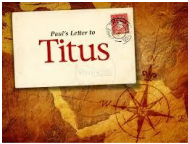


Pastor Peter is leading a New Member Class on **January 12th & 19th** from 9:45 a.m. to 10:40 a.m. in the Community Room. This is an informal class designed for newcomers, inquiries, and prospective members of our congregation. The class is a time of discussion, discovery, presentation, and inclusion.



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.



Paul's Letter to Titus

On January 12th & 19th, 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 is led by Michael Balentine in the Auditorium.

Thank You to those of you who have submitted Contribution Pledges for 2025!



As a reminder, please update your online giving instructions (if applicable) to represent your 2025 pledge. You can call the office and speak with Kay Gerlach or Beth Camann should you need assistance with this. **It is not too late to submit pledges for 2025.**



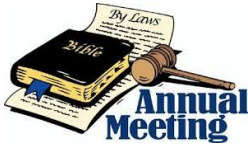
It is a new year and we have many opportunities ahead to dedicate Altar Flowers on a weekly basis beautifying our Sanctuary! There is a sign-up book on the information center in the Concourse, an online opportunity at

faithpenfield.org under Resources, or you can call Kris Cronk in the office at 585-381-3970. There is a fee of \$75 for the altar flower arrangements.

L.I.F.T sign-ups for 2025 are available in the concourse book now! Please take a moment to pick a month you'd like to host/organize/lead so our fellowship activities continue into the new year!



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



Faith Congregation Annual Meeting

The Faith Leadership Board is inviting all members to join us for the upcoming in-person Congregational Voters' 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 (*see proposals near end of these announcements*). 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.

Throughout the month of January, our **Kidz Konnect Group** for 4th - 6th graders 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 Blessing Bags



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 performed 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
 - Phase 2 *Contractor Demolition:* January 20th-24th
 - Phase 3 *Dur-A Quartz Epoxy Floors:* January 27th-30th
 - Phase 4 *Construction:* January 31st - February 14th
-

January 5th Worship Attendance

In-Person: 213 *Livestream:* 78 *Total:* 291

January 19th Scriptures

Gospel: John 2:1-11

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Old Testament: Isaiah 62:1-5

*From the
Pastor's
Desk*



From the Pastor's Desk:

A New Position for the Digital Mission Field
Excerpts taken from the "Pastor Peter's Perspective" article in the January Faith Notes.

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.

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.

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!

Children's & Family Ministry Announcements

Sunday School 2025

Sunday School is available to children age 4-6th Grade. Sunday School is offered every Sunday from 9:45-10:40am. Please see the schedule located on the Children's Ministries bulletin board in the concourse each week for your child's classroom location.





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

Faith Lutheran Youth (FLY) Announcements

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

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

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

High school students are invited to join the adults in the Auditorium for a 3-week study on Paul's letter to Titus. The class is led by Mike Balentine.

Coffee House Volunteers Needed!

Faith's 32nd Annual Coffee House variety show on Jan. 31st will highlight various talented people from our church while raising money for youth attending the Youth Gathering in New Orleans next July! It takes many volunteers to help setup the stage, lights & tables, bake food, serve food & drinks, and clean-up after the show. You can sign-up on the FLY bulletin board to join one or more volunteer crews!

Coffee House

Please talk to Pastor Peter if you have any questions about this FUN and entertaining event. Thank you!

Sunday Night FLY "Karaoke Night!" – TONIGHT @ 7pm

Bring your friends to our hilarious Karaoke Night TONIGHT! 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!

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 is available in the FLY Room and the FLY bulletin board this month. The application deadline is January 31. Talk to Pastor Peter if you have any questions.

Faith Lutheran Church's 32nd Annual

Coffee House

- HOSTED BY AVA BERNHARDT -

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31ST

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM

SHOW BEGINS AT 7PM

IN THE FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH AUDITORIUM

VARIETY SHOW FEATURING:

**VOCALISTS, MUSICIANS, COMEDY,
SURPRISES & MORE!**

**ENJOY COFFEE, DESSERTS,
& SMOOTHIES THROUGHOUT THE SHOW!**

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT OUR YOUTH ATTENDING
THE YOUTH GATHERING IN NEW ORLEANS IN 2025!**

FAITH LUTHERAN YOUTH (FLY)

2576 BROWNCROFT BLVD.

FAITHPENFIELD.ORG

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					
	Voter Approved Budget	Actual	Variance from Budget	% Variance	Prior Year Actual
November 2024					
Monthly Total	\$47,500	\$65,084	\$17,584	37%	\$40,989
Year-to-Date Total	\$590,000	\$600,076	\$10,076	2%	\$580,981

Proposals for Faith's Annual Voters' Meeting on Feb. 2

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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Celebrating Birthdays This Week

1/12 Maria Gerbasi

1/13 Liam Cerveny, Frederick Mason

1/14 Alivia Duckles, Shane Maginn, Elizabeth Trimble

1/15 Audrey Stenzel, Edward Wright

1/16 Paul Lucci

1/17 Elisabeth Mangerian

Celebrating Anniversaries This Week

1/15 Peter & Mary Versprille

Ongoing Prayers

Faith Members and Friends

Tim Albert, Cory Alberti, Cris Alello, Jeff Aspenleiter, Sandi Banning, Dan Behnfeldt, Ruth Behnfeldt, Diann Berndt, Sue & Guy Brown, Darlene Byrns, Torrence Couture, Sam Falzone, John Glenn, Jackie Johnson, June Leibring, Hayden Lincoln, Aram Mangerian, Donna Pellnat, Daryl Pichan, Lois Ronnenberg, Wayne Samuels, Catharine Schmidt, Mary Schutte, Ellen

Smurthwaite, Ida Stiner, Eric Sykes, Ronald Uecker, Diane Wagner, Bob Welk, Penny Wheeler, Terry Wheeler, Bob Wyman

Those in Care Facilities

June Leibring	Baywinde (Webster)
Ed Lindskoog	Baywinde (Webster)
Bert & Brigitta Lux	Heathwood (Penfield)
Sally Schooley	Maplewood (Webster)
Ida Stiner	Brentland (Henrietta)

Serving in the Military

Ryan Brink	Nephew of Terry & Penny Wheeler
Will Brown	Friend of Charlie Arnone
Sean Dempsey	Nephew of Ed & Marsha Freeman
Thomas DiMiero	Son of Paul DiMiero
Elizabeth Flint	Niece of Jon & Terry Allen
Michael Flint	Nephew of Jon & Terry Allen
Jasigha Garrett	Nephew of Taylor Saunders-Garrett
Aaron Johnstone	Godson of Lisa Sykes
Ben Krenzer	Son of William & Barbara Krenzer
Paul Krenzer	Son of William & Barbara Krenzer
Andrew Lindskoog	Son of David & Cathy Lindskoog Grandson of Ed Lindskoog
Alexander Mangerian	Son of Peter Mangerian & Laura Mangerian-Smith Grandson of Elisabeth Mangerian
Lauren Marcum	Niece of Dick & Roxanne Leschhorn
Marques Marion	Former Assistant Teacher at FCCNS
Tim Monczynski	Son-In-Law of Ed & Marsha Freeman
Jake Moszkowicz	Neighbor of Diane Van Auken
Mattie McDonough	Son of John & Carolyn McDonough
Alana Nicole Neves	Niece of Dick & Roxanne Leschhorn
Quaysean Odom	Relative of Elisabeth Mangerian
Omar Parkinson	Son-in-law of Sharon Davenport
Kayla Petteway	Relative of Elisabeth Mangerian

Extended Family and Friends

Cathy's Husband, David, George, Jeff, Jessica, Lou, Nancy, Patty, Steve & Pat, Sue, Bill Baker, Vanmany Banks, Kay Bonggren, Ron Bonggren, Celia Butterhold, Rich Causey, Rebecca Cronk, Natasha Doeblar & daughter, Kate Dolan, Sarah Flint, Kevin Fries, Charles Gray, Elynn Haden, Bill Hughes, Karen Keiter, Don Kot, Jeremy LaFond, Sammy Marciano, Scott McCarthy, Elizabeth Samuels-McGahey, Thelma McKee, Ed McMaster, Edward Menzies, Jeffrey Menzies, Scott Menzies, Trey Michel, Cliff Milner, John Mirabito, Rick Monczynski, George New, Mark Niemeir, Ed Oliver, Domenica Panichia, Kevin Patterson, Nancy Perry, Vincent Poromon, Sue Provencher, Tedd Pullano, Mike Radigan, Heikki Rantakari, Pat Robert, Tom Scott, Beverly Soanes, Susan Spano, Mike & Nancy Stirling, Cathy Storm, Phil Tallenger, Jim & Jacquie Van Auken, Sue Weatherall, Greg Werth, John Woods