

NEWS AND NOTES

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ALTAR FLOWERS are given in thanksgiving and celebration for the birthdays of Ethan Meyer (1/14) and Grace Meyer (1/29) by Wil & Diane Meyer.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet TODAY at 12:30 PM.

DUE NEXT SUNDAY! 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 28th. There are no forms. The cost for an annual membership is \$20.65.

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


SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING There will be a special voters' meeting on Sunday, February 4th at 12:30 PM to call our next pastor. All members are invited to attend, however only active voters will be eligible to vote to extend a call. Members of the congregation that wish to become voting members may request acceptance into the voter's assembly at the regularly scheduled Voters' Meeting on Sunday January 28th at 12:30 PM. Attendance and approval at this meeting (1/28) will provide the ability to cast a vote at the call meeting (2/4). A lunch of sub sandwiches and chips will be provided by the Fellowship Board.

FELLOWSHIP BOARD MEETING will be this Wednesday, January 24th at 1:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested in helping with or learning more about what this board does is invited to attend.

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

HELP NEEDED The Board of Christian Education and Family Life is looking for someone to serve in the role of Superintendent of Sunday School. Anyone interested in learning more about what this role would entail may talk to the chair of the Board of Ed, Cody Jeffries, for more details.

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/>. **We will be hosting the Southwest region event here at Faith on Saturday, March 9th.**

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!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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FREE NIV BIBLES are available for anyone who is interested! If you do not have a Bible, or know someone who does not have one, please take one!

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 through January 28th.

SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH STUDY Harold Tscherny leads this study for 6th -12th 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. The calendar can be found under the "Activities" tab in the "Calendar" section.

WOMEN OF FAITH BIBLE STUDY This group meets on the 3rd 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, February 19th.

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

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 are currently reading **Galicia: The Daughter of the Bi-Soul Slave** by Cody R. Jeffries. This book is available on Amazon in paperback or digitally.

INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY HELPING OUR NEW PASTOR

Want to help our new pastor get to know you? Make sure you have a current photo in our Instant Church Directory (ICD) which can be found at <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/> or through the ICD app for smartphones. If you have not yet uploaded a photo of you or your family, please take time to do so! This will help our new pastor to learn names and faces more quickly. Once we have photos for the majority of our members, we will even be able to print a few copies for our members who do not have computers or smart phones. To add a photo from the app, tap the three lines in the top left hand corner of the screen. Then select "Edit My Family." You may be then asked to confirm that is you. Once confirming, you can add a family photo or edit any of your family's contact information. You can also have our Office Manager or Chairman of the Elders help you submit a photo.

COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH

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 15th 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 8th grade and offers a Christ-centered and personalized educational experience. For more information, visit 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>



ENSURE THE WELLBEING OF MISSOURI'S CHILDREN LFCS supports children and families by providing guidance based on evidence-based education, prioritizing one-on-one relationships between our staff and clients, making our services low cost (sliding scale or no cost to our clients), and allowing clients to access all programs through our wrap-around approach to care. We take pride in eliminating obstacles that prevent those struggling from getting the help they need. Please help us let others know about our approach by sending them to <http://lfcsmo.org> for more information.

CROSSLINES FOOD PANTRY Faith Lutheran is signed up to volunteer at Crosslines every 3rd 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, February 20th.

SEW ON AND SEW FORTH 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 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!

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).

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

January 14, 2024

<u>Discipleship</u>			<u>Returning God's Gifts</u>	
Communicant:	150		3.8% of the 52 Sundays in 2023	Plate offerings and tithes:
Baptized:	169	(E-Tithe) Direct Deposit		\$0.00
		Total Gifts Last Week:		\$2,315.00
<u>Attendance</u>			<i>Weekly financial needs 2024</i>	\$4,846
Sun. 8:30 AM Svc.	53			
Sun. 11:00 AM Svc.	37			
Online	20			
Total in Person:	90		SHORTAGE Last Week	(\$2,531)
			ABUNDANCE for Year	\$119

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

Thank you for your servant heart ♥	<u>This Sunday</u> <u>(1/21)</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u> <u>(1/28)</u>
Elder: (8:30 AM)	Jim Garton	Cliff Vest
Elder/Deacon: (11:00 AM)	Joye McElwee	Daryl Bahn
Proclaim Service:	Tyson Bourbina	The Lentz Family
Altar Guild: (8:30 AM)	Carole Jones	Ann Dobbs
Altar Guild: (11:00 AM)	Jenny Moudy	Darla Berg
Lector: (8:30 AM)	Ryan Hadank	Betty Garton
Acolyte: (8:30 AM)	??	Grace Meyer
Greeter: (8:30 AM)	Vicki Kukal	Carole Jones
Greeter: (11:00 AM)	Helen Clair	Carol Bourbina
Children's Message	Pastor Dave Benson	Diane Meyer

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)

Homebound:

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, 3rd 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:

Arlo Buerck, grandson of Pastor Dave and Jan Benson (ITP)

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

Helenea Porter, preparing for back surgery

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:

Baptism of Kennedy Howell on January 21st

We praise and thank the Lord for all our 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 Brazil
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:

*Kim DeLuce – 1/25
Lawanda Brothers – 1/26
John Hodges – 1/26
Betty Wessler – 1/26*

Anniversaries:

Duane & Jenny Moudy – 1/23 (53 years)

PRAYER CHAIN If you would like to receive prayer chain emails, please send your name and email address to mcelweej@gmail.com.

PLEASE LET US KNOW

Please call the church office (417-833-3749) or email 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**

Corporate Tithe for 2023

In my previous message about our projected "Corporate Tithe" for 2023, I said I would provide an actual corporate tithe calculation after the final 2023 income and expenses were complete. I adjusted my initial calculations in one important way: I removed the money flowing through Faith Lutheran Church for Pastor Bartok and My Church. This money cannot be accurately reflected as "income" or as "expenses," thereby adjusting the "budget" for Faith Lutheran Church operations considerably. By my adjusted calculations, we had 11.55% of our income going to our mission allotments as a "corporate tithe." Here's how I arrived at that number:

For 2023, we had \$313,413.24 of "income," however, \$68,474.27 was from Missouri District Reimbursement Income (\$45,250.02) and My Church Contributions (\$23,224.25) to support the salary paid through us to Pastor Bartok. Subtracting \$68,474.27 from \$313,413.24 results in **\$244,936.97 of "Income" for 2023 for Faith Lutheran Church.**

Our total 2023 actual expenses were \$309,494.22, however, \$73,788.23 were My Church Expenses for Pastor Bartok (salary and benefits). This amount is from the Church Council section of the budget, lines 51 through 59. Subtracting \$73,788.23 from \$309,494.22 results in **"Expenses" of \$235,705.99 for 2023 for Faith Lutheran Church.**

Of the \$235,705.99 expenses we budgeted \$27,100 to our "mission" projects. These are delineated in the "Where Does the Money Go?" article I wrote for the News & Notes. The Outreach expenses were above the budgeted amount by \$135.27. Springfield Lutheran School expense were below budget by \$243. This makes the **mission project total for 2023 actually \$26,992.27.**

To determine our actual tithe amount I divided \$26,992.27 by \$235,705.99. This is our 2023 mission allocations and our actual 2023 total expenses for 2023. **This yields a corporate tithe of 11.545% for 2023 for Faith Lutheran Church.**

Cindy MacGregor, Congregational President

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FAITH THIS WEEK?

TODAY – Sunday, January 21st

- 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 Meeting
- 6:30 PM – Call Committee Meeting (Gathering Room)
- 6:30 PM – Youth Confirmation Class

Tuesday, January 23rd

- 8:30 PM –Inklings Book Club (ZOOM)

Wednesday, January 24th

- 1:15 PM – Fellowship Board (Fellowship Hall)
- Rare Breed

Thursday, January 25th

- 9:00 AM – Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, January 28th

- 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 – Voters' Meeting
- 6:30 PM – Youth Confirmation Class