Faith Notes

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



October Blessings are overflowing at Faith!

WEAR RED ON
REFORMATION SUNDAY, OCT 26
THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVES
THROUGH THE LIFE
OF THE FAITHFUL



The Church Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, October 23 and 24, due to a Staff Training Event.

CONNECT * GROW * SERVE

Faith Lutheran Church Faith Child Care and Nursery School

2576 Browncroft Boulevard, Rochester, New York 14625-1530

Website: www.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
Kris Cronk
ext. 10
secretary@faithpenfield.org

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
Kay Gerlach
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FINANCE SUPPORT SPECIALIST
Beth Camann
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BUILDINGS & GROUNDS MANAGER Kurt Finkbeiner ext. 15 building@faithpenfield.org

DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL ARTS Jason Gerlach Ext. 13 livestream@faithpenfield.org

SOUND TECH LEAD
Michael Balentine
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mari-Beth Schembri 381-3970 ext. 21 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 SundaysIn-House and Livestreamed
In-House and Livestreamed
In-House and Livestreamed
In-House and Livestreamed

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



"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus," -2 Timothy 3:14-15.

I remember my Confirmation Sunday on May 19, 2002 at Grace Lutheran Church in Becker, MN. I was nervous that morning. All of us confirmation students had to write and publicly read an essay about our faith in Christ. I remember practicing it the night before

in my basement, as it was the first time I did any public speaking. During the worship service, my friends spoke first, and then it was my turn. I took a deep breath and then shared my faith with people who loved me. My whole family was there, along with the church family who helped raise me in the faith. It was a special moment as I publicly confirmed the faith I was given in my baptism 14 years earlier.

This month at Faith, 7 young students will also be confirming their faith in Christ. They'll be sharing their Faith Art & Faith Statement projects with their families and church family – everyone who loves them and have been praying for them for years! Their Sunday school teachers, Godparents, Youth Advisors, and other role-models in the faith will be listening to their essays and will be grinning from ear-to-ear as they thank the Lord for these wonderful children of God! Confirmation is never a "graduation" from church, but it is a continuation of our faith journey that began in baptism. It is simply confirming that we believe that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior! "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved," Romans 10:9.

The Apostle Paul encourages his "intern" Timothy to "continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed," (2 Tim. 3:14). Our Confirmation students have spent years learning the Catechism and God's Word. They have been taught by parents and leaders at Faith, who, like Timothy's mother and grandmother, have passed on the faith entrusted to them. What an honor to be part of! Confirmation is not the finish line because the journey of life in the Word continues.

As these 7 young Christians take this next step, we as a congregation are encouraged by Paul's words to young Timothy. Whether we were confirmed many decades ago or only recently, the call is the same: "continue in what you have learned." Let's continue to pray for our Confirmands and each other as we share the wisdom of God: that salvation is only found in Christ alone.

And all God's children said, **Amen!**

For August

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 2% favorable variance in envelope giving for the month of August resulting in a year-to-date favorable budget variance of \$24,924 or 6%.

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

	Voter		Variance		
	Approved		from	%	Prior Year
August 2025	Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual
1st Sunday	\$4,000	\$4,310	\$310		\$2,471
2nd Sunday	\$5,000	\$5,281	\$281	6%	\$7,350
3rd Sunday	\$5,000	\$4,293	(\$707)	-14%	\$3,724
4th Sunday	\$4,000	\$4,925	\$925	23%	\$2,612
5th Sunday	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Online Giving	\$21,000	\$20,687	(\$313)	-1%	\$18,858
Festival Giving	\$0	\$100	\$100		\$0
Monthly Total	\$39,000	\$39,596	\$596	2%	\$35,015
Year-to-Date Total	\$445,000	\$469,924	\$24,924	6%	\$441,247

Adult Education

Adult Bible Class Continues

Pastor Peter is leading a Bible class titled, "Making All Things New – the Resurrection of Jesus and the Kingdom of God." In this series we are looking at a key phrase throughout the New Testament: "the Kingdom of God." We'll be studying the relationship between Jesus and His Kingdom and what His Kingdom looks like in the present day. The class will include videos by Rev. Dr. Jeff Kloha.* Bring your Bible and let's dig into God's Word together on Sundays @ 9:45am!



*About Pastor Kloha:

Dean at The Center for Missional & Pastoral Leadership; Associate Pastor at our Savior Lutheran Church in Arlington, VA; former Chief Curatorial Officer of the Museum of the Bible; and former Provost and Professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.



Submit the Names of the Saints on Stars for All Saints Sunday

On All Saints Sunday (Nov. 2nd), our Sanctuary will again be filled with stars that will have names of the Saints Triumphant – those who are in heaven with Jesus. From Oct. 5-26, stars will be available in the Concourse for Faith members to write names of loved ones. *If you wrote names last year, there is no need to write them again since last year's stars were saved. Then, like last year, a crew will hang them throughout the Sanctuary for All Saints Sunday, and it's sure to be a beautiful sight!

Faith Leadership Board

Special Voters Meeting Announcement

The Faith Leadership Board is inviting all Faith members to join us for a **Special Voters Meeting** on **Sunday, October 5 at 12:30pm**. The purpose of this meeting is to present and vote on whether or not Faith begins phase one of the **Mission Driven Development (MDD) proposal** brought forward by the Faith Leadership Board.

What is MDD?

MDD is a multi-phased process that helps congregations and leaders identify what can, can't, and must be done to meet ministry and community needs while sharing the Gospel of Jesus. If approved, Faith would partner with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). An LCEF consultant would guide Faith in creating a comprehensive vision and strategic plan for ministry, campus, and financial resources.

You may join the Special Voters Meeting via Zoom (the link will be shared via congregation-wide email). However, all voting must be done in-person. The full proposal is available in the Concourse. A free-will offering lunch will be provided at noon prior to the meeting. Staffed nursery care will be available in the church nursery.

Faith receives Final Employee Retention Credit Payment for a Total of \$512,616

The ERC is a tax credit to entities for payroll taxes paid during the time period that they were restricted from regular operations and/or experienced a reduction in revenue/donations during the time period of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the efforts of Faith's Finance Team (primarily Kay Gerlach) along with assistance from Paychex, Faith filed for this credit.

Faith is now in receipt of the final Employee Retention Tax Credit payment from the IRS. We had previously announced the receipt of \$344,000 in ERC payments with one more quarter's tax credit still under review. The IRS approved the ERC for this final quarter resulting in an additional ERC payment of \$168,662. This brings the total ERC received by Faith to \$512,616.

Pastor & FLB thank Kay Gerlach for her leadership and countless hours spent in applying for the ERC funds. We also thank past and present Finance Team and FLB members for their support and contributions in determining our eligibility for this grant. We also thank God for our incredible staff and leaders who led our congregation through a period of great uncertainty and restrictions that impacted the way we carried out God's mission.

FLB is under prayerful consideration of how best to utilize these funds to accomplish God's work in the mission of our Church and faith community. The timing of the receipt of these funds along with the consideration of engaging in a strategic plan under the guidance of Mission Driven Development will be discussed with our congregation as we lead up to our October 5th voters meeting. We are thankful for the gifts God has provided and have a duty to plant seeds in God's garden as He calls us to do.

In Soving Loving Memory

Gift to Faith in Loving Memory of Roger Wilder

We have been blessed with the gift of four additional benches for use in Faith's outdoor pavilion. We give thanks to Natalee Wilder and her family for this gift in memory of Roger Wilder. We use these benches for outdoor worship services and many other fellowship and ministry events. FCCNS uses the benches for many of their outdoor program activities and center-wide fellowship events. May these

benches serve to accommodate the growing number of participants that we see taking advantage of this outdoor space to hear the joy and hope of the Gospel message and be a part of our loving Faith community.

Faith Family,

Thank you so very much for your prayers, cards, and love for our family following the passing of our dear Papa. He is home with our Savior Jesus, our sweet Nana, and our precious Isaac. We are all resurrection people in Christ.



-Pastor Peter, Steph, Lucas & Grant Johnson



In order for worship to run smoothly we need participants 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 participants.

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 participants 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)

From the Mission Board

Our Mission Team has completed the matching fund drive to help those impacted by the horrific flooding in Texas. Our congregation members contributed \$4,100 which was matched by our Mission Team resulting in a total contribution of \$8,200 donated to the Lutheran Disaster Response for their relief efforts. Our hearts break for the families who have lost loved ones including children. Thank you for your support and continued prayers for our neighbors in Texas.

We will be hosting a **Dinner for the Veterans at Nucor House** on Wed. October 29th at 5:30. The theme will "**Tailgate Party**"! 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!!





Our Mission Team would like to thank Meredith Tindall and Heather Hoad for leading our Rise Against Hunger event on September 13th where we packaged 30,000 meals for those in need.

Thank you to everyone who contributed financially and/or helped package the meals. God is good!

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child time is here! Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, delivers shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies to reach out to children in communities around the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ. They are shipped to boys and girls who live in areas affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease; and to children living on Native American reservations in the U.S.



This year, using funds from a Thrivent Grant and the Faith Church Mission Team, we are again asking the church members and their families to help fill 100 boxes. The boxes will already have toothbrushes, washcloths, hairbrushes, and combs inside. A list of additional suggested items will be provided.

Shoeboxes will be available to be picked up at church on October 26th and November 2nd and in the church office. The return dates are November 9th and 16th.

You may contact Karen Wright (377-4414) or Laurie Ebbecke (671-7285) for additional information.

Service Projects

Hebrews 10:24-25 "And Let us consider how to stir of one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

Faith is offering 3 churchwide service projects during the education hour throughout the year. The first one is October 26 from 9:45-10:45. By serving together young and old we are teaching our children lessons for life and developing their Christian faith. These are often the memories they will hold on to.



October 26: we will pack CompassioNATE bags for the unhoused.

CompassioNATE care bags: since August 2023, creating and distributing over 600 gifts of love by Barb Klein. Barb and a friend, Cheri, will be here to walk alongside us packing and to share some of their experiences.

Here is a bit about Barb and why she started this mission: Her son Nate struggled with mental health issues, school struggles and substance use disorder for 14 years until it took his life.

One day she was walking in NYC and saw a man with a dirty blanket around him and a sign that said "You don't even see me." A powerful statement. She thought "Far too many times I've looked away and moved past someone in need, my heart breaking, feeling powerless and lamely excusing myself with, You can't help everyone. Then the thought No, I can't help everyone, but I can do what I can." Isn't this something we often say to ourselves?

"Everyone is someone's child. Knowing that any one of these people in need could be my son and remembering that they are someone's child, I now look at people and see their humanity. Not too long after Nate died, I pulled off the highway and noticed a man staggering by the railing, looking as if he might fall over. I stopped, rolled down the window, held out my hand and offered a snack, some money, and a card with Nate's picture, some encouraging messages and local resource numbers on it. I looked this man in the eye, and said, 'This is for you. My son died. I don't want that to happen to you. Here are some numbers and some things for you.' He asked my son's name, I told him, and he kindly offered his prayers for us. I pulled away sobbing, heart breaking open, somehow knowing this was only the beginning."

These bags connect hearts – they are more than the supplies inside them. They offer a moment of connection and have meant as much to those giving as to those receiving. In these times, now more than ever, we need compassion, we need to care for one another, and we need to see the humanity in those who in this moment are less fortunate than we. We need to drop assumptions and offer what we can. I know that those of us involved in the **CompassioNate Care Mission** are filled up by being able to offer one tiny bit of kindness.

Barb and Cheri have items that have been donated for us to bag as well as what the Mission Board will purchase to add to the needed supplies. There will be a table to write cards and pictures to color. Serving together in community reinforces what Jesus has called us to do:

The Bible says in Galatians 6:2 "Carry each other's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

UPCOMING SERVICE PROJECTS:

Thanksgiving Basket collection will begin Nov. 2nd Angel Tree Christmas gift collection will begin Nov. 16th

The Mission Board is looking for others to help continue and improve the long lasting mission of our church.

Please see Pastor Peter, Liz Wood or Chita McKinney if you want to chat about the Mission Board.

Call, text or email!!

Faith Lutheran Church October 2025 Faith Notes

I hope you got a chance to listen to the tunes I mentioned last month, or even better, that you were able to experience them in worship. Sometimes the trickiest part of my job is deciding what new music to introduce and when. There are so many beautiful things that have been released in the past year, and I have quite the backlog.

I don't know about you, but September has been especially busy, and heavy. Today, I would like to share a prayer from *Every Moment Holy*. I follow them on social media to help give some love and light to my feed. The prayer of today hits right on the nose and that is what I will share with you today which



applies to all of us: A Liturgy for Those Flooded by Too Much Information by Douglas McKelvey.

In a world so wired and interconnected, our anxious hearts are pummeled by an endless barrage of troubling news.

We are daily aware of more grief, O Lord, than we can rightly consider,
Of more suffering and scandal that we can respond to,
Of more hostility, hared, horror, and injustice than we can engage with compassion.

But you, O Jesus, are not disquieted by such news of cruelty and terror and war.

You are neither anxious nor overwhelmed.
You carried the full weight of the suffering of a broken world when you hung upon the cross,
And you carry it still.

When the cacophony of universal distress unsettles us, remind us that we are but small and finite creatures.

Never designed to carry the vast abstractions of great burdens, For our arms are too short and our strength is too small. Justice and mercy, healing and redemption, are your great labors.

And yes, it is your good pleasure to accomplish such works through your people, But you have never asked any one of us to undertake more than your grace will enable us to fulfill.

> Guard us then from shutting down our empathy or walling off our hearts Because of the glut of unactionable misery that floods our awareness.

> > You have many children in many places around this globe.

Move each of our hearts to compassionately respond to those needs that intersect our actual lives, That in all places your body might be actively addressing the pain and brokenness of this world, Each of us liberated and empowered by your Spirit to fulfill the small part of your redemptive work Assigned to us.

AMEN!

Goings on at Faith

Men's Breakfast Group

Join us as we start the day together in fellowship!

When: Tuesday, October 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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Our next meeting will be on **Monday, October 13**th at 1:30 in Room 204. 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**, **October 9**th 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



SOLA - Strength of Living Alone



We will meet at 11:30 for lunch on **Friday**, **October 10**th at *George's Restaurant*, 1601 Penfield Rd, Penfield. 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 <a href="mailto:donna-m

We will also be meeting for dinner on **Tuesday**, **October 28**th at 6:00pm at *The Humphrey House*, 1783 Penfield Road, Penfield

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 Community Room on Thursday, October 2nd at 7:00pm for another lively discussion!

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



October L.J.7.T.

THE GENESEE COUNTRY MUSEUM

JOIN LIFT FOR SPOOKY SATURDAY OCTOBER 11 2025 | 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

Located in Monroe County, Mumford, NY 20 miles southwest of Rochester.



The Museum was founded in 1966 with the goal of preserving the architecture of the Genesee Valley region in a recreated historic village. GCV&M is the largest and most comprehensive living history museum in New York State – and the third-largest in the United States. Enjoy the historic village, the John L. Wehle Gallery, and the Genesee Country Nature Center. Learn about rural cemeteries in the 19th-century. Enjoy fall colors and autumnal traditions in the Village. Attend a frighteningly fascinating talk on the history of rural cemeteries in America, visit our new exhibit Everybody's Going to be There! The American Rural Cemetery Movement.

TICKET INFORMATION - PURCHASE ON YOUR OWN

- Tickets went on sale Friday, September 10. Buy online before Thursday, October 9 and save!
- Adults: \$16 online | \$17 onsite and online after October 9. Seniors (62+) and Students (13 18): \$14 online | \$15 onsite and online after October 9. Youth (4 12): \$10 online | \$11 onsite and online after October 9.
- Please have your ticket(s) either printed out OR pulled up on your phone screen and ready for scanning for quick and easy check-in. Tickets may be refunded only up to 7 days prior to the event date and are strictly non-transferable by date, entry time, or program.

MISC. INFO.

- Meet at 10 at the gate. Stay as long as you like. Go at your own pace or stay with the group.
- Parking is free and plentiful! Park in any of the main lots at the front of the Museum. This event is rain or shine. The Museum will only cancel in case of a severe weather emergency. Dress for the predicted weather conditions and wear comfortable footwear for walking. Paths through the Historic Village are made of crushed gravel or bricks and can be uneven.
- Lunch at **The Depot Restaurant (on site)** around noon. Beverages (including beer, wine and cider) and lighter fare (wraps, salads, & sandwiches)

ADDITIONAL REST STOPS

The Freight House Pub - cool off with a craft beverage! **The Flint Hill Store** - The Museum's main gift shop isn't just a place for unique, handcrafted gifts! They also have a variety of historic and modern goodies **D.B. Munger & Co. Confectionery** - offers historic, made-on-site treats

Information and a signup sheet will be in the concourse. Questions: contact Jeanne Kurzik 585-545-1659 or Hans Kurzik at 585-750-9503 or hanskjeanne@gmail.com



Children's Ministry

Thank you to everyone who attended Rally Day! We hope families enjoyed the balloon art, face painting, arts and crafts and fellowship! Thank you to all of the Volunteers who helped out with Rally Day as well!

Children in 3rd grade received the *Hands-On Bible* during Rally Day worship. If your child (age 3-6th grade) has not

received a Bible from us in the past, please contact Shannon Wolf at SundaySchool@faithpenfield.org and she will give you one. All Sunday School children are encouraged to bring their Bible to Sunday School each week. Does your child have reading minutes each week? Consider having them read from their Bible!

Kidz Konnect: 4th-6th Graders are invited to join us for Kidz Konnect which is an opportunity to participate in community service projects. Our first event will be held on Saturday, October 25th from 8am-11am at the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf. Please Register for this event to Shannon Wolf at sundayschool@faithpenfield.org by 10/21.

Kidz Konnect will be collecting canned food items for the Penfield Ecumenical food shelf. Please see posted flyers for needed items. Bins will be located in the Concourse. Please have all donations in by 10/24

Sunday School is offered each week from 9:45-10:40am. If you are interested in volunteering for Sunday School or Kids Time, please contact Shannon Wolf at sundaySchool@faithlenfield.org



Trunk or Treat -

October 26th, 2:00PM at Faith.

Children (and adults) are welcome to wear their costumes and go car to car "trunk or treating" in the parking lot (weather permitting; Trick or Treating will be indoors if inclement weather). Prior to trunk or treating, we will enjoy a magic show by Rich The Magic Man! We encourage Faith members without young children to attend and hand out candy. Trunk decorating is encouraged but not required. If you would like to help out with this event, contact

Shannon Wolf. This event is open to friends, neighbors, relatives, and community members. **We would encourage you to invite at least one family that does not currently attend a church.**

Save the dates:

<u>Annual Gingerbread House Event-</u> Wednesday, December 10th @ 5:45pm in the Faith Auditorium. More details to come.

<u>Christmas Pageant</u> - December 14th during the late service. Rehearsals take place during Sunday School class.

7LY



Thank you..

- -To the all of the youth and adults who attended Sunday Night FLY last month (see photos)! It is so great to enjoy worship, Bible discussions, games, food, and time together with friends!
- -To everyone who volunteered, ate, and supported FLY at our Hotdog & Burger FUNdraiser on Sept. 7!





2025 Jr. FLY Fall Retreat - Oct. 3-5 @ Camp Stella Maris

7th & 8th graders will be enjoying outdoor activities, night games, and Bible lessons at our annual **Jr. FLY Fall Retreat on Oct. 3-5 at Camp Stella Maris!** It's going to be an awesome weekend and a great way to

start our year together! The packing list can be found on the retreat poster. Please be at church ready to go on Friday at 5:30pm and we'll arrive back at church by 9:30am on Sunday.

200th Sunday Night FLY Party! - Oct. 12 @ 7-8:45pm

Since 2012, hundreds of youth have grown, connected, and served alongside friends in our Sunday Night FLY ministry! Come celebrate our 200th Sunday Night FLY on Oct. 12 at 7pm! WEAR WHITE and bring all of your friends to enjoy GLOW GAMES and a GLOW DANCE PARTY! There will be music, food, games, blacklights, prizes, glow sticks, and a ton of FUN! You do not want to miss this!! We thank God for all He continues to do in FLY and in our lives!



Sunday Night FLY - "Scary Stories of the Bible" - Oct. 26 @ 7-8:45pm

Explore some of the Bible's "scary stories" to see how even in the darkest and most frightening moments, God's power, love, and victory in Jesus shine through and we don't have to be afraid! Invite your friends to this fun event which will include large & small group discussions, games, worship, and snacks!

*About Sunday Night FLY (SNFLY):

Youth in grades 7-12 meet on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month from 7-8:45pm in the FLY Room from Sept-June! We worship together, read God's Word, talk in small groups, play large group games, eat lots of food, and more! The nightly topics are always relevant for teens as we grow together in our relationships with God & others. The FLY Café is open from 6:30-9 where youth can purchase candy, soda, t-shirts, and other FLY merch. (Popcorn is always FREE!) Spin the Birthday Wheel for a fun birthday surprise! The Nintendo Switch, air hockey, and foosball games can be played before and after Sunday Night FLY. Friends are always welcome!

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

7th & 8th grade students are journeying through Luther's Small Catechism on Sundays with Pastor Peter and Mark Harstad. All classes are in-person in Room 204. If you miss a class, you can download the PowerPoint presentation online at: <u>faithpenfield.org</u>.

Sunday Morning Sr. FLY Class - Sundays @ 9:45-10:40am

High school students are invited to check out the Sunday Morning Sr. FLY Class this year, as we're connecting Biblical truths to topics that are relevant to you. Join us in the FLY Room this month as we make prayer cards that are designed to help us pray – especially when we don't know what to pray for. You don't want to miss these awesome opportunities to grow in your faith in Jesus with other Sr. FLYers!

October is Confirmation Month at Faith!

On Oct. 5th and 12th, our high school confirmands will be presenting their Faith Art & Faith Statement Projects during worship. Confirmands will be sharing their faith in Christ through an original piece of art and an essay. Their projects will be displayed in the Concourse leading up to Confirmation Sunday on Oct. 19th. They will publicly confirm their baptismal faith that day during the combined worship service at 9:30am. Please pray for these confirmands as they publicly confess their faith in Christ!

Confirmation Presentation Schedule

Oct. 5th

8:30 – Evan Ford 10:45 – Kendyl Mosko

Oct. 12th

8:30 – Avery Cummings & Amelia DuBois 10:45 – Brianna Tindall, Benjamin Resch & Sydney Resch

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS!

We need your college addresses so we can send you cookies next month! Please email your address to Kris Cronk (Faith's Secretary) at: secretary@faithpenfield.org. Thanks!



2026 Group Mission Trip in Detroit, MI

High school & college-age students are invited to our 2026 Group Mission Trip to Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan (near Detroit) on July 11-18, 2026! Join us as we serve God and serve other people through painting, roofing, and other home repair projects!

- -On the way to Michigan, we'll spend a day at Cedar Point Amusement Park!
- -Download the **Info Packet** when you register online or pick it up in the FLY Room.
- -This mission trip cost is approx. \$845. (A lot

of this can be FUNdraised with FLY!)

By Monday, Oct. 27:

- -Register online at faithpenfield.org/resources-forms or use the QR code on this page.
- -Submit a \$100 Commitment Deposit made out to "Faith Lutheran Youth" and drop off in the FLY Registrar's mailbox at Faith.

Pray how you can be involved in this mission trip!



Sunday Morning Youth Roles

- -Youth can serve as: ushers, acolytes, crucifers, greeters, readers, Livestream Producers, nursery assistants, and PowerPoint operators.
- -All youth can sign-up online at SignUpGenius.com for different roles each month. The link is on our church's front-page: faithpenfield.org
- -If you don't see a role on the sign-up sheet that you'd like to serve in, please contact Pastor Peter or Elizabeth Balentine (elizabeth@faithpenfield.org) and we'll help you out!
- -Remember, Jr. FLYers need 15 service hours for Confirmation Class this counts!

Meet our new FLY Interns: Hailey Keller & Mackenzie Hoad!

Hailey and Mackenzie are serving as our new FLY Interns from Sept. 2025 through February 2026! For 6 months, they are planning and leading different FLY activities, mentoring other FLYers, and building their leadership skills in FLY! We are so excited to see how God will continue to work through Hailey and Mackenzie!

*Many thanks to Ava Bernhardt and Madison Deutsch for serving as our FLY Interns the past 6 months!

*FLY Interns are leaders in 10-12th grade, active in FLY, serve alongside our Youth Advisors, and desire to develop their leadership abilities in FLY! *Applications for the March-Aug. 2026 internships will be available this coming January.



Meet our Youth Advisors!

Youth Advisors help mentor students, chaperone trips & events, plan & lead FLY activities, teach Bible classes, serve behind-the-scenes, assist Pastor Peter, and help point others to Jesus! Their phone numbers are in our 2025-26 FLY Brochure (available at church). We thank God for: Cris Alello, Vince Alello, Jennifer Deutsch, Heather Hoad, Steph Johnson, John Keller, Jolynn Keller, Kim Nadritch, McKayla Nolan, Mari-Beth Schembri, and Elizabeth Young.

Online Contact Form/Activity Participation Agreement

Our church's insurance company asks every youth to complete the following online form to participate in FLY activities on our church property this school year. We also included some questions about the type of activities and topics you'd like FLY to cover this coming year. https://faithpenfield.org/resources-forms.

JOIN FLY's Text-based Communication Service!

Sign-up to receive reminders, announcements, and other info about upcoming FLY events right to your phone here: https://www.remind.com/join and join this class: flyouth.

Mark Your Calendars...

Nov. 2 - Faith Bake Sale

Nov. 9 - Jr. FLY Switch Party

Nov. 9 - Sunday Night FLY "Cookies for College Students"

Nov. 23 – Sunday Night FLY "Armor Up"

Nov. 30 & Dec. 7 - FLY Ornament Sale

Dec. 14 - Sunday Night FLY "Christmas Party"

Dec. 21 - Sr. FLY & Young Adult Progressive Dinner

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"

Thank You to everyone who supported our recent **Kittelberger Flower Fundraiser**. Because of you it was a great success. If you are hungry on October 16th, head down to **Bill Gray's** for FCCNS Fall Fundraiser from 4-7. Don't forget to mention FCCNS or pick up a flyer at Faith.

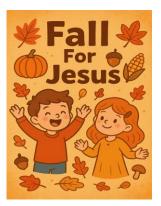
Our themes for October are "Farm" and "Harvest"

The children will also be working on Numbers, The Color Orange, The Circle Shape and Letters C & D

Our Faith Character words for the month will be: Protect, Sea, Law and Food

Our Bible Stories will be: God Protects Moses, Crossing the Red Sea, The Ten Commandments, God Give his People Food

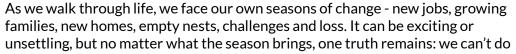
Our Faith Character Trait is Patient.

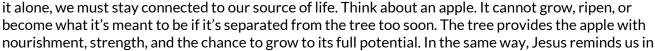


There are a few special activities we will be having in October:

- FCCNS Open House and Pizza Dinner- October 1st 5-7pm
- School Pictures October 8th
- Penfield Schools Closed October 10th and 13th (school age here all day)
- Pumpkin Patch October 14th 2:30pm
- Penfield Fire Department Visit October 22nd 10am
- Trunk or Treat October 26th 2pm
- School Pictures Make Up Day October 30th
- Harvest Festival October 31st

Fall is one of the most beautiful reminders that change is part of God's plan. The leaves transform into vibrant colors, the air becomes crisp, and the harvest is gathered. With each shift, we are reminded that seasons never stay the same—yet in every change, God's hand is steady.







John 15:5, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit." Just like the apple, we cannot grow in faith or bear fruit if we are disconnected from Christ. Life's changes can tempt us to pull away, to rely on our own strength, or to feel like we can handle it alone. But it's in these very seasons that we need to cling even tighter to Him—through prayer, Scripture, worship, and community.

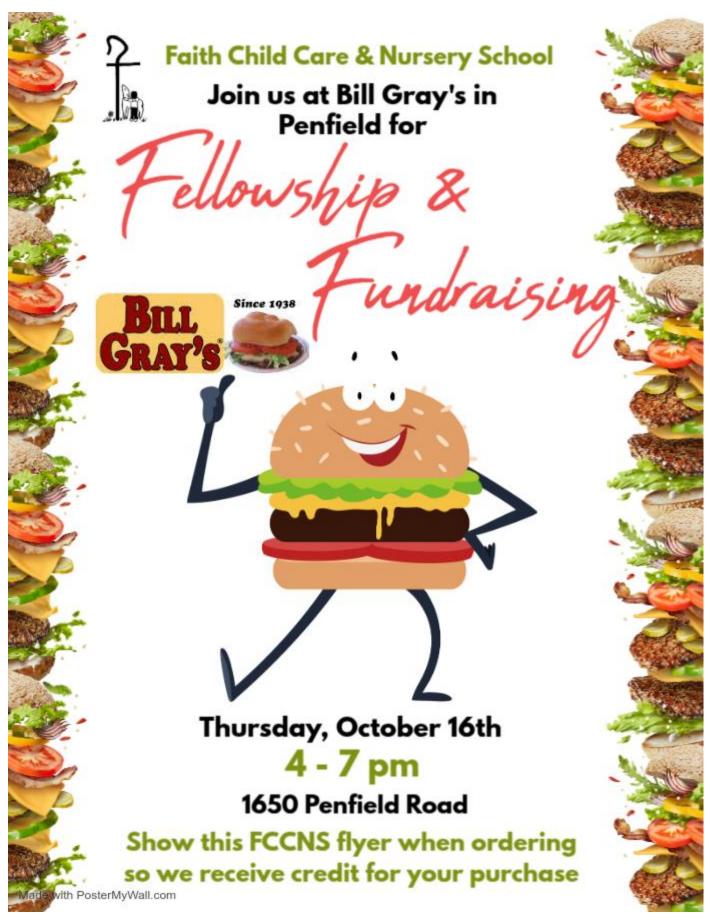
This fall, as you see apples hanging on trees or leaves drifting down, let them remind you: change is natural, but growth comes only when we remain connected to Jesus. No matter what season you're in, stay rooted in Him—and watch how He brings fruit to your life in His perfect timing.



Faith Child Care & Nursery School Year to Date Income & Expenses Compared to Budget As of 8/31/2025

	YTD	YTD	Fav/(Unfav)	Prior	Board Approved
6 (* 1	Actual	Budget	Variance	YTD	2025 Budget
Operating Income					
Fees	628,162	613,340	14,822	636,421	924,830
Interest/Misc./Other	23,768	22,221	1,547	24,097	31,433
Total Operating Income	651,930	635,561	16,369	660,518	956,263
Expenses:					
Program	30,369	32,645	2,276	28,719	47,586
Employee Related	524,034	541,236	17,202	538,905	816,088
Property & Equipment	42,572	44,524	1,952	39,379	67,840
Supplies	10,229	9,300	(929)	8,833	14,000
Operating Expenses	607,204	627,705	20,501	615,836	945,514
	<u>. </u>			9,5	
Net Operating Income (Loss)	44,726	7,856	36,870	44,682	10,749

End of August Enrollment 79 children



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 8/31/2025

	YTD	YTD	Fav/(Unfav)	Prior	Voter Approved
	Actual	Budget	Variance	YTD	2025 Budget
Operating Income					
Envelope Offering	469,924	445,000	24,924	441,247	680,000
Plate Cash	6,626	4,400	2,226	4,495	8,000
FCCNS Facility Cost Sharing	18,667	18,667	0	16,667	28,000
Fund Distribution-Endowment	0	0	0	0	8,000
Interest/Misc./Other	11,979	9,100	2,879	10,245	12,500
Total Operating Income	507,196	477,167	30,029	472,654	736,500
Expenses:					
Education	9,934	16,000	6,066	14,006	20,300
Employee Related	281,568	284,291	2,723	248,386	432,728
Mission & Outreach	41,442	45,233	3,791	44,453	68,800
Music	4,005	5,575	1,570	3,921	7,675
Other Expense	8,038	9,383	1,345	5,981	12,750
Property	106, 162	96,187	(9,975)	96,163	153,325
Supplies	19,116	20,653	1,538	19,763	31,295
Operating Expenses	470,265	477,323	7,058	432,673	726,873
Net Operating Income (Loss)	36,931	(156)	37,087	39,981	9,627
Employee Retention Credit	343,954	0	343,954	0	
ERC Funds Expenses	(6,850)	0	(6,850)	0	
Net Surplus (Deficit)	374,035	(156)	374,191	39,981	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:

Śimply 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 Trojian, 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.

October *Faith Notes* Articles due Friday, September 19th and should be directed to our Church Secretary, Kris Cronk (<u>secretary@faithpenfield.org</u>). Thank you!

Births:

- Caroline Jesslyn Couture (9/7/25), daughter of Veronica & Nik Couture, granddaughter of Robin & Larry Arnone
- Bodie Austin Lazzaro (9/16/25), son of Rebecca & Austin Lazzaro, grandson of Liz & Mark Wood, nephew of Abby & Chris

Baptisms:

- Chelsea McLean (8/31/25), daughter of Ryan & Rebecca McLean

<u>Called to Glory:</u>

- William Gilligan (7/21/25), long-time friend of Ed Lindskoog
- Oscar Lewis (8/17/25), friend of Ed Lindskoog from Scouts
- Joan Moeller (8/27/25), member of Faith for 62 years
- Wayne Scott Imrie (9/2/25), family friend of the Wood family
- Christopher Congilaro (9/7/25), son of Bonnie Millen

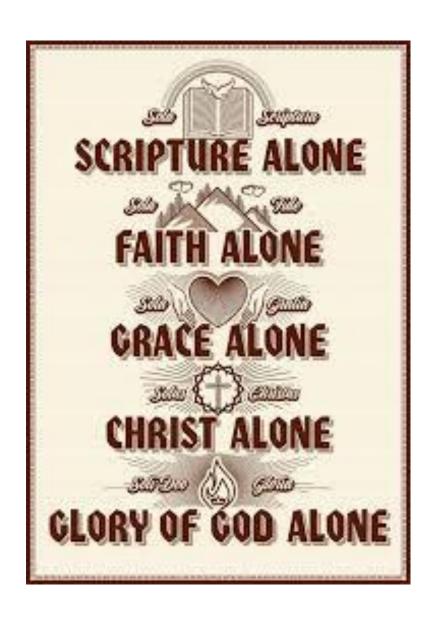
Birthdays

1	Scott Maginn	12	Victoria Freile	22	Matt Kime
2	Madison Aloi	13	Russell Brooks	23	Andrew D'Ambrosio
	Kenneth Kiellach	14	Eric Davis		Tyler Hignett
	Kristen Mason		Abbie Nuijens		John Keller
4	Elizabeth Alvut	15	Calina Hernandez		Leta Mueller
	Emmett Taillie		Julie Maginn	25	Susan Brown
5	William Love		Annika Vogl		Heather Hoad
	Alexander Palmer		Abigail Wood		Linda Pritchard
7	Susan Lentner	16	Martin Launer		Robert Schembri
	Sylvia Pape	17	Jeffrey Aspenleiter	26	Jessica Bittner
8	Alan Fernaays		Dean Muller		Annabelle Weis
9	Clifford Everett	18	Madison Deutsch	27	Laurie Ebbecke
	Janet Miles	20	Margaret Crounse	28	Barbara Krenzer
10	Walter Becker		Amelia DuBois		Mason Schembri
	Hannah Vasilenko		Patrick Saresky		Rae Usinger
	Ian Withall	21	Sean Burke	29	Joan Weise
11	Beth Bird		Joyce Hermanson	30	William Withall
	Sharon Finkbeiner		Robin Arnone		



Wedding Anniversaries

1	Matthew & Lisa Harrington	18	David Malecki & Lisa Hutchings
3	Emory & Mary Ford	20	Douglas & Nancy Alvut
4	Daryl & Christie Pichan		Alan & Charlene Fernaays
6	Todd & Jodianne Natemeier	21	Dominic & Candice Gallina
7	James & Amanda Gerlach		Bruce & Christine Kulp
9	Patrick & Carrie Resch	24	Robert & Janice Schrack
10	Frederick & Kathleen Mason	26	Kenneth Curry & Paula Niger
12	Better Porter & Patrick Sullivan	27	Richard & Linda Demme
17	David & Sandi Banning		



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Saturday	-Y Jr. FLY Fall Refreat @ Camp Stella Maris	1.00pm Fiddlers 1:00pm Fiddlers Rehearsal (MusicRm)	18	25 ad	la.
Friday	3 5.30pm Departure Jr FLY Fall Retreat @ Camp Stella Maris	10 11:30am SOLA Lunch George's Restaurant	17	Church Office Closed 9:00am Staff PCO Training (CmRm)	FCONS Harvest Festival
Thursday	2 7:00 Book Club (CmRm)	9 11:30am Dorcas Group (Rm204)	16 9:30am Property Board (CmRm) 4:00-7 FCCNS Bill Gray's Fundraiser (Penfield Rd) 5:30pm BOE Mtg (CmRm)	Church Office Closed 9:00am Staff PCO Training (CmRm)	30 FCCNS Picture Make-up Day (Rm204)
Wednesday	5:00pm FCCNS Open House	8 8:00am FCCNS Picture Day (Rm204) 10:00am Church Staff 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Music Rm)	15 10:00am Church Staff 10:00am FCCNS Fire Dept Visit (Aud) 5:45pm Girl Scouts (CmRm) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Music Rm)	10:00am Church Staff 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Music Rm)	29 10:00am Church Staff 5:30pm Nucor House 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Music Rm)
Tuesday		7 7:00am Men's Breakfast (Browncroft Diner) 10:00am FLC Bowling Lgue 10:30am FCCNS Chapel 1:00pm Worship @ The Addison	14, 10:00am FLC Bowling Lgue 10:30am FCCNS Chapel 2:30pm FCCNS Pumpkin Patch 4:00pm Stephen Ministry (CmRm)	21 10:00am FLC Bowling Lgue 10:30am FCCNS Chapel 7:00pm FLB Mtg (CmRm)	28 10:00am FLC Bowling Lgue 10:30am FCCNS Chapel 6:00pm SOLA Dinner The Humphrey House
Monday		6 10:00am Embroidery Guild (Rm204) 6:30pm Grief Share (CmRm) 7:00pm Lyric Chorale (Aud)	13 Columbus Day 1:30pm Prayer Shawl (Rm204) 6:30pm Grief Share (CmRm) 7:00pm Lyric Chorale (Aud)	20 8:00am Joseph Guild 10:00am Flower City Rug Hook Group (CmRm) 6:30pm Grief Share (CmRm) 7:00pm Lyric Chorale (Aud) 7:00pm FCCNS Board Mtg (Rm204)	57 6.30pm Grief Share (CmRm) 7.00pm Lyric Chorale (Aud)
Sunday Mon		5.8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Arrival Jr FLY Retreat 9:35am Adult Bible Class Sunday School FLY Parert's Small Group (CmRm) Jr FLY in 204 / Sr FLY in FLY Rm 10:45am Contemporary Worship 12:00pm Lunch (Aud) 12:30pm Special Voter's Mtg 6:00pm Faith Connections (Freitags)	9:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Adult Bible Class 9:45am Adult Bible Class Sunday School Jr FLY in 204 / Sr FLY in FLY Rm 10:45am Contemporary Worship 7:00pm 200th Sunday Night FLY Party	29 Confirmation Sunday 9:30am Combined Worship (Sanc)	26 Reformation Sunday 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Congregation Service Project "Blessing Bags" 10:45am Contemporary Worship Fernaays Baptism 2:00pm Trunk or Treat 7:00pm Sunday Night FLY Scary Stories of the Bible

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 2576 Browncroft Blvd Rochester NY 14625-1530

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED