

NEWS AND NOTES

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

INSTALLATION OF BOARD MEMBERS Today, during both services, there will be an installation/re-dedication of our congregational officers and board members.

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet on January 14th at 12:45 PM.

VOTERS' MEETING 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.

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.

FAITHFUL SERVANTS will meet on January 17th 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.

LWML WOMEN'S GROUP will meet on Monday, January 8th at 6:30 PM.

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!

INSTALLATION OF JARON & ELIZABETH MELIN A group from our congregation here at Faith has been supporting Jaron & Elizabeth Melin during their time as students at Concordia Seminary for the last several years. Jaron was ordained at a service on December 31st at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Wichita, KS. Jaron will be installed as Pastor at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Herington, KS at a service today at 3 PM. Elizabeth will be commissioned and installed as a deaconess for Lutherans in Jewish Evangelism (LIJE) at this same service. The service will be livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@ourredeemerlutheranchurchh8906/streams>. Jaron & Elizabeth are thankful to God for the prayers and support that have led them to this point and ask that you continue to pray for them as they enter ministry.

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.

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).

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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"MEN OF FAITH" BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK Our monthly "Men of Faith" Bible Study will meet Saturday, January 13, 9:00 to 10:30 AM. 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."

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, January 15th.

THE CASE FOR CHRISTMAS – STARTS TODAY 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 7th 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.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL meets each week at 9:45 AM in the Peters Family Life Center, rooms 1 & 2. Today they will meet at 9:15 and will be preparing for their Christmas program.

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

INKLINGS IS AN ONLINE BOOK CLUB – RESUMES JANUARY 9TH 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 Slave** 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, scan the QR code or visit their link at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F4EA4AD2CA1F94-46449725-spring>



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, January 16th.

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 – GETTING STARTED

Our church has an online church directory in Instant Church Directory, or ICD. Members who have an email on file with the church office can access our ICD. There is an ICD app for smartphones, a simple download. First time users will be prompted to create a log-in with a personal password. Once you have your account set-up, you can update your contact information and also submit a photo. All edits are verified by our Office Manager, so there is a delay after you make any changes. If you do not have an email on file and wish to get access to the online directory, please contact our Office Manager.

Fiscal Year Stewardship Report 1/1/23 - 12/31/23			December 31, 2023	
Discipleship			Returning God's Gifts	
Communicant:	153		Plate offerings and tithes:	\$3,700.00
Baptized:	172	100.0%	(E-Tithe) Direct Deposit	\$0.00
		of the		
		53 Sundays	Total Gifts Last Week:	\$3,700.00
		in 2023		
Attendance			<i>Weekly financial needs 2023</i>	\$4,755
Sun. 8:30 AM Svc.	61			
Sun. 11:00 AM Svc.	36			
Online	8			
			SHORTAGE Last Week	(\$1,055)
Total in Person:	97		SHORTAGE for Year	(\$14,859)

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

Thank you for your servant heart ♥	<u>This Sunday</u> <u>(1/7)</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u> <u>(1/14)</u>
Elder: (8:30 AM)	Jim Garton	Cliff Vest
Elder/Deacon: (11:00 AM)	Daryl Bahn	Joye McElwee
Proclaim Service:	Leann Eden	Nathan & Grace Meyer
Altar Guild: (8:30 AM)	Kevin Wuench	Mary Beckers
Altar Guild: (11:00 AM)	Brandee Lentz	Sheri Clines
Lector: (8:30 AM)	Nathan Meyer	Marie Johnson
Acolyte: (8:30 AM)	Ethan Meyer	Kinley Cox
Greeter: (8:30 AM)	Leah Meyer, Yvonne Cordell	Jim Garton
Greeter: (11:00 AM)	Debby Zibilski Palin & Piper Lentz	Grace & Leah Meyer
Children's Message	Pastor Bill Marler	Pastor Paul Peckman

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Those Grieving Loss of Loved Ones:

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, 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:

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

Helenea Porter, preparing for back surgery

Frank Jones, congestive heart issues

Cliff Vest, preparing for shoulder surgery on January 16th

Pastor Dave, recovering from pneumonia

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 Mack James Replogle on December 17th

Pastor Dave Benson, medical tests revealed no new or returning cancer. Praise God for His healing power!

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:

Laurie Clines – 1/9
Jenny Moudy – 1/9
Grace DeLapp – 1/13
Ethan Meyer – 1/14

Anniversaries:

PRAYER CHAIN If you would like to receive prayer chain emails, please send your name and email address to mcelweejg@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**

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 31st 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 7th

- 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

Monday, January 8th

- 6:00 PM – LWML Women's Group

Tuesday, January 9th

- 8:00 PM –Inklings Book Club (ZOOM)

Thursday, January 11th

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

Saturday, January 13th

- 9:00 AM – Men of Faith Bible Study (Gathering Room)

Sunday, January 14th

- 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