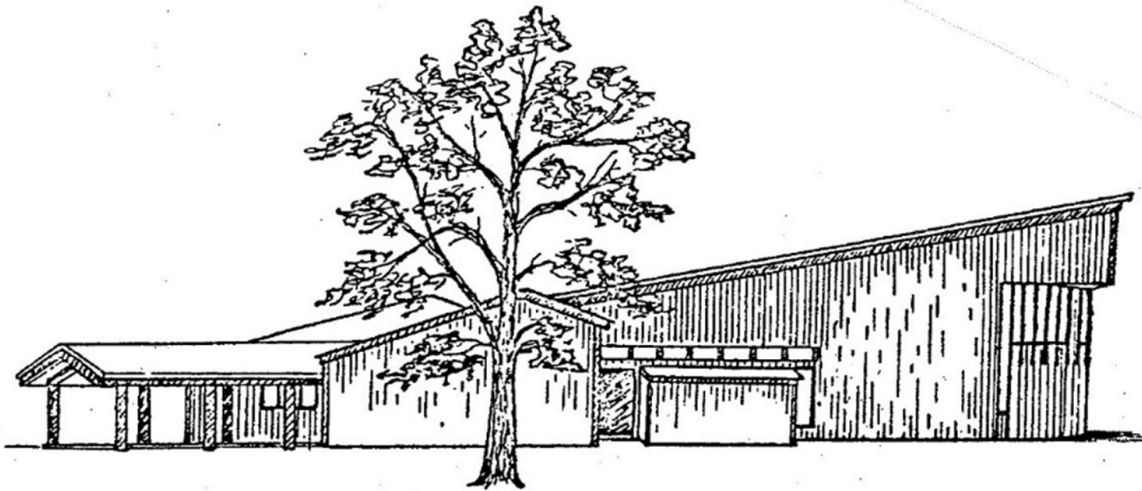


Reflections of Faith --January 2026



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL



**"As we GROW in Christ's Love and the Word,
we will SHARE Christ's Love with the World."**

4009 Irving St. Marinette, WI 54143– Member LCMS

CHURCH: (715) 735-6506
PRESCHOOL: (715) 732-9903

marinettefaithlutheran@gmail.com
flpmarinette@gmail.com

www.faithmarinette.org

FAITH LUTHERAN STAFF

Officiant: Rev. James Krueger

revjfk@hotmail.com

989.293.5335

Pastor 'office hours' for January

Monday – Thursday from 8:00am – 1:00pm

These hours may be subject to change, so please call ahead if you would like to meet with Pastor.

Church Office:

Admin assistant: Maggie Nygren and Kayla Lokken

marinettefaithlutheran@gmail.com

715.735.6506

Church office hours for January

Monday – Thursday from 8:00am–2:00pm

Preschool Director / Teacher : Kat Ehlers

flpmarinette@gmail.com

715.732.9903

Assistant Teacher: Marianne Evancheck

FAITH LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP

President :Keith Mueller

keith.mueller1227@yahoo.com

920.621.0071

Vice-President :Jim Zill

jzill@new.rr.com

907.654.0123

Financial Secretary : Lori Okrasinski

lori.okrasinski@gmail.com

715.927.6817

Secretary : Kelly Coan

kellycoan58@gmail.com

715.701.3374

Treasurer : Roxanne Mueller

roxanne.mueller@yahoo.com

920.366.1362

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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

- Worship Service 9:00am
- Fellowship Time 10:15am
- Bible Study 10:30am (September–May)
- Sunday School 10:30am (September–May)

WEDNESDAY

- Discipleship Class 6:00pm (September–May)

THURSDAY

- Choir Practice 6:00pm (September–May)

A Message from Pastor Jim

Who is Jesus? (Yes, the answer matters!)

This is the most important question we can ask is “**Who is Jesus?**”

In a world in which information is readily available and opinions abound, for Christians, this is the fundamental question that must stand above all other inquiries and considerations.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod believes Jesus is exactly who He said He is. Along with the ancient Church, we confess that Jesus is both true God and true man in one person. He is the Son of God who was crucified and raised from the dead for the salvation of all who trust in Him. ‘Christ’ is not Jesus’s last name, but it identifies Him as the Messiah (Christ is the Greek translation of Messiah), the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises that God saves His people. This fulfillment and salvation happened in history in real time and in a real place (first century AD in Israel) through a flesh-and-blood person named Jesus.

The Bible is the true and trustworthy Word of God that records God’s love for the world through His Son Jesus. The miracles recorded in the Gospels and the teachings of Jesus are true and accurate. Jesus physically died on a cross and physically rose from the dead in three days. He physically ascended into heaven, and the Church awaits His second coming when He will judge all people. Those who trust in Jesus as their Savior will rise to eternal life in heaven. Those who deny Jesus and live neither sorry nor unrepentant in their sin will be cast out of His presence to eternal life in hell.

Scripture

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1–5, 14 ESV) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:5–11 ESV)

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the Church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross. (Colossians 1:13–20 ESV)

Confessions

Our churches teach that the Word, that is, the Son of God (John 1:14), assumed the human nature in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. So, there are two natures — the divine and the human — inseparably joined in one person. There is one Christ, true God and true man, who was born of the Virgin Mary, truly suffered, was crucified, died, and was buried. He did this to reconcile the Father to us and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of mankind (John 1:29).

He also descended into hell and truly rose again on the third day. Afterward, He ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. There He forever reigns and has dominion over all creatures.

He sanctifies those who believe in Him, by sending the Holy Spirit into their hearts to rule, comfort, and make them alive. He defends them against the devil and from the power of sin. The same Christ will openly come again to judge the living and the dead, and so forth, according to the Apostles Creed. (Augsburg Confession II)

Luther's Small Catechism

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

Athanasian Creed

But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man. He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age: perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity. Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ: one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God; one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person. For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ, Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead. At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.

A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles

We believe, teach and confess that Jesus Christ is our Savior and Lord, and that through faith in Him we receive forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation. We confess that "our works cannot reconcile God or merit forgiveness of sins and grace, but that we obtain forgiveness and grace only by faith when we believe that we are received into favor for Christ's sake, Who alone has been ordained to be the mediator and propitiation through Whom the Father is reconciled" (AC, XX, 9).

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven and that all who die without faith in Him are eternally damned. We believe that those who believe in Christ will enjoy a blissful relationship with Him during the interim between their death and His second coming, and that on the last day their bodies will be raised.

We therefore REJECT the following:

1. That we may operate on the assumption that there may be other ways of salvation than through faith in Jesus Christ.
2. That some persons who lack faith in Christ may be considered “anonymous Christians.”
3. That there is no eternal hell for unbelievers and ungodly men.

Admin Updates:

Just wanted to take a moment to Thank everyone for their assistance in the transition in the office. Thanks especially to Kelly Coan, Roxanne Mueller and Pastor for your training and getting us in the right direction. Thanks also to Rosie Wolbrink who comes in to proof our Power Point Presentations. We are both learning all the duties that the position entails and are blessed to be able to share this role.

- Maggie and Kayla

THE TIME OF CHRISTMAS AND ITS SEASON

The time and season of Christmas begins on “Christmas Eve” and ends on January 5 (the day before the beginning of the day and season of Epiphany).

Christmas reminds us of the scriptural account of the coming of Jesus as the long-awaited King Who came to save us and all sinners from eternal condemnation. Jesus, the one and only Son of God the Father, the King of kings Who was born of a woman and was laid in a manger.

The evening services of Christmas Eve mark the beginning of the church’s celebration of the “Nativity of Our Lord.” The ‘season of Christmas’ continues after Christmas Day over a period of time normally marked as “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” (No, not the secular song / carol.)

The ‘season’ of Christmas includes a number of ‘lesser festivals’ as opportunities for observance in the Christian Church: the Festival of St. Stephen, the first martyr, occurs on December 25. St. John, the apostle and evangelist, is remembered on December 27. The death of the babies in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:16-18) is observed on December 28 as the Festival of Holy Innocents. The circumcision and naming of Jesus on the eighth day after His birth (Luke 2:21) is celebrated on January 1.

CHRISTMAS PRACTICES AND TRADITIONS

- We restore the singing of the “Gloria in Excelsis” (omitted during Advent) so that we may join the angels in their Christmas “Hymn of Praise” – “Glory be to God on high: and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men.”
- The color for Christmas AND its season is WHITE, symbolizing the divinity, eternity, purity, light, and joy of Jesus ‘the Christ.’
- Many Christians celebrate with special services during the Christmas season. A special ‘Divine Service’ late on Christmas Eve reminds us how the angels announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds who were “keeping watch over their flocks by night.” On Christmas Day, we celebrate the Word of God who became flesh and receive in through the ‘means of grace.’ And on January 1, eight days after the birth of Jesus, we gather in worship to begin the new year in His name – “Jesus” – which means “the Lord saves” His people from their sins.

DID YOU SEE THE DIGITAL BILLBOARD SPIRITUAL MESSAGES?

Earlier this year the Faith Lutheran Church Endowment Committee approved a grant for a four week rental of the digital billboard on the south side of Highway 41 for displaying daily spiritual messages which is visible to everyone traveling into Marinette. The rental period was from November 30 through December 27, 2025.

Our church's vision statement is "As we GROW in Christ's Love and the Word, we will SHARE Christ's Love with the World". The purpose of the billboard messages was not to increase our church membership count but rather to share the wonderful message of God's saving grace to as many people as possible.

Members of the congregation were asked to submit ideas for brief spiritual messages to be displayed on the billboard. We graciously received 77 different suggestions of which the Endowment Committee selected 28 messages for displaying. Below is the list of messages which appeared along with the date for each message.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS BLESSED SPREADING OF GOD'S MESSAGE!

MESSAGE	DATE
WE SHALL ALL STAND BEFORE THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST	11/30
IF GOD LEADS YOU TO IT, GOD WILL LEAD YOU THROUGH IT	12/1
WHEN ONE HELPS ANOTHER, BOTH ARE STRONG	12/2
"YOU WILL FIND ME WHEN YOU SEEK ME" - GOD	12/3
CAST ALL YOUR ANXIETY ON HIM, BECAUSE HE CARES FOR YOU	12/4
"STOP STRESSING. I'LL GET YOU THROUGH THIS. JUST ASK" - GOD	12/5
"TALK TO ME, BEFORE YOU OVERTHINK IT" - GOD	12/6
"WILL THE ROAD YOU'RE ON GET YOU TO MY PLACE?" - GOD	12/7
JESUS IS THE SAVIOR FOR SINNERS	12/8
"CAN'T SLEEP? TALK TO ME" - GOD	12/9
"NEVER WILL I LEAVE YOU. NEVER WILL I FORSAKE YOU" - GOD	12/10
"JUST LOVE EVERYONE, I'LL SORT 'EM OUT LATER" - GOD	12/11
"LET'S MEET BEFORE THE GAME ON SUNDAY" - GOD	12/12
"YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED AT WHAT I'M WILLING TO FORGET" - GOD	12/13
"LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM, EVEN YOURS" - GOD	12/14

JESUS IS YOUR HOPE	12/15
GOD WILL LEAD YOU WHERE YOU NEED TO GO	12/16
IF GOD IS ALL YOU HAVE, YOU HAVE ALL YOU NEED	12/17
JESUS LOVES YOU	12/18
BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD	12/19
JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD	12/20
GOD'S GREATEST GIFT TO YOU IS JESUS	12/21
JESUS IS THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS	12/22
CHRISTMAS JOY STARTS WITH JESUS	12/23
KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS, HE IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON	12/24
THE GREATEST CHRISTMAS GIFT WAS BORN AND LAID IN A MANGER	12/25
PEACE ON EARTH BEGINS WITH JESUS	12/26
JESUS CHRIST IS THE SOURCE OF LASTING PEACE	12/27



BECOMING AN “ELDER”

Have you ever thought about becoming an “Elder” here at Faith? or what is required of an elder? how much time does it take up? Well let me help with some of the questions or “misconceptions”. First of all, you do NOT need to be asked to be a member of the Board of Elders – though every new member must be approved by the existing board members per our Constitution here at Faith. If becoming an elder is something you have thought about or want more information about, you can talk with any one of the existing members or simply check the box on your Time and Talents sheet later this year. Second, not everyone is made the same way so while some are better at certain aspects of the responsibilities, others may be better at other aspects – we all work together to ensure that the spiritual needs of the congregation are met.



The Leadership of The Church



Some individuals in the past have thought that they need to be able to conduct a service or deliver a sermon in those “emergency” situations that arise now and then – we are all good at something but not all good at the same things which, again, is why we work together as a team to accomplish what needs to be done! In the past months you’ve heard or read about the “Elder Assistant” that we have been promoting and this is another excellent path to learning what it is we do on Sunday’s. If you have an interest or just a question or two, please contact any one of us as we are always there to assist. There is currently one open position on the board and I know there are more than a few men in our congregation more than capable of “doing what we do”. Being an elder is a very rewarding experience allowing each member to work closely with the Pastor and members of the congregation to maintain a happy, healthy, and very spiritual church life here at Faith.

In HIS service,
The members of the Board of Elders

November 2025 Year-to-Date Financial Summary :

Financial Summary

November 2025 Year-to-Date Numbers:

Offerings for Operations	\$199,697
Operating Expenses	\$191,920
Interest Income	\$ 1,186
Net Income from Operations	\$ 8,963

Offerings for missions and community outreach projects thru 11-30-25 totaled \$42,942 (over and above the offerings for operations)

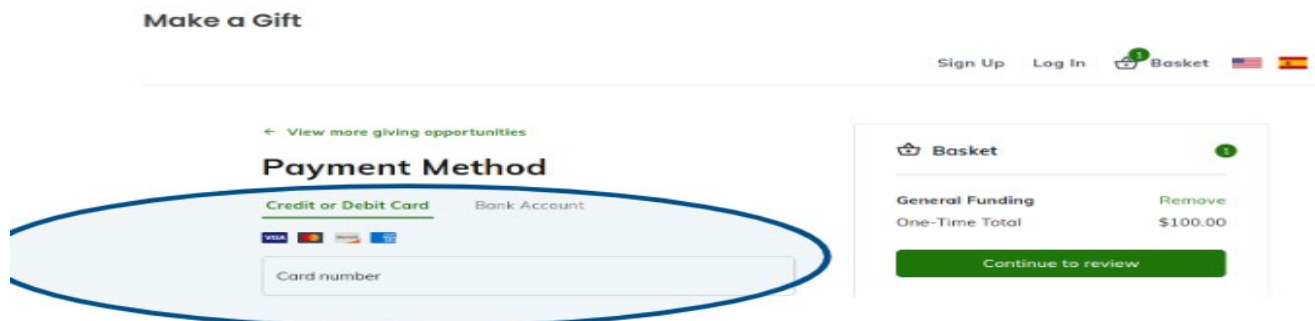
Praying God will bless us in order that we may fulfill His calling for each of us as we grow in Christ's love and the word, so that we may share Christ's love with the world. May God continue to bless our time, talents, and treasures as we serve Him, our church, our members, and our community outreach ministries throughout 2025.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Respectfully submitted,
Roxanne Mueller
Treasurer

Online Giving

LCEF provides our church with the technology and security to receive online gifts through our website faithmarinette.org. LCEF makes this service available to us at no charge when the gift is made from a bank account. When the gift is made from a credit or debit card, the credit card company charges a 3.8% fee that is deducted from the gift. LCEF passes this expense on to us. The payment method can be easily overlooked because the online giving service leads with the credit card. All you need to do is click on the words 'Bank Account' to change the payment method as illustrated in the image below. We are grateful for all gifts, no matter how they are given! We just wanted online givers to know that they have an option. Please reach out to Roxanne Mueller if you have any questions.



"As we GROW in Christ's Love and the Word, we will SHARE Christ's Love with the World."

The Prayer Chain

You may be wondering what a prayer chain is and what its purpose is. Here at Faith Lutheran, it is a group of members linked together to provide spiritual support by praying for the needs of others in a coordinated way. In this way a greater number of people pray for a specific request, amplifying the power of prayer through unity and community support and offering comfort to those who are struggling. God's Word commands us to pray and God hears our prayers as said in 1John 5:14 - And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. We are to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). We are not anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6) How does the prayer chain work? Anyone wanting the Prayer Chain to pray for them or for extended family, friends or acquaintances need only contact, me, Kelly Coan, via email, phone message or note in my church mailbox, 136. I would appreciate as much advance notice of a prayer request as possible. I cannot promise to write and send a prayer immediately. Provide me with your name and who and what you would like the Prayer Chain members to pray for. I share with the Prayer Chain all that you share with me. It is best to be open about specific needs, but I understand there is sensitive information. Please do not share any sensitive information. The members of the prayer chain then pray as you requested. I respectfully ask that you update me on your needs and outcomes so that I can communicate them back to the Prayer Chain. We all like to hear about how prayer was answered. Our prayer chain currently has about thirty-five members. Anyone interested in joining our group please also contact me and I will be happy to add your name to the email list. If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain and do not have email, I will give you a call, or if the prayer is well in advance, I will place a copy of it in your church mailbox. Kelly Coan





Faith Lutheran has a Loaves & Fishes group. Our members are active in seeking to serve their scriptural calling of being ministers of mercy in our Church.

It all started back in 2007 when a member family had a tragedy and a family member was overheard to say that our church "didn't even offer to help". Clearly this was not very Christian on the part of our church who should have been the first to offer them assistance. So, Loaves and Fishes was started.

We're a small group of volunteers who started off making meals for families in need—people returning from the hospital, mom's just home with a new baby, or simple someone in need of help cooking for one reason or another. We do our best to keep our members fed. We've branched out a bit and now offer rides to appointments and help with small jobs, but still our primary task is making meals to those who would appreciate the help.

So, please keep us in mind and if you know of a member needing this type of service, please let us know. We'd be sad to find out we missed someone who needed our help and we weren't aware of it. You can let Pastor know of the need, call the church office and let Maggie or Kayla know of the need, or tell me, Kelly Coan.

And, if you'd like to join our small group, please let me know that too! We'd love to increase our size. No one is ever pressured to make a meal or to drive someone to an appointment, it is all on a "volunteer if you can basis" at the time of need. An email is sent out informing our group of the need and members reply if they can help. Sometimes its just a simple sharing of your meal with one of our members that is required, not a full meal for an entire family. Too, if you do the cooking I can have the meal delivered for you. We're a very flexible group.

THANK YOU to all our Loaves & Fishes volunteers! You know who you are and I love and appreciate each and every one of you. Together, in loving service, we serve our church family, and you're all great cooks from what I hear. Thank you and may our Lord and Savior continue to bless and keep you!

Kelly

FAITH LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL UPDATES

December was a joyful—and wonderfully busy—month in the classroom as we prepared our hearts and our classroom for Christmas. Through stories, songs, and activities, we celebrated God's love and the birth of Jesus, remembering the true reason for the season. Along with the excitement of Christmas preparations, our days were filled with learning, laughter, and lots of festive energy.

We will return to school from Christmas break on January 6th, refreshed and ready for a new month. We are also excited to welcome a new student on that day and are grateful for the opportunity to continue meeting new friends and growing our classroom community. We will then have a total of 13 students. Ms. Marianne and I feel so grateful and blessed to help in this ministry.

If you know any families with a child who will be turning 3 soon or is 3-5 years old and potty trained who may be looking for social interaction or a gentle introduction to school days, please consider sharing the joy of Faith Lutheran Preschool with them. We love welcoming new families and helping young learners begin their school journey in a caring, faith-filled environment.

We are grateful for each of you and wish you and your family a blessed Advent season!

Preschool Wish List

Snacks (Non-Perishable)

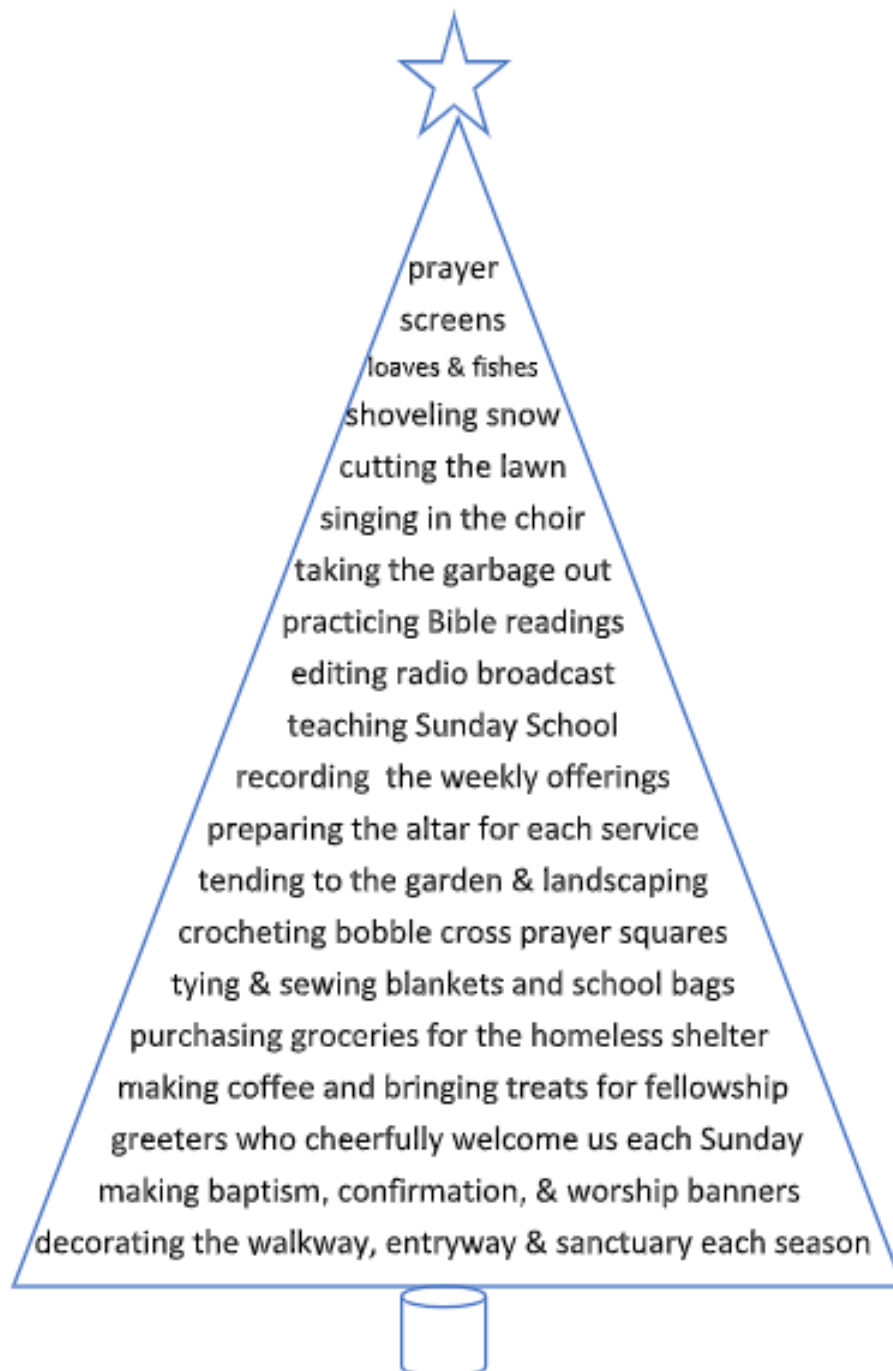
- ☐ Goldfish crackers
- ☐ Pretzels
- ☐ Animal crackers
- ☐ Graham crackers
- ☐ Fruit snacks
- ☐ Applesauce pouches or cups
- ☐ Ritz crackers or saltines
- ☐ Veggie straws
- ☐ Granola bars
- ☐ Fruit in 100% fruit juice

Office Supplies

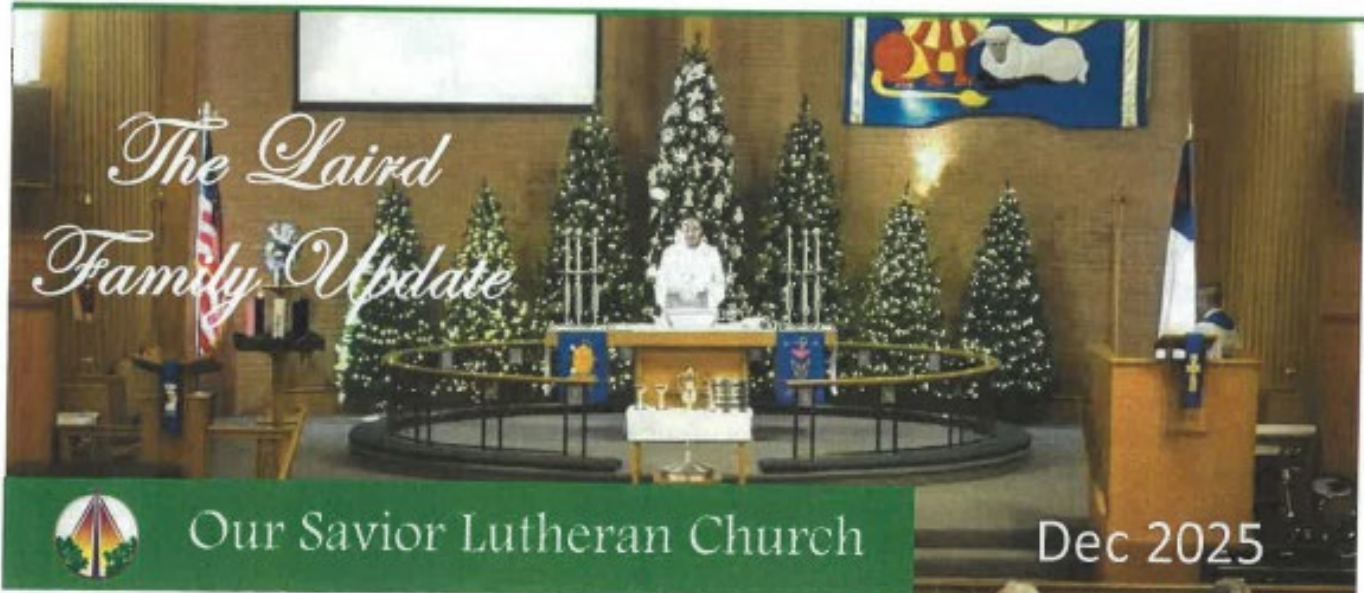
- White Printer paper
- HP 962XL 962 for HP OfficeJet Pro 9015e
- Scotch tape holder
- Scotch tape
- Black Sharpies (permanent marker)
- Highlighters
- Paper Plates (for snacks and projects)
- Laminator Sheets (9 x 11.5-inch)



'Quiet' Ministries happened at Faith Lutheran Church day in and day out throughout the year. Those involved in the quiet ministries put their love in action for the glory of God and do not desire recognition. Here are a few volunteer ministries performed quietly...I am sure there are many more that bring beauty to our church and enhance our worship experience, all done to God's glory!



A letter From Laird Family



Dear friends and family,

Happy Advent from the Laird family! It is hard to believe that we're already starting a new church year, but there's no denying that it is beginning to look a lot like Christmas all over the Saint Louis area. Lots of stuff has been going on since we last updated you all, so let's hop back to October for a bit and touch on a few highlights.

The first event was back on October 13th when the US Navy celebrated the 250th anniversary of its founding way back in 1775. Although the Navy doesn't go quite as crazy for its "birthday" festivities as the US Marine Corps usually does, this year many places went over the top and the US Navy League of Saint Louis definitely outdid themselves with a spectacular gala held at the famous St. Louis Athletic Club. Annie did a great job representing her Navy Reserve Nurse Corps detachment and a great time was had by all.



Next on the list is Halloween which is always a big hit with the kids, but the adults also got in on the fun with some bonus Reformation Day recognition at my weekly Bible inquiry class which included Lutheran exorcism stories! Although not a Halloween costume, Stella's 5th grade social studies class showcased the creativity of Lutheran school teachers by having the kids all dress up as famous historical North American explorers. Stella is dressed as Samuel de Champlain, but I think she would be a great Indiana Jones, too!



A letter From Laird Family

October also held another first for me when my family and I attended the Missouri District pastor's conference. We had never had the opportunity to go to a conference like that before and it was a very uplifting and encouraging experience while also being quite informative. The best practices as well as the mental health boost were definitely worth the expense of the trip. It was also a great opportunity to link up with several of my Seminary classmates who were also assigned to the Missouri District and get a group photo, too!

November seemed to creep up on us and then broke into a sprint because it came and went in a flash! Lucy (our 7th grader) is in full basketball mode now and I think I'm finally getting the hang of writing a sermon every other week. I can now understand why so many pastors have commented about how they enjoyed their vicarage year the most out of their seminary time because it really is a blessing to be able to serve and learn simultaneously. The saints of Our Savior have really been taking care of us, and we even talked one into joining us for Thanksgiving dinner.



As autumn draws to a close and winter moves in, we're already getting some decent snowstorms in the area. Saint Louis may not appreciate the snow very much, but my kids certainly get a kick out of it! That does mean that things are going to shift into high gear as the Christmas season approaches, and I know things are going to get pretty crazy around here which makes all of your prayers and support that much more valuable. It is very encouraging to know that we have so many friends and family members out there backing us up and lifting us up to the One whose purpose we're trying our best to keep first and foremost. Thank you all for your continued prayers and merry Christmas to you and your families!

In His service,



A letter From Brockman Family

Friends at Faith,

We're praying your Advent and Christmas season is filled with hope in the promise of Jesus' return! This will be the first Christmas where we won't be with any family, which has left us with mixed emotions. 2 years ago, as we waited for Judah to be born, a few family members visited us in St. Louis before and after Christmas. Hannah, Judah, and I are so thankful of the promise of Jesus' return, as it's helped us remember the reason for the season. Hannah and I are so excited for Judah to really experience his first Christmas. He's already enamored with Christmas trees and decorations. **We pray that he's just as excited to learn about his Savior's birth and coming return!**

We are LOVING Colorado. **Serving at Bethlehem and walking alongside the people here is an incredible blessing.** In January, Blake will have the opportunity to lead the New Member class. He'll also have more regular preaching opportunities on Sundays to go along with his twice/month preaching at The Table. Hannah has been serving in the Praise Band. They play at Bethlehem's 10:00am service and Thursday's Table Service.

We've found a good group of friends out here. Hannah has a very supportive group of moms our age from Bethlehem. She's really looking forward to MomCo (formerly MOPs) starting at Bethlehem in January. We've joined a small group at Bethlehem that meets in the home of some friends and the "young adults" ministry that meets in the home of other friends. It's been great to "be part of the congregation" and have a place where we aren't "the vicar" and "his wife."

Judah is doing great! He'll turn 2 in January, which is crazy to think about! He's made some friends of his own here, notably my supervisor's two youngest grandsons. Judah asks almost every day if he can play with them. **After his birthday, Judah will be attending Bethlehem's Early Learning Center.** It will be great for him to get to socialize with kids his age. Bethlehem's ELC runs very much like a school – curriculum and all – so we are also looking forward to seeing how his time there will help him learn and grow!

We are so thankful for your support of my seminary journey. There are a few things you can pray for:

- **Hannah:** Blessing on work-from-home opportunities as Judah heads to school.
- **Judah:** Thanksgiving for his 2nd birthday! Prayers for smooth transition as he starts "school" in January.
- **Blake:** Thanksgiving for an impactful vicarage!
- **Blake & Hannah:** Strength & guidance when Judah throws a tantrum ☺.

God's richest blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized representation of the names Blake, Hannah, and Judah.

The Brockman Family (Blake, Hannah, Judah)

Steingraber Seminary CHRONICLES

Greetings in Christ,

Our family has been beyond blessed this month. We were able to celebrate Thanksgiving with Lori's sister, Leann, in Springfield, MO. Advent and the Boar's Head Festival opened the Christmas season for our family at our vicarage church. Steve preached the first midweek Advent service and was also up for preaching the weekend of our Boar's Head Festival. Lori and Steve both enjoyed being a "Lord and Lady" for three performances with Timmy serving as a "fan bearer" in the "Wise Man's Entourage" for two Boar's Head performances. David also helped with sound for our three performances and had a great view of the whole festival! Lori played handbells and sang in the choir! We are beyond blessed to be able to help share the Christmas story in this way!

Lori, David and Timmy are all heading to the end of their semesters this week before Christmas. David has finals coming up and Lori and Timmy will have a Christmas Chapel on the last day before Christmas break. David was able to play trumpet with the Concert Band and Jazz Band at the Lutheran South High School Christmas concert. Christmas services at Immanuel- St. Charles are also fast approaching with many more opportunities for Lori to participate with her musical talents as well. We are all thankful for the ability to make music to the Lord!

Please keep the students and families of both seminaries in your prayers as many will be traveling for Christmas with their families. Thank you for the prayers and/or support you have given during this time of learning for the whole family. We appreciate you all!

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord." -Luke 2:11

Peace and Love in Christ,

The Steingraber
801 Seminary Place
St. Louis MO 63105
steingraber@csl.edu





"As we GROW in Christ's Love and the Word, we will SHARE Christ's Love with the World."

**Advent Fun!**

Page 1: The family in their Boar's head attire for a Christmas picture!

Page 2:

Upper Right: Steve and Lori dancing for the "Boar's Head Carol" procession!

Upper Left: Steve and Lori with Vicar Noah and his wife Abby! Noah has his vicarage in Springfield MO and was able to come up for a midweek performance!

Bottom: The end of the Boar's head festival with all cast members bowing to the baby Jesus, including the Medieval king!

Page 3:

Top Right: David received the "2025 Explorer of the Year" award from his Police Explorers post! Way to go David!

Top Left: David playing with the Jazz band at the LUSO Christmas band concert.

Right: There was a literal "boar's head" processed as part of the Boar's Head Festival. In our performance, Steve loved the lines which our production added to the carol talking about Jesus as "the mightiest hunter of them all" destroying death and hell. The carol ends stating the power of the very dead boar was yielded up, just like death has yielded to Jesus once and for all! The whole festival had powerful musical symbolism and ended with a beautiful retelling of the nativity story.

Page 4:

Top: The medieval court scene that Steve and Lori were in, complete with Jesters!

Bottom Right: Leann put our family picture through Chat GPT with instructions to make a medieval woodcut and this is what came out!

Bottom Left: Timmy as the fan bearer for the Myrrh king in the procession of the Magi.





FAITH

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

January Calendar 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Office Closed 1	Office Closed 2	3
	 Happy Birthday			 Matt McCoy	 Lori Okrasinski	 Christine Decker
4 9:00 - Worship 10:00 - Fellowship 10:30 Bible Study/ Sunday School	5 4pm Board of Missional Life Meeting 5pm Elder Board  Kent Newby Kyleigh Durocher	6	7 6pm Discipleship Study	8 6pm Adult Choir  Zachary Moon	9	10 Hearts Overflowing Blanket Day 8:30-12  Lois Zill Karli Guns
11 9:00 Worship 10:00 - Fellowship 10:30 Bible Study/ Sunday School  Ginny Wirth	12 5pm Board of Education Meeting	13	14 6pm Discipleship Study	15 6pm Adult Choir	16	17
	 Sariah Frederiksen					
18 9:00 - Worship 10:00 - Fellowship 10:30 Bible Study/ Sunday School  Sharon Starks	19	20	21 Deadline for Feb. Newsletter articles	22	23	24
			6pm Discipleship Study	6pm Adult Choir	 Steve Jensen	
25 9:00 - Worship 10:00 - Fellowship 10:30 Bible Study/ Sunday School Installation of Officers	26 5:30 pm Council Meeting	27	28 6pm Discipleship Study	29 6pm Adult Choir	30  Aaron Mullins	31  Kylie Sebero