking a mental health day, we all deal with a variety of stresses in this life. It is for that reason we are encouraging you to gather on the first Tuesday of each month from 7am to 8am, for a time of **fellowship, encouragement, a brief devotion and of course breakfast.**

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## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our next meeting will be on **Monday February 5<sup>th</sup>** at 1:30 in Room 204. Marie Ferner, one of our prayer shawl ministry members, is very accomplished both in knitting and crocheting and would be happy to work with anyone who is interested in participating. If you would like a shawl, please contact the church office or Sue Hutchings. Prayer squares are available on the information desk in the concourse.



**The Dorcas Group** is meeting on **Thursday February 8<sup>th</sup>** at 11:30 am in Room 204. Please bring your lunch and join us for some socializing and making of pillows, bears, walker bags and shirt savers. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Contact Laurie Ebbecke at 671-7285 or Karen Wright at 377-4414 with any questions

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## SOLA – Strength of Living Alone

We will meet at 11:30 for lunch on **Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**. Everyone will pay their own bill. Donna Kaser will send out an email to let you know the specific restaurant. We will need to know if you are coming so we can alert the restaurant and have enough seats for everyone. ***If you are interested, please email Donna to get on the contact list.*** If you have any questions or want more information please email Donna Kaser at [dontshop@gmail.com](mailto:dontshop@gmail.com) or call or text 259-6488.





For the spring the **Women’s Book Group** is reading the best-selling novel, *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. The novel takes place “in 1961, when smart ambitious women had limited options.” (NY Times) Elizabeth Zott is a brilliant research chemist whose career takes a detour when she becomes the unlikely star of a TV cooking show. Elizabeth doesn’t just teach women how to cook—she dares them to challenge the status quo. Join us in the spring to discuss this “darkly funny, poignant, and quirky” novel.

For more information contact Rae Usinger (381-1391 home; 585 738-9345 cell) or Barb Riethmeier (585 704-8459 cell; 381-0779 home).



## February L.I.F.T.



### BINGO NIGHT!

- DATE:** Saturday, February 17, 2024
- TIME:** 5:00 p.m.
- LOCATION:** Faith Lutheran Church  
2576 Browncroft Blvd, Rochester  
Community Room (enter on East side of church)
- HOSTS:** Sandie & Bob Freitag (585-381-6535)  
Jackie & George Kuipers (585-383-9144)

A Pot Luck Supper will be starting at 5:30 p.m.

Bring a dish to pass or a drink to share

**BINGO** will start at 6:30 p.m.

There is a sign-up sheet in the concourse or you can contact Sandie or Jackie

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### SAVE THE DATE

#### **EUCHRE NIGHT**

**DATE: April 27, 2024 @ 6:00**





Please join us

# Thrivent Night at the Strong National Museum of Play

**Hosted by the Thrivent Member Network–Northeast Region.**

As part of a Thrivent Member Network, you're among a group of local Christians who come together to learn, support one another and make a real impact in our communities.

## Event details

**Sunday, February 18, 2024**

4 to 8 p.m.  
Strong Museum of Play  
1 Manhattan Square Dr., Rochester, NY

**4 to 5:30 p.m.: Thrivent Member Pre-event Gathering**

Enjoy dinner and a Thrivent update. Each Thrivent client with membership can bring up to three guests.

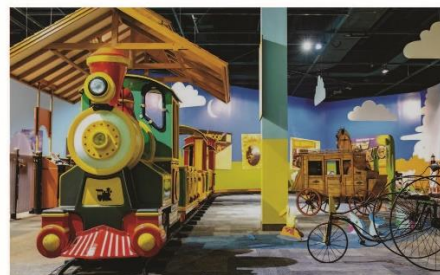
**5:30 to 8 p.m.: Open Play – Thrivent**

Members, friends and family can enjoy all the museum has to offer. Non-members can register for Open Play.

**Admission & parking are free.**

Pre-event registration is necessary for all attendees. Space is limited so register today at [bit.ly/STRONG24](https://bit.ly/STRONG24), scan the QR code or visit the Events page on [thrivent.com/northeast](https://thrivent.com/northeast).

Please feel free to invite others to celebrate with us.



This event is brought to you by your Thrivent Member Network. No products will be sold at this event.  
[thrivent.com](https://thrivent.com) • 800-847-4836



*Now I see just how great my need,  
In His hands and in His feet.  
Lamb of God, oh, my soul shall sing,  
Hallelujah to the God who bleeds.*

Over the years, I have become more drawn to the Lenten season and the beauty that lives there. I've never been one to give up chocolate, or a social media platform to take a fast symbolic to what

Jesus did for 40 days in the desert. Recently, I've been sitting in the ashes and seeing God's promises in the sorrows. So many years in a row I have seen folks struggle with unspeakable sadness, and experienced doses of my own. This is why for Lent of 2023 we took time with the Psalms of Lament. I feel strongly that these feelings need to be addressed, validated, and comforted in a worship setting. For 2024, we are using a book by Max Lucado entitled He Chose the Nails: What God Did to Win Your Heart, as the basis of our Wednesday Evening services and also for the Good Friday Tenebrae. Each chapter zooms in a specific detail or moment during Jesus' suffering during Holy Week. These moments tie across to the deep emotions we feel during our life here on earth. We will receive reminders that: Jesus understands our pain, we are not abandoned, God surrounds us, we are loved forever. I hope you will join us for these services, beginning with Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14) and be reminded of these promises. How appropriate that Lent begins on Valentine's Day – a day where we celebrate love – and we will have the opportunity to observe how much God loves us.

There is a new song that has been released by The Songwriter Initiative at the Center for Worship leadership at Concordia University Irvine. This initiative is an incredible effort that links songwriters and musicians across the nation with the goal to create a catalog of new music for the LCMS. I have been so pleased with what has been released so far, and this new song "God Who Bleeds" is the perfect lead up for Lent and reflection during the Easter season. I heard the debut of this song at the WALi Summit this past fall, and I find it so moving when a writer sings their own work and lays their heart on display. I encourage you to listen to the recording sung by the writer, Cara Berg:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHgrxCEXqHE>

(You can search the song title on YouTube if the link doesn't work for you.)

# FLY



## Thank you...

-To everyone who attended, performed, volunteered, and donated baked goods & money at our 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Coffee House on Jan. 26! All proceeds benefited our youth who will be serving in Erie, PA this July! We look forward to our 2025 Coffee House!

-To all past & present FLYers who participated in the special worship celebration on Jan. 14 as Pastor Peter became our pastor! Let's GO and keep FLYing with Jesus!

**\*No Sunday Night FLY on Feb. 11 because of the Big Game!**

### Sunday Night FLY REMIX – Feb. 25

YOU will vote for the lesson and game we'll do together at SNFLY! Bring your friends and get ready for a FUN night of growing and connecting!

### Sunday Night FLY – “Mystery Night!” – Mar. 10

Bring everyone you know to discover this year's Mystery Night at Sunday Night FLY! Past mysteries have been: bubble soccer, laser tag, foam party, life-sized hungry, hungry hippos, sumo wrestling, and more! You don't want to miss this FUN and AWESOME event!

### \*This year's SNFLY Challenge:

-If 55 youth attend, we'll play laser tag at church!

### \*About Sunday Night FLY (SNFLY):

Youth in grades 7-12 meet on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month from 7-8:45pm in the FLY Room from Sept-June! We worship together, read God's Word, talk in small groups, play large group games, eat lots of food, and more! The nightly topics are always relevant for teens as we grow together in our relationships with God & others. The FLY Café is open from 6:30-9 where youth can purchase candy, soda, t-shirts, and other FLY merch. (Popcorn is always FREE!) Spin the Birthday Wheel for a fun birthday surprise! The Nintendo Switch, air hockey, and foosball games can be played before and after Sunday Night FLY. Friends are always welcome!



### Jr. FLY Confirmation Class – Sundays @ 9:45-10:40am

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are going through the Small Catechism on Sundays with Pastor Peter and Meredith Tindall. All classes are in-person in Room 204. If you miss a class, you can download the PowerPoint presentation online at: <https://faithpenfield.org/ministries/confirmation-lessons> \*No class on Feb. 18 & 25.

### Sunday Morning Sr. FLY Class - Sundays @ 9:45-10:40am

Schedule: World Religions Class in the Auditorium on Feb. 4. How to Witness about Jesus on Feb. 11-25 in the FLY Room.

### 2024 Sr. FLY Winter Retreat – “Truth in Tunes” at Camp Casowasco – Mar. 1-3

Join our FLY Interns: Ava and Hailey in finding God’s love & truth in music on March 1-3! We will go into how songs in different genres can all circle back to our faith in God. We’ll also enjoy movies, winter games, and other activities! We’ll be leaving Faith at 6pm on Fri, Mar. 1 and returning by 3pm on Sun, Mar. 3.

Please register online at: [faithpenfield.org/resources/fly-forms](https://faithpenfield.org/resources/fly-forms) and submit your \$160 payment to the FLY Registrar’s mailbox at church by Wed, Feb. 21. All checks made out to “Faith Lutheran Youth” please. Financial help is available on a first-come first-serve basis. It’s going to be an AWESOME Winter Retreat (created by our FLY Interns) – hope you can come!



### Spaghetti Dinner – Feb. 14

Come grab a spaghetti dinner on Wed. Feb. 14 at Faith! FLY will be serving dinner at 5:30pm (before the 6:30 Ash Wed. service). Youth and adults are needed to help setup, serve, and cleanup! Sign-up on the FLY bulletin board at church. Thank you!

### Lifting the Lid-Livability

Liz Wood MSED and Rebecca Lazzaro LMSW will lead a 6 week bible study exploring God’s heart for mental health. Sunday evenings for FLY parents & all Faith adults from 7:00-8:30pm on 2/25, 3/10, 3/24, 4/14, 4/28, and 5/5

*‘My soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have **hope**: Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.’ Lamentations 3:20-22*

1 in 4 people will have a diagnosable mental health condition within their lifetime. Each week we will learn about a specific mental health diagnosis-causes, treatments and how churches (Christians) can help.

We will be looking at well-known Bible stories to understand how God treats those who feel exhausted, rejected, hopeless and heartbroken. We will look at God’s approach and use that to explore how we can support those in our families and communities with mental health struggles or how we can view our own mental health struggles through the lens of God.

You are welcome to attend, whether you struggle with a mental health diagnosis yourself or you want to learn more about different diagnosis and how you can support our community. The class will maintain confidentiality.

Please contact Liz, Rebecca or Pastor Peter if you have any questions.

### Mark Your Calendars...

Mar. 1-3 – 2024 Sr. FLY Winter Retreat @ Camp Casowasco

Mar. 10 – Sunday Night FLY: MYSTERY NIGHT!

Mar. 24 – Sunday Night FLY: Cookies for College Students

Apr. 7 – Cinnamon Roll Sunday

**Online Contact Form/Activity Participation Agreement**

Our church's insurance company asks every youth to complete the following online form to participate in FLY activities on our church property this school year. We also included some questions about the type of activities and topics you'd like FLY to cover this coming year. <https://faithpenfield.org/resources/fly-contact-form>

**JOIN FLY's Text-based Communication Service!**

Sign-up to receive reminders, announcements, and other info about upcoming FLY events right to your phone here: <https://www.remind.com/join> and join this class: [flyouth](#).

**Check us out on YouTube!**

You can watch hilarious Coffee House videos, FLY promos, and more on our YouTube page?!

[www.youtube.com/faithlutheranyouth](http://www.youtube.com/faithlutheranyouth)

**Connect with FLY on Facebook! Join our group today!**

Search for "Faith Lutheran Youth (FLY)" on Facebook or type out this link...

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/flypenfield/>

**Follow FLY on Instagram!**

<https://www.instagram.com/flypenfield/>

# 2024 Sr. FLY Winter Retreat

March 1-3

Camp Casowasco in Moravia, NY

## Truth in Tunes

Discover God's love  
and messages of hope in  
different genres of music!

We'll also enjoy  
winter games, movies,  
and other activities!

Packing List: Bible, sled or tube, snow clothes, boots,  
pillow, sleeping bag, towel, hygiene items, and snacks to share.

**REGISTER ONLINE** at: [faithpenfield.org/resources/forms](https://faithpenfield.org/resources/forms)

Cost is \$160. Check made out to "Faith Lutheran Youth." Register online & submit  
payment to the FLY Registrar's Mailbox @ Faith by Wed, Feb. 21.

Meet at Faith at 6pm on Mar. 1. We'll return to Faith by 3pm on Mar. 3.

# Faith Child Care and Nursery School (FCCNS)

*"Where your child can grow in body, mind and spirit"*

Our Themes for this month are Valentine's and Healthy Heart. Our Classes will also be working on letters N, O and P and numbers 11 and 12 as well as the color purple and hearts for Valentine's Day. They will also be working on patterns.

Our Character Trait for the month is Love.

Our Focus "words" for each week will be Teach, Prayer, Care and Helper.

Our Bible Stories will be Jesus Teaches on a Mountain, The Lord's Prayer, Jesus Feeds Thousands and The Good Samaritan

- FLC and FCCNS Sledding Party Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> @6pm @ Faith
- PCSD closed February 19-23- School age here all week.



I remember as a child being so excited to hand make Valentine's for all my classmates and family. I loved cutting out all different colors and sizes of hearts and using glue and glitter to make them extra special. I wanted others to know how much they meant to me; how much I loved them. But I also remember not always wanting to give everyone a valentine. I would ask my mom, "why do I need to make him a valentine, he makes fun of me and calls me names" or "she's really mean, she doesn't deserve a valentine." My mom would smile and say, "we need to show love to everyone, that's what Jesus would want us to do." So, the mean kids got a valentine too (I might have put a little less effort into them) but they got one because Jesus wants us to love and love with all our hearts and not just the people that are easy but everyone. And remember this very true fact that God sent us each the best valentine we could ever receive, it came with this love note, "I so, so love you that I sent my son to die for you, all of you, whether you deserve it or not because my love has no limit and neither does my grace." Love, God. Happy Heart's Day, I hope it is filled with a ton of homemade hearts covered in glitter.

P.S. I no longer use Glitter in any of my artwork.



**Faith Child Care & Nursery School**  
**Year to Date Income & Expenses Compared to Budget**  
**As of 12/31/2023**

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Fav/(Unfav) Variance	Prior YTD	Board Approved 2023 Budget
<b>Operating Income</b>					
Fees	845,586	854,749	(9,164)	781,522	854,749
Interest/Misc./Other	29,346	29,526	(180)	23,766	29,526
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>874,931</b>	<b>884,275</b>	<b>(9,344)</b>	<b>805,287</b>	<b>884,275</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>					
Program	44,374	42,646	(1,728)	38,735	42,646
Employee Related	738,050	776,406	38,356	669,934	776,406
Property & Equipment	63,205	62,256	(949)	70,327	62,256
Supplies	13,648	13,400	(248)	15,228	13,400
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>859,277</b>	<b>894,708</b>	<b>35,431</b>	<b>794,224</b>	<b>894,708</b>
<b>Net Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>15,655</b>	<b>(10,433)</b>	<b>26,088</b>	<b>11,063</b>	<b>(10,433)</b>
PPP Loan Forgiveness Grant	13,137	13,137	0	43,917	13,137
Stabilization Grant	0		0	80,500	
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>13,137</b>	<b>13,137</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>124,417</b>	<b>13,137</b>
Allocation to Reserve	0		0	80,500	
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>28,792</b>	<b>2,704</b>	<b>26,088</b>	<b>54,980</b>	<b>2,704</b>

*End of December enrollment 76 children*

## **HOW TO REDUCE TAXABLE INCOME WITH A QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION**



*In an effort to help you be a good steward of the gifts God has given you, we would like to share a strategy that could be a blessing to you, your family, and our Faith family.*

The generous standard deduction available for the current tax year is welcomed by many as it will simplify filing and could even reduce your tax bill. Even if you take the standard deduction, however, there is a tax-savvy strategy that allows retirees to further reduce their tax liability by taking advantage of qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) from their individual retirement accounts. This charitable rollover provision allows IRA owners 70 ½ years or older to transfer up to \$100,000 per year **directly** from their IRA to one or more qualified charities, without that donation being counted as taxable income when it is withdrawn. In addition, these qualified charitable distributions count as part of the person’s required withdrawals from the IRA account.

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***Please consult your tax adviser and IRA trustee to make sure that you meet the qualifications to take advantage of this provision and that the distribution is properly processed.***

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If you would like to make a qualified charitable distribution to Faith Lutheran Church, please instruct your IRA trustee or custodian to make a transfer from the IRA **directly** to Faith Lutheran Church as the payee on the check. You may also have the distribution transferred **directly** from your IRA account to Faith Lutheran Church’s checking account by contacting Kay Gerlach in the church office at **485-0412 or [finance@faithpenfield.org](mailto:finance@faithpenfield.org)** for the necessary information. Your donation will be credited to support the unified budget of Faith Lutheran Church unless you designate otherwise via written communication to either Kay Gerlach, Director of Finance, or Kris Cronk, Church Secretary.

*Please know that we sincerely appreciate any gift you make to support the ministry and mission of Faith Lutheran Church. We are so blessed that God provides so many ways for us to be a part of His work here on earth! May your gifts serve as a reminder that God provides all that you have and has given to us His greatest gift of all – His Son, Jesus who gave His very life for you!*

**Faith Lutheran Church**  
**Year to Date Income & Expenses Compared to Budget**  
**As of 12/31/2023**

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Fav/(Unfav) Variance	Prior YTD	Voter Approved 2023 Budget
<b>Operating Income</b>					
Envelope Offering/Plate Cash	668,280	695,000	(26,720)	681,282	695,000
FCCNS Facility Cost Sharing	25,000	25,000	(0)	25,000	25,000
Fund Distribution-Endowment	8,000	8,000	0	8,000	8,000
Interest/Misc./Other	13,606	11,500	2,106	6,165	11,500
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>714,886</b>	<b>739,500</b>	<b>(24,614)</b>	<b>720,447</b>	<b>739,500</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>					
Education	16,489	20,700	4,211	14,562	20,700
Employee Related	408,166	470,502	62,336	471,244	470,502
Mission & Outreach	65,742	69,800	4,058	66,619	69,800
Music	6,736	7,800	1,064	5,933	7,800
Other Expense	11,460	8,150	(3,310)	7,349	8,150
Property	139,296	140,200	904	128,353	140,200
Supplies	29,954	28,900	(1,054)	28,206	28,900
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>677,844</b>	<b>746,052</b>	<b>68,208</b>	<b>722,266</b>	<b>746,052</b>
<b>Net Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>37,042</b>	<b>(6,552)</b>	<b>43,594</b>	<b>(1,820)</b>	<b>(6,552)</b>
PPP Loan Forgiveness Grant	0	0	0	163,068	
PPP Grant-Funds Expended	0	0	0	(144,949)	
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>37,042</b>	<b>(6,552)</b>	<b>43,594</b>	<b>16,299</b>	<b>(6,552)</b>

### GIVING AT FAITH

*At Faith Lutheran, giving is something we do with a spirit of joy in response to the love and forgiveness we have freely received in Jesus. "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver," (2 Corinthians 9:7). Your gift blesses Faith's continued mission to "seek and save the lost," (Luke 19:10).*

There are a number of ways you can choose to give to the many ministries and outreach efforts at Faith.  
(Please contact Kay Gerlach, Director of Finance, at [finance@faithpenfield.org](mailto:finance@faithpenfield.org) or 485-0142 if you have any questions.)

**1) \*NEW\* TEXT GIVING:**

Simply enter Faith Lutheran Church's own dedicated number which is **833-958-1685**, enter the amount of your gift as your text message, press send and follow the remaining easy steps to make your secure one-time or recurring contribution.

**2) ONLINE GIVING:**

Visit the Faith Lutheran Church website at [www.faithpenfield.org](http://www.faithpenfield.org). Click the GIVING button on the top menu and then the "Start Giving" button. A new secure webpage powered by Vanco Payment Solutions will open that will give you further instructions and giving options for your gifts to Faith Lutheran Church.

**3) VANCO PAYMENT SOLUTIONS (previously SIMPLY GIVING):**

The Vanco Payment Solutions program also allows you to have your contributions automatically deducted from your bank account. Any changes to your giving through the Vanco program must be made through the church office. Please contact Kay Gerlach in the church office at 485-0142 if you have questions or need assistance.

**4) ENVELOPE GIVING:**

Our traditional method of receiving a box of offering envelopes for the year which allows you to mail your offering to the church office at 2576 Browncroft Blvd, Rochester, NY 14625 or place it in the collection plate during our worship service..

**5) GIFT OF STOCK OR IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION**

Both of these methods of gift giving offer additional tax advantages that can best be explained by your tax advisor or IRA trustee. Please contact Kay Gerlach directly at 485-0142 for assistance on how to make these types of contributions.

**Endowment Fund:**

The Faith Lutheran Church Permanent Endowment Fund was established in 2004 to provide members and friends the opportunity to make charitable gifts to Faith that will become a permanent endowment providing financial support for the ministry and mission of the Church. The custodian for the Faith Lutheran Church endowment fund brokerage account is Charles Schwab & Co, Inc. If you would like to make a contribution to this fund, please contact Kay Gerlach directly at 485-0142 or [finance@faithpenfield.org](mailto:finance@faithpenfield.org) for assistance.

# From the Church Office

## Faith Leadership Board Officers

**Chair** - Karoline Trojian

**Vice Chair** - Carrie Hignett Steiner

**Secretary** - Greg Gerbasi

**Treasurer** - Todd Natemeier

**Nominating Committee Reps**- Stacy Ledermann, Bruce Oaks, Carrie Ford



**Altar Flowers Form:** Help beautify our sanctuary on a Sunday morning by giving altar flowers in honor or memory of a loved one. We will be utilizing silk altar flowers unless someone orders fresh flowers for a Dedication. Any orders need to be in to the Church Office by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week each month for the following month.

\* Either complete a new online form and pay the \$75 fee at our online giving page here:

<https://faithpenfield.org/resources/altar-flowers>

\* Or contact Kris Cronk (secretary@faithpenfield.org) and send a check to the Church Office made out to "Faith Lutheran Church" and Altar Flowers in the memo line.

\* Or Utilize the sign-up book on the Information Center in the concourse and followup with a check made out to "Faith Lutheran" Church with Altar Flowers in the memo line

## **Announcement Request Form:**

If you have an announcement that you'd like to include in our bulletin announcements or monthly newsletter "Faith Notes." Please submit an Announcement Form either in the Church Office or

online here: <https://faithpenfield.org/resources/announcement-form>

This form will help us streamline our communications within our congregation and to our community. Thanks for understanding! Please contact the Church Office if you have any questions.

**March Faith Notes Articles** due Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> and should be directed to our Church Secretary, Kris Cronk ([secretary@faithpenfield.org](mailto:secretary@faithpenfield.org)). Thank you!



**Dear Faith,**

Thanks to all who sent me cards and notes wishing me well and with greetings. I miss Faith and am not likely to be able to visit. I receive Faith Notes and stay informed and have enjoyed reading the Advent Devotions. Stay well and active in the New Year!

Your Friend in Christ,  
Ida Stiner



## Births:

- **Aubrey Ruth McKechney**, daughter of Leanne & Pat, granddaughter of Lori Davis, great-granddaughter of Carol Letky

Called to Glory:

- **Deborah**, acquaintance of McKayla Nolan
- **Jim**, relative of Ruth Marzano
- **Michelle**, acquaintance of Diane Van Auken
- **Arlene Goshia** (12/23/23), sister-in-law of Ruth Behnfeldt, aunt of Dan Behnfeldt
- **Kathleen Reigelman** (12/23/23), wife of John Reigelman
- **Michael Gunkel III** (12/26/23), student of Kim Ebbecke
- **Thomas Maldonado** (12/29/23), father of Maribel Alfieri
- **Dorothy Tetro** (1/5/24), member of Faith
- **Mother of Eric**, co-worker of Bill McKee
- **Sandra Paiko** (1/11/24), mother-in-law of Jonathan Freitag
- **Paul Weise** (1/15/24), husband of Joan, longtime member of Faith




## *Wedding Anniversaries*

1	Ray & Erika Hutch Gene & Elizabeth Trimble		8	Jeffrey Bartocci & Dianne Schaumberg
			11	Douglas & Mary Carpenter
4	Tim & Karin Vogl			

## *Birthdays*

1	Meghan August Aedan Coughlin		14	Valerie Davis Todd Rath		22	Mark Talarczyk Larry Wagner
2	Jeff Hering Alexandra Webb		15	Mackenzie McNaughton Dana Webb		23	Sienna Reitz
3	Tyler Launer			Christopher Wood		24	Christy Coles Maggie Maginn
4	Jennifer DuBois		16	Thomas Alvt John Pellnat			Aram-Berj Mangerian Bruce Oaks
5	Kyle August Jax Launer Hazel Wolf			Colleen Truax			Juliet Oehlbeck Carol Strieter
6	Matthew McCarthy Aaron Trojian		17	Dennis Gerbasi Russell Hignett			Quinlan Taillie
7	Kevin Ledermann Henry Trojian Katharine Zager			Joy Ruffell		25	Annora Cerveny Patricia Claus-Lapresi
10	Jolynn Keller Marc Sandgren		18	Kyle Szydowski Darlene Byrns Daniel Gregory			Emily Leschhorn David Wolf
11	Ava Bernhardt Megan Hoffman Dalton Kennedy			William Mosko		26	Nathanael Zager
12	Paul DiMiero		19	Samantha Lincoln		27	Keira Harstad Anne Osovski
13	Patricia Carpenter Laura Mangerian-Smith		20	Michael Balentine Sandi Banning Kristen Launer		28	Matthew Ebbecke Benjamin Resch
			21	Hunter Launer Susan Lucci		29	Sydney Resch Ben Kennedy

# February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4</p> <p>8:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Adult Bible Class Sunday School Jr FLY in 204 / Sr FLY in FLY Rm 10:45am Contemporary Worship 12:00pm <b>Lunch/Voters Mtg</b> 6:00pm Faith Connections (CmRm)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1:30pm Prayer Shawl (Rm204) 7:00pm Lyric Chorale (Aud)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00am Men's Breakfast (Brownroff Diner) 10:00am FLC Bowling Lgqe 10:30am FCCNS Chapel 1:00pm Legacy</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00am Church Staff</p>	<p>8</p> <p>11:30am Dorcas Group (Rm204) 6:00pm Girl Scouts (CmRm)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>11:30am SOLA Lunch 5:45pm <b>Sledding Night @ Faith w/ Dinner</b> (Aud)</p> 	<p>10</p> <p>11:00am Weise SOV 11:00am <b>KidzConnect</b> (Rm204) 1:00pm Fiddlers Rehearsal (MusicRm)</p>
<p>11</p> <p>8:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Adult Bible Class Sunday School Jr FLY in 204 / Sr FLY in FLY Rm 10:45am Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00pm FCCNS Board Mtg (CmRm/ZOOM) 7:00pm Lyric Chorale (Aud)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00am FLC Bowling Lgqe 10:30am FCCNS Chapel 4:00pm Stephen Ministry (CmRm)</p>	<p>14 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 10:00am Church Staff 12:00pm <b>Imposition of Ashes</b> 5:30pm <b>Spaghetti Dinner</b> 6:30 pm <b>Worship</b></p> 	<p>15</p> <p>2:00pm Property Board (CmRm) 7:00pm Youth Advisors Mtg</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11:30am Parents of Young Children (FLYRm) 4:00pm <b>LIFT Bingo</b> (CmRm)</p> 
<p>18</p> <p>8:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Adult Bible Class Sunday School Jr FLY in 204 / Sr FLY in FLY Rm 10:45am Contemporary Worship 6:00pm Faith Connections (CmRm)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:00am Joseph Guild 10:00am Flower City Rug Hook Group (CmRm) 7:00pm Lyric Chorale (Aud)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00am FLC Bowling Lgqe 10:30am FCCNS Chapel 1:00pm Legacy 7:00pm FLB Mtg (CmRm)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00am Church Staff 5:45pm <b>Lenten Dinner</b> (Aud) 6:30pm <b>Worship</b> (Sanc) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Music Rm)</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>8:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Adult Bible Class Sunday School Jr FLY in 204 / Sr FLY in FLY Rm 10:45am Contemporary Worship 7:00pm Sunday Night FLY "Remix" 7:00pm Mental Health Bible Class</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:00pm Lyric Chorale (Aud)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:00am FLC Bowling Lgqe 10:30am FCCNS Chapel</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00am Church Staff 5:45pm <b>Lenten Dinner</b> (Aud) 6:30pm <b>Worship</b> (Sanc) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Music Rm)</p>	<p>29</p>		



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2576 Browncroft Blvd  
Rochester NY 14625-1530

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED