

January to March
2024

FAITH NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

WINTER EDITION 2024



We're so excited to announce we've started a new men's ministry here at Faith called Men of Faith! We'll be meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month at 6pm. Each meeting will start with dinner and fellowship, followed by a devotion or bible study. Our first bible study series is on the Lutheran Difference, helping Lutherans understand and be able to explain their beliefs and practices.

The Men of Faith group is open to all men (ages 18+), no matter what denomination or membership. So feel free to invite other men, family and friends! The idea is to get this ministry consistently meeting, serving in our church and the local communities, and having fellowship with one another with Christ leading the way. So if you have questions or want to join, just show up! We look forward to having you!

Kevin Kovach 440-281-4714

Bob Fuery 216-407-1288

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What we can look forward to in 2024.

As Pastor Woolsey commented at the beginning of the Annual Meeting
“We do not have a deficit. We have an opportunity.”

The 2024 Budget represents a ministry program based on growth.

We are growing in new members with **over 50** adults and children that have recently joined. Especially young families with children and people from other congregations.

We are expanding ministry opportunities with:

A new Men’s Ministry (more than 25 men signed up for the first meeting).

A growing youth ministry that also includes joint activities with St. Paul, Westlake.

We are doing things that expand the kingdom into the community. And we have an opportunity to contribute to something special that’s not declining, like so many businesses and other churches and ministries around us.

As mentioned in the recent Constant Contact article, the Governing Board will spend time early in the new year looking at ways we can Re-Imagine our Congregation. Some very preliminary conversation has taken place with St. Paul, Westlake, and Hope Sheffield. Most of that conversation has been between the Pastors, Congregational Chairman and in reviewing some concerns all have expressed about the vitality of our Circuit churches. Many of which are in financial distress and some who are currently vacant (having no pastor) or who are in jeopardy of closing.

Since Re-Imagining is a relatively new program there is much uncertainty about how broadly we should be involved. Along with much conversation it will take baby steps to see where the opportunities lie for joint participation and mutual understanding. Our number one priority is the Call of a second pastor. That is where our emphasis is and while we will not neglect other ministry opportunities, the Call takes precedence. Every effort to communicate progress on the Call and any conversation regarding our ministry opportunities will be priority for the Governing Board.

God is blessing Faith Congregation in many ways and we praise and thank Him for all that He has done and for the opportunities He showers us with every day.

David Bowers, Governing Board Chairman.



Lorain County



Volunteers Needed

Faith Lutheran church is currently serving our community through the Clothe A Kid ministry and by hosting Love Ops events, right here in our church.

JOIN US IN SERVING

Consider being a shopper for needed clothing items, or sign up for Love Ops events through out the year.

Explore other community outreach opportunities at LILC.org

Contact Jennifer Tucker or the church office for more details.



- ◆ New Year's Day Church Office Closed - Jan 1
- ◆ Men of Faith - Jan 2 & 16 at 6pm
- ◆ PreSchool classes resume - Jan 3
- ◆ Thursday Bible Study - Jan 4, 11, 18, & 25 at 10am
- ◆ Women's Walk & Talk - Jan 6 at 9am
- ◆ Church Undecorating Party - Jan 6 at 11am
- ◆ Quilters - Jan 9 & 23 at 9am
- ◆ Titus 2 Bible Study - Jan 15 at 9:30am
- ◆ Youth Retreat Beulah Beach Jan 26-27



- ◆ Thursday Bible Study - Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 at 10am
- ◆ Women's Walk & Talk - Feb 3 at 9am
- ◆ Titus 2 Bible Study - Feb 5 & 19 at 9:30am
- ◆ Men of Faith - Feb 6 & 20 at 6pm
- ◆ Quilters - Feb 13 & 27 at 9am
- ◆ Pancake Dinner - Feb 13
- ◆ Ash Wednesday Service - Feb 14 at Noon & 7pm
- ◆ Midweek Lent Service - Feb 21 & 28 at Noon & 7pm

Pastoral Care Ministry Team

Greetings from your newest Pastoral Care Ministry Team Member, MaLinda Johnson!

I've recently returned to Faith, my childhood congregation, after having been a longtime member at St. Paul. My parents and grandparents were original members of Faith. My mother and father were the very first couple married in the old sanctuary.

I've always been a person people tell their stories to.

Starting in 2017, I trained and served as a Stephen Minister at St. Paul for 5 years. On Thursday mornings I can be found at the information desk at University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center. I'm thrilled to be helping Pastor Woolsey care for our Faith family.

Are you someone people like to talk to? Are you interested in providing Christ Centered Care but aren't sure how to start? We would love to hear from you!

In His Service,
Bea Marlette, Chris Corpus, Joe Delgado, Bob Gill, MaLinda Johnson & Rich Gray



- ◆ Women's Walk & Talk - Mar 2 at 9am
- ◆ Titus 2 Bible Study - Mar 4 & 18 at 9:30am
- ◆ Men of Faith - Mar 5 & 19 at 6pm
- ◆ Midweek Lent Service - Mar 6, 13, & 20 at Noon & 7pm
- ◆ Thursday Bible Study - Mar 7, 14, & 21 at 10am
- ◆ Quilters - Mar 12 & 26 at 9am
- ◆ Easter Egg Hunt - Mar 23
- ◆ Palm Sunday Services - Mar 24 at 8am & 10:30am
- ◆ Maundy Thursday Services - Mar 28 at Noon & 7pm
- ◆ Good Friday Services - Mar 29 at Noon & 7pm
- ◆ Easter Services - Mar 31 at 8am & 10:30am
- ◆ Easter Breakfast - Mar 31 at 9:15am

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Be sure to set your clocks *forward* one hour before bed Saturday night!

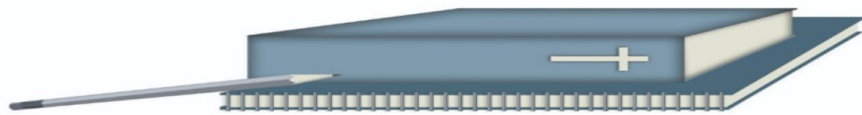


— STAYING —
CONNECTED
Facebook: facebook.com/faith.avon
Instagram: instagram.com/faith.avon
YouTube: youtube.com/faithavon

This article was received too late for the Fall Edition.

Part III
Newsletter Series by
David Bowers

What Does It Take



In this edition of *What Does It Take*, I want to bring to light a number of ministries that enhance our church ministry here at Faith Avon. Also, I'd like to recognize several individuals who make our ministry the growing success that it is. And, to ensure that we put our best foot forward to visitors and others in our community.

During the second service on September 10th, 2023, we recognized two sets of teachers and leaders. Pastor installed several people who have volunteered to be teachers in either our Adult Bible Study, Sunday School, or Confirmation Program, and the leaders of our Youth Ministry Program. These faithful members are entrusted with sharing the love of Christ to the children and friends of the congregation from the very young among us to the young adults who crave more knowledge and want to discuss the teachings of Christ and His Apostles.

The teachers installed on that day were our exceptional Pre-School Staff and our Director, Michele Herner. Michele is celebrating her 10th year as Pre-School Director. Our pre-school is recognized by many as the premier pre-school in the area. It is one of the congregations' most prominent outreach ministries, one we can all take pride in!

We also recognized two teachers for their years of service to the pre-school. Tonya Miller and Ciara Ruckman who have 5 years of consecutive service (and a few additional years non-consecutive in total). Every year we have new parents who entrust their children to our Christian teaching and care who were referred to us by former school parents. Many parents have had several children attend our program. Check it out. And when the opportunity arises, please, take a child's name and be their Prayer Buddy this school year.

Another outreach ministry that is so important and needed in Lorain County is the work of LOVE, Inc. Love, In the Name of Christ. Jennifer Tucker is the leading advocate for this ministry and represents our congregation so well. She enlists other volunteers from within the congregation and our response to LOVE, Inc's area programs have always been most gracious and supported both financially and materially. Jennifer is always looking for more volunteers to help with the many different aspects of this ministry. Please consider reaching out to her for ways in which you might help. Our Pastor Woolsey is a Board member at Love, Inc. and a strong supporter of this vital ministry. There are opportunities here where you can make a difference. Please, speak to Jennifer about Love, Inc.

Lastly, I want to recognize the Facility and Grounds team. Led by Mike Emling there are many activities that take place weekly that enable the church and grounds to be a pleasant and attractive place of worship. A church where lights work when you flip the switch, water flows when you turn the handle, the carpets and pews are clean, and the custodial chores of the facility are always taken care of. Where a visitor's first impression of our church and congregation is established with a positive and welcoming impression. Mike oversees the maintenance oversight of church and is ably assisted by Jane Prahst who coordinates the maintenance and beauty of the grounds. (She and her husband, Brian, must have green thumbs and dirty hands for all the love and dedication they put into our landscaping). Until recently, Elizabeth Schuster oversaw custodial responsibilities and kept our facility clean and sparkling. Cleaning and scrubbing each week so people felt comfortable and safe. Doing the little things that count most.

The intent of these articles is to help you see what might not see. Help you appreciate those people who make your church experience possible. I encourage your participation in one or more of the ministries or committees that would welcome your help as a volunteer. It is easier than you might think and takes a lot less time with many helpful hands.

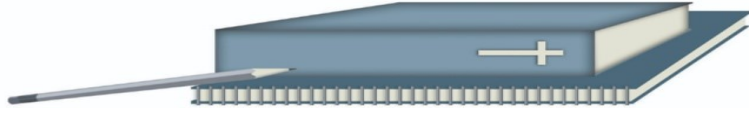
As I wrote earlier, this is the third edition of recognizing the many people who make our worship experience meaningful each week. There are many more and in the next installment or "What Does it Take" we will recognize some of the many volunteers that give generously of their time and talents to enhance our worship and church life experience.

We ask that you prayerfully consider your time, talents, and gifts as we highlight our ministries, and where or how you might join in. Our continued growth and success begin with you!

Blessings!
David Bowers

What Does It Take

Part IV
Newsletter Series by
David Bowers



Throughout the year this segment has been written to highlight the many people and organizations that make our worship experience so gratifying and meaningful and whose work goes largely unnoticed because we have come to expect success.

I am sure, and I apologize up front, that I have missed someone or one of our many organizations. That is my fault, for I have not been able or have not taken the opportunity to talk to more people or ask more questions to satisfy my curiosity. As I would encourage you to learn more about our church family. I pledge to try harder in 2024.

In this issue we want to recognize and thank the wonderful women who make up the Altar Guild. They make sure that the church is appropriately appointed with the altar paraments, the covering for the communion ware, the banners that are hung on the exterior walls, the pulpit parament and they ensure that the host and wine is prepared and handled in the prescribe manner of the Church. They make certain all the requisite supplies are available and ready for every communion occasion and they properly dispose of any leftover communion wine following strict protocol.

Many of you are unaware that the candles (even the Advent Candles) are fueled by oil and the Altar Guild makes sure that they are “topped off” so that they are ready for lighting at the appropriate time. They make it a point to clean all the paraments, wash various linen items, and check after each service to see if anything on the altar or of their responsibility is taken care of. Theirs is an unsung job that takes more time than you might imagine and it comes with some learned or taught understanding of historical church protocols associated with the Holy Supper. One thing is certain. The Altar Guild is a time-honored tradition in the Lutheran Church. History, reverence, and a desire to ensure that things are done properly for the church are what motivate the wonderful Altar Guild Members. They are always looking for help and men are encouraged to volunteer. See any one of the ladies named below for information.

Again, my heartfelt apology if I have left some off this list of Altar Guild members. As with all the people who have been highlighted throughout the year in these **What Does It Take** segments, please tell those who appear in this issue THANK YOU for they deserve our appreciation. Their efforts make our worship experience fulfilling.

Serving as Altar Guild Members: Dimaris Woolsey, Rhonda Zornes, Lauren & Anita Andrews, Martha Huebner, Susan Klingbeil, Deb Pelger, Mary Robertson, Marilyn Selent, and Betty Gory. Special thanks to Mike Emling who helps put up the banners, resupply wine, and recently replaced the sacristy wine cooler.

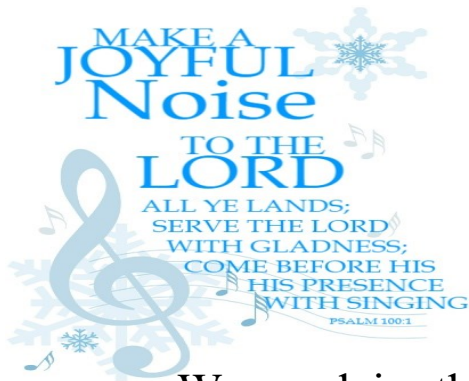
Of the many members we have highlighted throughout the year I want to acknowledge Mrs. Bea Marlette and Mr. Louis Nadasdi.

For those who consider themselves early birds I would challenge you to match arrival on Sunday mornings with Louis. Around 6:30 every Sunday morning, rain or shine, snow or worse, Louis opens the doors on both sides of the church and lights up the Lord’s House in preparation for worship. He will make sure that any announcements or other materials are added to the bulletin for first service and makes sure that the sound booth team has bulletins available so they can do their checks and changes to any part of the service. He makes the choir area ready so that any rehearsal before service will go as planned and takes care to ensure the piano is ready as well. He will check each pew making sure there are hymnals and bibles in the racks and any envelopes or materials that should be available, are in their proper place. After service Lou will tidy up after the congregation so that the pews and church are clean and attractive for the second service. He is also part of the rotation of scripture readers and ushers so his Sunday mornings are full.

Bea Marlette. The face of so many successful events and projects at Faith. Bea recently finished a term on the Governing Board where she has been an effective and significant voice for the congregation in our many discussions and decisions. Bea can be found wherever there is a need. Doing something for the preschool, covering or assisting in many aspects of fellowship events. She is one of the congregations faithful Quilters. Bea can be seen assisting both our Church Secretary and Business Manager in any way possible and being active in LWML and in LOVE, Inc. projects. Every congregation needs a Bea Marlette. I am betting there are several of you who have a fond story to tell about your relationship with Bea and I know we are blessed that she is part of Faith’s DNA.

I hope that over the past year you have learned a little bit about the many people and their huge “behind the scenes” service to the church. Especially the effort and pride they unselfishly give so that our worship honors the Lord. If you have suggestions for another series highlighting the church, please let me know.

Blessings!
David Bowers



MUSIC NOTES

Shirley Smith - Director of Traditional Worship, Choir Director, and Organist

We proclaim the praises of him who called us out of darkness
Into His marvelous light!

What a joy it is to worship with all of you each week! I am so thankful for all the musicians, singers, and choir members who sang praises to the Lord during the Advent and Christmas seasons! Your addition to the worship services was a blessing!

As we enter the Epiphany season, and very soon into Lent, you are invited to join us for choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 beginning on January 24th!!! More voices are always appreciated!

Please also watch the announcements in the bulletins and online for a special opportunity in February to share some "Winter Caroling" with the residents of St. Mary of the Woods in Avon. The dark days of winter can be tough for the residents, so sharing some hymns of faith can brighten their days! Details will follow soon!



The praise band meets on Saturday mornings, and is working to bring new music to the congregation once a month.

It was a blast merging with the traditional service choir for Christmas Eve. We look forward to more combined music for future events.

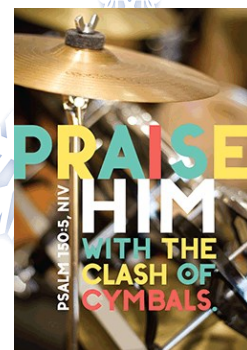
If you're curious about helping out with the contemporary music ministry, I'd love to chat with you!

We're still looking for people who are interested in subbing as a vocalist, keyboard player, or guitarist.

We are also looking for another drummer.

If you know anyone interested come see me or email me!

We are flexible with schedules and commitments!



Faith Lutheran Preschool

Preschool Winter Happenings

Happy New Year! We are excited to be back in the classrooms and with our friends after a fun Christmas break! Before we left for Christmas, each class had their own program singing songs and poems for their parents. The Pre-K decided to retell the Christmas Story by dressing in costumes. We then shared time in the fellowship hall with our families and friends.

January will bring themes like winter fun and snowmen, penguins, and polar bears. We will also turn our bible stories towards Jesus' baptism, and calling his disciples, followed by his many miracles.



Our registration is open for the 2024-25 school year! Please share our school with your friends and neighbors. Some aspects that we love about our school is that we get to teach about Jesus and his love for us, our small

class sizes provide for individualized instruction, and our caring teachers are made up mostly of parents who have had children in our program.

Send them to preschool.faithavon.com for more info on our school!



Finally, we need you to like and share on Facebook and Instagram! The more likes we get on each post, the more it is seen! Plus, you get a peek into what we are doing each week in our classrooms!



Facebook: **FAITH LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL AVON**



Instagram: **faith_preschoolavon**

Blessings,
Michele



KIDS OF FAITH

Kids of Faith is a great ministry to help our kids grow in their faith by singing songs, creating crafts, and learning stories in the Bible.

We meet from 9:15am to 10:15am every Sunday and snacks are provided!

Come join the fun at our upcoming celebrations!

Epiphany - January 7th



Valentine's - February 11

Making Valentine cards for our Shut-Ins 

Easter Egg Hunt - March 23

Easter EGG Hunt





YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

The Faith Youth Group had a very busy and fun filled fall schedule of events and youth service activities.

Bible Study is held every Sunday 9:15am-10:15am and led by Mr. Fuery. Join us as we dig into the Word!

We kicked off the new school year on Sept 10th with a combined Jr High, Sr High and their Parents evening for a "Come Back" to youth group night. Our monthly events are held on a Sunday evening from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and include food, fellowship, games, and of course devotions. As always, we encourage our youth members to bring their friends along!

Our Oct 8th evening event focused on SERVICE and how we can participate in this. So along with the usual fun and fare, our group collected items of towels, combs, soap, nail clippers and toothbrushes and came together to make one hundred personal care kits to be delivered to Lutheran World Relief. It was exciting and rewarding for all who participated.

In an effort to expand our community reach, and trying something new, On Oct. 15th, from 6:30 to 8 PM, we partnered with the St. Paul Westlake Youth Group for a combined event at their location. Our youth group members made new acquaintances and enjoyed fellowship with their group.

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon on Nov. 5th our group held their first annual Hike and Picnic at newly renovated Cascade Park in Elyria. We explored God's creation of the river valley and natural beauty of the park and then finished with a picnic of grilled hotdogs and side dishes.



The fall quarter finished with a flourish of activities as we hosted a joint evening with the St. Paul youth on November 19th.

On December 2nd, the group worked with the LWML to bake and package Christmas cookies for the annual Christmas bake sale. Many thanks to Carla Russell and Dimaris Woolsey for orchestrating this event and to the many bakers! Profits from the sale will be used for future youth retreats and gatherings.

Then, our group got together on December 3rd to participate in an Escape Room event, at which they were thankfully able to successfully get out and no one was lost! Thanks to Deb Poruban for taking the lead in that event.



Upcoming Youth Events



Our 1st quarter of 2024 is jammed packed with exciting events. Celebrate the New Year with St. Paul at OUR PLACE Sunday, Jan. 7th 6-8 PM. Bring friends!

Our 2nd annual retreat to Beulah Beach is to be held on January 26th and 27th followed by the Pancake Dinner February 13th.

We are in the planning process for other fun and faith filled events as the quarter progresses.

We encourage all junior and senior high congregants to come out and experience fellowship, fun, and faith together. And remember to bring your friends as ALL are welcome! Blessings on you days!



LWML/Women in Mission

2024 Winter News

By Carla Russell



Both the Baby Shower for Jesus and the LWML/Youth were a major success!

Thank you to everyone that participated and helped in any way.

Also, thanks to Thrivent for seed money for both events.

There must have been at least 100 quality gifts, plus a table full of toiletries, diapers, etc. for Laura's Home.

The Christmas Cookie Sale brought in \$1233.00 for the Youth Group.

Faith is always very generous!



**Walk & Talk
Winter Schedule:
January 6th
February 3rd
March 2nd**

January 6th LWML at 9:30 Walk & Talk (or LWML Women's Fellowship?) We will focus on Epiphany and make an easy craft. There will be snacks, devotion, and lots of authentic conversation. Meet in the kitchen, bring friends and relatives!

We will also discuss plans for 2024, as we are looking to revitalize our LWML Saturday morning activity. We will do crafts, servant events, field trips, a walk, and the like. Bring your ideas!

LWML Mission Grant Talk: Here are two (of the 31) missions that the LWML is supporting with your Mites.

Orphan Grain Train (OGT) touches millions of lives around the world by shipping donated foods, clothing, medical supplies and other needed items to the people in the US and 70 other countries, especially in times of disaster. This Lutheran volunteer network always tries to work through the churches, so the Gospel accompanies the assistance given. The funds will support a new project in the Nebraska site. Mercy Meals will be expanded from five million meals to ten million meals.

Dakota Boys and Girl Ranch, a healing Space for At-Risk Children from ages 10-18, who have faced heartbreaking abuse, neglect, and trauma. Most of the children have little to no faith background and are learning about Jesus, and the discovery of our Savior's mercy is often the most vital part of a child's healing. The campus includes a gym, school and therapy rooms. The funds will help with the building of a new specialized chapel, where those precious children can know and experience Christ's mercy and Healing power.

Go to www.lwml.org to read about the rest of the Mission Grants!



**2024 LWML Ohio District
Convention
Friday & Saturday, June 21-22**

"The Lord is my Strength and My Shield" at the Holiday Inn Canton, Ohio. Let's see if we can get several cars of women to attend this event! You can be assured of a spiritually exhilarating time!

**LWML 2024 Luncheon
"Lord of the Nations"
Saturday, May 4th, 2024**

This special luncheon will be a potluck, where we will bring a traditional dish or dessert from our ethnic heritage to share.

More information about our exciting speakers and program to follow!





Property Management Report

by Mike Emling

January 2024

Another year has passed and we all enjoyed the property and the building. We were warm, dry, cool, and well lit. I take great pride in providing these comforts for all to enjoy.

To recap last year, we enclosed the front entrance for additional office space. This was quite an ordeal as a means of egress was to be eliminated. I did all the life safety calculations and found we met the life safety code for the state and city, which allowed us to modify this space and provide better use of this area.

In addition, we invested some time and effort to create an additional office/meeting room, storage closet, improved the wireless internet in the old section of the building, and did electrical improvements to that area while we had the ceilings and walls open. We brought a lot of areas up to code and made the area safer for all. These major modifications were the most we have ever done to this side of the building.

With that being said, we look into 2024 with pride as I know the building is well maintained and will be used with greater frequency as we grow our faith and add programs.

Looking ahead we plan improvements to windows, outside lighting, pavilion improvements and landscaping. Our normal inspections required by the city will be a part of this work as well.

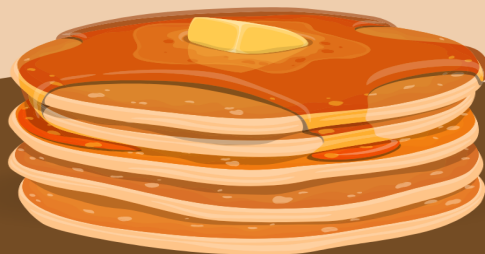
As always if you see something that needs repaired or addressed, please don't hesitate to contact me with your concerns. I look forward to the new year, the people of Faith and the continual service to the building.

In service to the Lord,

Save the Date for 2nd Annual

SHROVE TUESDAY

PANCAKE DINNER



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

Watch for more details!!

Faith Fellowship

2024
Winter news

As we enter the winter season, let's take a look back at all the fun, Fall Fellowship events at Faith!

On October 22nd, we had our first "Crock"tober Potluck and Quilting fundraiser. They were both a huge success! This event allowed us to raise money for our quilting group so that they can continue their special ministry. We look forward to making the potluck an annual event!

Sunday, November 12th was our Advent Workshop where members were able to choose a special craft to create. There were about 25 or 30 in attendance consisting of several families with children, some singles and couples as well! It was nice to see all ages attending! If you would like to be a part of planning this special event, please reach out to Bonnie Sears @ bonsears@icloud.com.

Our annual Thanksgiving Pie Social was another yummy success! Thank you to all who brought delicious treats to share. We certainly have much to be THANKFUL for!



Fellowship Team

Melissa Watkins
Dimaris Woolsey
Bonnie Sears
Elizabeth Schuster
Leslie Ross
Cindy Schlotman
Bea Marlette
Jenny Vazquez

As we look towards the Advent season and beginning of 2024, here are the upcoming Fellowship events!

Saturday, December 31st - Join us for a special New Year's Eve devotional and time of fellowship from 6pm-8pm in Halvorson Hall. More information will be provided soon!

Saturday, January 6th - Help us "un-decorate" the church! Similar to our decorating event, this will take place in the morning at 11am and lunch will be provided. The more individuals we have, the better! A sign-up will be provided closer to the event.



Saturday, February 24th - It's time to welcome our newest Faith members during our New Member Dinner! This special event will take place in Halvorson Hall with catering provided by Tom's Country Place. Members from all Faith ministries will be present to share details of how to become more involved. We have over 40 new members! What a blessing! Invitations will be sent out closer to the event.

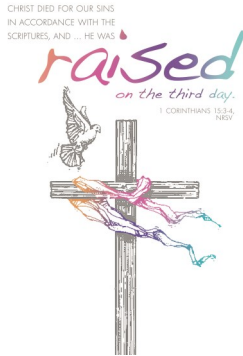
Please consider joining our team! We meet around May and September to discuss the details of past events while looking ahead to the rest of the year (usually 6 months at a time). Your time commitment, big or small, is greatly appreciated! Have feedback and/or ideas about past or future events? We would love to hear! Please contact Melissa Watkins at watkinsmelissa81@gmail.com or 480-518-6791.

Blessing to you!
Melissa Watkins

Faith Lutheran Church & Preschool

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Lenten Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday - February 14
Noon & 7pm

Lenten Midweek Services
Wednesdays, Feb 21 - March 20
Noon & 7pm

Palm Sunday Service - March 24
8am Traditional, 10:30am Contemporary

Maundy Thursday - March 28
Noon & 7pm

Good Friday - March 29
Noon & 7pm

Easter Sunday Service - March 31
8am Traditional, 10:30am Contemporary

Easter Breakfast - March 31
9:15am