



Messenger

Faith Lutheran Church

February—2026

volume 66 . issue 2

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.

In December, we explored what it means to *Proclaim Christ*. We noted how this is important 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.

Last month, we talked about how valuable grace is and our opportunities to share that grace with each other. Just as God has shown you great grace in Jesus Christ, forgiving all your sins and bringing you into relationship with Him, so you also get to share that grace with others. Forgiving those who are part of the vibrant family of believers, and those who are not part of the family yet.

"Equipping Generations"

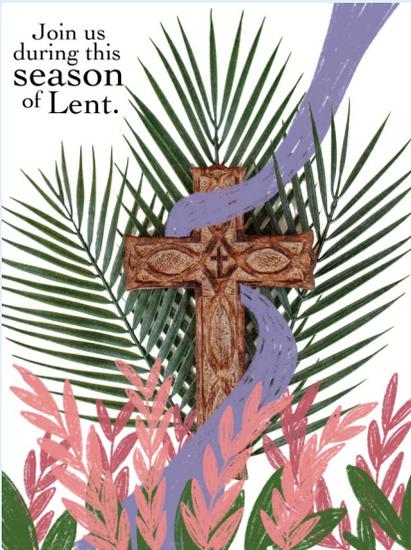
It is an often-made statement – "The youth are the church of tomorrow."

This is, however, a completely and totally false statement. At baptism each of us is made a part of the church, the vibrant family of believers. This means that regardless of age, from the infant to the elderly, we are each a part of the church today. Right now. Fully members of the vibrant family of believers. That means that those of us that have been part of this vibrant family of believers has an important job to do. We must equip those that have less experience to participate in the ministry with us. We do those so that when the time comes when we can no longer participate in the ministry there are others ready to take up the baton and run with it. But we also do this because right now we are called to work together with those of every generation. Those who are younger and older working together, growing together, and sharing together as the vibrant body of believers.

King David reminds us of this important work for all of us when he writes: *"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts."* (Psalm 145:4) And Saint Paul gives us God's word for the work of ministry: *"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."* (Ephesians 4:11 – 12) God cares about us handing down the faith and equipping others to work together in ministry and the church. It is a reason we as a congregation exist.

So who can you invite to learn and grow alongside you? Who of another generation can you invite to sit with you at worship or Bible Class? Where can you volunteer so that you can pass on your skills, knowledge, and experience to another? The church grows now, and continues into the future because the vibrant family of believers shares God's saving grace to equip the next generation.

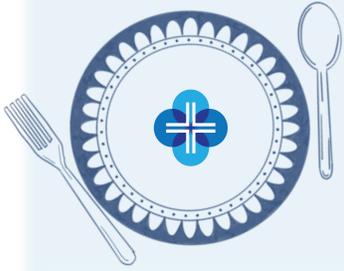
In Christ's Hands,
Pastor Heine



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.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

February Dinner Menu

- 2/4:** Taco bar and sopapilla cheesecake
- 2/11:** Chicken & rice casserole, dinner rolls, fruit and cheesecake
- 2/18: Ash Wednesday Services (No WOW Classes)**
Meal 5:30-6:45 lasagna, tossed salad, bread & cupcakes
- 2/25:** Baked chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, dinner rolls and cookies
- *NOTE: Lenten meals - 5:15-6:45pm... WOW Classes 6-7pm**

First Communion Class

Wednesdays in Lent
6-7pm

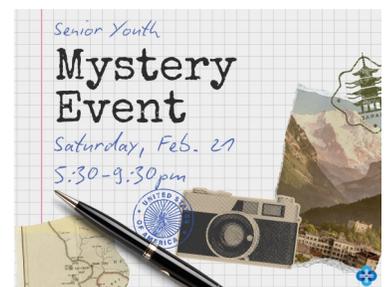
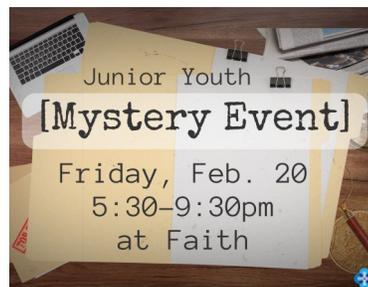
Beginning
Wednesday, Feb 25
for all 5th grade
students!

First Communion Classes begin Wednesday, Feb 25 at 6pm downstairs in the Parlor for our 5th grade students. Parents and mentors are invited to join us at each class. Talk to DCE Heather with questions.

*Students receive their First Communion April 2
Maundy-Thursday service, 7pm.*

Junior Youth Coffee Fellowship

Sunday, Feb. 1
8:30am



Senior Youth Coffee Fellowship

Sunday, Feb. 15
8:30am

ALL YOUTH RETREAT

Registration forms are due by Sunday, February 15!
Paper copies can be picked up in the church office!

ALL YOUTH RETREAT

March 6-8

Camp Wood YMCA

Registration is OPEN to students 6th-12th grade. Deposit of \$75 and all forms due February 15. Reserve your spot today!

.LENT INFORMATION.



Ash Wednesday
WORSHIP
FEBRUARY 18
12PM . 5PM . 7PM
DINNER SERVED 5:30-6:45PM

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion offered at all three services.

****Offering for Ash Wednesday services will go to the Kansas District Church Worker Recruitment Grant****



Lenten Services
Wednesdays
5pm & 7pm
Feb 25 - Mar 25
Dinner served
5:15-6:45pm

Lenten Services begin Wednesday, Feb 25 at 5:00 & 7:00pm. WOW Class times are shortened to an hour, 6-7pm.

Lenten meals served 5:15-6:45pm.



SERVED 5:15-6:45PM
LENTEN MEALS

2/25: Lasagna, salad, garlic bread, cupcakes

3/4: Ham, potatoes/gravy, green beans, rolls, cake

3/11: Taco bar and sopapilla cheesecake

3/18: 6th Annual chili cook-off

3/25: Baked potato/waffle fries, pork, veggies and ranch and apple crisp



SAVE THE DATE
Easter Eggstravaganza

Saturday, April 4 | 11am - 1pm

"On the Green"

EASTER EGG HUNT, INFLATABLES, GAMES, LUNCH AND MORE --- ALL FREE!

Holy Week services & info coming soon!

2026 LLC Members

Ray Moran, **president**
Blake Ramsey, **vice president**
Tim Owen, **treasurer**
Julie Haverkamp, **secretary**
David Schwartz, **head of spiritual life**



Justin Campbell, **member at large**
Jessica Domme, **member at large**
Nannette McGuigan, **member at large**
Kevin Robertson, **member at large**
Mark Zillinger, **member at large**

upcoming events. & info.

Faith's 6th Annual Chili Cook-Off

Wednesday, March 18
5:30-6:45pm
Enter your chili to win the coveted Chili Cook-Off Trophy!



Chili entries must be at Faith no later than 5:15pm -- dinner begins at 5:30. Try multiple chilis and vote for your favorite! Scan the QR code or register [HERE](#)

SIGN UP TODAY FOR A SMALL GROUP

Jesus modeled a whole life and even told us how to follow Him in HIS OWN WORDS (the red letters found in many Bibles). The best way to follow Jesus is simply to follow the words of Jesus. *Red Letter Challenge* eliminates the fluff and has helped thousands of people grow closer to God through daily devotions in only 40 days.

A 40 DAY LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE



LENT SMALL GROUP STUDY

BOOKS AVAILABLE NOW!

The Red Letter Challenge is part of our Sunday Sermon Series during Lent. Books are \$10 each, suggested donation. Stop by the Welcome Center in the lobby or talk to Pastor Jeff for more information on how to join or lead a small group.



Come one, come all, to Family Camp at Camp Lutherhoma!

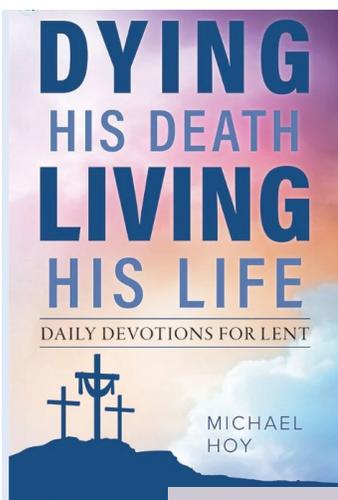
Households of all sizes are invited to join us for a week of family camp on **June 28-July 2**.

Programming begins the evening of Sunday, June 28 and concludes the evening of Thursday, July 2. Children 5 and under attend FREE!

Scan the QR code or register [HERE](#)

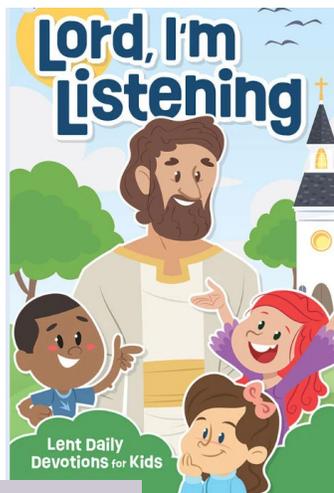
Can't make it the whole week?

No problem! Just register for the day(s) you can attend. Payment is per person, per day.



FREE Lenten Daily Devotion booklet for adults.

FREE Lenten Daily Devotion booklet for kids.



AVAILABLE NOW IN THE CHURCH LOBBY!



february

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship 3:00pm Deaf Worship	2 5:30pm Hannah Circle 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Scouts	3 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Spiritual Life	4 9:00am LWML Zone Banner Workday 5:15pm WOW Meal 6:00pm WOW 7:30pm Praise Team	5 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 6:00pm Financial Peace University 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	6	7 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club
8 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship	9 9:00am Quilting 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Eve Circle 7:00pm Scouts	10 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm LLC	11 9:00am Ruth Circle 5:15pm WOW Meal 6:00pm WOW 7:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal	12 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 6:00pm Financial Peace University 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	13	14 Valentine's Day 8:00am MOST Ministry 9:00am Breakfast Club
15 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship	16 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Scouts	17 10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Deborah Circle	18 Ash Wednesday 12:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship 5:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship 5:30pm Lenten Meal 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship	19 8:00am Scrapbooking 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 6:00pm Financial Peace University 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	20 8:00am Scrapbooking 5:30pm Junior Youth Mystery Event	21 7:30am LFAC Fiber Arts Workshop 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club 5:30pm Senior Youth Mystery Event
22 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship	23 9:00am Quilting 5:00pm LWML Exec Meeting 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Scouts	24 10:00am Bible Study	25 5:00pm Lenten Worship 5:15pm Lenten Meal 6:00pm WOW 7:00pm Lenten Worship	26 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 6:00pm Financial Peace University 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	27	28 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club 9:00am LWML Cleaning the Sanctuary

HEALING *ourselves and others through* FIBER ARTS



Saturday, Feb 21 . 8:15 - Noon

FREE WORKSHOP at FAITH

To register, email:

srthowe@gmail.com

This past year we have been hearing how we as individuals and as a group are **hurting**. We are hurting for a number of reasons: because we have physical difficulties, because we have relationship difficulties with family members or friends, because as a family we are under a lot of stress, because we as a country are facing a lot of uncertainty, and so much more.

We have talents, and can use these talents to learn something new, or to help others around us. Our brain needs movement, just like our body does.

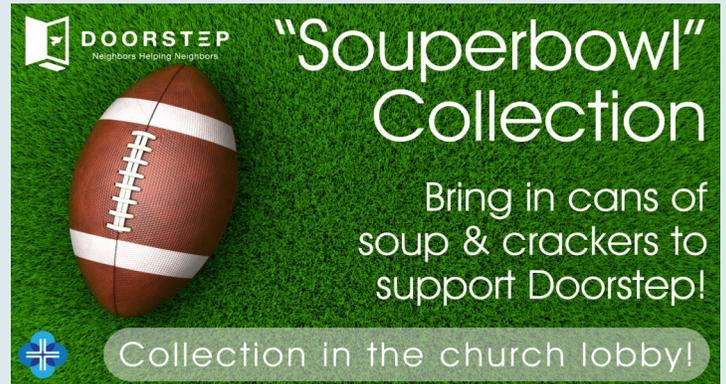
"Learning keeps you young. Stagnation keeps you old."

We have put together a FREE workshop, open to everyone, where we can learn something new. We can also learn of ways that we can help those around us with what we've learned.

Our speaker for this event is **Melanie Hutchinson**, who has been a small group presenter for two of our previous workshops. We have heard a bit of her backstory, and will hear more of how:

"God's grace changed me to be able to do what I've done and have a good life." - Melanie Hutchinson

Join us for this free event and enjoy a morning of fellowship and arts. Coffee, tea, and refreshments provided throughout. More information about the sessions can be found [HERE](#) or visit our website: lutheranfineartstopeka.org



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!



DOORSTEP UPDATE



Last year, Doorstep distributed food to **3,094 households (7,771 individuals)**. A food order for a family provides a week's worth of food and is available once every two months.

In 2025, Faith Lutheran Church donated **4,212 pounds** of food to help stock the food pantry! Thank you for your donations and continued support.

CURRENT CLOTHING NEEDS:

- ⇒ men's & women's underwear (all sizes)
- ⇒ men's jeans (size 32, 34, 36, 46-48)
- ⇒ men's t-shirts (all sizes)
- ⇒ men's & women's pjs (all sizes)
- ⇒ men's sweatpants & sweatshirts (all sizes)
- ⇒ boys jeans, sweatpants & sweatshirts (all sizes)
- ⇒ girls & teens jeans & leggings (all sizes)
- ⇒ girls shirts & tops (all sizes)



*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 will meet **Tuesday, Feb 17** at 3:00pm to clean the kitchen.

EVE CIRCLE will meet **Monday, Feb 9** at 7:00pm at Faith. Dottie Pinter will host, and Jessica Atchison will present the topic.

HANNAH CIRCLE will meet **Monday, Feb 2** at 5:30pm in the LWML room at church. Julie Haverkamp will provide devotion and snacks.

RUTH CIRCLE had eight ladies present at their January meeting. They will meet **Wednesday, Feb 11** at 9:00am at church. Elaine Eggold and Karlea Landman will host, and Barb Bowers will present the topic.

LWML MITE BOX -- Mites are being collected for **Lutheran Braille Workers, Yucaipa, CA** for Kansas District Mission Grant #9 of \$6,000. We appreciate your continued support.

BEAR FRUIT THAT WILL LAST
JOHN 15:16

TOPEKA ZONE

FEB 4 & MARCH 4 | 9:00AM-2:30PM

Faith's LWML is hosting two come-and-go workdays in the Fellowship Hall to complete the Topeka Zone banner. All are welcome to come and help.

LWML SANCTUARY CLEANING

SATURDAY, FEB 28 | 9:00AM - NOON

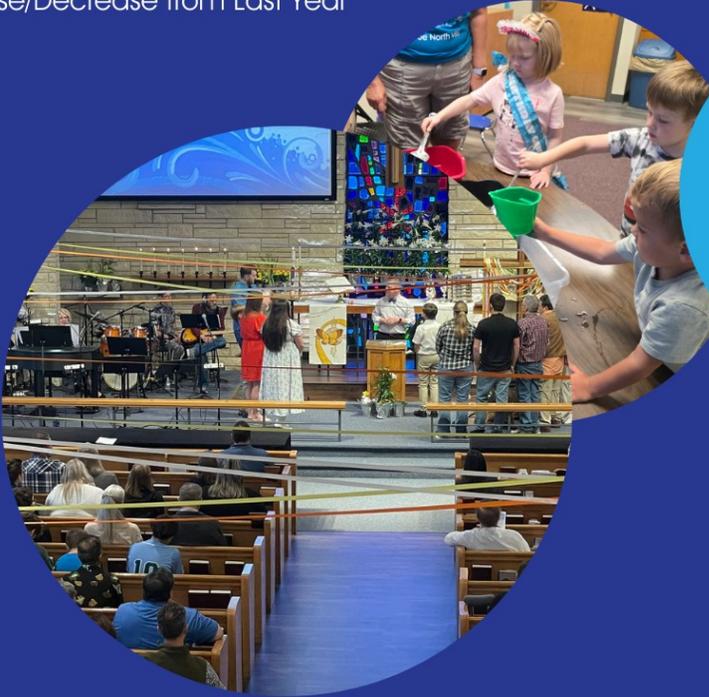
Members are encouraged to come help clean the sanctuary. Feel free to bring tools and supplies if you would like. Extra handheld vacuums, stepladders and extension cords are always appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE

WOMEN'S RETREAT

MARCH 28TH 10AM-2PM

*Increase/Decrease from Last Year



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

389 (+12)*

EDUCATION ATTENDANCE

166 (+11)*

ANNUAL GIVING

\$1,282,785 (-\$19,748)*

HIGHLIGHTS

BAPTISMS: 14
ADULT CONFIRMATIONS: 2
PROFESSIONS OF FAITH: 1
TRANSFERS IN: 19
TRANSFER OUT (OTHER LCMS): 7
MEMBER DEATHS: 11

FAITH LUTHERAN

2025 Year-End Recap

Shawnee County Lutheran Education Foundation

2709 SW 29th Street, Suite 101,

Topeka KS 66614

Marlene Shellenberger, Director

LutheranEdFoundation@outlook.com

January 1, 2026

Announcement:

Dissolution of Topeka Lutheran School Foundation Inc. and Establishment of Shawnee County Lutheran Education Foundation Inc.

Dissolution of Topeka Lutheran School Foundation Inc. The Topeka Lutheran School Foundation (TLS/F) Board of Directors held its final meeting on December 15, 2025, to approve distribution of restricted Foundation funds and approve dissolution of the TLS/F. The final Board action was to move to adopt the Dissolution Resolution effective December 15, 2025; motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Establishment of new Lutheran Education Foundation. The first Board of Directors meeting for the Shawnee County Lutheran Education Foundation Inc. was held on December 15, 2025. The new Lutheran Education Foundation will provide financial resources to those individuals who, after their scholarship application is approved and criteria is met, enroll in a LCMS Concordia University or Seminary with the intent to become a called church worker and serve in a LCMS congregation. Financial assistance for partial educational loan repayment will also be available to those called workers already serving in a Shawnee County LCMS congregation. The Foundation may also provide financial support to children and youth programs within the LCMS congregations in Shawnee County. The Shawnee County Lutheran Education Foundation has been determined by the IRS to be tax-exempt under Section 501 (c)(3) and is registered with the Kansas Secretary of State's Office as a not-for-profit corporation. Additional information will be distributed at a later date.

December 2025... FLC treasurer update



For the month of December

Total General Fund donations	127,394
Operating Expenses (excluding net rental property income)	<u>105,747</u>
Net Balance for the month	21,647

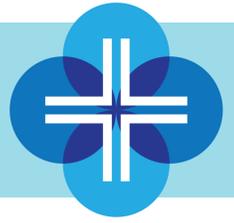
2025 Year-To-Date

Total General Fund Donations	1,176,942
Operating Expenses (excluding net rental property income)	<u>1,174,466</u>
Net YTD Balance	2,476

General Fund Donations

Current month compared to the prior year - Over (Under)	(3,992)
YTD compared to the prior year - Over (Under)	20,055

HAPPENING AT FAITH...



Pr Martin's 10th Ordination Celebration



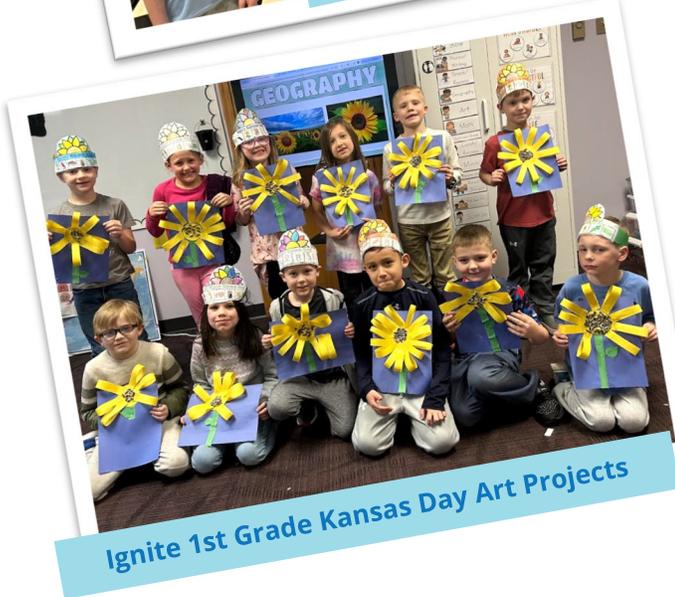
Sr Youth Escape Room



Jr Youth Group Bowling



Pr Jeff's SMP Graduation
Concordia Seminary, St Louis



Ignite 1st Grade Kansas Day Art Projects



80's Prom Murder Mystery Dinner





David Knowland	1
Kim Knowland	1
Kerstin Martell	1
Kay Logan	2
Tyler Banion	3
Addy Houghtaling	3
Carol Olson	3
Jacie Pera	3
Chrissy Reetz	3
Jessica Domme	4

Bill Theis	6
Patrick Van Genderen	7
Andrea Van Genderen	8
Ryder Bazil	9
Nevaeh Garcia	9
Joan Reynolds	9
Caylen McCoy	10
Don Schultz	10
Drew Bradshaw	11
Jesse Thacker	11
Eddie Fowler	12
Morgan Shughart	12
Adrienne Burdick	13
Allyson Harris	13
Keeya Thompson	14
Don Signor	15
Izzy Moran	16
Jasmin Wills	16
Tim Bolz	17
Paul Bowers	17
Beth Helmke	17
Jay North	17

Anna Obdyke	17
Ellen Berry	18
Lori Franken	20
Jan Williams	20
Nolan Gaps	21
Ashley Watson	21
Cash Guffey	22
Anika Jennings	22
Joyce Johnson	23
Chris Kalinka	23
Jesse Ray	24
Ethan Martrell	25
Oaklynn Schafer	25
Jane Schepmann	25
Waylon Clemons	26
Weston Henley	27
Hudson Nelson	27
Emily Clemons	28
David Wodtke	28
Nick Jefferson	29

Sunday School Offerings for 2026

Jan/Feb	Lutheran Bible Translators (Erslund family)
Mar/April	Faith Deaf Ministry/KansaSEED
May/June	LCMS Disaster Relief
July/August	Doorstep
Sept/Oct	LeadAChild
Nov/Dec	Sunshine Connection

Faith Lutheran Church Official Acts

Funerals

1/2	Ethel Kufahl
1/7	Dee Bowman



Felicia & Richard Goins	3
Kenlon & Jennifer Johannes	12
Larry & Jolene Saunders	13
Todd & Donna Reinert	14
Julie & Bill Haverkamp	21
Gabe & Kristen O'Shea	28

Thank You

A Word of Thanks -- I was deeply honored by the celebration held during the fellowship hour for the ten-year anniversary of my ordination. As I said that morning, Faith has been a spiritual home for me and my family; where brothers and sisters have joined hands with us and raised me up to serve. Paul said it best, "We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thes.1:2-3.

My deep appreciation to the LWML ladies for hosting and for all of your many cards, thoughtful words, and presence that morning.

Thanks be to God!
Pastor Martin

Dear Members at Faith,

Thank you so much for your words, prayers and compassion during such a difficult time. I am so grateful for your support and kindness at the loss of Dick. Thank you for everything.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Linda Laird & Family



THANK YOU

FROM
THE CHURCH
STAFF

Thank you so much for the wonderful gifts & goodies throughout the Christmas season. We are truly thankful to be part of such a caring and generous congregation. Your acts of kindness are a beautiful reflection of Christ's love.

~Your FLC Staff



FAITH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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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)