

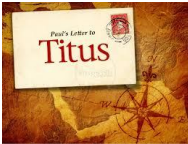


Altar Flowers are provided today *In Thankfulness for Betty Porter and all that she does to lead the Altar Guild and serve Faith*

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.



Please join us as we take down the Greens from our Christmas celebration TODAY at 12:15 starting with lunch! Sign up is in the Concourse.

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 Klay 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.

Men's Breakfast Group

Join us as we join 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. 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.**



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

*From the
Pastor's
Desk*



From the Pastor's Desk:

Thank YOU...

To everyone who joined us for worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day! Many thanks to all of our volunteers and staff who helped make the services so special for everyone! Let us continue to worship our newborn King together this new year!

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!

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.

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.

Children's & Family Ministry Announcements

Sunday School has resumed today, January 5th.

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.



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

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!" – 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!



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

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



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

December 29th Worship Attendance

In-Person: 137 Livestream: 127 Total: 264

January 12th Scriptures

Gospel: Luke 3:15-22

Epistle: Romans 6:1-11

Old Testament: Isaiah 43:1-7

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Celebrating Birthdays This Week

- 1/5 Lawrence Christensen, Bruce Kulp
1/9 Gabriel Buck, Jayden Hoad
1/10 Marsha Freeman
1/11 Allison Cappellino-Boyle

Celebrating Anniversaries This Week

- 1/8 Glenn & Linda Collins
1/9 Vincent & Cristine Alello

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, Hailey Keller, 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, Patty, Ryan, Steve & Pat, Sue, Bill Baker, Vanmany Banks, Kay Bonggren, Ron Bonggren, Celia Butterhold, Rich Causey, Bruce Conrow, Rebecca Cronk, Bertha Dill, Natasha Doebler & daughter, Kate Dolan, Sarah Flint, Kevin Fries, Elynn Haden, 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, John Woods