



# Messenger

Faith Lutheran Church

January—2026

volume 66 . issue 1

a message from senior pastor, Jacob Heine

Over the past couple of months we have looked at having a stable structure as we continue to do the work of living out our Guiding Statement -

{ As a vibrant family of believers, Faith Lutheran shares God's saving grace to equip the next generation. }

We need a stable structure. Four walls. Four corners. Four pillars on which to build and stand.

**Proclaiming Christ      Sharing Grace      Equipping Generations      Extending Mission**

In the months ahead we will take the opportunity to explore a little bit what each of these pillars look like, why they are important, and how they work together with the other pillars. Our activities and programming all finding their basis and grounding in these pillars.

Last month we explored what it means to Proclaim Christ. We noted how this is an important thing for all of God's people to do, not just the paid church staff. Truly, the church staff is here to equip, teach, and show all members how to accomplish this task. But the Word of God goes out to more people because each member of the vibrant family of believers engages in Proclaiming Christ in their daily lives.

### **"Sharing Grace"**

St. Paul's words to us in Ephesians 2 are powerful – *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourself, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8 – 9)* The reminder that our life, work, and even more importantly, our status before God has nothing to do with our works. God has done the work for us. Christ Jesus coming to this world, living a perfect life for us, dying for the payment for our sins, and rising again to give us eternal life in a world that has no end is all God's work for us! This is grace! It isn't our work. It is God's work in Christ Jesus for our benefit.

This is a gift that we do not just keep to ourselves. It is a gift we share with others. *As God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works (Ephesians 2:10)* we naturally and eagerly share this wonderful gift that we have been given. Christ has forgiven you. He has shown you grace. You get to share that grace as you forgive others.

Christ has provided for your needs in His Sacraments – washing you of sin in water and word, feeding you with life giving body and blood through bread and wine. He has shown you grace. You get to share that grace with others as you help those who are struggling with physical needs in their lives and spiritual struggles.

Christ brings His Word to you through Christ proclaimed—through Scripture read and faithfully expounded, through worship songs and hymns lifted in glory. In these moments, He meets you in a real and present way. He has shown you grace, and you are invited to share that grace as you tell others about the vibrant family of believers and all that God has done and provided for you.

I could go on and on, but I hope you see what I am seeing in these short examples. Those that receive grace can't help but share that grace. It is who we are. A vibrant family of believers who share God's saving grace.

As we begin a new year together, what better time to pray that God will show you how to share God's grace, and then act on what He leads you to!

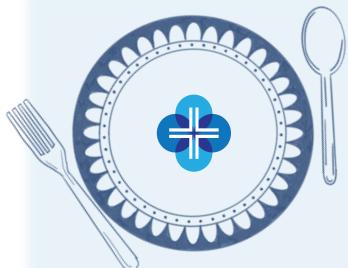
In Christ's Hands,  
Pastor Heine



### IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

WOW Menu & Youth .....	2
Upcoming Events.....	3
Calendar.....	4
Outreach.....	5
LWML.....	6
Event Photos .....	7
Birthdays/Anniversaries.....	8
Thank You.....	9

# .WOW. & .YOUTH.



## Word On Wednesdays

*Dinner served— 5:15-6:00pm  
Classes for all ages—6-7:30pm*

- **Pre-K through 4th grades:** Classes with Activity Stations
- **5th-6th grades:** Bible Study led by Eric Boling & Dave Wodtke
- **7th-8th grades:** Confirmation led by Called Staff
- **9th-12th grades:** Bible Study led by Ray Moran & Justin Campbell
- **Adult Bible Study:** Journeying with Jesus led by Pastor Heine

## **January Dinner Menu**

**1/7:** Breakfast casserole, pancakes, sausage patties, peaches/pears and cupcakes.

**1/14:** Chicken noodle soup, tomato soup, grilled cheese, grapes/strawberries and brownies.

**1/21:** Spaghetti & meatballs, garlic bread, tossed salad and cookies.

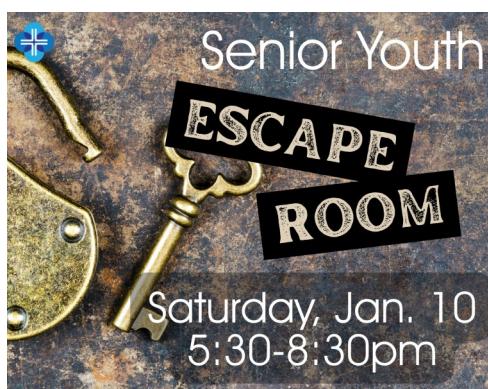
**1/28:** Chicken tenders, tater tots, veggies & dip and Rice Krispie Treats.

## **What is Coffee Fellowship?**

Youth meet downstairs in the kitchen at 8:30am on Sundays they are hosting coffee fellowship. They help set out coffee cups and essentials, rolls and scones, and greet the congregation as they arrive for fellowship prior to Sunday School classes. It is important for youth to participate on these days because all funds raised go toward summer trips. Questions? See DCE Heather McCormick.



Meet at Westridge Lanes on Fri, Jan 9 at 6pm for Junior Youth Bowling night. Bowling lanes paid for by Faith but bring money for snacks and drinks. Youth must be registered to attend through eventbrite.com so book your spot today!



**Senior Youth meet at Faith at 5:30pm for dinner and an Escape Room adventure! They will return to Faith for dessert afterwards.**  
**Register at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) to reserve your spot.**

**The Spring Youth Calendar has been mailed and emailed to all junior and senior youth families as a reminder of upcoming spring activities. The mailing includes the registration form for our All Youth Retreat, taking place March 6-8. Completed registration forms are due by Sun, February 8.**

# EVENTS.

**ASL Classes** 

8 Classes



**Starting Monday, Jan. 5!**  
**Mondays & Wednesdays | 1-2pm**  
**Faith Lutheran (1716 SW Gage)**  
**\*Free to attend, no registration required.\***

Have you ever wanted to learn American Sign Language? Deb & Sara Hale are offering free classes every Monday and Wednesday starting Jan 5 from 1-2pm in the Fellowship Hall.

No registration required

**MURDER MYSTERY DINNER**

**90's RAD PROM GONE BAD**

**TICKETS \$15/EA.**

**FRIDAY, JAN. 23 | 6:30-8:30PM**

Dust off your old 1980s prom attire and join us for an evening of mystery and fellowship! Tickets available from the church office (\$15/each) for our 3rd annual Murder Mystery Dinner Friday, Jan 23 at Faith from 6:30-8:30pm. Italian dinner (lasagna, tossed salad, garlic bread and dessert) served by senior youth. Join us as we work together to solve the mystery of the "80's Rad Prom Gone Bad"!

Childcare provided.

  **FinancialPeace UNIVERSITY**

**Financial Peace**

**9 Week Class**

Beginning Thursday, Jan. 29  
6-7:30pm | Faith Lutheran  
1716 SW Gage Blvd.

Register at [financialpeace.com](http://financialpeace.com) under "Find a Class"!  
Childcare available!

**Quilting**

Join us in making simple quilts every 2nd & 4th Monday.

**Jan 12 & 26**

**9:00am**

**LOCATION**  
**SOUTH BUILDING**

**CARE CARD MAKING**

Help us make care cards **January 14 at 11am**

Location:  
Church  
Rm 206



**November 2025... FLC treasurer update**

- Total donations for the month were \$130,578 and total expenses were \$89,194, resulting in a net positive balance for the month of \$41,384.
- YTD donations total \$1,049,557 and YTD expenses total \$1,068,720, resulting in a net YTD negative balance of (\$19,172).
- Donations for the month were \$37,200 more than 2024 and YTD donations are \$24,047 more than 2024.

# JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship 3:00pm Deaf Worship	29 5:00pm LWML Exec Meeting 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Scouts	30 7:00pm Praise Team rehearsal	31 7:00pm NYE Worship	1 <i>Church office closed</i> New Year's Day	2 9:30am Ethel Kufahl Visitation 11:00am Ethel Kufahl Funeral	3 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club
4 <b>8:00am Traditional Worship</b> <b>9:30am Education Hour</b> <b>10:45am Modern Worship</b> <b>12:15pm Traditional Worship</b> 3:00pm Deaf Worship	5 1:00pm ASL Class 5:30pm Hannah Circle 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Scouts	6 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Spiritual Life	7 10:00am Dee Bowman Visitation 11:00am Dee Bowman Funeral 1:00pm ASL Class 5:15pm WOW Meal <b>6:00pm WOW</b> 7:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal	8 8:00am Scrapbooking 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	9 8:00am Scrapbooking 6:00pm Junior Youth Bowling	10 8:00am Men's Bible Study 8:00am MOST Ministry 9:00am Breakfast Club 5:30pm Senior Youth Escape Room
11 <b>8:00am Traditional Worship</b> <b>9:30am Education Hour</b> <b>10:45am Modern Worship</b> <b>12:15pm Traditional Worship</b>	12 9:00am Quilting 1:00pm ASL Class 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Eve Circle 7:00pm Scouts	13 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm LLC	14 9:00am Ruth Circle 11:00am Care Card Making 1:00pm ASL Class 5:15pm WOW Meal <b>6:00pm WOW</b> 7:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal	15 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	16	17 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club
18 <b>8:00am Traditional Worship</b> <b>9:30am Education Hour</b> <b>10:45am Modern Worship</b> <b>12:15pm Traditional Worship</b> 3:00pm Deaf Worship	19 <i>Church office closed</i> <b>Martin L. King, Jr. Day</b> 1:00pm ASL Class 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Scouts	20 10:00am Bible Study	21 1:00pm ASL Class 1:30pm Deborah Circle 5:15pm WOW Meal <b>6:00pm WOW</b> 7:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal	22 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	23 11:30am Saints Alive 55 6:30pm Murder Mystery Dinner	24 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club
25 <b>8:00am Traditional Worship</b> <b>9:30am Education Hour</b> <b>10:45am Modern Worship</b> <b>12:15pm Traditional Worship</b>	26 9:00am Quilting 1:00pm ASL Class 5:00pm LWML Exec Meeting 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Scouts	27 10:00am Bible Study	28 1:00pm ASL Class 5:15pm WOW Meal <b>6:00pm WOW</b> 7:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal	29 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 6:00pm Financial Peace University 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	30	31 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club

# .COMMUNITY. .OUTREACH.



## COLD WEATHER IS HERE!

Doorstep requests the following gently used items:

- blankets (any size)
- sleeping bags
- gloves & stocking hats
- coats & jackets (all sizes)



## SOUP LINE 2.0 -- DOORSTEP'S UPDATED VERSION OF SOUP LINE

Soup Line 2.0 Fundraiser is a drive-thru pick-up process held at First Christian Church (1880 SW Gage Blvd) during Super Bowl Weekend. Sundays January 11 & 18, Faith's Christian Service Team will have a table in the church lobby taking pre-orders & collecting payments.

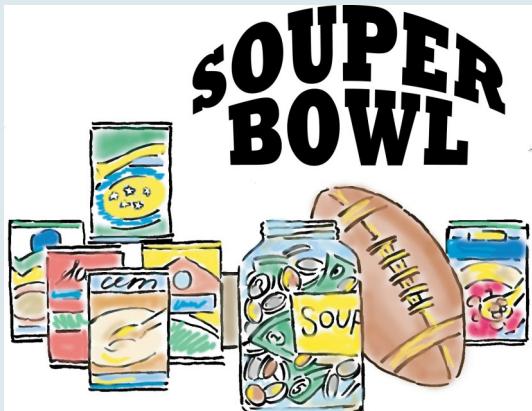
Soup is \$8 each and will be in 12 oz microwave/freezer safe containers with a package of oyster crackers. Available soup options are loaded baked potato, chili, and vegetable soup. Pick-up dates are:

Saturday, February 7 | 5-7pm  
Sunday, February 8 | 1-4pm

For more information, visit the table in the lobby before or after worship, January 11 & 18.



**DOORSTEP**  
Neighbors Helping Neighbors



### Souper Bowl Soup Collection

In the weeks leading up to the Super Bowl on February 8, Doorstep invites member congregations to collect soup of all varieties, along with crackers, to help stock pantry shelves. A hot bowl of soup is always a welcome meal on a cold day.

Please remember Doorstep when you are grocery shopping and consider picking up a few cans of soup for our neighbors in need. Donations may be brought to church and placed in the Doorstep collection box.

Last year, Faith members' Souper Bowl donations totaled nearly 900 pounds of soup and crackers—thank you for your generosity!



## Meals on Wheels Volunteer Opportunity

Looking for a meaningful way to serve the Topeka community with just **one hour a month**? Meals on Wheels might be the perfect fit for you. Delivering a hot meal also provides a few minutes of friendly conversation—an interaction that can make a lasting difference.

Faith currently supports five routes each month with seven teams (11 volunteers), and we have an opening on the **fourth Friday of each month**, beginning January 23. To learn more, contact **Rebecca Gutierrez** at 785-207-6894 or email at [rebsg@cox.net](mailto:rebsg@cox.net)



Hope, Comfort and Support



Lutheran Women in Mission

*Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise  
to the rock of our  
salvation!*  
Psalm 95:1

**DEBORAH CIRCLE** met Wednesday, Dec 17 at the home of Janet Zima for fellowship and to celebrate the birth of Christ. Their next meeting is **Wednesday, Jan 21 at 1:30pm** at Faith for devotions and fellowship. Caryn Sheets will host, and devotions will be led by Brenda Perry.

**EVE CIRCLE** did not meet in December due to illness and schedule conflicts. Their next meeting is **Monday, Jan 12 at 7:00pm** at Faith. Rebecca Gutierrez will host, and Patrice Thomsen will present the topic.

**HANNAH CIRCLE** will meet **Monday, Jan 5** at 5:30pm.

**RUTH CIRCLE** will meet **Wednesday, Jan 14 at 9:00am** at church. Pam Boetcher and Shirley Martin will host, and Elaine Eggold will present the topic.

**Note: Ruth Circle will now begin at 9:00am because the Care Card Making group meets every other Wednesday at 11:00am in the same room. This change ensures the room is available when both groups meet on the same day.**

**THE MISSION GRANT** we are now collecting mites for is **Lutheran Braille Workers, Yucaipa, CA** for Kansas District Mission Grant #9. We are appreciative of your support the past year and pray it continues in the coming year.

# Prayer Chain

To be added, please contact:

Karlea Landman  
785-640-2707

Barb Reed  
785-220-4363

During difficult times, it can be a great comfort to know that others are praying for us. Are you in need of prayer for yourself, your family, or your friends? Would you like to pray for those who are requesting support? Prayer requests may be shared by phone or email with Karlea or Barb. To be included on the prayer chain, simply email Karlea to have your address added to the list. All that is required is a willingness to pray for the requests that are shared. You may also email.

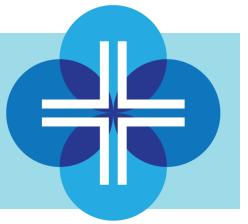
Karlea: karlea3517@gmail.com

Barb: bjr400475@gmail.com

*"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."*  
--James 5:16



# HAPPENING AT FAITH...



Zoo Lights



Christmas Concert



Ignite Christmas Program



Pastor Heine & the Grinch



A  
Savior  
Is  
Born



Scott Hudson	1	Mary Allen	9	Clayton Schultz	16
Becky Lee	1	Izzy Bennett	9	Pr Jacob Heine	17
August Martell	1	Brandon Decker	9	Hank Hudson	17
David McGuigan	1	Owen Reetz	10	Grant Jefferson	17
Nancy Kinney	2	Colleen Lippe	11	Elijah McCormick	18
Kevin Maxwell	2	Katie Mize	11	Brian Boyer	19
Jane Schaible	2	Kevin Robertson	11	Tim Lyle	19
Karen Elsen	3	Karen Brumleve	12	Lacey Greene	20
Rachel Smelter	3	Kelly Erb	12	Tracy Leonard	20
Natalie Hogg	5	Sophia McCallister	12	Sidney Ray	20
Merrilee Kuhn	5	Judy Moss	12	Denise Grotbeck	21
Tom Pufahl	5	Barbara Reed	12	Kathy Thomason	21
Susan Thowe	5	Paul Roberts	12	Amanda Crawford	22
Melissa Wills	5	Aidyn Schultz	12	Carrie Moran	22
Rowen Bennett	6	Paige Heine	13	Carolyn Schneider	24
Joy Lester	6	Alisa Kalinka	13	Mack Johnston	25
Aaron Dunton	7	Kayson Neddermeyer	13	Brenda Perry	25
Ethan Dunton	7	Savanna Schmidt	13	Phil Theimer	25
Scott Grotbeck	7	Mallory Bertels	14	Alissa Gaps	26
Corry Hogg	7	Lori Hennessey	14	JoAnn Schick	26
Scott Leonard	7	Brevan Long	15	Michael White	26
Patty Hanser	8	Ashley McCallister	15	Hannah Wilson	26
Madaline Jefferson	8	Karen Pickett	15	Jim Bradshaw	27
Judie Mlynek	8	Nels Huesers	16	Josie Marchant	27
Paxton Moran	8	Phyllis Ladner	16	Judy Thompson	27

### Official Acts

#### Funerals

12/22 Thomas Welch

12/27 Dick Laird

#### Wedding

12/28 Robert Vincent & Jessica Powell



Kent & Debbie Anschutz	3
Darrell & Kim Savage	4
Tim & Marian Bolz	14
Bob & Muriel Bartlow	20
Ernie & Connie Gerhardt	20
Glen & Ellen Berry	25
Corry & Michael Hogg	29

**NOTE: January and February** Sunday school offerings will support Lutheran Bible Translators, Michael & Naomi Ersland.

## Christmas Eve Worship



FAITH  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

1716 SW Gage Blvd  
Topeka, Kansas 66604



785.272.4214  
office@faithlutherantopeka.com

[FaithLutheranTopeka.com](http://FaithLutheranTopeka.com)

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### STAFF

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**Debbie Siegel**, bookkeeper  
[Bookkeeper@faithlutherantopeka.com](mailto:Bookkeeper@faithlutherantopeka.com)

**Pat Schultz**, RN, parish nurse  
[TiredMomPLS@aol.com](mailto:TiredMomPLS@aol.com)

**Jessica Atchison**, SS & WOW superintendent  
[JessicaKidMin@gmail.com](mailto:JessicaKidMin@gmail.com)

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Fri 8:00am to 4:30pm (closed 12-1pm)

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00\* - Traditional Worship

10:45\* - Contemporary Worship

12:15 - Traditional Worship

\* also live-streamed on Facebook, YouTube

### EDUCATION

Sundays for all ages: 9:30am

WOW Wednesdays: 5:15-7:30pm (Sept-Apr)



We would like to thank our Faith friends for the many prayers, kind words of condolence, hugs and cards throughout Dean's illness and after his death. Special thanks to Rod Bleich and Doug Helmke who brought Dean Communion throughout the time he was homebound and in the nursing home. Special thanks also to Norm and Clarene Wilms for their weekly visits while Dean was homebound.  
-Dean Landman's Family

We here at **Sunshine Connection** sincerely thank you daily in our prayers for all you do for us. It matters to me and the board, volunteers, staff and members in so many ways. We are so grateful for your continued support and wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
-Marilyn Murphy, the Director of Sunshine Connection