

Faith Notes

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



May you shine the Light of Christ
in the New Year!

Happy 2025

A New Year full of Blessings:

Adult Sunday School * classes beginning January 5th

- "Titus" led by Michael Balentine

- "New Member Class" led by Pastor Peter

Children's Sunday School * classes beginning January 5th

32nd Annual FLY Coffee House * Friday, January 31st

Annual Voter's Meeting * February 2nd

Sr FLY Winter Retreat * February 28th – March 2nd

Faith Service Projects * March 2nd and April 27th

Ash Wednesday/FLY Spaghetti Dinner * Wednesday, March 5th

Lenten Dinners * Wednesdays March 12th – 26th & April 2nd – 9th

Easter Sunday * April 20th

Sr FLY Wilderness Retreat * May 23rd – May 26th

Faith Breakfast Under the Pavilion * June 8th

THRIVE Worship Wednesdays * June 25th – August 27th

National Youth Gathering * July 16th – July 23rd

Vacation Bible School * July 28th – August 1st

RALLY Sunday * September 7th

Confirmation Sunday * October 19th

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

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Shannon Wolf - Interim Sunday
School Director

sundayschool@faithpenfield.org

Stephanie Johnson - Interim VBS
Director

vbs@faithpenfield.org

Taylor Saunders - Nursery

Dave Young - temporary Education
Assistant

edassistant@faithpenfield.org

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DIRECTOR OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

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DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND
OPERATIONS

Lori Connolly

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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 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



“A New Position for the Digital Mission Field”

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few,” -Matthew 9:37

According to recent studies, over **63%** of the global population – approx. **5.3 billion people** – are active internet users, and social media platforms engage over **4.8 billion people** worldwide. Research from the Barna Group reveals that younger generations, particularly Gen Z, spend an average of **4-6 hours** daily engaging with digital content. Among this demographic, more than **50%** say they are open to exploring spiritual content online.

This is the reality in which we live.

Just as the printing press amplified the spread of the Reformation in the 1500's, modern technology offers so many tools to reach the world with the Gospel. From podcasts and blogs to livestreamed worship services and social media ministries, Christians can use technology to meet people where they are at like never before.

And people need the Gospel of Jesus.

I truly believe that the Apostle Paul's approach to ministry in 1 Cor. 9:22 can provide our congregation a helpful framework for our mission work; in it Paul writes, “I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.” By adapting our methods of ministry in this digital age and creating new strategies to reach the lost, we can tell more people about Jesus – inviting them to know Him and His Church.

Recently, our Faith Leadership Board gave their approval for a new full-time position at Faith called, **“Director of Digital Arts”** or **DDA** for short. Faith's DDA will be a “digital missionary” as they will oversee, manage, and create new digital content for Faith. This includes overseeing our livestream ministry, enhancing Faith's social media and online presence, creating short-form video content, engaging with people online and inviting them to Faith, recruiting and training more volunteers in our AV ministry, and more. It's a needed position at Faith to help meet the current and future needs of our community and world. This position will be voted on by our congregation in our annual **Voters' Meeting on Feb. 2**, as part of the 2025 budget proposal.

To hear more about this new DDA position, I will be leading a short info meeting about it on **Sunday, Jan. 19 @ noon** in the Auditorium.

The harvest is plentiful.

Please know that the creation of this DDA position does not diminish our need for a Director of Christian Education (DCE) at Faith. Both positions are needed in helping us reach people. Let's pray for a DDA and a DCE to join us this year in sharing the Gospel of Jesus with the world!

And all God's children said,
Amen!

An Invitation from FLB

Dear Members of Faith,

On Sunday, February 2, 2025, we will hold our annual voters meeting. I am inviting all members to attend.

According to our Constitution,

Article IV - Membership, Section C - Voting Membership

All communicant members shall be entitled to vote and hold office in the congregation:

- 1. Who have reached (18) years of age.*
- 2. Who have been accepted a voting member at a duly constituted Voters' Assembly.*
- 3. Who have been given a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws of the congregation.*
- 4. Who have communed in this congregation withing one (1) calendar year of the meeting at which they shall vote or be voted into office.*

What does this mean?

As long as you are a member of Faith Lutheran Church, 18 years of age, and actively communed in the past year, you may be accepted as a new voting member at Faith. At the start of the voters meeting, we will be asking for new voting members – you will state your name, there will be a motion and vote to accept the new voting members and then you will be added to the list of voters at Faith.

According to our Bylaws, Section II – Voting Privileges of Membership, D. Voting Duties

It shall be the duty of all Voting Members to:

- 1. Conscientiously and prayerfully exercise the right to vote in all matters placed before them;*
- 2. Encourage others to be active in accepting the responsibilities and privileges of voting membership;*
- 3. Willingly serve in an office or capacity for which their spiritual gifts equip them.*

What does this mean?

To be a voting member at Faith, you are an engaged and vested member of our church community. During the voters meeting we recap the previous year at Faith – sharing of the Pastor and Church report, financials, and recaps from our Ministries. Members vote on the new budget, new members to the Faith Leadership Board, and other business that may need to be addressed including voting on proposed changes to Faith Lutheran's Constitution and Bylaws.

I look forward to seeing you at the Voters meeting in February.

In Faith,

Karoline Trojian - Faith Leadership Board Chair

Proposal 1:

Faith Lutheran Church Constitution

Current Language

Article VIII – Legal Ownership

B. The property of this congregation is irrevocably dedicated to religious and charitable purposes and no part of net income or assets of this congregation shall ever accrue to the benefit of any director, officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any individual. If at any time this congregation is dissolved, there shall be provision for payment of any financial obligations that at such time may be outstanding against the congregation. Any surplus or other assets after settlement for all just claims against the congregation shall be disposed of as directed by the Voters' Assembly in accordance with the irrevocable dedication to religious and charitable purposes herein stated. The procedure for such action is stated in this congregation's Bylaws Article II, C, 2.

Recommendation

Article VIII – Legal Ownership

B. In the event that the congregation dissolves, all real and personal property shall be disposed of by the final voters assembly for the payment of debts and all just claims against the congregation, and any and all surplus and all rights connected therewith shall be conveyed to and become the property of the Eastern District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod or other qualifying organization, as determined by the congregation. The procedure for such action is stated in this congregation's Bylaws Article II, C, 4.

Notes from FLB:

It is a fundamental principle of "not for profit" law that organizations are required to transfer all remaining assets to another tax-exempt organization or to the government. The Eastern District LCMS is an eligible organization. Our current clause does not direct the transfer of assets to another non-profit organization.

FLB has partnered with The Eastern District LCMS to ensure that our language is consistent with other churches in the district.

Proposal 2:

Faith Lutheran Church Bylaws

Current Language

Bylaw II, C. Voting Privileges

4. The acquisition or disposal of Church property (i.e., land, capital improvements and construction of fixed properties), except undesignated bequests and estates;

Recommendation*Bylaw II, C. Voting Privileges*

4. The acquisition or disposal of Church property (i.e., land, capital improvements that represent a lasting upgrade, adaptation or enhancement of the property which significantly increases the value of the property as determined by Faith's Leadership Board, and construction of fixed properties that become part of the real property or are permanently affixed to the real property and significantly increases the value of the property as determined by Faith's Leadership Board), except undesignated bequests and estates;

Notes from FLB:

FLB does not recommend attaching a dollar amount to this section of the bylaws as to avoid the need to update this amount to keep pace with ever-changing economic conditions. Our Leadership Board and Property Team should be free to make any necessary upgrades or repairs to the building and its systems to keep our property well maintained, safe and operating at peak efficiency.

A capital improvement is generally considered to be "a durable lasting upgrade, adaptation or enhancement of the property which significantly increases the value of the property". New York utilizes a three-prong test to define a capital improvement for sales tax purposes. **All three** of the following criteria must be met:

- substantially adds to the value of the real property or appreciably prolongs the useful life of the real property,
- becomes part of the real property or is permanently affixed to the real property so that removal would cause material damage to the property of the item itself, **and**
- it's intended to become a permanent installation.

Proposal 3:**Faith Lutheran Church Bylaws****Current Language***Bylaw II, E. Voting Procedures and Meetings*

2. A Voters' Meeting shall occur at least annually, for the adoption of the budget, presentation of the annual report, and elections. This meeting will normally occur in January.

Recommendation*Bylaw II, E. Voting Procedures and Meetings*

2. A Voters' Meeting shall occur at least annually, for the adoption of the budget, presentation of the annual report, and elections. This meeting will normally occur in January or February.

Notes from FLB:

The February date allows for time to receive the end of the year financials and prepare them for the Voters Meeting.

For November

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 37% favorable variance in envelope giving for the month of November resulting in a year-to-date favorable budget variance of \$10,076 which represents a favorable budget variance of just under 2%.

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”.

God reminds us in 1 Peter 4:10, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

FAITH'S STEWARDSHIP RESPONSE FOR PRIOR MONTH:

ENVELOPE GIVING

November 2024	Voter Approved Budget	Actual	Variance from Budget	% Variance	Prior Year Actual
1st Sunday	\$6,500	\$6,884	\$384	6%	\$5,604
2nd Sunday	\$6,500	\$8,115	\$1,615	25%	\$3,805
3rd Sunday	\$6,500	\$10,349	\$3,849	59%	\$4,075
4th Sunday	\$6,500	\$16,092	\$9,592	148%	\$6,567
5th Sunday	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%	\$0
Online Giving	\$21,000	\$23,594	\$2,594	12%	\$20,293
Festival Giving	\$500	\$50	(\$450)		\$645
Monthly Total	\$47,500	\$65,084	\$17,584	37%	\$40,989
Year-to-Date Total	\$590,000	\$600,076	\$10,076	1.71%	\$580,981

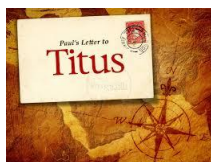
Adult Education

New Member Class in January!

Pastor Peter will be leading a three-session New Member class on Sunday – **January 5th, January 12th, and January 19th** from 9:45 a.m. to 10:40 a.m. in the Community Room. This is an informal class designed for newcomers, inquiries, and prospective members of our congregation. The class is a time of discussion, discovery, presentation, and inclusion.

We will be officially welcoming anyone who would like to become an official member of Faith on Sunday, January 26th.

Any questions, call the office at 381-3970.



New Adult Bible Class in January!

On Jan. 5-19, join us for a study of the book of Titus. We will discuss concepts of Godly leadership and discipleship and consider the trials of ministering to Cretan culture as well as our own. We will rejoice together with Paul and Titus in our redemption in Christ and freedom from sin as we study this wonderful letter with a

focus on what it means to be entrusted with the good news of Christ.

This class will be led by Michael Balentine in the Auditorium.

Our beautiful and brilliant new Christmas Wreath went through a major update last year. Thank you to the Saresky Family Memorial for financing the project; Pat Claus-Lapresi, Nancy and Tom Hammond, Laurie Ebbecke, Janise Piloni, Cathy Saresky, and Sharon Finkbeiner for redoing the entire green holly and red berries wreath; and Mark Saresky for strengthening and simplifying secure wreath section connections, and for making a 2 pulley lifting system to greatly ease and make much safer for raising and lowering of the 120 pound wreath. The wreath is assembled on the floor, and then carried by 4 men over stair rails, two sets of steps, partially over communion rail, cleared-off altar, and behind the cross while lifting it 30' up (via pulleys) to man at top of a 34' ladder.



Much appreciation for our Wreath Team installers: Steve VanderMallie, Steve Welk, Mark Saresky, Mark Harstad, and Ralph Harstad



If you are receiving **Offering Envelopes** for 2025, they can be found in the concourse.



In 2024 I spent several months writing and revising my final paper for CUEnet, a Personal Confession of Faith, 13 (dense) pages in total. It was essentially a recap of all the classes I had taken through their program. The CUEnet program is an online learning platform that was made specifically for Lutheran School Teachers. We know I am not one of those, however what is considered very important in this process is really knowing Lutheran Theology and history, so all of these classes did apply in one way or another for that purpose.



In 2025 I will begin classes that apply to the music portion of my colloquy requirements. These classes will also be online, but through Concordia University at Irvine (CUI). The Center of Worship Leadership (CWL) at CUI is what I lovingly call the “mothership” of WALi (the conference I have attended the last few years). Within their programming they have a Theology or Worship Certificate program that has been used for the education and skill strengthening of worship leaders across the nation. It has been decided that this existing online curriculum (which is entering its 3rd year of existence) will satisfy my remaining colloquy requirements. The 3 modules in this program will fill the requirements of corporate worship, Christian hymnody, and worship planning. Each course is 7 weeks long, and has a weekly Zoom meeting with others in the cohort. Thankfully, these classes do dodge the high feast days through the year. The benefit of classes developed by church musicians, for current working church musicians. I will also be required to take a short module on our hymnal, the LSB. So, if all goes according to plan, my colloquy coursework will be complete in 2025! I appreciate your prayers and patience in this process. Adding classes to an already bursting workload and taking care of my family turns out to be a lot, and I am thankful this season of coursework is temporary.



From the Mission Board



Missions would like to thank everyone who donated to the annual Angel Tree project. It was a big success, and we were able to distribute gifts to many folks in the community. The agencies receiving the gifts were: Willow Domestic Violence Center, Community Lutheran Ministry, Eastern Service Workers Assoc, and Nucor House. All the agencies were thrilled and very thankful for your generosity.

Our next dinner at Nucor House will be Wed Jan 29th at 5:30pm. The theme will be “Breakfast for Dinner”. So we will need fruit, breakfast casseroles, bagels, etc. Look for a sign up, and please join us as we thank the US Veterans who served our nation.

Missions wishes everyone a Joyful New Year!

In His name, Marguerite McKee



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 2, 2025 at 12:30pm. This meeting will include the presentation of nominees for the Faith Leadership Board, Financial and Committee Reports, along with the proposed 2025 Budget and proposed changes to Faith Lutheran's Constitution and Bylaws. A Zoom Link will be forthcoming for those who cannot attend in person. The full packet and agenda will be available on January 19th. A free-will offering lunch will be provided at 12:00.



All Memorial Reception Committee Members are invited to a Thank You Brunch on **Saturday, January 25th** from 10:00-12:00. Mark your calendars! E-mail invites will be forthcoming.

"I thank my God every time I remember you" Phil. 1:3

Men's Breakfast Group

Join us as we start the day together in fellowship!

When: **Tuesday, January 7th @ 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, January 10th**. 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, January 13th** 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, January 9th** 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).



Parents of Young Children Group will meet again on Saturday, January 18th from 11:30am – 1:00pm.
Lunch and childcare are provided. Please RSVP to Mark Harstad @ mnh1alfred@gmail.com

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.



2025 L.I.F.T.
ADVENTURE TRIP to
The Museum of the Bible,
Washington, D.C.
September 29-October 1, 2025

The Museum of the Bible is a museum in Washington D.C. which documents the narrative, history and impact of the Bible. The museum opened on November 17, 2017. With 1,150 items from the museum's permanent collection and 2,000 items on loan from other institutions and collections, the museum claims to have amassed one of the largest assemblies of biblical



artifacts
and texts
in the

world through collaborations with private donors, institutions, and other museums. Museum of the Bible aims to be among the most technologically advanced and engaging museums in the world. Showcasing rare artifacts spanning 3,500 years of history, the museum offers visitors an immersive and personalized experience with the Bible, and its ongoing impact on the world around us.



Limited to first 30 people to sign up, the cost for two nights hotel, bus transportation, and admission to the museum would estimate to be \$772/per couple (sharing room) or \$560 for a single room. Breakfast is included at the hotel (Holiday Inn Express, Alexandria VA Fort Belvoir). Other meals on your own. Options to tour other museums in Washington, DC is possible after visiting the Bible Museum. This trip is only available for those that can walk.

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP WITH YOUR INTEREST: JULY 15, 2025.

Questions? Contact Stella Reschke, 607-624-0036 or stellareschke@gmail.com

Children's Ministry



Thank you to everyone who attended our annual **Gingerbread House Decorating Event** last month! We had over 115 people in attendance and made over 45 gingerbread houses! A special thank you to Donna Kaser and her team who assembled the houses and to everyone who helped with set up and clean up.



Thank you to all the **Sunday School students and Sunday School teachers** who participated in our annual **Christmas Pageant**! It is always so special to hear the story of Jesus' Birth told by our Sunday School students. A special thanks to Peggy Muller and Mari-Beth Schembri for organizing and facilitating both the pageant and cookie reception again this year!

Our Kidz Konnect Group for 4th - 6th graders will resume in February - Date TBD. Throughout the month of January, we will be collecting new and gently used winter hats/gloves, hand warmers, and small hygiene products (toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soaps, etc...) to fill Blessing Bags for those less fortunate in our community. Please place donated items in the labeled bins located in the Concourse.

The next **Parents of Young Children's group** will be held Saturday, January 18th from 11:30-1:00. Lunch and childcare are provided. Please contact Mark Harstad to RSVP: mnh1alfred@gmail.com

Save the dates:

No Sunday School March 2nd or April 27th for our Church Wide Community Service Projects

April 20th is our Annual Easter Egg Hunt! Stay tuned for more details!



FLY**Thank you..**

- To everyone who attended our Sunday Night FLY Christmas Party on Dec. 8!
- To the Schembri's, Kuiper's, and Young's for hosting our wonderful Progressive Dinner on Dec. 15!
- To everyone who purchased a Faith ornament at our sale last month! Over \$250 was raised for our FLYers going to the Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July!
- To all of the youth who are bringing friends to FLY events! Let's keep inviting more!
- To our incredible Youth Advisors for their dedicated service to God and His children!

Sunday Night FLY "Karaoke Night!" – Jan. 12 @ 7pm

Bring your friends to our hilarious Karaoke Night! Sing to your favorite songs and laugh along with your friends! You can even come dressed up as your favorite performer, too! No need to get up front and sing, but you are guaranteed to have a great time!

**Sunday Night FLY "REMIX!" – Jan. 26 @ 7pm**

YOU will vote for one lesson and one game we'll do together!
Invite your friends to this fun night where YOU are in charge of what we do!

***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!



32nd Annual Coffee House –

Fri, Jan. 31st @ 7pm

Everyone is invited to an evening of fun-filled entertainment in the Faith Auditorium on Jan. 31st! Faith's 32nd Annual Coffee House variety show will highlight various talented people from our church while raising money for youth attending the Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July!

Many thanks to all who signed up to share their talents on-stage! A talent can be baking, too, because FLY will be serving desserts made by Faith members! **Bakers can sign-up in the Concourse this month** and deliver their baked goods to the church kitchen before the show.

Please talk to Pastor Peter if you have questions. The doors will open at 6:30pm and the acts will begin at 7. Come enjoy desserts, coffee, smoothies, talented performers, and more!

***Help volunteer at the Coffee House! Check out the sign-up sheet on the FLY bulletin board to join a volunteer team! Many thanks!**

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. Plus enjoy a **FREE cereal buffet!**

FLY Internship Opportunity!

Have you ever wanted to serve and grow as a Christian leader in FLY? Are you interested in leading Bible studies or planning FLY events? If so, pray about applying to be a new FLY Intern for 6 months starting March 3, 2025. Mackenzie Hoad currently serves as our FLY Intern and her term ends on Mar. 2 (at the Sr. FLY Winter Retreat). There are two spots available for people to serve as interns! The internship application can be found in the FLY Room or the FLY bulletin board. The application deadline is January 31. Talk to Pastor Peter if you have any questions.

Save the Dates:**-Sr. FLY Winter Retreat on Feb. 28-Mar. 2 @ Camp Casowasco**

Registration and more information are coming next month! Our FLY Intern is busy creating a fun and engaging retreat experience for all high school & college-age students! It'll be AWESOME!

-Spaghetti Dinner on Ash Wednesday, Mar. 5 @ Faith

Enjoy a delicious meal of Spaghetti before our Ash Wed. worship service! FLYers can sign-up on the FLY Bulletin Board to volunteer.

-Sunday Night FLY "MYSTERY NIGHT" on Mar. 9 @ Faith

Come discover the mystery activities that we'll be doing together at Faith! Bring ALL of your friends!

Mark Your Calendars...

*No SNFLY on Feb. 9 due to the Super Bowl

Feb. 23 – Sunday Night FLY "Low Battery"

Feb. 28-Mar. 2 – 2025 Sr. FLY Winter Retreat @ Camp Casowasco

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](https://www.remind.com/join).

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/>

Faith Child Care and Nursery School (FCCNS)

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

Our theme for January is Winter. The letters we will be working on are K, L and M as well as working on the color Red, the Triangle shape and Sorting. Our Faith Character Words for the Month will be: Build, Faithful, Deliver and Helper. Our Bible Stories will be Construction of the Tabernacle, The Twelve Spies, The Fall of Jericho, and Gideon. Our Character Trait is Kindness.



There are a few special activities happening in January:

- Parent-Teacher Conferences - January 6th - 17th
- West Wing Bathroom Renovation Begins - January 11th
- Penfield Schools Closed- January 20th and 24th - MLK Jr. Day and Conference Day (School Age here all day)
- National Lutheran Schools Week - January 26th - February 1st
- Penfield School Closed - January 29th - Lunar New Year (School Age here all day)



In January, Bonnie Millen will be retiring from FCCNS. She has worked here for a little over 11 years. From rocking babies, to changing diapers, to reminding our Butterflies and Fireflies how to behave in the hall, to keeping our Good Knights safe on a field trip, she has shown love and care to all our children at FCCNS. We wish you all the best in your new adventure. Thank you for pointing the children to Jesus. Well done good and faithful servant. We will try to keep the craft cabinets neat and tidy.

May there always be work for your hand
May your purse always hold a coin or two
May the sun always shine upon your window pane.
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain.
May the hand of a friend always be near to you and
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.



Happy New Year and welcome 2025. I am excited about what is to come, but I want to take a moment to thank 2024. In the past year we have seen some amazing things happen at Faith because we have trusted God to lead us. We have a brand-new pavilion which we have used many times to spread God's love to our congregation and community through services, concerts, chapel, VBS, FLY, picnics and so much more. We have collected food and gifts, packaged food, served food to veterans and those less fortunate. We have opened our building up to the girl scouts and community groups. We have a vibrant youth group as well as small groups and LIFT and SOLA. We have amazing musicians who use their gifts to glorify our Lord. We have had baptisms, confirmation, first holy communion and services of victory. We have taught the children of FCCNS and Faith Lutheran

who Jesus is and how much He loves them. Have you felt it? Faith Lutheran is alive and we are going to continue to find more and more ways to connect people to Jesus. So, dream with us Faith as we imagine what we can do when we follow God's lead. Happy New Year.

Speaking of Faith Lutheran being alive, when a building is filled with children Monday through Friday and Sundays for the last 55 years it is bound to show its age. The west wing bathrooms have been in need of repair for some time. So, thanks to a Memorial Fund designation and FCCNS's Board approval to allocate reserve funds towards this project, the West Wing Bathroom Repair Team started reimagining what the bathrooms could look like. Andrew Fedick (the contractor who built our pavilion) will begin the repair in Mid-January.

A big thank you to our Joseph Guild who will do the preliminary demolition of the bathrooms on Saturday, January 11th so that the rest of the project can begin on Monday, January 13th.

- Pre-Phase 1 *Joseph Guild Demolition:* January 11th
- Phase 1 *Asbestos Abatement:* January 13th - 17th *Please See Below*
- Phase 2 *Contractor Demolition:* January 20th-24th
- Phase 3 *Dur-A Quartz Epoxy Floors:* January 27th-30th
- Phase 4 *Construction:* January 31st - February 14th

We had both bathrooms tested for asbestos and it was determined that only the setting bed of the floor tiles had asbestos. Since we are not ripping out the tile in the girl's bathroom, nothing needs to be done in there. However, since we are ripping out a portion of the floor in the boy's bathroom to accommodate a second stall, we need to safely remove the tile and asbestos containing the setting bed. Sessler Environment Services will be doing the abatement work. We have been told that the bathroom can be safely closed off without disrupting the classrooms or hallway. In addition to the abatement, Lozier Environmental Consulting, Inc. will perform Asbestos Air and Project Monitoring Services for the duration of the abatement project.

Sessler Environment Services personnel are trained, licensed, and highly skilled in asbestos abatement. SES prides itself on being experts in asbestos removal and all asbestos-related requirements, procedures, and regulations. SES' demolition service quickly exposes and removes asbestos containing materials safely and efficiently.

Faith Child Care & Nursery School
Year to Date Income & Expenses Compared to Budget
As of 11/30/2024

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Fav/(Unfav) Variance	Prior YTD	Board Approved 2024 Budget
Operating Income					
Fees	862,758	854,460	8,298	793,284	938,558
Interest/Misc./Other	46,519	33,258	13,261	26,243	36,433
Total Operating Income	<u>909,277</u>	<u>887,718</u>	<u>21,559</u>	<u>819,527</u>	<u>974,991</u>
Expenses:					
Program	40,175	44,230	4,055	41,269	47,261
Employee Related	726,586	762,638	36,052	682,427	834,008
Property & Equipment	54,051	60,093	6,042	55,320	65,192
Supplies	11,936	12,850	914	12,625	14,000
Operating Expenses	<u>832,748</u>	<u>879,810</u>	<u>47,062</u>	<u>791,642</u>	<u>960,461</u>
Net Operating Income (Loss)	<u>76,529</u>	<u>7,908</u>	<u>68,621</u>	<u>27,885</u>	<u>14,530</u>
PPP Loan Forgiveness Grant				12,042	
Total Other Income	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12,042</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>76,529</u>	<u>7,908</u>	<u>68,621</u>	<u>39,927</u>	<u>14,530</u>

End of November enrollment 77 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
11/30/2024

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Fav/(Unfav) Variance	Prior YTD	Voter Approved 2024 Budget
Operating Income					
Envelope Offering/Plate Cash	606,543	594,500	12,043	587,235	672,000
FCCNS Facility Cost Sharing	22,917	22,917	(0)	22,917	25,000
Fund Distribution-Endowment	0	8,000	(8,000)	0	8,000
Interest/Misc./Other	13,840	12,300	1,540	12,030	13,300
Total Operating Income	643,300	637,717	5,583	622,181	718,300
Expenses:					
Education	17,264	17,575	311	16,406	18,450
Employee Related	342,238	404,993	62,755	378,807	442,911
Mission & Outreach	56,442	62,971	6,529	61,008	67,300
Music	4,755	5,625	870	5,258	6,150
Other Expense	7,482	11,000	3,518	10,539	11,750
Property	135,203	135,947	744	128,457	150,040
Supplies	26,839	28,172	1,333	27,658	30,695
Operating Expenses	590,223	666,283	76,060	628,134	727,296
Net Operating Income (Loss)	53,076	(28,566)	81,643	(5,952)	(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-forms>

* 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-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.

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

Called to Glory:

- **Andy Nuijens** (11/15/24), brother of Dan Nuijens
- **Marge Haroff** (11/26/24), friend of Kathy Meilke
- **Judy Blackmon** (12/2/24), sister of Beth Camann
- **Connie Humphries** (12/6/24), longtime member of Faith
- **Joe Haight** (12/6/24), stepfather of John Keller
- **Bill Cerveney**, father of Liam Cerveney; grandfather of William, Cameron & Annora
- **Granddaughter** of Dan Sauve & Family, friends of Ed & Marsha Freeman
- **Rick Schonblom** (12/10/24), friend of Bill & Lisa Sykes
- **Nicki Carlisi**, resident of Baywinde, friend of Ed Lindskoog
- **Tim Shannon** (12/16/24), brother-in-law of Donna & John Pellnat
- **Roger Doty** (12/17/24), uncle of Rob Doty



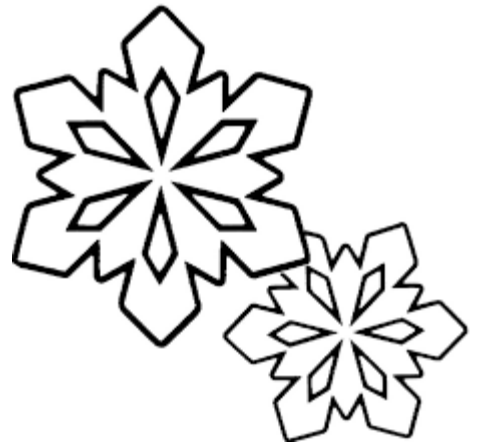
Birthdays

1	Linda Hanss	15	Audrey Stenzel	26	Hayden Lincoln
3	Janice Schrack		Edward Wright		Robert Wyman
5	Lawrence Christensen	16	Paul Lucci	27	Mackenzie Harrington
	Bruce Kulp	17	Elisabeth Mangerian	28	Taylor Albert
9	Gabriel Buck	20	Scarlet Kabat	29	Beth D'Ambrosio
	Jayden Hoad		Sally Schooley		Madeline Hartley
	David Lindskoog	21	Harper Cummings		Owen Kaser
10	Marsha Freeman		Madelyn Cummings		Cheryl Speisman
11	Allison Cappellino-Boyle		Peter Versprille	30	Edward Freeman
12	Maria Gerbasi		Jack Webb		David Lapresi
13	Liam Cervený	23	Madison Steiner		McKinley Pries
	Frederick Mason		Tracey Testa	31	Kennedy Coles
14	Alivia Duckles	24	Will Withall		Carolyn McDonough
	Shane Maginn	25	Sydney Crouse		
	Elizabeth Trimble		Sharon Kiellach		



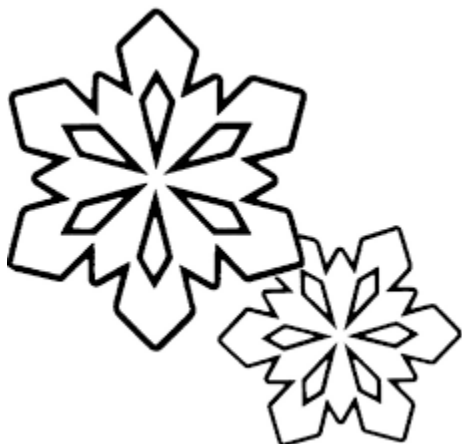
Wedding Anniversaries

1	Gaylord & Lynne Leinenbach	23	Tim & Kimberley Albert
4	Dan & Katharine Zager	25	Edward & Rae Usinger
8	Glenn & Linda Collins	27	David & Jennifer Cook
9	Vincent & Cristine Alello	29	Siegfried & Liane Bartsch
15	Peter & Mary Versprille	30	Dean & Tracy Muller


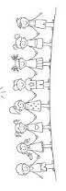



NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I may help a friend.
Give me strength and courage.
Amen.



January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>5 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Adult Bible Class Sunday School Jr FLY in 204 / Sr FLY in FLY Rm 10:45am Contemporary Worship 12:15 Taking Down the Greens w/ Pizza</p>	<p>6 10:00am Embroidery Guild (Rm204) 7:00pm Lyric Chorale (Aud)</p>	<p>7 7:00am Men's Breakfast (Browncroft Diner) 10:00am FLC Bowling Lgue 10:30am FCCNS Chapel 1:00pm Worship @ The Addison</p>	<p>1 New Year's Day FCCNS Closed Church Office Closed</p>  <p>8 10:00am Church Staff 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Music Rm)</p>	<p>2 11:30am Dorcas Group (Rm204)</p>	<p>3 10:00am Keepers of the Cupboard (CmRm) 11:30am SOLA Lunch</p>	<p>4 1:00pm Fiddlers Rehearsal (MusicRm)</p>
<p>12 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 "Karaoke Night"</p>	<p>13 1:30pm Prayer Shawl (Rm204) 7:00pm Lyric Chorale (Aud)</p>	<p>14 10:00am FLC Bowling Lgue 10:30am FCCNS Chapel 4:00pm Stephen Ministry (CmRm) 7:00pm FLB Mtg (Rm204)</p>	<p>15 10:00am Church Staff 5:45pm Girl Scouts (CmRm) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Music Rm)</p>	<p>16 9:30am Property Board (CmRm) 5:30pm Board of Ed Mtg (CmRm) 7:00pm Music & Worship (CmRm)</p>	<p>17 11:30am Parents of Young Children (FLYRm)</p> 	<p>18 1:00pm Fiddlers Rehearsal (MusicRm)</p>
<p>19 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 DDA Info Mtg (Aud)</p>	<p>20 8:00am Joseph Guild 10:00am Flower City Rug Hook Group (CmRm) 7:00pm Lyric Chorale (Aud) 7:00pm FCCNS Board Mtg (CmRm)</p>	<p>21 10:00am FLC Bowling Lgue 10:30am FCCNS Chapel 1:00pm Worship @ The Addison</p>	<p>22 10:00am Church Staff 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Music Rm)</p>	<p>23 10:00am Church Staff 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Music Rm)</p>	<p>24 10:00am Reception Committee Brunch (CmRm)</p>	<p>25 10:00am Reception Committee Brunch (CmRm)</p>
<p>26 New Member Sunday 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"</p>	<p>27 7:00pm Lyric Chorale (Aud)</p> 	<p>28 10:00am FLC Bowling Lgue 10:30am FCCNS Chapel</p>	<p>29 10:00am Church Staff 6:00pm Coffee House Stage Set Up (Aud) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Music Rm)</p>	<p>30 Coffee House 6:30pm Doors Open 7:00pm Entertainment Begins</p>	<p>31 Lutheran Schools Week</p>	<p>Lutheran Schools Week</p>

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2576 Browncroft Blvd
Rochester NY 14625-1530

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED