

NEWS AND NOTES

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ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Duane & Jenny Moudy in honor of their 53rd wedding anniversary. The altar flowers on Sunday, January 14th were given by Darla Berg in memory of her husband, Rod. This had not previously been printed. We apologize for the oversight.

DUE TODAY! 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 TODAY 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 NEXT WEEK 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.

A SPECIAL EVENT FOR 7TH AND 8TH GRADE STUDENTS Lutherans for Life is delighted to host the Healthy Relationships Banquet on Sunday, February 25th at Trinity Lutheran Church at 6:00 PM. Navigating through friendships, dating and connections can be tough and there is a lot of information out there being fed to our kids that is not God-pleasing. **ALL 7th and 8th grade students and their parents** are invited to an evening of information and fellowship. The delicious meal (nacho bar) is free for the students and a nominal cost for parents. Please text RSVP to Kim DeLuce. *The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him. The Spirit of wisdom and understanding. The Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. Isaiah 11:2*

THANK YOU FROM CAROLE JONES I want to thank my family at Faith Lutheran for your prayers, cards, words of encouragement and memorials that were given during this difficult time. My family was touched by the outpouring of love & concern shown to us at the passing of Frank. Thank you & God bless all of you. ~Carole Jones & Family

POTENTIAL "ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS" Pastor Dave is considering teaching a section of his "What Lutherans Believe" class, designed for adults and older youth who have not been confirmed in the Lutheran Church but are interested in joining Faith as official members. The class covers the "Six Chief Parts" of Lutheran teaching from Luther's Small Catechism (Baptism, Holy Communion, The Ten Commandments, The Lord's Prayer, The Apostle's Creed, and The Office of the Keys (confession and forgiveness)). If you are interested in being a member of this class, please contact Pastor Dave.

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.

SAVE THE DATE The Missouri Lutherans for Life Conference will be held here at Faith Lutheran on Saturday, April 6th from 9 AM to noon. We would love to have a large turnout for this event so mark your calendars! More information will be coming soon.

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.**

SAVE THE DATE Please mark your calendars for the weekend of September 7 and 8, 2024, for 150-year anniversary of Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Freistatt, MO. The celebration theme is "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" and will start Saturday afternoon with tours of the church, school, and cemetery with ancestral walks. In the evening, September 7, at 6:30 pm there will be a music concert - "150 Years - An Evening of Music and Celebration". On Sunday morning, Bible Class will begin at 8:45 am and Divine Worship Service at 10 am. The guest organist is Caleb Staehr for both the evening concert and the Divine Worship Service. There will be dinner on the grounds following the celebration service. Please join us as we remember our ancestors, recognize our present, and look forward to our future. There will be more details to follow. For additional information, call Trinity Lutheran Church at 417-235-7300 or check the website trinity1874.com.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

"MEN OF FAITH" BIBLE STUDY Our monthly "Men of Faith" Bible Study will resume on **Saturday, February 10, 9:00 to 10:30 AM**. We will begin a new 4 session study called "[How to Spot the Spirit's Work in Your Life.](#)" Please enter through the doors on the northeast side of the "Peters Family Life Center" (north building). We will be meeting in "The Gathering Room."

THE CASE FOR EASTER – STARTS NEXT SUNDAY What do the Gospel accounts actually say about Jesus' death and resurrection? How can we know the biblical accounts are accurate? Join us for a four-week study by Lee Strobel entitled, "The Case for Easter," starting February 4th. Classes will be held in the Gathering Room during the education hour.

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 – LAST DAY 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 **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

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, visit the 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!

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

January 21, 2024

<u>Discipleship</u>		5.7% of the 52 Sundays in 2024	<u>Returning God's Gifts</u>	
Communicant:	150		Plate offerings and tithes:	\$3,222.00
Baptized:	170		(E-Tithe) Direct Deposit	\$1,100.00
			Total Gifts Last Week:	\$4,322.00
<u>Attendance</u>		<i>Weekly financial needs 2024</i>		\$4,846
Sun. 8:30 AM Svc.	65	SHORTAGE Last Week		(\$524)
Sun. 11:00 AM Svc.	51	SHORTAGE for Year		(\$405)
Online	12			
Total in Person:	116			

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

Thank you for your servant heart ♥	<u>This Sunday</u> <u>(1/28)</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u> <u>(2/4)</u>
Elder: (8:30 AM)	Cliff Vest	??
Elder/Deacon: (11:00 AM)	Daryl Bahn	??
Proclaim Service:	The Lentz Family	Leann Eden
Altar Guild: (8:30 AM)	Ann Dobbs	Kathy Hodges
Altar Guild: (11:00 AM)	Darla Berg	Stacey Bourbina
Lector: (8:30 AM)	Betty Garton	Sonya Cox
Acolyte: (8:30 AM)	Grace Meyer	Kinley Cox
Greeter: (8:30 AM)	Carole Jones	Brenda Owen
Greeter: (11:00 AM)	Carol Bourbina	Carol Bourbina
Children's Message	Diane Meyer	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)

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:

Cliff Vest, preparing for shoulder surgery on 1/30

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:

*Sheri Clines – 1/29
Grace Meyer – 1/29
Carole Jones – 1/30
Kathy Hodges – 2/3
Wil Meyer – 2/3*

Anniversaries:

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 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

Tuesday, January 30th

8:30 PM –Inklings Book Club (ZOOM)

Thursday, February 1st

9:00 AM – Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, February 3rd

8:15 AM to 2:00 PM – Annual Leadership Retreat

Sunday, February 4th

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

9:45 AM – The Case for Easter 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 – Special Voters' Meeting

6:30 PM – Youth Confirmation Class

INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY TESTIMONIAL

The Faith Instant Church Directory app on my phone has proven invaluable to my work as an Elder at Faith. The app allows me easy access to phone numbers, emails, birthdays, and anniversaries of people at Faith from anywhere. Pictures of people help me associate names and faces. Those whose pictures are not available in the Directory have been so frustrating that I've been taking pictures and sending them to the Faith Office Manager for upload to the Directory. Once you start using it, I'm confident it will become invaluable to you also.

Joye McElwee, Elder Chairman