

Faith Notes

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

JULY 2025



VBS 2025 "Superhero Academy!" will run from July 28th - August 1st, 9am-Noon at Faith Lutheran Church. Children ages 4 through entering 8th grade in the fall of 2025 are eligible to attend this amazing experience! Registration is now open!

We are in need of volunteers for VBS!

Students in 9th grade and up are welcome to volunteer as well as adults!

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

flypenfield@gmail.com

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

Dave Young - temporary Education

Assistant

edassistant@faithpenfield.org

MUSIC

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ ORGANIST

Dianne Christensen

ext. 17

dianne@faithpenfield.org

DIRECTOR OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

Elizabeth Balentine

ext. 11

elizabeth@faithpenfield.org

OFFICE

CHURCH SECRETARY

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SOUND TECH LEAD

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FCCNS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mari-Beth Schembri

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mbschembri@fccnschildcare.com

Direct Line 485-0151

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND
OPERATIONS

Lori Connolly

381-3970 ext. 20

laconnolly@fccnschildcare.com

Direct Line 485-0150



Traditional Worship---8:30 AM Sundays

In-House and Livestreamed

Contemporary Worship---10:45 AM Sundays

In-House and Livestreamed

Holy Communion Celebrated on the 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

"When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God." - Leviticus 19:33-34



A few generations ago, my ancestors immigrated to Minnesota from Sweden, Norway, Germany, and Poland. Like many others, they settled in central Minnesota, started farms and families, attended church, and sent their children to one-room schoolhouses. Their story is one echoed throughout the American landscape. We are, indeed, a nation of immigrants. That heritage is immortalized in the words engraved on The Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." For many around the world, coming to America still represents hope and the chance to "breathe free." We thank God for the freedoms we enjoy in this country, and we recognize that many nations do not share these freedoms.

In recent times, immigration has become a deeply divisive and political issue. We've seen the news stories, the images, and even heard testimonies from people right here in our community. And lately, I've been asked: "What is the Lutheran stance on immigration?"

Our stance is a biblical one – rooted in love for our neighbor and grounded in the clear commands of Scripture. In Leviticus 19, God calls His people to treat the foreigner with the same dignity as the native-born: "Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt." As Lutherans, we understand this through the framework of the Two Kingdoms. God has established the civil kingdom – which includes the state – to maintain order and justice, including the oversight of borders and immigration policies. But the Church belongs to the spiritual kingdom, which is not bound by national borders. Our calling is not to craft immigration policy but to proclaim Christ and to extend mercy to all.

Our own church body, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), has taken this to heart. Back in 2013, the LCMS reported that, "Our church body has ministries to Ethiopians, Sudanese, south-east Asians, and people from the Middle East – to name a few – who have come, running for their lives from their governments and from anti-Christian movements in their countries. Others have run for their lives from sexual predators, from drug lords and other injustices. These are "the least of these my brothers." Jesus compels us not to ignore but to help them," (Church and State: An LCMS Perspective, pg. 2, 2013). Earlier this year, our Synod President stated, "The LCMS is officially pro-immigrant. Our church was founded by German immigrants," (LCMS President Harrison letter..., Feb. 6, 2025).

This is not a political position – it is a Gospel position. We love because Christ first loved us (1 John 4:19). The mercy we have received from Jesus overflows into mercy for others, no matter their background, language, or immigration status. In Christ, there is no foreigner, no outsider – only fellow sinners in need of grace.

During our combined worship service on July 13, we will focus more deeply on Leviticus 19 and our calling to extend love and welcome to the immigrants and refugees in our midst. I encourage you to pray for our immigrant neighbors and those seeking the freedoms in our country. And may we, as Christ's body, extend open arms and loving hearts to all people – because that is what Christ has done for us.

And all God's people said, Amen!



This summer, you are invited to a relaxed Wednesday evening worship service at Faith! **"Thrive"** is a special mid-week gathering that is designed to refresh your spirit and provide a meaningful break from your weekly routine. Join us as we focus on a different **fruit of the Spirit** found in Galatians 5:22-23.

When: Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM (June 25-Aug. 27)

Where: Faith's Pavilion

Join us for a time of:

- **Blended Worship:** Experience a mix of traditional hymns and contemporary worship songs that uplift and inspire.
- **Relevant Message:** Hear a practical and encouraging message focused on a different fruit of the Spirit.
- **Christian Fellowship:** Enjoy fellowship and build connections with other Christians in a welcoming and supportive community.

Whether you are looking for a moment of peace, a word of encouragement, or a deeper connection with others, this mid-week service is for you.

Come earlier with a picnic meal and invite a friend to join you!

We look forward to worshipping with you at Thrive!

Please talk to Pastor Peter if you have questions (peter@faithpenfield.org).

For May

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 were blessed with a 15% favorable variance in envelope giving for the month of May resulting in a year-to-date unfavorable budget variance of \$15,734 or 5%.

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 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

May 2025	Voter Approved Budget	Actual	Variance from Budget	% Variance	Prior Year Actual
1st Sunday	\$6,000	\$4,051	(\$1,949)		\$4,595
2nd Sunday	\$5,000	\$6,517	\$1,517	30%	\$3,646
3rd Sunday	\$6,000	\$3,970	(\$2,030)	-34%	\$7,119
4th Sunday	\$6,000	\$14,600	\$8,600	143%	\$2,760
5th Sunday	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Online Giving	\$22,000	\$22,421	\$421	2%	\$20,700
Festival Giving	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Monthly Total	\$45,000	\$51,559	\$6,559	15%	\$38,820
Year-to-Date Total	\$308,500	\$292,766	(\$15,734)	-5%	\$311,976

Adult Education

Coming in August!

Pastor Peter will be leading a three-session New Member class on Sunday – **August 17, August 24, and August 31** from 9:45 a.m. to 10:40 a.m. in the Auditorium. 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 Rally Sunday, September 7. Any questions, call the office at 381-3970.



FCCNS Families: You're invited to a Baptism Class!

Is your family interested in having your child baptized? We warmly invite your family to a special **Baptism Class on Tuesday, July 15 or Thursday, Sept. 18 from 5:30–6:30 PM**, hosted at Faith Lutheran.

Led by Pastor Peter and Mari-Beth Schembri, this one-hour class will include a free meal and is designed for both parents and children. Together, we'll explore the meaning of baptism, what it signifies in our Lutheran faith, and what it means for your child's life in Jesus. God loves your family so much!

Whether you're just curious or ready to take the next step, we'd love for you to join us for this welcoming and informative evening!

Please **sign-up in the FCCNS office** and select which class date works best for your family - so we can plan for food and materials. Following the class, you may schedule a time to meet with Pastor to plan your child's baptism.

We look forward to walking with you on this meaningful journey!

Contact Pastor (peter@faithpenfield.org) or Mari-Beth (mbschembri@fccnschildcare.com) if you have any questions. Thank you!

Book Club



For the fall, the Women's Book Group is reading the contemporary novel, **People We Meet on Vacation**, by Emily Henry. It centers around two best friends, Poppy and Alex, who take a yearly summer vacation together.

Join us in the fall for another lively discussion!

For more information contact Rae Usinger (585 738-9345 cell; 585 381-1391 home).

Music & Worship

Music and Worship Presents: *The Fiddler Jammers* A Concert under the Pavilion Sunday, July 20 @ 4pm

Join us for an afternoon of fiddle music under the pavilion. You are welcome to bring a picnic or other treat while you enjoy the music. There will be some seating and tables available, or bring your favorite outdoor chair if you prefer!

The Fiddle Jammers are always a treat at Coffee House, and we know you will enjoy this concert performance.

About the Fiddle Jammers

This loose group of amateur musicians has been playing old-time fiddle music for decades in Rochester-area. Although everyone is active in local fiddle music clubs and many play in various acoustic bands, they have the most fun just “jamming” with other like-minded musicians. They are, indeed, Fiddle Jammers and whether they play fiddles or any of the traditional accompanying instruments, they truly love the lively reels, breakdowns, hornpipes, Irish jigs, and sweet waltzes that audience of all ages will enjoy!



Some of our congregation may recognize a few of the musicians from their performances at previous Faith events over the years. Or you may have caught sight of them when the group practices at the church every month. The Fiddle Jammers very much enjoy and appreciate being allowed to use the facilities.



If you play an appropriate stringed instruments and are interested in getting into old-time fiddle music, drop in at one of the monthly Fiddle Jammers music sessions. You'll find them jamming in the church's music room on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Or contact fellow Faith member and guitarist, Ralph Harstad, a jammer and Faith member, for more information.

Save the Date!

Music and Worship Presents: *Roxy's Accordion Band* A Concert under the Pavilion Sunday, August 17th @ 4pm

Roxy's Accordion Band is a group of musical friends from Western New York that have been playing music since 2019. Learn more about this musical group on [their Facebook page](#). Bring your friends and family! Look for our own Noreen Crouse among these talented musicians! Join the fun as we sing and dance along with some Sing Along Songs, Octoberfest Classics, Oldies but Goodies, and Musicals.



For \$5 FCCNS will be serving ice cream sundaes as a fundraiser while music is enjoyed!

From the Mission Board

The Missions Ministry Team will be moving forward with our Back-to-School event in August! We will have the bins out between August 10th – 24th. Look for the list of items being requested in upcoming announcements! Please contact Chita McKinney with any questions.



We will be hosting a **Dinner for the Veterans at Nucor House** on Wed. July 30th at 5:30. The theme is “**Shish Kebabs**.” There is a sign up in the Concourse for marinated beef/chicken/veggies, rice, green salad, mac salad, potato salad and desserts. No time for food prep? A case of water is always appreciated! Please join us in sharing a meal and Christ’s love with these Heroes who served our country so bravely!!

SAVE THE DATE!

We will once again gather to package meals at Faith’s annual “Rise Against Hunger” Event on Saturday, September 13, 2025. More information will follow. Should you have any questions, please contact Meredith Tindall @ unity125@yahoo.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)

Goings on at Faith

Men's Breakfast Group

Join us as we start the day together in fellowship!

When: **Tuesday, July 1st @ 7am**

Where: **George's Restaurant**, 1601 Penfield Rd, Rochester, NY 14625
(Panorama Plaza just for July)



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.**

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Our next meeting will be on **Monday, July 14th** 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.

SOLA – Strength of Living Alone

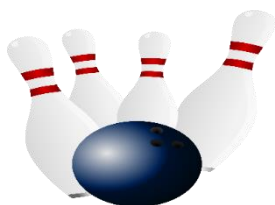
We will meet at 11:30 for lunch on **Friday, July 11th** at *Cracker Barrel* in Henrietta. Everyone will pay their own bill. Donna Kaser will send out an email to let you know the specific restaurant. We will need to know if you are coming so we can alert the restaurant and have enough seats for everyone. ***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.



We will also be meeting for dinner on **Tuesday, July 29th** at 6:00pm at *Bocaccini Restaurant*, 6720 Pittsford Palmyra Road, Fairport.

FAITH LADIES BOWLING LEAGUE

WANTED: LADY BOWLERS!



Come join us on Tuesday Mornings for a fun time at bowling with a great group of ladies.

Starting date: September 9, 2025 – April 21, 2026

For More Information Contact:

Sandie Freitag C# 585-727-5701 H# 585-381-6535
by August 1st 2025

JULY L.I.F.T. Event

Presents the Annual

Camp Kuipers

**Friday night (optional)-
Saturday, July 19th @ 11am**



We'll gather together at
George & Jackie Kuiper's Camp
11865 Allen Road
Swain, NY

What to expect:

- Fun, Food, Fellowship of course!
- Outdoor Oven Fired Pizza
- Mint Juleps
- BBQ Chicken Dinner
- Swimming
- Outdoor Lawn Games
- Relaxing, Hiking
- 4-wheeler Rides, Zip Line
- Campfire, Laughter & more!



Bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share

Please RSVP by July 13th by email or sign up in the Concourse book.

yacominakuipers@gmail.com

585-383-9144

Please call the church office should you need a ride or would like to carpool.



All are invited to join together and celebrate God's great outdoors as we gather around a roaring lakeside campfire and roast hot dogs, marshmallows, play a trivia game and enjoy a fabulous sunset (weather permitting). Hot dogs, drink and smores provided. Bring a chair, an appetizer, salad or bar dessert. Sign up in the Concourse.

L.I.F.T. (Lutherans in Fellowship Together)
Erie Canal Afternoon Lock Cruise
Saturday, September 20, 2:30-5:30 pm

**Celebrate the Erie Canal's 200th Anniversary
aboard the Colonial Belle!**



The Colonial Belle is the largest tour boat operating on the historic Erie Canal. The vessel is U.S. Coast Guard certified to carry 149 passengers with a fully accessible enclosed lower deck and an upper open-air deck. The enclosed first deck offers comfortable seating, a full-service bar and two restrooms. The upper deck provides seating, scenic viewing and the experience of "ducking down" for low bridges. Cruises depart from Packett's Landing in Fairport. Located on the southeast side of the canal, the Colonial Belle cruises west to

Pittsford and returns back to Fairport, a 14-16 mile historic narration tour.

Cost: \$39 for seniors 60 +; \$40 for adults under 60

For more info or for payment, contact **Stella Reschke, 607-624-0036** or
stellareschke@gmail.com

Deadline to sign up and attend is July 20th



Children's Ministry



It's July, do you know what that means? Vacation Bible School is just around the corner, and it is shaping up to be a big one! In just a few short weeks our entire church will be filled with the sounds of giggles as children of all ages come together to learn about how God makes us all superheroes in this world!

Please consider volunteering to help out at camp that week. Even if you can only come for a day or two, we could use your help! We have spots available in all areas, both helping with children or not. We have roles helping to prep food in the kitchen, helping with recreation, shepherding children through different activities, and much more! The link to volunteer is available on our website or at the QR code below



This year our 3rd grade-6th grade campers will be doing a service project packing care packages for Bethlehem Family Services. We are asking for donations of **soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, combs/brushes, other personal hygiene products, as well as school supplies (NOT backpacks), folders, pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.** Any questions you can talk to me, or our older craft team leader, Karen Wright. A donation bin will be available in the concourse.

We will also be collecting donations of **non-perishable food items** for the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf throughout camp. Our Jr FLY class will be collecting these items and helping to stock their shelves during camp on Thursday! All donations can be brought to church and put in the food donation bin in between the main doors.

Thank you for helping us teach children from all over the Rochester area that Jesus is the greatest superhero of all! The entire VBS team is so grateful for your prayers and support of this amazing program!

Stephanie Johnson
VBS Director

FLY**Thank you..**

-To the 30 youth who had a blast at COLOR WARS last month (see photos below)! And many thanks to all who invited and brought friends to all of our Sunday Night FLY's this past school year!
-To our amazing Youth Advisors for leading and helping with all of our FLY events this past school year! We thank God for each of you!

**2025 National Youth Gathering on July 16-23!**

Please keep the following FLY Gathering participants in your prayers as they experience the Gathering in New Orleans with 20,000 other Christians!

Cris Alello
Irene Alello
Joe Alello
Katie Aloï
Ava Bernhardt
Rory Bernhardt
Avery Cummings

Jennifer Deutsch
Madison Deutsch
Madelyn Ebbecke
Sarah Ebbecke
Evan Ford
Elizabeth Ford
Natalie Ford

Heather Hoad
Mackenzie Hoad
Hailey Keller
Jolynn Keller
Samantha Lincoln
Brianna Tindall
Dave Young

National Youth Gathering Sponsorships

You can help sponsor a Gathering participant by signing up in the Concourse on July 6. A suggested donation of \$50 may be given at the sign-up table. Sponsors can also drop off their manila envelope care package in the church office by Sunday, July 13. Thank you for sponsoring and supporting our Gathering participants this summer!

Sponsorship Picnic Lunch

All Gathering Sponsors are invited to a delicious Sponsorship Picnic Lunch on Sunday, Aug. 10 @ 12:30 under Faith's Pavilion. After lunch, the Gathering team will be sharing pictures and stories from their trip to New Orleans.

Youth-Led Worship Services – Aug. 10

Our Gathering participants will be leading both worship services on Sunday, Aug. 10. The theme of the services will be the same theme as the Gathering in New Orleans: “Endure,” based on **Hebrews 12:1b-2a**, “*Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.*” The Gathering participants will also be sharing their testimonies of how they experienced God throughout their trip to New Orleans. We hope you can worship with us at 8:30 or 10:45am!

FLY Dunkin’ Sundays are Back!

This summer, FLY is meeting at Dunkin’ (Four Corners) on Sundays from 9:45-10:30am through the end of August. Please bring money for food. Youth Advisors are able to transport youth to and from Dunkin’.

**Note: we won’t meet at Dunkin’ when we have outdoor worship at 10am on June 22, July 13, and Aug. 3.*

Vacation Bible School

Incoming 7th & 8th grade students are invited to attend Faith’s **Vacation Bible School** on July 28-Aug. 1 from 9am-Noon. Our Jr. FLY class will dig into God’s Word, tie-dye t-shirts, play games, serve at a food shelf, and get to know each other better all week! Sign-up online at faithpenfield.org!

High school & college students are invited to volunteer throughout the week at VBS! Sign-up online and talk to Steph Johnson if you have any questions.

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 FLY Intern for 6 months starting this September or next March. Pastor Peter and the Youth Advisors want to provide high school youth leadership opportunities to grow in their God-given gifts and abilities. Additional details can be found in the internship application starting July 1st (posted on the FLY Bulletin Board). Application deadline is July 31st. Talk to Pastor Peter if you have any questions. Or talk to our current interns for their insights: Ava Bernhardt & Madison Deutsch.

Mark Your Calendars...

July 28-Aug. 1 – “Superhero Academy” Vacation Bible School

Aug. 3 – VBS Sunday & FLY Photo Scavenger Hunt

Aug. 10 – Youth-led Worship Services & Sponsorship Picnic

Aug. 31 – 9th Grade Confirmation Project Info Meeting

Sept. 7 – Rally Sunday & Hotdog/Burger FUNdraiser

Sept. 9 – 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation/Orientation Meeting

Sept. 14 – Sunday Night FLY Kick-off

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 FLY webpage at: <https://faithpenfield.org/youth/>

Faith Child Care and Nursery School (FCCNS)

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

Our Themes for this month are U.S.A. (Bike) Week, Camp Week, Sports Week, and Carnival Week

Our Bible Stories for July are Jesus Blesses the Children, Jesus and Zacchaeus, Jesus Calms the Storm, and Jesus Feeds the 5000

The Bible words of the month are Bless, Redemption, Calm, and Care.

This Summer, The Good Knights will be working through a devotional called Sticky Situations 2. They will be using the outdoor chapel for some of their daily devotions.

Our character trait and word of the month are Independence/U.S.A.

FCCNS will be closed on Friday, July 4th. Happy 4th of July!



Freedom Worth Celebrating

As fireworks light up the skies each Fourth of July, we celebrate America's birthday with cookouts, parades, and patriotic songs. But beyond the red, white, and blue decorations lies a deeper meaning: **freedom purchased through sacrifice.**

America's independence came at a great cost. Brave men and women, from the Revolutionary War to today's military, have willingly risked—and often given—their lives so we could live in a land of liberty. Their sacrifice gives us the freedom to speak, to worship, to pursue our dreams.

As people of faith, this idea of sacrifice for freedom resonates on a deeper level. The Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 5:1, *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free."* Jesus Christ made the ultimate sacrifice, laying down His life so that we could be free from sin and death. That's not just freedom for a moment—but eternal freedom.

Both types of freedom—national and spiritual—are precious. One gives us the blessing of living in a free country; the other gives us the blessing of eternal life. And both came at a cost someone else paid. So, as we celebrate Independence Day, may we take time to reflect not just on our country's birth, but on the sacrifices behind our freedom. Let our gratitude inspire us to live not just freely, but faithfully — using our liberty to serve others, speak truth, and love boldly.

This Fourth of July, let the fireworks remind us of the light that shines when freedom is fought for, and the cross reminds us of the freedom that was bought for us all.



Faith Child Care & Nursery School
Year to Date Income & Expenses Compared to Budget
As of 5/31/2025

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Fav/(Unfav) Variance	Prior YTD	Board Approved 2025 Budget
Operating Income					
Fees	396,323	375,004	21,319	396,616	924,830
Interest/Misc./Other	17,576	10,125	7,451	10,721	31,433
Total Operating Income	<u>413,899</u>	<u>385,129</u>	<u>28,770</u>	<u>407,338</u>	<u>956,263</u>
Expenses:					
Program	16,323	18,451	2,128	17,291	47,586
Employee Related	319,237	336,112	16,875	342,861	816,088
Property & Equipment	26,438	26,615	177	24,446	67,840
Supplies	5,918	5,850	(68)	6,015	14,000
Operating Expenses	<u>367,916</u>	<u>387,028</u>	<u>19,112</u>	<u>390,614</u>	<u>945,514</u>
Net Operating Income (Loss)	<u>45,984</u>	<u>(1,899)</u>	<u>47,883</u>	<u>16,724</u>	<u>10,749</u>

End of May Enrollment 76 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!



Faith Lutheran Church
Year to Date Income & Expenses Compared to Budget
5/31/2025

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Fav/(Unfav) Variance	Prior YTD	Voter Approved 2025 Budget
Operating Income					
Envelope Offering/Plate Cash	297,743	311,300	(13,557)	314,885	688,000
FCCNS Facility Cost Sharing	11,667	11,667	0	10,417	28,000
Fund Distribution-Endowment	0	0	0	0	8,000
Interest/Misc./Other	5,581	4,925	656	4,065	12,500
Total Operating Income	314,991	327,892	(12,901)	329,366	736,500
Expenses:					
Education	4,512	7,275	2,763	6,764	20,300
Employee Related	173,708	175,568	1,860	152,860	432,728
Mission & Outreach	19,375	23,508	4,134	16,987	68,800
Music	2,928	3,300	372	2,569	7,675
Other Expense	4,155	4,958	803	2,569	12,750
Property	63,464	66,974	3,510	63,873	153,325
Supplies	11,868	12,935	1,066	11,359	31,295
Operating Expenses	280,010	294,518	14,508	256,981	726,873
Net Operating Income (Loss)	34,980	33,374	1,607	72,385	9,627

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 – Russ Hignett

Vice Chair – Bruce Oaks

Secretary – Nancy Alvut

Treasurer – Beth Bird

Nominating Committee Reps – Karoline Trojjan, Greg Gerbasi, Amanda Ebbecke, Bill Mosko



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.

August Faith Notes Articles due Friday, July 18th and should be directed to our Church Secretary, Kris Cronk (secretary@faithpenfield.org). Thank you!

Members Worshiping in Other Congregations

- Elisabeth Mangerian (6/1/25)

Trinity Lutheran Church, Brewster, MA

Births

- Violet Althea Wood (6/4/25), to parents Christopher & Tori Wood, big brother Lincoln, grandparents Mark & Liz Wood
- Chester Nelson, great-nephew of Valerie Ruoff

Baptisms

- Liam Charles Pries (6/1/25), son of Eric & Carley Pries, sister of McKinley

Called to Glory:

- David Schultz (5/30/25), brother of Pete Schultz
- Ray Alello (6/7/25), uncle of Vince Alello
- Brigitta Lux (6/15/25), wife of Adalbert, 60 year member of Faith
- Leo Aloysius Burke III (6/20/25), brother-in-law of Penny Wheeler, friend to Terry Wheeler, and uncle of Sean Burke

Birthdays

1	Thomas Hanss	11	Reid Hynes	20	Kristen Messner
	Thomas Hutchings	12	Candice Gallina	21	Mildred Bundschuh
2	Jacob Wilson		Barbara Riethmeier		Daisy Mitchell
3	Matthew Bernhardt	14	Heide Zahn	22	Maisey Uhlman
	Isabella Spencer	15	Mason Deutsch		Ryan Wilson
	Michael Steiner		Peter Mangerian	23	Nancy Alvut
4	Kay Gerlach		Mary Schutte		Ruth Behnfeldt
5	Hans Kurzik		Lincoln Wood		Torrence Couture
	Joy Longhenry	16	Sam Hartley		Ray McLean
	Renee Ostberg	17	Savanna Launer	24	Ralph Harstad
6	Kathryn Kurzrock		Diane Van Auken	27	Lisa Harrington
	Elisabeth Vogl		Tim Vogl	28	Mackenzie Hoad
7	Kaitlynn Aloï	18	Barbara Hyde	29	Grant Johnson
8	Stephen Ford		June Leibring		James Pilosi
	Carol Keeler		Yvonne Saner		Janise Pilosi
	Joshua Koles		Stephen Schutt	30	Timothy Gerlach
	Jason Saresky	19	Michael Duckles		Julie Hynes
	Alexandra Spencer		Mary Ann Maschoff		Taylor Saunders-Garrett
9	Jason Gerlach			31	Don Reschke
	Martin Hardisky				
	Owen Launer				



Wedding Anniversaries

1	Jack & Karen Finkle	12	Richard & Sandy Hoffarth
3	Darren & Erica Hernandez	14	Anthony & Chris Loperfido
4	William & Barbara Krenzer	15	James & Kristen Messner
6	Robert & Jane Coryea	18	Walter & Gerri Maurer
	Jon & Jennifer Ottman	21	William & Sara Love
7	Ralph & Beth Harstad	22	Mark & Elizabeth Wood
	John & Carrie Schembri	24	Paul VanHorn & Beth Camann
8	William & Kristin Mosko	26	Stephen & Carrie Ford
10	Patrick & Samy Gerlach	30	Larry & Dianne Longhenry
	Austin & Rebecca Lazzaro		Christopher & Victoria Wood

Prayer For The 4th Of July

Dear God,
Thank you for this day. Thank you for
the freedom we celebrate on the 4th of July.
We ask for your blessings on our
country and our people.





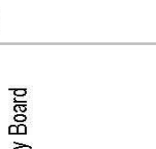







Help our leaders make wise decisions.
Keep our soldiers safe. Give us peace
and unity.

Let us always remember to be kind to
each other, to help when we can, and
to love our neighbors as ourselves.
We give you all the glory and praise.

Amen.



July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1 7:00am Men's Breakfast (George's Restaurant) 10:30am FCCNS Chapel 1:00pm Worship @ The Addison</p>	<p>2 10:00am Church Staff 6:00pm Worship (Pavilion) THRIVE</p>	<p>3 FCCNS Parade </p>	<p>FCCNS Closed Church Office Closed </p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Dunkin FLY Gathering sponsorship table 10:45am Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>7 10:00am Embroidery Guild (CmRm)</p>	<p>8 10:30am FCCNS Chapel 4:00pm Stephen Ministry (CmRm)</p>	<p>9 10:00am Church Staff 6:00pm Worship (Pavilion) THRIVE</p>	<p>10 5:30pm Staff Dinner (Pav) </p>	<p>11 10:00am Keepers of the Cupboard (CmRm) 11:30am SOLA Lunch</p>	<p>12 10:00am Arcieri SOV (Sanc) 11:00am Reception (Aud) 2:00pm Fiddlers Rehearsal (MusicRm)</p>
<p>13 10:00am Combined Worship (Pavilion) Gathering Commissioning</p>	<p>14 1:30pm Prayer Shawl (CmRm)</p>	<p>15 10:30am FCCNS Chapel 5:30pm Baptism Class (Pavilion) 7:00pm FLB Mtg (CmRm)</p>	<p>16 10:00am Church Staff 6:00pm Worship (Pavilion) THRIVE 7:00pm Missions Team Mtg Youth Gathering in New Orleans (YG)</p>	<p>17 9:30am Property Board (CmRm) </p>	<p>18  YG</p>	<p>19 11:00am LIFT Event @ "Kuipers Camp"  YG</p>
<p>20 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Dunkin FLY 10:45am Contemporary Worship 4:00pm Fiddler's Concert (Pav) YG</p>	<p>21 8:00am Joseph Guild 10:00am Flower City Rug Hook Group (CmRm) YG</p>	<p>22 10:30am FCCNS Chapel YG</p>	<p>23 10:00am Church Staff 6:00pm Worship (Pavilion) THRIVE YG</p>	<p>24 </p>	<p>25  YG</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Dunkin FLY 10:45am Contemporary Worship 12:00pm VBS Volunteer Set Up w/ pizza lunch</p>	<p>28 9:00-12:00 VBS </p>	<p>29 9:00-12:00 VBS </p>	<p>30 9:00-12:00 VBS  5:30pm Nucor House 6:00pm Worship (Pavilion) THRIVE</p>	<p>31 9:00-12:00 VBS </p>		

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2576 Browncroft Blvd
Rochester NY 14625-1530

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED