



Messenger

. Faith Lutheran Church .

December—2025

volume 65 . issue 12

a message from senior pastor, Jacob Heine

Last month we 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. Our activities and programming all finding their basis and grounding in these pillars.

"Proclaiming Christ"

Just as Christ is the Chief Cornerstone, He is the place we must start. And it is natural and right that we start with Christ. He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Our place as members of the vibrant family of believers is because he has lived, died, and rose again for us. This is the message we have every week in worship, in sermons, in Bible Study and in our activities together.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

This is a message that we cannot keep to ourselves. That is the heart of the Christian Church, we are witnesses of Christ's work to "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). We are disciples who go make more disciples (Matthew 28). We proclaim the saving message of Jesus Christ in order to equip the next generation of believers.

It isn't just the Church Staff that is tasked with proclaiming the message of Christ's forgiveness, grace, and life. This is something that every member does. We all are part of this as we give witness in our daily lives to what Christ has done for us, as we invite our family, friends, and neighbors to events and worship, and as we share our faith with others. We take what we have learned as members of Faith Lutheran Church and proclaim that to others. It is something every one of us is given to do by God.

This Christmas season is a great time to practice this pillar. Who can you invite to join you at a Faith Lutheran event and Christmas Worship Service?

In Christ's Hands,
Pastor Heine

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.WOW. & .YOUTH.



Word On Wednesdays

Advent Meal— 5:15-6:45pm

Advent Worship--5 & 7pm

Classes for all ages—6-7pm

- **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

Advent Menu

12/3: Baked chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, dinner rolls & cupcakes.

12/10: Baked potato/waffle fries bar with homemade pulled pork & cake.

12/17: Lasagna, salad, garlic bread & brownies.

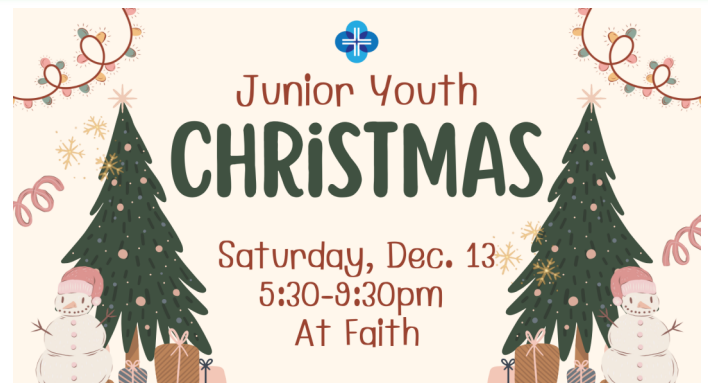
All Advent meals prepared by our junior and senior youth families. Funds raised go toward summer trips.

NOTE: There will be **NO WOW Wed, 12/24 and 12/31.**

Join us when WOW resumes on Wed, January 7!



Junior youth will host coffee fellowship on **Sunday, Dec. 7 at 8:30am**. All proceeds go toward youth trips.



Junior youth will have their annual Christmas event on **Saturday, Dec. 13 from 5:30-9:30pm**. Christmas activities include dinner, making gingerbread houses and a White Elephant gift exchange (\$10 value).



Senior youth will host coffee fellowship on **Sunday, Dec. 21 at 8:30am**. Proceeds go toward youth trips.

Senior youth will be caroling to the homebound on **Sunday, Dec. 21 from 3-8pm**. Kids will meet at Faith at 3pm to begin caroling and have dinner along the way. Afterwards, they will have their annual White Elephant gift exchange (\$10 value) at Faith.

**Children's
Sunday
Service**

Children ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to participate in our Children's Sunday Worship service on **Sunday, Dec 14 at 10:45am**. Similar to last year, students will be partnered with adult volunteers to help lead worship including: music, ushering, reading, sound/tech booth, and more. Parents can register online or talk to DCE Heather.

.EVENTS.



ANNUAL
Zoo Lights

SUNDAY, DEC. 7
5:30 - 8:30 PM

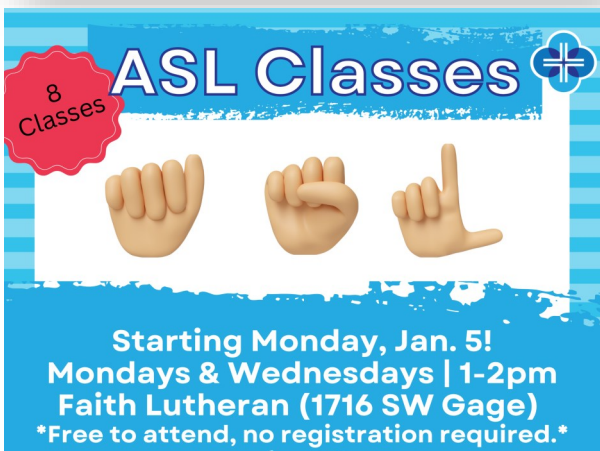
Join us in the Kay McFarland building for drinks & snacks! Tickets available from the church office (\$10/adults, \$7/children & seniors, children under 2 free).

Christmas devotional and singing in the Kay McFarland building at 6pm. Come, warm up in between wandering through the beautiful Christmas light displays. Tickets available from the church office.



Voter's Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 7
9:30am
Fellowship Hall
Budget & LLC Elections



ASL Classes

8 Classes

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



CHRISTMAS

Choir . Bells . Praise Team .
+ Ignite Hybrid School Band

CONCERT

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 14
4:00PM

Faith's Annual Christmas Concert is Sunday, December 14 at 4pm. Come see the beautifully decorated sanctuary and hear Christmas song selections performed by our choir, Hallelujah Ringers, praise team, and a special performance this year by Ignite middle school band ensemble. Refreshments served following the concert.



MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

TICKETS \$15/EA.

80'S
RAD PROM GONE BAD

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 starting Sunday, Dec 7 for our annual Murder Mystery Dinner happening Friday, Jan 23 from 6:30-8:30pm at Faith. Join us for a night of food, fun and fellowship as we embark together to solve the mystery of the **"80's Rad Prom Gone Bad"**! Childcare provided.



DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Advent 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship	1 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Scouts	2 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Spiritual Life 7:00pm Praise Team rehearsal	3 11:00am Care Card Making 5:00pm Advent Worship 5:15pm Advent Meal 6:00pm WOW 7:00pm Advent Worship	4 8:00am Scrapbooking 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	5 8:00am Scrapbooking	6 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club
7 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 9:30am Voters Meeting 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship 3:00pm Deaf Worship 5:30pm Zoo Lights	8 9:00am Quilting 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Eve Circle 7:00pm Scouts	9 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm LLC 7:00pm Praise Team rehearsal	10 9:30am Ruth Circle 5:00pm Advent Worship 5:15pm Advent Meal 6:00pm WOW 7:00pm Advent Worship	11 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	12 8:00am Poinsettia Order Delivery AM	13 8:00am MOST Ministry 8:30am Concert rehearsal 9:00am Breakfast Club 5:30pm Junior Youth Christmas
14 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern worship w/Kids worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship 12:30pm Hannah Circle Christmas Social 4:00pm Christmas Concert	15 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Scouts	16 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Praise Team rehearsal	17 11:00am Care Card Making 1:00pm Deborah Circle 5:00pm Advent Worship 5:15pm Advent Meal 6:00pm WOW 7:00pm Advent Worship	18 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	19	20 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club
21 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship 3:00pm Senior Youth Caroling to the Homebound	22 9:00am Quilting 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Scouts	23 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Praise Team rehearsal	24 <i>Office closes at noon</i> 4:00pm Christmas Eve Family Worship 6:00pm Christmas Eve Modern Worship 8:30pm Christmas Eve Traditional Worship	25 Christmas Day <i>Church office closed</i> 9:30am Christmas Day Worship	26 <i>Church office closed</i>	27 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club
28 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship	29 5:00pm LWML Exec Meeting 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Scouts	30 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Praise Team rehearsal	31 11:00am Care Card Making 7:00pm NYE Worship	1 <i>Church office closed</i> New Year's Day	2	3 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club

.COMMUNITY. .OUTREACH.



DOORSTEP CHRISTMAS PROJECT



Doorstep has received the names of 260 families from the Topeka Christmas Bureau.

With the support of local organizations and churches, they provide each household Christmas gifts, food, blankets, hygiene items, household items, school supplies, and gift cards. Volunteers are busy organizing gifts and preparing holiday food packages for each family.

If you would like to **volunteer** for this event, helpers are needed for the distribution days of December 16-18.

Both physical and non-physical jobs are available for three hour shifts. Please feel free to reach out to Doorstep's Director, Lisa Cain at 785-357-5341, to sign up.

Monetary donations given this month will help cover costs for gift cards and food. You can mail your donation to Doorstep 1119 SW 10th St, Topeka, KS 66604 or visit doorsteptopeka.org to donate online.

Donations may be dropped off at Doorstep 9-2pm through December 12.

We need the following NEW items:

Household Items:

- ♦ Sauce Pans, Dutch Ovens & Crockpots
- ♦ Kitchen Utensil Sets
- ♦ Kitchen Food Storage Sets
- ♦ Laundry Baskets & Cleaning Supplies (glass, all-purpose, toilet, micro-towels, dish soap)
- ♦ Queen & King Sheet Sets (darker colors)



Toys, Teens & Gifts:

- ♦ Learning Toys ex: Vtech
- ♦ Basketballs & Footballs
- ♦ Teen Books ~ Fantasies
- ♦ Family Board Games
- ♦ Dominoes & Card Games
- ♦ Canvases (Value Packs)
- ♦ Paints & Brushes
- ♦ Ear Buds & Headphones

Women's Gifts:

- ♦ Candles
- ♦ Nail Sets
- ♦ Body Care Sets (Body Wash, Lotion, Spray)

Men's Gifts:

- ♦ Wallets
- ♦ Tool Sets
- ♦ Body Care Sets (Axe, Adidas, Old Spice)

Money for Gift Cards & Food

Important Doorstep Note:

Because Doorstep needs space for their Christmas Adoption, used clothing/ household items will not be accepted after **Wednesday, 11/26.**

(You may continue to leave all donations in the Doorstep bin located just off the church lobby. Clothing, bedding and household items will be held until **January 5**, when the normal schedule resumes.)

Sunshine Connection Reminder

Thank you for the wonderful response received for our Sunshine Connection friends. If you picked up a Christmas ornament from the tree in the lobby, please return it with a \$35 Walmart Gift Card by

Sunday, Dec 7.



*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 has changed the day and time of their monthly meetings. They will now meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 1:00pm at the church or at the hostess choice location. This month, they will meet **Wednesday, Dec 17** at the home of Janet Zima. Connie Tarvin will present the topic.

EVE CIRCLE will meet **Monday, Dec 8** at 7:00pm at the home of Gisela Bartling. Karen Tardiff will lead bible study.

HANNAH CIRCLE will have their annual Christmas social on **Sunday, Dec 14** at 12:30pm.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet **Wednesday, Dec 10** at church at 9:30am, to clean the kitchen and assemble boxes of cookies for homebound members.

PRAYER CHAIN INFORMATION

Ruth Circle maintains the Prayer Chain for our congregation. In times of difficulty, it is comforting to know that others are lifting us up in prayer. Are you in need of prayers from your brothers and sisters in Christ here at Faith—for yourself, your family, or your friends? Would you like to pray for those who are seeking support?

Karlea Landman serves as our Prayer Chain Coordinator, with assistance from Barb Reed. Prayer requests may be made to them by email or phone. Karlea then sends an email to everyone on the Prayer Chain list, inviting them to pray over the requests received.

If you would like to be part of the Prayer Chain, simply email Karlea to have your address added to the list and to commit to praying for all requests that are shared.

“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

To make a request for prayer or add your name to the prayer chain, please contact one of the following ladies:

Karlea Landman: karlea@edlnklgen.com or 785-640-2707.

Barb Reed: bjr400475@gmail.com or 785-220-4363.

THE MISSION GRANT for Concordia Academy-Wichita will soon be approved for payment. Thank you to all those who contributed to Mite collections helping funding this grant.

Thank you



Dr. Tim Bolz - beef donation
Reser's - mashed potato donation
FLC Quilters - quilt donations



Thank you to all who purchased noodle dinner tickets
and/or quilt raffle chances or made a flat donation

Faith Lutheran's Women in Mission deeply appreciate your support of the 2025 Noodle Dinner, which raised **over \$3,000** to be distributed to the LeadaChild ministry; the Bridge, a nonprofit whose mission is to empower Topeka children to become servant leaders through long-term mentoring relationships; and to KansaSEED, an LCMS deaf ministry.

We also extend our gratitude to the quilters who devoted their time and talents to create 140 quilts that were distributed to Orphan Grain Train (100), and to Topeka Rescue Mission (15), Doorstep (15), and Sleep in Heavenly Peace (10).

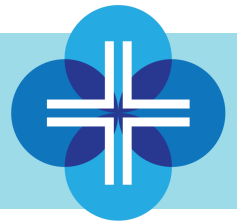
Winners of the 2025 Quilt Raffle

Larry Sheets; Barb Bleich; Karen Peterson;
and Debra Taylor.

October 2025... FLC treasurer update

- Total donations for the month were \$72,446 and total expenses were \$104,018, resulting in a net negative balance for the month of (\$31,572).
- YTD donations total \$918,970 and YTD expenses total \$979,536, resulting in a net YTD negative balance of (\$60,566).
- Donations for the month were (\$7,760) less than 2024 and YTD donations are (\$13,152) less than 2024.

HAPPENING AT FAITH...



Operation Christmas Child



LWML Noodle Dinner Prep



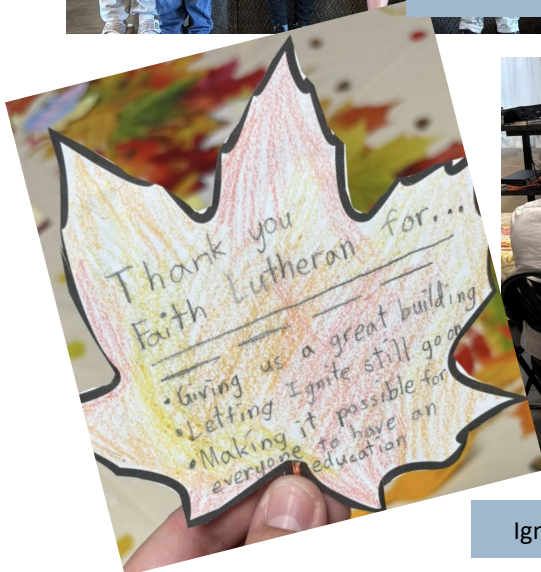
KS District Youth Gathering 2025



Jr Youth Retreat Fall 2025



LWML Chicken Prep



Ignite Hybrid School Thanksgiving Lunch



Grief at Christmas...

a message from our Parish Nurse Pat Schultz, RN

"Tears do not reflect a lack of faith. Tears are a gift from God to wash away the deep pain of loss." Rev 21:4

We all understand that Christmas—and many other major holidays or days of celebration—can feel especially heavy for those who are grieving. The familiar rhythms of the season often stir deep emotions. The **three C's of grief** offer a gentle framework for navigating these tender moments.

The Three C's of Grief

1) Choose – Make intentional choices about how you spend your time and whom you spend it with. Choose what feels most comfortable, supportive, and safe for you. Remember: it's perfectly okay to follow your usual Christmas traditions, and it's equally okay to make different choices this year.

2) Connect – Connection provides support, validation, and a sense of belonging. Stay in touch with others, especially during difficult times such as birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays. Even small moments of connection can bring comfort.

3) Communicate – Be honest with yourself and others about what you're experiencing and what you need. Clear communication allows those who care about you to offer meaningful support. You can also express your emotions in other ways—through music, art, or writing—whether you choose to share them or keep them private.



Blue Christmas Worship Service

A **Blue Christmas** worship service will be held on **Sunday, December 7, at 3:00 p.m.** at **Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**, 3625 SW Wanamaker Road. This service of *Healing and Hope* is designed for anyone hurting emotionally or spiritually during the holiday season.

The service will include music, scripture readings, meditation, anointing, Holy Communion, and prayer. Stephen Ministers—trained to provide one-on-one Christian care—and a comfort dog will also be available for support. **All are welcome.**

Christmas Worship Schedule

12|24 Christmas Eve Services...

- 4:00pm - Family-friendly worship with familiar carols/hymns led by keyboard & song leader.
- 6:00pm - Modern Christmas worship with carols/songs led by our praise team & band.
- 8:30pm - Traditional Christmas worship with organ & choir.

Holiday Services Continue...

- Christmas Day | 9:30am - A traditional festival service of celebration.
- New Year's Eve | 7:00pm - A reflective service.





December

BIRTHDAYS

Alyssa Maxwell	2	Ella Campbell	19	Carol Kaufman	27
Matthew Bleich	4	Zach Snethen	19	Steve Franken	28
Fern Buckmeier	5	Connie Crowder	20	Josh Mahon	28
Nadene Albrecht	6	Avary Domme	20	Brandon Saunders	28
Brecken Brassel	7	Vestanna McGuigan	20	Thomas Welch	28
Daniel Lehman	9	Koty Mize	20	Dawson Durkes	29
Lindsey Guffey	10	Brooke Rush	20	John Holter	29
Justin Campbell	11	Norma Haley	21	Kali Poe	29
Dillon Johnston	11	Betty Schwant	21	Oliver Snethen	29
Brenda Reynolds	11	Ron Kufahl	22	Caroline Wertzberger	29
Pat Schmidt	11	Cindy McCormick	22	Eileen Wertzberger	29
Arlene Turrentine	11	Grace Morlock	22	Linda Wulfschuhle	29
Robert Abbott	12	Susan Rollenhagen	22	Eric Boling	30
Robert Carlson	12	Robert Vincent	22	Bryson Hale	30
Jacob Pera	12	Joe Zima	22	Brent McGuigan	30
Brad Grotbeck	13	Gisela Bartling	23	Chris Meyer	31
Preston Moran	12	Barb Bleich	25	Kelley Richardson	31
Christopher Wells	15	Joshua Landman	25	Gary Robinson	31
Erik Meyer	16	Pam Boetcher	26	Janet Zima	31
Dan Stiers	16	Michael Domingo	26		
Taylor Reinert	18	Melissa Gateley	26		



December

ANNIVERSARIES

Official Acts

Transfer In

10/28 Jacob & Cassie Pera, Jackson, JoJo and Jacie
from St. Paul Lutheran Church in Clay Center

Transfer Out

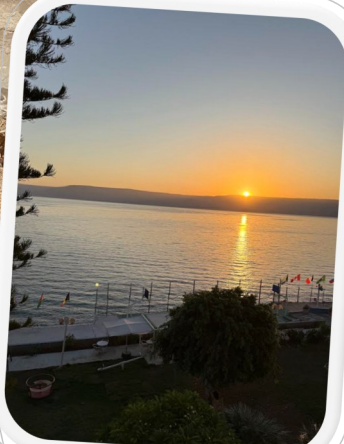
11/11 Nathan Leonard
to Trinity Lutheran Downtown in Orlando, FL

Funeral

11/21 Dean Landman

Tom & Deborah Pufahl	10
Brett & Cindy Hamilton	20
Ron & Carol Olson	28
Betsy & Bob Thompson	28
Juli & Keith Mazachek	29
Meridee & Eirik Westjord	29
Amber & Michael Long	31

Israel Highlights



**FAITH
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CHURCH**

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Jessica Atchison, SS & WOW superintendent
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)