

# NEWS AND NOTES

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**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given for the glory of God.


**CHURCH COUNCIL** will meet TODAY at 12:30 PM.

**THIS WEEK – FAITHFUL SERVANTS** will meet on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The presentation will be by Richard Crabtree who will be discussing railroad history. Hosts for January are Wil and Diane Meyer and Wally and Betty Ostrom.

**VOTERS' MEETING** There will be a regularly scheduled voters' meeting on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> after the late service. Hamburgers, chips & assorted ice cream treats will be provided by the Fellowship Board.

**RECOMMITMENT CARDS** If you still need to return your recommitment card that was mailed to you, please drop them in the silver box on the Welcome Desk in the narthex on the south end.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** 2024 Offering Envelopes are available in your mailbox near the church office. If you did not receive envelopes and would like to, please contact Kevin Wuench or the church office.

 **MISSOURI DISTRICT NEWS:** We are so excited for our upcoming E2 Conferences! There are five conferences, designed to be at a location where you or a group from your congregation could easily travel for the day. Presented by Missouri District staff and leaders from your area, sessions provide support and training for congregations and ministries. All (lay people and church workers) are invited, and there's no cost to attend. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.. Light refreshments and coffee will be provided. Visit us online to register at a location near you: <https://mo.lcms.org/e2-conference-equip-encourage/>

**2024 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE** Did you know you can donate altar flowers to honor or remember a loved one or to celebrate a special event? If you would like to donate flowers, please mark your name in the 'Altar Flower Calendar' in the narthex on the wall near the leadership mailboxes. Cost is \$40 and you can make your check out to Faith Lutheran and note "altar flowers" and place it in the offering basket. Thank you!

**LUTHERAN WITNESS SUBSCRIPTIONS** are up for renewal. If you would like to start or renew your subscription, please contact the church office or leave a note in the church office mailbox by Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. There are no forms. The cost for an annual membership is \$20.65.

**PASTOR DAVE AND JAN BENSON THANK ALL OF YOU** for the cards and gifts they received from you at Christmas. Jan also thanks you for the birthday greetings she received. It's a blessing and a privilege to serve with you all here at Faith Lutheran Church.

**PIES FOR SALE** The LWML have both cherry and apple pies available for \$10 each.

**FAITH'S 11 AM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE IS LIVESTREAMED!** Links to both our Facebook page and our YouTube channel can be found on our church website ([www.flc-s.org](http://www.flc-s.org)).

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**WOMEN OF FAITH BIBLE STUDY TOMORROW** This group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Gathering Room. They are currently studying “Meant for Good: A Study of Joseph” by Donna Snow. They will next meet on Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**THE CASE FOR CHRISTMAS** Christmas may be over, but its message is relevant to us the whole year round. Join us this January in going through Lee Strobel's, *The Case for Christmas: Evidence for the Identity of Jesus*: a four-week video-based Bible study that "will invite you to look beyond the familiar traditions of the season, challenge you to examine the evidence for yourself, and consider why Christmas really matters." This Bible study will be facilitated by Cody Jeffries in the Gathering Room across from the Contemporary Worship area from January 7<sup>th</sup> through January 28<sup>th</sup>.

**SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH STUDY** Harold Tscherny leads this study for 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade students on Sunday mornings during the education hour. It is held in classroom FC-4 (the game room).

**THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS** Pastor Jerry Markel leads a Bible class on Thursday mornings at 9 AM. This class meets in the Fellowship Hall. For the most up-to-date schedule, please check the church calendar at [www.flc-s.org](http://www.flc-s.org). The calendar can be found under the “Activities” tab in the “Calendar” section.

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL** meets each week at 9:45 AM in the Peters Family Life Center, rooms 1 & 2.

**YOUTH CONFIRMATION** is on Sunday evenings from 6:30 to 8 PM. Classes will resume in January.

**INKLINGS IS AN ONLINE BOOK CLUB** This book club is held by Zoom on Tuesdays, starting at 8:30 pm. Anyone interested and available to participate can contact either Pastor Dave Benson or Cody Jeffries for more information. They will be reading **Galcia: The Daughter of the Bi-Soul Stave** by Cody R. Jeffries. This book is available on Amazon in paperback or digitally.

# COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH

**HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS BANQUET PLANNING MEETING** Lutherans for Life is beginning to prepare for our bi-annual Healthy Relationship banquet. All middle schoolers will receive an invitation for an evening of new friendships, good food, learning and fun but to make this happen, plans must first be made. We invite you to join us on **January 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 at Trinity Family Center** for an initial planning meeting for this important endeavor as we encourage our young people in healthy aspects of dating and Christian connections. *And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19*

**CROSSLINES FOOD PANTRY THIS WEEK** Faith Lutheran is signed up to volunteer at Crosslines every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Shifts can be split: 8:30 – 11:15 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please contact Kim DeLuce with questions, or to schedule the time you can help out with this incredible organization. The next volunteer opportunity will be on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>.

**SPRINGFIELD LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE** You are invited to attend an open house for Springfield Lutheran School (SLS). The open house will be held on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m. No registration is required. Join us and take a campus tour, see our program information, and meet our teachers and staff. SLS serves children from preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and offers a Christ-centered and personalized educational experience. For more information, visit [www.slssaints.org](http://www.slssaints.org) or call 417.883.5717. SLS is located at 2852 S. Dayton Ave. in Springfield and is attached to Redeemer Lutheran Church.

**LUTHERAN STUDENT CENTER SPRING MEAL SIGN UP** The 2024 Spring Semester is almost here. The LSC could really use your help with providing a meal for their Tuesday Night Prayer & Praise. They usually have around 20-25 students per week. Meals will need to be dropped off between 5:00 & 5:45 PM. To sign up to provide a meal, scan the QR code or visit their link at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F4EA4AD2CA1F94-46449725-spring>



**SEW ON AND SEW FORTH NEWS** If you would like to help with completing quilts, we work on projects on Thursdays at 10:00 AM. If you can thread a needle and tie a knot, we can use your beautiful hands. These quilts can be taken home and tacked while you watch TV or listen to an audio book.

**LUTHERAN FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES** is still in desperate need of diapers (size 3 and up), wipes, diaper cream, tearless baby shampoo, and baby lotion. Can you help? We have a basket for baby supplies in the narthex. Thank you!

## **INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY – FIND OTHER MEMBERS**

See someone you don't know at church or want to call or write them? The online church directory is available to all members who have an email address on file with the church office and can be found at <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/> or through the Instant Church Directory app for smartphones. It is easy to find an address or phone number of another member or even help you put a name to a face. Once logged into the app, select the "Families" tab where you can browse or search for members. If you need driving directions, the app will connect to Google maps and tell you how to get to another member's home.

**Fiscal Year Stewardship Report 1/1/24 - 12/31/24**

**January 7, 2024**

<u>Discipleship</u>			<u>Returning God's Gifts</u>	
Communicant:	151		<b>1.9%</b> of the 52 Sundays in 2023	Plate offerings and tithes:
Baptized:	170	(E-Tithe) Direct Deposit		\$300.00
		Total Gifts Last Week:		<b>\$7,496.00</b>
<u>Attendance</u>			<i>Weekly financial needs 2024</i>	\$4,846
Sun. 8:30 AM Svc.	60		<b>ABUNDANCE Last Week</b>	<b>\$2,650</b>
Sun. 11:00 AM Svc.	35		<b>ABUNDANCE for Year</b>	<b>\$2,650</b>
Online	5			
<b>Total in Person:</b>	<b>95</b>			

**Stewardship in Time and Talents  
Serving in the House of the Lord**

<b>Thank you for your servant heart ♥</b>	<u><b>This Sunday</b></u> <u><b>(1/14)</b></u>	<u><b>Next Sunday</b></u> <u><b>(1/21)</b></u>
<b>Elder: (8:30 AM)</b>	Cliff Vest	Jim Garton
<b>Elder/Deacon: (11:00 AM)</b>	Joye McElwee	Daryl Bahn
<b>Proclaim Service:</b>	Nathan & Grace Meyer	Tyson Bourbina
<b>Altar Guild: (8:30 AM)</b>	Mary Beckers	Carole Jones
<b>Altar Guild: (11:00 AM)</b>	Sheri Clines	Jenny Moudy
<b>Lector: (8:30 AM)</b>	Marie Johnson	Ryan Hadank
<b>Acolyte: (8:30 AM)</b>	Kinley Cox	??
<b>Greeter: (8:30 AM)</b>	Jim Garton	Vicki Kukal
<b>Greeter: (11:00 AM)</b>	Grace & Leah Meyer	Helen Clair
<b>Children's Message</b>	Pastor Paul Peckman	Pastor Dave Benson

# PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

## Those Grieving Loss of Loved Ones:

*The Family of Frank Jones*

*The Family of Jennifer Bryant* (science teacher at Hillcrest High School)

*The Family of Shannon Hodges* (daughter-in-law of Kathy & John Hodges)

## Shut-ins:

*Nancy Engelking*

*Gene & Isabell Ervin*

*Wanda McCann*

*Teresa Murphy*

*Betty Wessler* (Spring Ridge Assisted Living)

*Mary Ellen Wolf* (Castlewood Senior Living)

## Those Afflicted With Cancer

*Sarah Tessaro*, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Springfield Lutheran School (colon cancer)

*Pastor Gary Griffin*, retired pastor from Immanuel in Lockwood (stage 4 neuroendocrine cancer)

*Randy Austin*, friend of the Bensons

*Marlys St. George*, sister of Frank Jones

*Pastor Tim Jones*, nephew of Frank & Carole Jones

*Jorene Brooks*, daughter of Joye and Karen McElwee

## Health Petitions:

*Betty Ostrom*

*Dean & Ruth Novak*, friends of Brenda Owen (Dean entered hospice care)

*Helenea Porter*, preparing for back surgery

*Cliff Vest*, preparing for shoulder surgery on January 16<sup>th</sup>

*Pastor Dave*, recovering from respiratory issues

*Kathy Johnson*, mother of Stacey Bourbina (strokes)

*Janet Burchett*, mother of Jessica Powell, Assistant Director at Open Arms

*Lukas Shook*, grandson of Loeta Shook

*Thomas Jeffries* (special needs)

## **Praise & Thanks Petitions:**

*We praise and thank the Lord for our newly installed & re-installed lay leaders at Faith.*

*We also thank God for our call committee as they reactivate their work with a new list of potential pastors.*

## **Mission Petitions:**

*Rev. Jim & Kim Bartok, My Church – Ozark  
Open Arms Early Childhood Development Center – Ozark  
Crosslines, Rare Breed & York Elementary – Springfield  
Katie Pohlmann – YWAM missionary in training  
Joe Lee – Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) Area Coordinator  
Hillcrest High School student body, parents, faculty & staff*

## **Preparing for Ministry at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis**

*Nathan & Chrissy Tritch  
Steven, Lori, David & Timmy Steingraber (sister of Leann Eden)*

## **Birthdays:**

Ethan Meyer – 1/14  
Kim Edwards – 1/17  
Bill Zibilski – 1/19

## **Anniversaries:**

**PRAYER CHAIN** If you would like to receive prayer chain emails, please send your name and email address to [mcelweej@gmail.com](mailto:mcelweej@gmail.com).

### **PLEASE LET US KNOW**

Please call the church office (417-833-3749) or email [faithlutheransec@gmail.com](mailto:faithlutheransec@gmail.com) if you:

- Have a new address, phone number, or email
- Are sick, facing a surgery, or hospitalization
- Are unable to attend worship
- Would like to add to our praise & thanks petitions
- **Are in need of prayer**

# Where Does the Money Go?

If you are like most people, this question comes up often regarding your personal finances. Financial advisors all recommend having a budget or spending plan for the money that moves in and out of our pockets. As an organization, Faith Lutheran Church operates according to a "budget" or spending plan. This plan includes proposed "income" from voluntary donations and "expenses" to cover the operations.

Biblically, God's people are encouraged to be "cheerful givers" and to return a portion of the treasures God provides for them. This "return" to God (of what already belongs to Him) is often called "tithing." The Old Testament guidelines were a tenth of the treasures to be returned to God as a "first fruits" offering. When a crop was harvested, the tithe was given to God at His temple. This tithe expressed trust that God would provide all that was needed through the remainder of the harvest.

In modern times, our "first fruits" are usually financial. A tithe of income would be allocated to God before the income was used for various expenses. This wasn't the "leftover" money at the end of the month, but a "first fruits" offering, placing trust in God to provide for one's needs.

Over the years, various leaders at Faith Lutheran Church have sought to bring our organization to a place of "corporate tithing." Thus, ten percent of the dollars voluntarily donated would be "returned" to God for His ministry OUTSIDE of our operational needs. In examining our 2023 budget, I am pleased to discover, and share with you, that Faith Lutheran Church came very close to a ten-percent tithe during 2023.

Where did this "corporate tithe" go? Here is the breakdown:

- Church plant of My Church in Ozark, Missouri: \$7200
- Missouri District Missions: \$8400
- Springfield Lutheran School: \$3500
- Lutheran Student Center: \$2000
- Lutheran Family and Children's Services: \$1000
- Open Arms Early Childhood Development Center in Ozark, Missouri: \$3000
- Community Outreach: \$2000
- Total: \$27,100

The annual budget for 2023 was \$329, 604. Which means Faith Lutheran Church planned for 8.22% of "income" to be "tithed" outside of our organizational needs. After the December 31<sup>st</sup> donations are collected, and the final 2023 allocations are completed, a final analysis of actual 2023 tithing can be determined.

At the January 28, 2024 voters meeting, one of the agenda items will be the review and approval of the budget for 2024. A more intentional focus on corporate tithing, with a goal of reaching a full ten-percent, will be a focus. As you make your 2024 budget, I encourage you to prayerfully examine your personal tithe, as Faith Lutheran Church examines our corporate tithe.

Cindy MacGregor, Congregational President

# **WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FAITH THIS WEEK?**

## **TODAY – Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 AM – Traditional Worship with Communion (South Sanctuary)

9:45 AM – The Case for Christmas Adult Bible Study (Gathering Room)

– Youth Bible Study (FC-5)

– Children's Sunday School (Peters Family Life Center, Rooms 1 &2)

11:00 AM – Contemporary Worship with Communion (North Sanctuary)

12:30 PM – Church Council

6:30 PM – Youth Confirmation Class

## **Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 PM – Women of Faith Bible Study (Gathering Room)

## **Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 PM –Inklings Book Club (ZOOM)

## **Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 AM – Faithful Servants (Fellowship Hall)

## **Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM – Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

## **Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**

8:30 AM – Traditional Worship with Communion (South Sanctuary)

9:45 AM – The Case for Christmas Adult Bible Study (Gathering Room)

– Youth Bible Study (FC-5)

– Children's Sunday School (Peters Family Life Center, Rooms 1 &2)

11:00 AM – Contemporary Worship with Communion (North Sanctuary)

6:30 PM – Youth Confirmation Class