

Faith Notes

December 2025



Mission Statement: "We are a welcoming people of God, striving to reflect Jesus Christ's love and grace, and open to the work of the Holy Spirit."

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faith.andover

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Faith Lutheran
Church—Andover

Office hours:
Monday-Thursday
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sunday School: 8:45
a.m. on Sunday
(September-April)

Worship 10 a.m.

This Advent, as we wait for Christ's birth, our worship life will center around a theme: "What do you Fear? Insisting on Hope this Advent." Jesus entered a fearful world, one filled with rampant oppression, economic disparity, uncertainty, and instability. A world not so unlike our own. And yet, throughout the stories of Christ's birth, we hear the whispers of angels delivering a surprising message: "Do not fear."

This theme comes to us from the team at A Sanctified Art, an ecumenical ministry that creates worship resources centered around art and creativity. During worship, you will notice prayers, songs, and liturgy that ask us to acknowledge all the things that make us fearful, while at the same time, we will be reminded of the hope found in Emmanuel - God with us.

Each Sunday, you will be invited to take home one of our intergenerational craft kits. These are fairly simple crafts that are perfect for our littlest members all the way to our oldest! (and even those who don't consider themselves to be particularly crafty) Each bag will have (almost) all the supplies you need to complete the craft. While you are more than welcome to break it out whenever is convenient for you and your family, we encourage you to consider setting aside some time on Wednesday evening. Each Wednesday at 7pm, I will share a video on our Facebook (Faith Lutheran Church—Andover) and YouTube (@faithlutheranchurch-andover) pages connecting the craft to our larger theme, reflecting on scripture, and giving some pointers on the crafting process!

As we journey through this season, may your hope become gritty and resilient. May you remember: hope that trembles is still hope. This season, let us insist on hope and trust that good news is greater than fear.

-Pastor Katie



We will decorate the church on Wednesday, December 3rd at 6:30pm. All are welcome to join us for a time of fellowship, putting up the tree, and other decorating!

Andover Lions will be giving away food baskets in December. Contact Pastor Katie or the church office by December 14th if you know of someone who could use a basket this Christmas season.



Join us on December 15th as the youth of Faith share the story of Jesus' birth during worship at 10 a.m.!



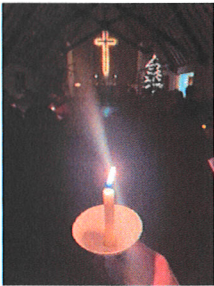
"Here we come a-caroling!"

Join us for a fun morning of caroling to our homebound members on Saturday, December 13th. We will meet at the church at 9am.



The winter solstice is the longest night and the beginning of winter in the northern hemisphere. For many, the lack of daylight intensifies other suffering. The weight of depression grows

heavier when light is scarce. We get stressed out when our calendars fill with extra social obligations. We mourn for those who have died. The message of Christmas is specifically sent for those in pain and suffering. It is not that "all is merry and bright." Rather, it is the abiding truth that God seeks to be with us, even when we are "blue."



Christmas Services have been set! As you begin to make plans with your families, notice times of worship will be 1 p.m. & 4 p.m.

Join us for our Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, December 21st, 2025 at 12 p.m. If you know of someone who may be hurting, bring them with you!

Fellowship sign up dates for 2026 are available! A calendar can be found on the counter at the beginning of the fellowship line or contact Julie Peters to sign up. Remember, keep it simple!! We appreciate those serving in the ministry of fellowship.

Homebound members love hearing from members of the congregation, especially as the holidays get closer. If you would like to send a letter or card to them, please ask the office for a current list of addresses.



Lessons and Carols will be the theme for worship on December 28th at 10am. Bring your leftover Christmas goodies for fellowship too and share your Christmas stories with those around you!

The 2025 Fall Supper did not disappoint! We served around 1,000 meals again this year. It was a cold and windy day added with a few snowflakes, but our hearts at Faith were warm serving a delicious meal to our community! Thank you to everyone involved in any way!



With Sympathy

Our sympathies to the family of Roland Petersen who passed away November 15th.

Faith Lutheran Church has a new assistive hearing system installed. This system could help those without hearing aids that would benefit from a little sound amplification. This system could also benefit some hearing aid users by diminishing the "echo" sounds in a church sanctuary. The new system will only transmit the sound picked up by the microphone and not the background echo. It is more like speaking face to face.

We currently have 5 receivers for the system. If you would like to try one, please see Chuck in the entryway before the service. We expect to be tweaking the system a bit as we fine tune it for our church but the changes be should minimal. If you use the system please give Chuck any feedback we can use to improve the system.

MEET
US
MONDAY

Faith Lutheran Church Women News & Events December 2025

Nov 30: FLCW Board Mtg
(Following Worship to discuss Christmas giving)

Dec 3: Decorate Church (6:30 p.m.)

Dec 7: FLCW to serve Fellowship following worship
Final Christmas giving vote.

Dec 8: Planning meeting for 2026
5:30 p.m. at Denise Schroeder's in Bryant.
Denise will provide chili.
Bring your favorite Christmas snack to share

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!



Thank you to everyone who donated items for our FLCW November Mission Project which was to gather Homeless Kit Items.

Many wonderful items were passed on to our area homeless survivor resource centers:

Information and Referral Services
Victory Center
YWCA Empowerment Center

Do you enjoy community service work and the fellowship of our Faith Lutheran Women?

Please let Denise Schroeder know if you would like to serve on the FLCW board.
We simply serve the community and those in need with fellowship and fun.

Also, a big Thank you for all Women of Faith who donated to Bakeless Bake Sale and Thankoffering.

What a blessing to have so many active women of Faith.

Somehow
Not only at Christmas
but all the long year through
The Joy that you give to others
is the joy that comes back
to you
JOHN GREENLEAF
WHITTIER

Poinsettia Order Form

Poinsettias are \$12.00 each. Please give money and this form to Kim Hess or the church office by December 14th.

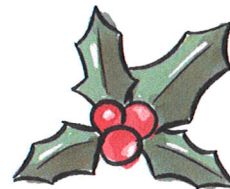
Number of Poinsettias x \$12.00= _____

Donated by;

(optional) in memory of: (Please print legibly)



3. Lacey Lorenzen
4. Carol Schroeder, Mackenzie Thompson
6. Jackson Wiersema
7. Delaney St. Ores, Kellan St. Ores
8. Denis Friedrichsen, Andrew Fredrich
9. Austin Popelka
11. Barb Randolph, Loren Ketelsen, Raymond Naeve
14. Jeanette Bennett
16. Elise Bowen
17. Joana Randolph
18. Paul Weber
21. Beth Petersen, Angela Graeve, Elara Peters-Moore
22. Sandy Hansen, Trace Peters
23. Nancy Schroeder
27. Barb Corr, Jordan Sexton
28. Cole Schroeder
29. Emily Vogt
30. Jessica Hoffman
31. Ken Perron, Evan Parker



PRAYER REQUEST

Faith Lutheran Church has a prayer chain that sends prayer requests to a list of people for those who invite prayers upon themselves or others. In respect of people's privacy, we ask that you get permission from them before adding their name to the prayer chain. If you would like to be added to the list to pray, please contact the office.

Milestone Anniversaries

Larry & Julie Peters ~ 45 years

Congratulations!!!

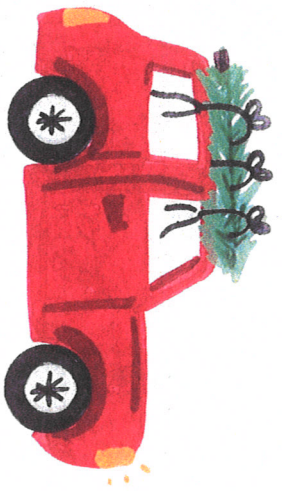
Scan the QR Code
to give online



**Last day to make your
2025 donations is
December 29th at
9am!**



1. Dennis & Janelle Eggers
7. Larry & Julie Peters
8. Richard & Lois Feddersen
22. Wayne & Kathy Harmsen
26. Roger & Karen Wilke



SERVING FAITH

December 2025

	<u>12/7</u>	<u>12/14</u>	<u>12/21</u>	<u>12/24</u>	<u>12/28</u>
LECTOR	Stan Harmesen	Sharon Jepsen	Tim Hess	1pm- Virginia Eggers 4pm- Beth Petersen	Ardith Hamilton
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Allegra Luckritz	Chelsea Petersen	Tim Hess	1pm- Kristi Seamer 4pm- Megan Peters	Kim Hess
ALTAR GUILD	Deana Jacobs	STUFF	Julie Peters	1pm- Kelli Parker 4pm Megan Peters	Virginia Eggers
FELLOWSHIP COFFEE	FLCW	Education Committee	Beth Petersen	No Fellowship	Leftover Sunday
USHERS	Gary & Denise Schroeder	Brad & Megan Peters	Paul Weber & Denis Friedrichsen	1pm- Tom & Ronda Tietjens 4pm- Tim & Kim Hess	Ken & Tricia Perron
COUNTING TEAM	Team #2 (12/1) Team #3 (12/8)	Team #1 (12/15)	Team #2 (12/22)	_____	Team #3 (12/29)

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Counting Team 2	2 Fellowship Reserved 5pm	3 Advent Decorating 6:30pm	4	5	6
7 SS/STUFF 8:45am Visitation mtg 9:15am Worship 10am	8 Counting Team 3 FLCW 2026 planning meeting	9	10	11	12	13 Caroling to Homebound 9am
14 SS/STUFF 8:45am Sunday School Program/Worship 10am	15 Counting Team 1	16 Council meeting 6pm	17	18 Newsletter info due	19	20
21 Worship 10am	22 Counting Team 2	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship 1pm & 4pm	25 Merry Christmas! Office closed	26	27
28 Blue Christmas Service 12 pm Worship 10am	29 Counting Team 3	30	31			