

Faith Notes

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

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy”

Matthew 2:10



**Please join us for
Candlelight Worship on December 24
3:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m. w/ Holy Communion
Christmas Day Worship w/ Holy Communion
on December 25
10:00 a.m.**

In the spirit of giving, on Christmas Eve families are encouraged to drop-off food & hygiene donations for families in need this Christmas season.

The church Library will be decorated and set aside as a space for families to take Christmas photos on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

We'd love for your family and friends to join us this Christmas!

CONNECT * GROW * SERVE

Faith Lutheran Church 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

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

Direct Line 485-0146

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Shannon Wolf - Interim Sunday

School Director

sundayschool@faithpenfield.org

Stephanie Johnson - Interim VBS

Director

vbs@faithpenfield.org

Taylor Saunders - Nursery

MUSIC

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC / ORGANIST

Dianne Christensen

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dianne@faithpenfield.org

DIRECTOR OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

Elizabeth Balentine

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OFFICE

CHURCH SECRETARY

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DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND

OPERATIONS

Lori Connolly

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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 1st, 3rd, and 5th 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), 2nd & 4th Sundays, 7-8:45pm

Adult Bible Study Class - Sundays, 9:45-10:40am

Pastor Peter's Perspective

“What’s in a Name?”



“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,” Isaiah 9:6.

Names. We all have one and many of us know the meaning behind our names. I love digging into the etymology or meaning of names. My first name means “stone/rock” in Greek, “petra.” I am married to “crown/garland” in Greek, “stephanos.” We are the parents of “light bringer” (Lucas) and “great one” (Grant). What’s the meaning behind your name? Your loved one’s names? If you don’t know, Google it and have some fun discovering something new.

Do you know why you were given your name? Perhaps you were named after a family member or your parents just loved the name. My first name is my uncle’s middle name, my dad’s godfather’s name, and one of Jesus’ disciples. There is so much meaning in our names.

And what is the first thing we do when we meet someone new? We share our name and we learn their name. It is a personal and caring gesture when we call other people by their name, because who doesn’t love to hear their name?

God calls you by name, too.

He loves your name. He loves the meaning behind it. If you were named after someone, He loves that, too. Because He loves you. And He wants you to call Him by His name...

YHWH

Adding vowels to these Hebrew letters gives us: Yahweh. It is the name God revealed to Moses in Exodus. A name so holy that Jewish scribes and readers wouldn’t say it aloud. Many of our Bibles today have translated Yahweh as “LORD” throughout the Old Testament. God is holy and His name is holy.

There are so many other holy names and titles that God gives Himself throughout His Word, including the names of His Son, Jesus: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Root of Jesse, Son of Man, Light of the World, Prince of Peace, The Word, Emmanuel, and others.

Throughout this season of Advent, our congregation will be focusing on different names of Jesus each Sunday leading up to Christmas. On Christmas Eve we will hear Jesus be called “The Word” from John 1. Then on Christmas Day, we will hear another name of Jesus: “Emmanuel” from Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1. Each of these names of Jesus draws us closer to Him, helping us to understand the depths of His love, and know Him personally.

May these names of Jesus guide our hearts and our worship this Advent & Christmas season as we prepare for the coming of Christ, who holds every promise and every hope in His name.

And all God’s children said,
Amen!

Join us this Advent & Christmas as we focus on “The Names of Jesus!”

There are so many holy names and titles that God gives Himself throughout the Bible, including the names of His Son, Jesus. Throughout this season of Advent, our congregation will be focusing on different names of Jesus leading up to Christmas.

Dec. 1st – “Root of Jesse”

Dec. 8th – “Son of God & Son of Man”

Dec. 15th – “Light of the World”

Dec. 22nd – “Prince of Peace”

Dec. 24th – “The Word”

Dec. 25th – “Emmanuel”

Each of these names of Jesus draws us closer to Him, helping us to understand the depths of His love, and know Him personally.

May these names of Jesus guide our hearts and our worship this Advent & Christmas season as we prepare for the coming of Christ, who holds every promise and every hope in His name!

DCE Search Committee Update

Faith Family,

Thank you for your continued prayers as we continue searching for Faith’s next Director of Christian Education. As a committee, we have kept an open mind to where the Spirit may be leading us throughout this search process. This fall, we have revisited the idea of applying for a DCE Intern from one of our synod’s universities. Our congregation applied for an intern in February 2023 but there were not enough interns for every applying congregation. Our committee has been in communication with DCE Program Directors from four different Concordia Universities and while they can’t guarantee an intern, they have commented that Faith is an ideal congregation to train a future church-worker. Our committee received approval by our Faith Leadership Board to apply for a DCE Intern while we continue our nationwide search for a DCE. We will hear in March whether or not we’ll receive an intern for the 2025-26 school year.

If we receive an intern, there is the possibility of calling the intern to serve as a DCE upon completing their internship in the summer of 2026. While we are excited about these possibilities, we are taking one step at a time and will continue to follow God’s lead.

If you have questions or comments about this process, please feel free to contact anyone on our DCE Search Committee:

-Steve Ford

-Carrie Steiner

-Kim Nadritch

-Sharon Phillips

-Pastor Peter Johnson

For October

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FROM THE FAITH LEADERSHIP BOARD

The ongoing operations of Faith rely entirely on the generosity of the congregation to provide the funding support for the ministries that are so important to us and the community in which we serve.

We give thanks to God for your gifts to the general operating fund. We experienced a 12% unfavorable variance in envelope giving for the month of October resulting in a year-to-date unfavorable budget variance of \$7,508 which represents an unfavorable budget variance of just over 1%.

We encourage you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to be a faithful steward of the many gifts He has given you. We look forward to receiving your 2025 pledge card and deeply appreciate any way in which you choose to participate in and support the many ministries and outreach of Faith that allow us to continue to "Connect, Grow and Serve".

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

October 2024	Voter Approved Budget	Actual	Variance from Budget	% Variance	Prior Year Actual
1st Sunday	\$7,000	\$5,550	(\$1,450)	-21%	\$4,216
2nd Sunday	\$7,000	\$5,754	(\$1,246)	-18%	\$9,837
3rd Sunday	\$7,000	\$4,380	(\$2,620)	-37%	\$7,630
4th Sunday	\$7,000	\$6,880	(\$120)	-2%	\$4,285
5th Sunday	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%	\$7,190
Online Giving	\$22,000	\$21,440	(\$560)	-3%	\$22,728
Festival Giving	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Monthly Total	\$50,000	\$44,004	(\$5,996)	-12%	\$55,886
Year-to-Date Total	\$542,500	\$534,992	(\$7,508)	-1.38%	\$539,992

Adult Education

Adult Sunday Morning Bible Class - "Advent Hymns"

DECEMBER 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd

Led by Diane Van Auken



The Study of familiar Advent hymns gives us a deeper Biblical meaning to the words we sing during this season of preparation. It also looks at the history of the hymns themselves. The series, written by staff of Concordia Publishing House (CPH), give us an opportunity to see how the hymns bring the scripture to life in song.

*Here we come a caroling among the leaves so green;
Here we come a wand'ring so fair to be seen.
Love and joy come to you, and to you glad Christmas too,
And God bless you and send you a Happy New Year,
And God send you a Happy New Year!*

This early English Carol does encapsulate the forthcoming season of Advent and Christmas. Selecting and singing songs to bless the hearts of those singing/playing them, and bless the hearts hearing them. There are so many carols of the season, and it is so hard to choose

which ones get to be included in worship services. Of course, we have the classic hits like Silent Night, and Joy to the World for Christmas Eve. Also, O Come, O Come Emmanuel and Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus for Advent. Honestly, there are enough carols in the Christian Faith that we could create a whole hymnal just for Advent and Christmas. I love the "B-Side" melodies of Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella; Still, Still, Still; One Small Child; In the Bleak Midwinter; and I could go on and on.

One of the undisputed Christmas staples, Away in a Manger, has two listings in the LSB hymnal. There are two melodies that are quite popular that go with this text. There is the super traditional that most children learn: La Laa la la la la (so descriptive, but I think you sang it in your head anyway.) The other melody is of Scottish origin and called "Flow Gently Sweet Afton" which goes like this: La La La la-la La La la-la La La La Laaaa. Recently, I discovered a third melody for this hymn entitled the Normandy Carol. The largest difference is that it is set in a minor key instead of a major one. This gives a more haunting, pensive quality and goes like this: La La La la-la La La la-la La La La Laaaa. It is rhythmically similar to the Scottish tune but melodically moves in the opposite direction. I highly recommend looking up recording examples of these online. My first result on YouTube of the "Away in a Manger Normandy Carol" was a euphonium soloist with piano accompaniment. Stunning.

In the midst of the busyness of this season, I hope that you can take the time to quiet your heart and mind and listen to some of these beauties, or whatever songs you hold dear. Let the music take you on a journey of memory and despite the chaos – cling to the hope we have in Christ Jesus, the Word that became flesh that Christmas Night.



The Lyric Chorale presents:

Singing the Sounds of Christmas Past & Present

1591 – 1720

Vivaldi Magnificat
Bach Cantata BWV 61
Monteverdi, Gastoldi, and more

1970 – 2020

Courtney Festival Gloria
Alleluias by Courtney,
Manuel, and Hagenberg
Helvey, Forrest, and more



The concert will be held at Faith Lutheran Church December 8th at 2:30 pm.
Tickets are \$20

From the Mission Board

Thank you to everyone who contributed, packed, and delivered Thanksgiving Baskets! We were able to fill 60 baskets for families in need in the community. Thank you for helping make this possible.



The annual **Angel Tree** project is well underway. Gifts will be going to Willow Domestic Violence Center, Community Lutheran Ministry, ESWA, and Bethlehem Family Service. Look for the Angel Tree table in the concourse. Cards will be available for you to choose a gift until Dec 1st. All gifts are due at Faith by 11am on Sunday Dec 8th.

We will be hosting a **Christmas Dinner for the Veterans at Nucor House** on Wed Dec 11th at 5:30. The theme is Christmas Dinner and there is a sign up in the book in the concourse. Please join us in sharing a meal and Christ's love with these Heroes who served our country so bravely!!

The Missions Ministry Team thanks you for your support, and wishes everyone a Blessed Christmas!!

In His Name, Marguerite McKee

FCCNS ROC The Day



Support Faith Child Care and Nursery School for ROC the Day on 12/3/24. All donations go toward our Tuition Assistance Program to help families in need. Donate using the link below:

<https://roctheday.org/FCCNS>.

Goings on at Faith

Men's Breakfast Group

Join us as we start the day together in fellowship!

When: **Tuesday, December 3rd @ 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.**



SOLA – Strength of Living Alone



We will meet at 11:30 for lunch on **Friday, December 13th**. 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 or call or text 259-6488.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our next meeting will be on **Monday, December 9th** at 1:30 in the Community Room. 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 December 12th** 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

For the spring, the **Women's Book Group** will be reading the humorous contemporary novel, ***The Wedding People***, by Alison Espach. Set at a grand hotel in Newport, Rhode Island, during a week-long wedding celebration, the main character, Phoebe, befriends the bride-to-be and is mistaken by everyone as one of the wedding guests. The novel "reflects on the winding paths we can take to places we never imagined" (Chicago Review of Books). Join us in the spring for another lively discussion.

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





In order for worship to run smoothly we need volunteers to serve in different roles. We know life is busy, and that is why we have the Sign-Up Genius so that you can choose when you serve based on your schedule. If everyone signed up to help once per quarter in some way, our list would be overflowing with volunteers.

For *Lay Readers, Acolyte, Crucifer, Greeters, Communion Assistants* sign up here or the button on the homepage of our website:

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

For all others:

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

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.

Visitation Team: Keeping in touch with and/or visiting our older members

Missions Team: Meet monthly to create and organize opportunities for Faith members to serve our community.

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 Kris Cronk and she can direct you accordingly (381-3970 or secretary@faithpenfield.org)

L.I.F.T.

L.I.F.T. Celebrates Christmas with a Soup Supper & Caroling at The Atria!

All are invited to join Faith's brothers and sisters in celebrating Christmas together on Friday, December 13, at 5:00 pm at the home of George & Jackie Kuipers at 2012 Five Mile Line Road, Penfield. The Atria Adult Home is in their backyard, so there is plenty of parking in their lot.



Soup will be provided and guests can sign up to bring a snack, dinner item, or dessert.

- 5:00pm Soup and Potluck/Holdovers
- 7:00pm Caroling at The Atria
- 8:00pm Desserts & Fellowship

Please RSVP by December 8 to Jackie Kuipers at 585-383-9144 or yacominakuipers@gmail.com or sign up in the concourse book.

Children's Ministry



Please join us for our Annual Gingerbread House Decorating Night on **Thursday, December 12th at 5:45pm**. All ages welcome! Pizza and salad dinner will be served at 5:45pm, followed by Gingerbread House decorating. We ask that each family contribute \$15/house and bring a bag of candy to share with others. Families are asked to sign up using the sign up book located in the concourse by December 8th to ensure we have enough houses for each family. Please contact Shannon Wolf or Donna Kaser with any questions.

The **Christmas Pageant** will be held on **December 15th** during the 10:45am service. Students in grades Pre-K-6th grade will be performing in the pageant. Rehearsals take place during Sunday School class so please attend as many classes as possible from now through December 15th. Special thanks to Peggy Muller and Mari-Beth Schembri for their coordination of the pageant.



Kidz Konnect for 4th-6th graders will resume after the holidays.

Parents of Young Children's group will meet again on Saturday, January 18th 11:30-1:00pm. Lunch and babysitting provided. Please RSVP to Mark Harstad: mnh1alfred@gmail.com

Please note, there will be **No Sunday School classes on December 22nd and December 29th**.

Wishing you all a happy and joyous holiday season!

FLY



Thank you..

- To all of our bakers, organizers, volunteers, and buyers at our Bake Sale last month! Over \$1,300 was raised for FLY and Lutheran World Relief! Thank you!
- To our amazing adult volunteers for leading our Jr. FLY Switch Party, Sunday Morning FLY, and Sunday Night FLY!
- To all students who baked cookies and created care packages for our FLY college students around the country!



FLY Ornament Sale – Dec. 1 & 8

Purchase your very own Faith ornament and hang it on your Christmas tree or gift it to someone you love! Each ornament was 3D printed by Faith member, Matt Bernhardt, and this year the ornament features the 2025 Youth Gathering logo. All proceeds from the sale benefit our youth attending FLY trips this year! Visit our table in the Concourse. Thanks for your support!

Sunday Night FLY “Christmas Party!” – Sunday, Dec. 8 @ 7-9pm

All 7th-12th grade students are invited to our huge Sunday Night FLY Christmas Party on Dec. 8! Wear your ugliest Christmas sweater (for a prize), bring a wrapped “White Elephant” gift (under \$10), and a canned good for our Food Drive! At our party, we’ll have an ugly sweater contest, exchange White Elephant gifts, and eat some Christmas cookies! It’ll be a fun way to celebrate the birth of Jesus! Bring all of your friends!



*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 on Sundays @ 9:45-10:40am

7th & 8th grade students are reading through The Story on Sundays with Pastor Peter and Mark Harstad in Room 204.

Sr. FLY Bible Class on Sundays @ 9:45-10:40am

High school students are invited to check out this class as we're connecting Biblical truths to topics that are relevant to you. This month the class will create Christmas cards and dig deeper into the Christmas story. Plus enjoy a **FREE cereal buffet!**

Sr. FLY & Young Adult Progressive Dinner – Dec. 15

Come and enjoy a 3-course meal at three different locations while caroling in between at nursing homes! High school youth and young adults are invited to this fun event! Everyone can wear fun Christmas sweaters & hats and bring a dessert! If you can drive between places, please let Pastor Peter or Mari-Beth know ASAP. Many thanks to our hosts!

Progressive Dinner Schedule

3pm – Appetizers @ Mari-Beth Schembri’s Home (99 Panorama Trail)

4pm – Caroling

5pm – Entrée @ Kuiper’s Home (2012 Five Mile Line Rd)

6pm – Caroling

7pm – Desserts @ Young’s Home (30 Pewter Rock) – ending around 8:30pm

Coffee House Performers Needed!

Starting Dec. 1st, sign-up to perform on stage during our **32nd Annual Coffee House on Jan. 31!** We are looking for singers, musicians, dancers, bands, ensembles, and comedians to share their God-given talents at this fun variety show! Performers can perform 2 songs or up to 10 min. *The sign-up will be posted on the FLY bulletin board on Dec. 1st through Dec. 15th. The sign-up fills up FAST (it has been known to fill-up within 48 hours)! Please talk to Pastor Peter if you have any questions about this FUN and entertaining event. Thank you!

Coffee House

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-forms>.

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](#).



Mark Your Calendars...

- Jan. 12 – Sunday Night FLY “Karaoke Night”
- Jan. 26 – Sunday Night FLY “REMIX”
- Jan. 29 – Setup stage & lights for Coffee House
- Jan. 31 – COFFEE HOUSE!

Check out our updated FLY webpage at: <https://faithpenfield.org/youth/>



Check us out on YouTube!

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

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/>

DECK THE HALLS WITH 2 FLY CHRISTMAS PARTIES!

SUNDAY NIGHT FLY CHRISTMAS PARTY!
7-9PM SUN, DEC. 8TH
FOR GRADES 7-12
WEAR AN UGLY SWEATER,
BRING CANNED GOODS FOR OUR FOOD DRIVE & BRING A WRAPPED \$10 WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT!

PROGRESSIVE DINNER!
3-8:30PM SUN, DEC, 15TH
FOR GRADES 9-12 & YOUNG ADULTS
3PM - APPETIZERS @ MARI-BETH'S: 99 PANORAMA TRAIL
5PM - ENTREE @ KUIPER'S: 2012 FIVE MILE LINE RD.
7PM - DESSERTS & GAMES @ YOUNG'S: 30 PEWTER ROCK
BRING A DESSERT & SING CAROLS @ NURSING HOMES IN-BETWEEN COURSES!

CONTACT PASTOR PETER JOHNSON FOR MORE INFO: FLYPENFIELD@GMAIL.COM

2024 Christmas Poinsettia Order Form



Help Beautify Our Church for Christmas

Red poinsettias will again decorate the church (altar area and windows) and the poinsettia tree. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, please fill out and return the form below. Each 6" plant (5-7 blooms) costs \$9.00 and will be in a foil-covered pot. There will be a list of dedications published in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship bulletins. Checks may be made payable to Faith Lutheran Church. Please note "poinsettia" in the memo section.

Name(s):

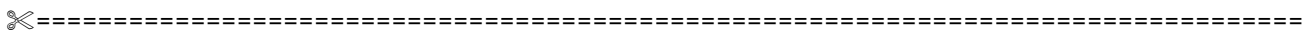
Please print your dedication(s) below:

No. Plants _____ x \$9.00 = \$_____ Amount Due

Check the box if you would like to take your plant(s) home after worship on Christmas Day.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

*******Please return completed forms to the church office*******



PLEASE KEEP THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS.

Purchases will appear on your Contribution Statement as "Christmas Poinsettias".

2024 Christmas Poinsettias No. of Plants _____ Amount Given \$ _____

Faith Child Care and Nursery School (FCCNS)

“Where your child can grow in body, mind and spirit”



Our Themes for December are Jesus and Christmas. We will also be working on our Numbers 7 & 8, Letters H, I and J, The Concept of Quantity, The Color Yellow, and The Star Shape. Our Faith Character words for the month will be Sign, Angel, Savior and Star and Food. Our Bible Stories will be Birth of Jesus Foretold, The Birth of Jesus, The Visit of The Wise Men, and God Gives His People Food. Our Character Word is Generosity.

There are a few special activities we will be having in December:

- **United Way's Roc the Day** - December 3rd
- **Christmas Worship Celebration** - Thursday, December 19th @ 4pm
- **Center wide PJ Day and Christmas Party** - December 23rd
- FCCNS will be **CLOSED** on December 24th 25th and January 1st
- FCCNS will Open **LATE** December 26th @ 9am and Close **EARLY** on December 31st.



I love watching Christmas movies. As soon as Thanksgiving is over, the Hallmark channel is on from when I get home from work to when I go to bed. It is often just the sound in the background as I am decorating the house for the Christmas Season or baking cookies or writing the Christmas letter. Most of the movies are cheesy and predictable but for me it is one of the traditions that makes the advent season of waiting for our Savior so special. It brings joy to my heart.

One of the traditions that I have is I wait until Christmas Eve to wrap presents. Cue “everyone gasping.” I know that seems a little crazy, but I have been blessed for most of my career to have Christmas Eve off, so I wake up a little late, have some breakfast and then sit in the middle of my family room and start wrapping.

While wrapping, I always watch the same two Christmas movies: *The Muppets Christmas Carol* and *It's a Wonderful Life*. *The Muppets Christmas Carol* came out in 1992 and is the retelling of Charles Dicken's



classic using the Muppets as the main character. The songs are great and Michael Caine as Scrooge is spot on. *It's a Wonderful Life* came out in 1946. It is the story of George Bailey and on a particularly bad day he thought the world would be better if he never existed. What he found out was because of his life was better for so many. A fun fact about the movie was that it was a box office flop. It wasn't until the late 1970's that it became a Christmas classic.

What I love about both movies is that they show how one person's life makes a difference. We might not be as rich as Ebenezer Scrooge or as kind and loyal as George Bailey, but each one of us is called to help each other and when we do our lives change as well.

Now I know what the true reason for the season is and as I watch these movies I always smile thinking about that baby in the manger and how His life was a wonderful life that He gave to save us all. So as we begin the advent season, I pray that we might embrace the reason for the season and as Tiny Tim observed “May God bless us everyone.” God Bless us indeed. Merry Christmas.

**Faith Child Care & Nursery School
Year to Date Income & Expenses Compared to Budget
As of 10/31/2024**

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Fav/(Unfav) Variance	Prior YTD	Board Approved 2024 Budget
Operating Income					
Fees	791,757	787,180	4,577	724,840	938,558
Interest/Misc./Other	45,153	31,880	13,273	24,630	36,433
Total Operating Income	836,910	819,060	17,850	749,470	974,991
Expenses:					
Program	37,163	41,471	4,308	37,955	47,261
Employee Related	667,771	695,981	28,210	618,481	834,008
Property & Equipment	49,017	54,993	5,976	51,029	65,192
Supplies	10,683	11,700	1,017	11,783	14,000
Operating Expenses	764,635	804,146	39,511	719,249	960,461
Net Operating Income (Loss)	72,275	14,914	57,361	30,221	14,530
PPP Loan Forgiveness Grant				10,948	
Total Other Income	0	0	0	10,948	0
Net Surplus (Deficit)	72,275	14,914	57,361	41,168	14,530

End of October enrollment 73 children

Online giving just got easier!

If you have established an online user account through the Giving tab on Faith's website at faithpenfield.org, you can now edit your recurring transactions online! Simply log in to your account, view Scheduled Transactions, and click Edit to change any of the following giving criteria:

- Amount
- Frequency
- Associated tile/fund
- Start and end date
- Associated payment method

If you originally set up your Vanco electronic giving account through the church office, any changes must be made through the church office. If you prefer to manage your electronic giving on your own, please contact the church office to cancel your electronic giving account managed by our office. You can then create an online electronic giving account by visiting Faith's website at www.faithpenfield.org. Click the GIVING button on the top menu and then the "Start Giving" button. A secure webpage powered by Vanco Payment Solutions will open and provide instructions and giving options for your gifts to Faith. You will have the option to create an online account and manage your electronic giving at your convenience. Please contact Kay Gerlach, Director of Finance, at 485-0142 if you have any questions or need assistance.

Thank you for your continued participation and support!



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.

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.

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** 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
10/31/2024

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Fav/(Unfav) Variance	Prior YTD	Voter Approved 2024 Budget
Operating Income					
Envelope Offering/Plate Cash	540,856	546,400	(5,544)	545,570	672,000
FCCNS Facility Cost Sharing	20,833	20,833	(0)	20,833	25,000
Fund Distribution-Endowment	0	0	0	0	8,000
Interest/Misc./Other	12,433	11,300	1,133	10,577	13,300
Total Operating Income	574,123	578,533	(4,410)	576,981	718,300
Expenses:					
Education	16,906	16,250	(656)	15,083	18,450
Employee Related	311,105	368,320	57,215	349,196	442,911
Mission & Outreach	53,113	59,142	6,029	58,768	67,300
Music	4,497	5,375	878	5,173	6,150
Other Expense	7,015	10,200	3,185	10,123	11,750
Property	123,330	126,778	3,448	111,370	150,040
Supplies	24,687	25,649	963	24,672	30,695
Operating Expenses	540,652	611,714	71,062	574,385	727,296
Net Operating Income (Loss)	33,471	(33,181)	66,652	2,596	(8,996)

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 or 485-0142 if you have any questions.)

1) 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 Faith's website at www.faithpenfield.org. Click the GIVING button on the top menu and then the "Start Giving" button. A secure webpage powered by Vanco Payment Solutions will open and provide instructions and giving options for your gifts to Faith. You will be given the opportunity to create an online account, if desired. ***NEW*** Online users can now log in to their account, view Scheduled Transaction and click Edit to make changes.

3) VANCO PAYMENT SOLUTIONS (previously SIMPLY GIVING):

If you originally set up your Vanco electronic giving account through the church office, any changes must be made through the church office. If you prefer to manage your electronic giving, contact the church office to cancel any scheduled transactions. You would then follow the Online Giving instructions in item (2) above to create an account and manage your electronic giving at your convenience. Please contact Kay Gerlach in the church office if you have any 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 for assistance.

From the Church Office

Faith Leadership Board Officers

Chair - Karoline Trojian

Secretary - Greg Gerbasi

Treasurer - Todd Natemeier

Nominating Committee Reps - Bruce Oaks, Carrie Ford, Cathy Saresky, Russ Hignett, Nancy Alvut



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 **3rd 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.

January Faith Notes Articles due Friday, December 20th and should be directed to our Church Secretary, Kris Cronk (secretary@faithpenfield.org). Thank you!



Births:

- **Ella Haritiana Mangerian** (8/13/24), daughter of Peter Mangerian & Voahangy Raobelison, granddaughter of Elisabeth Mangerian, niece of Barbara Price

- **Hannah Amy Vasilenko** (10/10/24), daughter of Yegor & Tara Vasilenko

Baptisms:

- **Ella Haritiana Mangerian** (11/10/24), daughter of Peter Mangerian & Voahangy Raobelison, granddaughter of Elisabeth Mangerian, niece of Barbara Price

- **Hannah Amy Vasilenko** (11/24/24), daughter of Yegor & Tara Vasilenko

Called to Glory:

- Vincent Boccardo (10/19/24), friend of Ed Lindskoog
- Donna Fabris (10/21/24), cousin of Ken Curry
- Mindy Caputo (10/4/24), cousin of Wayne Samuels
- Gary Doty (10/29/24), father of Rob Doty
- Jerome Bischooping (11/1/24), father of Noreen Crouse, grandfather of Jeremy Crouse & Heidi (Crouse) Campoli
- G. Michael Stone (11/1/24), friend of Ed Lindskoog
- Sharon Long (11/7/24), longtime member of Faith
- Tony Alberti (11/13/24), father of Anthony Alberti and grandfather of Christian & Cory
- Elynn Haden (11/16/24), sister of Don Reschke
- Mary Wasik, friend of Ed & Marsha Freeman
- Mary Bohn (11/22/24), sister of Millie Bundschuh, longtime member of Faith

Birthdays

1	Perry Duckles				
2	Macie Hardisky	13	Michael Hanss		
	T.J. McEwen		Debra Kime	24	Catherine Saresky
3	Jack Bittner	15	Gaylord Leinenbach	25	Guy Brown
	Sandra VanHorn	16	Cole Nadritch	26	Daniel Kleine
5	Stacy Ledermann	17	William Krenzer		Jennifer Wilson
6	Jeffrey Bartocci	19	David Young	27	Emily McLean
	Allison Vogl	20	Lori Davis	29	Josh Doty
9	Benjamin Kleine		McKayla Nolan		Peter Johnson
11	Rory Bernhardt	21	Tom Hammond	30	Timothy Burke
	Jackson Coles		Lisa Sykes		Valerie Ruoff
	Julia Cummings	22	Todd Natemeier	31	Brianna Tindall
	Ray Hutch	23	Ryan Ledermann		



Wedding Anniversaries

3 Thomas & Suzanne Hutchings	23 Matt & Debra Kime
12 David & Mary Schutte	24 William & Marguerite McKee
Greg & Elizabeth Young	27 Ray & Elizabeth McLean
14 Russell Hignett & Carrie Steiner	28 Roger & Natalee Wilder
17 Donald & Peggy Muller	31 Fred & Carol Keeler
20 Martin & Lauren Launer	



Light in the Darkness

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1. FLY Ornament Sale 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Adult Bible Class Sunday School Jr FLY in 204 / Sr FLY in FLY Rm 10:45am Contemporary Worship 12:15pm Hanging of the Greens w/ Pizza</p>	<p>2 7:00pm Lyric Chorale (Sanc)</p>	<p>3 7:00am Men's Breakfast (Brownie/Diner) 10:00am FLC Bowling Lgue 10:30am FCCNS Chapel 1:00pm Worship @ The Addison</p>	<p>4 10:00am Church Staff 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Music Rm)</p>	<p>5 7:00pm Music & Worship (CmRm) 7:00pm Lyric Chorale Dress Rehearsal (Sanc)</p>	<p>6 11:00am Long SOV 12:00pm Reception (Aud)</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8. FLY Ornament Sale 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Adult Bible Class Sunday School Jr FLY in 204 / Sr FLY in FLY Rm 10:45am Contemporary Worship 2:30pm Lyric Chorale Concert (Sanc) 7:00pm Sunday Night FLY Christmas Party</p>	<p>9 1:30pm Prayer Shawl (Rm204) 7:00pm Lyric Chorale (Aud) 7:00pm FCCNS Board Mtg (CmRm)</p>	<p>10 10:00am FLC Bowling Lgue 10:30am FCCNS Chapel 4:00pm Stephen Ministry (CmRm)</p>	<p>11 10:00am Church Staff 5:30pm Nucor House Dinner 5:30pm FCCNS Holiday Party (CmRm) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Music Rm)</p>	<p>12 9:30am Property Board (CmRm) 11:30am Dorcas Group (Rm204) 5:45pm Gingerbread Decorating (Aud/Rm202)</p> 	<p>13 10:00am Keepers of the Cupboard (CmRm) 11:30am SOLA Lunch 5:00pm LIFT Event Dinner/Caroling @Kuipers</p> 	<p>14 1:00pm Fiddlers Rehearsal (MusicRm)</p>
<p>15 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Adult Bible Class Sunday School Jr FLY in 204 / Sr FLY in FLY Rm 10:45am Contemporary Worship "Christmas Pageant" 3:00pm \$FLY Young Adult Progressive Dinner</p>	<p>16 8:00am Joseph Guild 10:00am Flower City Rug Hook Group (CmRm) 7:00pm Lyric Chorale (Aud)</p>	<p>17 10:00am FLC Bowling Lgue 10:30am FCCNS Chapel 7:00pm FLB Mtg (Rm204)</p>	<p>18 10:00am Church Staff 5:45pm Girl Scouts (CmRm) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Music Rm)</p>	<p>19 4:00pm FCCNS Christmas Worship Celebration (Sanc)</p> 	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 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>23 Church Office closed at 12</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve Church Office Closed at 12 FCCNS Closed 3:00pm Contemporary Worship 5:30pm Traditional Worship 7:30pm Traditional Worship w/ Communion</p> 	<p>25 Christmas Day 10:00am Christmas Worship</p> 	<p>26 Church Office closed at 12 FCCNS Opens @ 9am</p>	<p>27 Church Office closed at 12</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 9:30am Combined Worship Service</p>	<p>30 Church Office closed at 12</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve FCCNS Closes @ 4pm Church Office closed at 12</p> 				

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2576 Browncroft Blvd
Rochester NY 14625-1530

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED