

Faith•times

Monthly Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church and School | January 2026



Pastor Hoeppner's Message

Dear Faith Family,

Happy New Year! We rejoice in the gift of celebrating another year of our Lord that He has given to us in bringing Him honor and glory. We praise God as we embrace times of joy and peace. We also ask God for guidance as we have challenges throughout this next year.

One of the changes that the leadership is working on for the next year is a new format for the worship service. We will be purchasing Computer Software called Lutheran Service Builder. We will also be incorporating more elements to different Divine Services. We will be transitioning to this new format in the coming months, and I ask for your patience in this transition. I believe it will be a great asset to our time of worship.

I have a seminary class in the spring called Service Planning and I will incorporate new ideas from what I learn in this class. I am grateful for all the hard work everyone does in putting the service together. I thank those who volunteer to be ushers, audio technicians, greeters, readers, acolytes, and assistants. These roles make the service flow better for the congregation. If you would like to serve in any of those roles, please let me know.

Happy New Year and Blessed Epiphany,

Pastor Seth

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Calendar



"Raise up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from his ways."
Proverbs 22:6

Mission Statement

Faith Lutheran Church and School exists to worship, serve and grow in Jesus Christ.
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LCMS

Announcements

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Our English District is launching a new model for funding missions to which every congregation is invited to participate. It is completely voluntary but we believe that as God's people see and hear what is being accomplished specifically and directly in support and development of new missions and enhancing existing missions, more and more of us will want to be involved. This funding model is based on the belief that "there is power and strength in many giving a little." Loving our neighbor includes caring for their spiritual well-being. This is why the need exists for God's people to come together in support of missions that are bearing kingdom fruit. It's simple. Very simple. It is NOT burdensome, nor sacrificial. It involves every baptized member of the Body of Jesus in your congregation, from the newest baby baptized to the oldest member. It demonstrates the power of the beautiful body of Christ working together, prompted by faith. It shows how much can be accomplished by many, giving little. \$1/per baptized member/per week. Simple, right? Self-explanatory almost. Not burdensome, nor sacrificial. All can participate. If every baptized member of our district congregations did ONLY this plan, we could produce \$2.5 million in addition to our district's total budget of \$1.8 million. The numbers are staggering. Just think what else we could do! Through the next year, Faith Lutheran will adapt this new model. There will be a plastic case in the back of the church where the money can be placed. This will replace our current mission of the month program.

- Church Council will meet Sunday, January 18th at 8 am here at Faith.
- Our school children's Christmas Program is on Wednesday, January 7th at 9:30 am and 6 pm.
- The next Wednesday Night Gathering is on Wednesday, January 21st at 6 pm.
- If you would like to learn more about Grief Share support group, please go to griefshare.org. There are a couple of places in Watertown that are hosting tis support group.
- We invite you to attend chapel services on Wednesday's at 9:30 am during the school year.
- Do you have a birthday or anniversary or special event in the future? Would you like to provide treats for fellowship or flowers for the altar? The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board so pick the day that you would like!
- If you have a prayer request, please call the church office at 920-261-8060.
- If you would like to serve on a cleaning team or be a greeter/usher, please contact Pastor Hoeppe.

Faith • *brations*

We Celebrate with January Birthdays

Don Roell	18	Kort Schlichting	29
Timothy Nelson	21	Delores Herold	30
Connor Baneck	24	John Mock	30



God's Blessings to you!

Faith • *full*

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- Purchase Scrip Gift cards for your favorite places to shop and the things you use every-day.

You can pick them up in the office or order online any time at <https://www.raiseright.com> our school code 7D4EB33L48L9.

Faith earns a percentage of the money spent.

Contact Beth Stendel for more information at kbdstendel@gmail.com or 920-261-8362

Orders for the month due 1/12 and 1/26 by noon. •

**** Box Tops launched their APP based program and will no longer be making box tops that you will cut out. You will need to download the app and scan your receipt to enter your box tops. If you prefer not to do that, you can bring your receipts into the office and I will scan them using my phone! ****

Every bit helps the church & school!!

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THESE PROGRAMS

Your offering can be automatically withdrawn weekly, monthly, or even just one time. How convenient is that when you are out of town, but still need to make your offering for the week. Please contact Beth Stendel to get an ACH form that needs to be filled out and on file to do so. We will also have cards in the pew to write down that ONE-TIME offering that you can put in the offering plate if you forgot your checkbook or have no cash on you. You still need to have the ACH paper filled out and on file in order to use the pew cards. Stewardship will still keep track of your giving, just as if it were cash or a check.

Doctrinal Review

Of Faith in Christ

Since God has reconciled the whole world unto Himself through the vicarious life and death of His Son and has commanded that the reconciliation effected by Christ be proclaimed to men in the Gospel, to the end that they may believe it, 2 Cor. 5:18, 19; Rom, 1:5, therefore faith in Christ is the only way for men to obtain personal reconciliation with God, that is, forgiveness of sins, as both the Old and the New Testament Scriptures testify, Acts 10:43; John 3:16-18, 36. By this faith in Christ, through which men obtain the forgiveness of sins, is not meant any human effort to fulfill the Law of God after the example of Christ, but faith in the Gospel, that is, in the forgiveness of sins, or justification, which was fully earned for us by Christ and is offered by the Gospel. This faith justifies, not inasmuch as it is a work of man, but inasmuch as it lays hold of the grace offered, the forgiveness of sins, Rom. 4:16.

Prayer Concerns

For our military, the sick, discouraged, & troubled, For those experiencing major life changes like divorce, unemployment or underemployment, difficulty making ends meet. The well being of the church & state, and whatever rests in our hearts.



Stewardship

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LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship Newsletter Article – January 2026

"And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new. Also, He said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true'" (Revelation 21:5).

In January there is a great deal of "new" talk. Parties are held to ring in the "new" year. "New" year's resolutions are made to set a "new" course of life in the "new" year. There is date forgetfulness as checks and other forms are filled out without using the "new" year on the dateline.

We use all this "new" talk because there is very often so much wrong with the old in us. We think back to the "new" resolutions from the previous year that only lasted a few weeks. That "new" person did not shed any pounds and instead, picked up a few. The "new" habits of going to the gym were soon replaced by even more time on the couch binging on Netflix. The "new" person who does not lose their temper, use sarcasm as a lethal weapon and spend more money than necessary, but who worships, prays and serves the Lord and the neighbor, never seemed to stick around. We need "new" talk because the Old Adam is alive and well within every one of us.

But this promise of "new" is a matter of stewardship. It is the Lord Himself who makes the promise of all things being new. These words recorded by St. John are not pious wishes or hopeless promises. They do what they say. YOU, that one baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection, are NEW! These words are indeed trustworthy and true. This "new" comes to you in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It comes free of charge, even without our prayer.

This stewardship of "new" is not a vague, someday kind of stewardship either. You are NEW now! Forgiven. Reborn from above. The old is gone, nailed to Calvary's cross and buried and rotting in a tomb that was only borrowed by Jesus for His resurrection rest. The Gospel is what makes us NEW every morning. Remembering your baptism, you are new. Confessing your sins and receiving absolution makes you new. Hearing the Gospel filling your ears makes you new. Feasting on Christ's body and blood in the Holy Supper makes you new.

These mercies, totally undeserved as they are, are entrusted to us to steward TODAY even as we long for the Last Day. But we know how often we fail in this stewardship. We hoard God's creation as if it belongs to us. We belittle and devalue our neighbor because they look or sound or act in a way that we do not like. We seek to make the Holy Word of God softer and more palatable for those, or even ourselves, who refuse to confess sin as sin and repent. We value our comfort over truth, our reputation over faithfulness and our treasure over making sure that people get to hear of the Jesus who has done so much for the world and us.

We, as stewards of the Gospel, need to be made new every day. This is exactly what the Lord does. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel last year, so He gives us a new year. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel yesterday, and He gives us a new day. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel in the last few minutes, and yet in mercy our newness comes with each tick of the clock! Because that is how the Lord works.

As we see this working of all new things in us, it then calls us to be stewards of this newness to the world. This starts right in our own homes. It radiates out to our neighbors. It beams out from our congregations. This newness is teamed at the circuit, district and Synod levels all to shine the newness of the Gospel to those who need it.

Your new talk starts in the newness of the Gospel. Steward this treasure in this new year and this new day. It starts with a new you in Jesus. This is indeed trustworthy and true.

Soar on wings like eagles - Isaiah 40:31

Happy Birthday & God's blessings!

1/13 Hope Heichel
1/24 Lizbeth Orona

Candy Bar Fundraiser is here!
All candy bars
are \$2 and come
in a box of 40
assorted fla-
vors! Please re-
turn money for
each box to the office be-
fore signing out another box!



SAVE THE DATE!

- January 1st & 2nd - NO SCHOOL
- January 7th—Kids Christmas Program 6 pm
- January 16th— End of Quarter 2
- January 19th—NO SCHOOL
- January 23rd— 5-8 pm—Pizza & Game Night
- February 7th—Open House 10 am—12 pm
- February 23rd—NO SCHOOL
- March 18th—25th— Book Fair
- March 18th—8:30-10 am—Doughnuts with Grownups
- March 25th—8:30-10 am—Muffins in the Morning
- March 30-April 6th— SPRING BREAK

Pizza & Game
Night is on
January 23rd!
Get your pizza
orders in by the
21st!

- PARENT SPONSORED LUNCH -

-January 7th - The Maass Family -
walking tacos

-January 21st - The Kneer Family -

**Please remember that we have
roughly 30 people that are served for
lunch**

School • news



LCMS

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January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 NO SCHOOL	2 NO SCHOOL	3
4	5	6 Chicken Tenders, homemade mac n cheese & hot veggie	7 Parent Sponsored Lunch - The Maass Family - Walking Tacos	8 French toast, bacon & fruit	9	10
11	12	13 Pizza, yogurt & fruit	14	15 Sub sandwiches, chips & fruit	16	17
18	19 NO SCHOOL	20 Hot dogs, French fries, veggies & dip	21 Parent Sponsored Lunch - The Kneer Family -	22 Tacos, Spanish rice & fruit	23	24
25	26	27 Scrambled eggs, sausage links, hash-browns & fruit	28	29 Spaghetti & meat sauce, garlic bread & hot veggie	30	31

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>READER/ASSISTANT</u> 1/4 Dan B & Richard L 1/11 John M & Carl H 1/18 Ella M, Norman W & Carl 1/25 Richard L & John M	<u>GREETERS</u> 1/4 Kay K & Karen C 1/11 The Benninger's & Lenny 1/18 The Uttech's & Jim G 1/25 The Prust Family	<u>ACOLYTE</u> 1/4 Kinsley Nelson 1/11 Shay DaWalt 1/18 Michael Andre 1/25 Emma Wegner	Door Openers: Malachi, Sophia, Shane, Violet & Ben	1	2	3
4 9 am service	5	6	7 School Children's Christmas Program 9:30 am & 6 pm	8	9	10
11 9 am service Sunday School & Bible Study	12 Scrip due by noon	13 Commuter Bible Study 7:30 am @ McDonald's in Johnson Creek	14 Chapel 9:30 am	15	16	17
18 Church Council 8am 9 am Service Sunday School & Bible Study	19 NO SCHOOL	20	21 Chapel 9:30 am Wednesday Night Gathering 6 pm	22	23 Pizza & Game Night 5-8 pm	24
25 9 am service Sunday School & Bible Study	26 Scrip due by noon	27 Commuter Bible Study 7:30 am @ McDonald's in Delafield	28 Chapel 9:30 am	29	30	31