

Faith Notes

2576 Browncroft Blvd. Rochester, NY 14625 Office: (585)381-3970 faithpenfield.org

*Blessed New Year
2024!*

WISE MEN
Still
SEEK
Him

Looking forward in the New Year:

Adult Sunday School & Sr FLY * classes beginning January 7th
- Diane Van Auken "World Religions"

Children's Sunday School * classes beginning January 7th

Celebration of Pastor Peter's Ministry * January 14th
- Combined 9:30 a.m. Service with Reception

31st Annual FLY Coffee House * Friday, January 26th

Sledding Night at Faith w/ Dinner * February 9th

Ash Wednesday/FLY Spaghetti Dinner * Wednesday, February 14th

Sr FLY Winter Retreat * March 1st – March 3rd

Easter Sunday * March 31st

Summer Workcamp @ Erie, PA * July 7th – July 13th

Vacation Bible School * July 29th – August 2nd

RALLY Sunday * September 8th

Jr FLY Fall Retreat * September 27th – 29th

CONNECT * GROW * SERVE

Faith Child Care and Nursery School

2576 Browncroft Boulevard, Rochester, New York 14625-1530

Phone: (585) 381-3970

Phone: (585) 385-2360

Office Hours: Mon-Thur, 9am-4pm; Fri, 9am-12pm

Hours: 7:00am-5:30pm

Website: www.faithpenfield.org

Website: <https://faithpenfield.org/faith-child-care>

Church Staff and Faith Child Care Staff

PASTORAL and EDUCATION

PASTOR

Rev. Peter Johnson
ext. 16

peter@faithpenfield.org

Direct Line 485-0146

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Shannon Wolf - Interim Sunday
School Director

sundayschool@faithpenfield.org

Stephanie Johnson - Interim VBS
Director

vbs@faithpenfield.org

Taylor Saunders - Nursery

MUSIC

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ ORGANIST

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DIRECTOR OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

Elizabeth Balentine

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OFFICE

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Direct Line 485-0151

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND
OPERATIONS

Lori Connolly

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Traditional Worship---8:30 AM Sundays

In-House and Livestreamed

Contemporary Worship---10:45 AM Sundays

In-House and Livestreamed

Holy Communion Celebrated on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

Christian Education Opportunities

Sunday School Classes (Age 3 through Grade 6), Sundays, 9:45-10:40am

Jr. FLY Confirmation (Youth in grades 7-8), Sundays, 9:45-10:40am

Sr. FLY Bible Class (Youth in grades 9-12), Sundays, 9:45-10:40am

Sunday Night FLY (Youth in grades 7-12), 2nd & 4th Sundays, 7-8:45pm

Adult Bible Study Class – In-person and Livestreamed classes, Sundays, 9:45-10:40am

Pastor Peter's Perspective

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age," Matthew 28:19-20.



Christ calls us to "Go and make disciples!" It's a simple, yet profound directive from Jesus! "Go" is the catalyst for our lives and our life together as God's people.

"Go" is an action word

It's a call to be on the move beyond our comfort zones and beyond our familiar walls. It's a reminder that the Gospel is meant to be shared and not meant to be kept within the walls of our church. I discovered this truth when I served as a DCE Intern in Hawaii and God called me to serve here in New York. God continues to lead all of us to get out of our comfort zones and "go and make disciples."

"Go" implies urgency

The time is now to go and make disciples. The light has come to this dark world and we are carriers of Christ's light into every corner of this world. We have a message of hope, life, and forgiveness for all people! Your pastor and congregation will not wait around, we're going to keep "going" into all the world! Let's GO!

"Go" with Jesus

Christ promises to be "with you always, to the very end of the age." You're not going alone into your neighborhood, school, workplace, and community... you're going with Jesus and His Church! Christ has been with you since your baptism and He walks with you wherever you go. How comforting and encouraging is that?!

"Go" is for all of us

This active command is not just for your pastor or a select few... it's for every Christ follower! Each of us has been gifted by God with spheres of influence where we can make disciples of Jesus, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

I created the artwork above for the Celebration of Ministry service on Jan. 14. "Go" is the theme of that worship service, just as it's been my personal theme and goal throughout my ministry in God's Kingdom. The artwork features a map of Rochester & Penfield inserted into the word, "Go." Our church is located in the center of the "O" to remind us that we are to "Go" into all the world, starting in our church, then out to our neighborhoods, communities, and world. The green color symbolizes life and growth as God's Kingdom expands in Rochester and around the world.

May the Spirit of the living God propel us forward as we embrace the command to "Go and make disciples," trusting in the promise that Jesus is with us always! Let's GO!

Serving with you,
-Pastor Peter

Stewardship Message from the Faith Leadership Board

We give thanks for the blessed support that our congregation continues to provide for the ministries that are so important to us and the community in which we serve. As we look to "Connect, Grow & Serve" within and outside our church community, it is important to keep up on our financial support of the operating budget. **We have continued to fall behind our 2023 envelope giving targets for year-to-date November by \$34,019 vs. budget and by \$18,277 vs. the same period last year.** We are asking you to please prayerfully consider how you might be able to **help close the gap** by the end of 2023.

We had over **160 households** participate in the Pavilion Capital Campaign whose generosity **helped us to meet our \$300,000 goal** for this ministry project. Our Finance Team has received some questions as to whether the Pavilion Capital Campaign impacted giving to Faith's general operating fund by our members. Our contribution data supports that the households that contributed to the Pavilion Capital Campaign have also provided year-to-date gifts to the general operating fund that are collectively above and beyond what they gave to Faith as of the same time last year. In addition, the pavilion project brought **30 new givers** to Faith! Look at what God can do!

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the **101 households** who have already submitted their 2024 pledges totaling **\$377,869**. We have extended the submission deadline through the end of January 2024. You can submit your pledge by dropping it in the Concourse pledge box, mailing it to our church office (2576 Browncroft Blvd, Rochester, NY 14625) or calling the church office at 585-381-3970 with your pledge information.

We have also been very blessed to receive a robust response from many of our members indicating the ministries in which they have pledged to participate in the coming year. Exciting times are ahead of us as we embark on this new chapter of ministry together with Pastor Peter and our many ministry teams.

Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 4: 1 & 2, "This how is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful."

FAITH'S STEWARDSHIP RESPONSE FOR PRIOR MONTH:

ENVELOPE GIVING					
November 2023	Voter Approved Budget	Actual	Variance from Budget	% Variance	Prior Year Actual
1st Sunday	\$8,000	\$5,604	(\$2,396)	-30%	\$8,454
2nd Sunday	\$8,000	\$3,805	(\$4,195)	-52%	\$6,477
3rd Sunday	\$8,000	\$4,075	(\$3,925)	-49%	\$8,552
4th Sunday	\$6,000	\$6,567	\$567	9%	\$2,013
5th Sunday	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%	\$0
Online Giving	\$22,000	\$20,293	(\$1,707)	-8%	\$19,884
Festival Giving	\$500	\$645	\$145	29%	\$500
Monthly Total	\$52,500	\$40,989	(\$11,511)	-22%	\$45,880
Year-to-Date Total	\$615,000	\$580,981	(\$34,019)	-6%	\$599,258



Join us For A Celebration of Pastor Peter Johnson's Ministry

~ Sunday, January 14, 2024 ~

9:30am Blended Worship Service

featuring RPO Brass & Faith's Music Ensembles

11am Finger-Food Reception

in the Auditorium

Come celebrate all that God is doing at Faith as Pastor Peter officially becomes our Pastor!

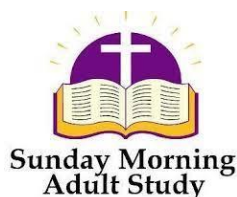
Adult Education

"World Religions Class" for Adults & the Sr. FLY Class

Sundays @ 9:45am on Jan. 7, 21, 28 & Feb. 4

Come hear about the history, commonalities, and differences of five of the most popular world religions. We will discuss cultural and historical impacts when these religions started and as they spread, and how we, as Christians, support our beliefs in conversation with others. Join us!

The class is led by Diane Van Auken.

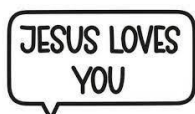


From the Mission Board

The Mission Team would like to **thank everyone** for the support for the Angel Tree project and for the donations in the Penny tower. Your generosity provided gifts to families and individuals thru:

Willow Domestic Violence Center, Community Lutheran Ministries, Bethlehem Family Services, and Eastern Service Workers Assn. Over 140 gifts were distributed to these organizations, and many people were shown Christ's love through the simple act of giving a gift. What a wonderful way to share the joy and Hope we have in Jesus!

- Missions has also started working with Bethlehem Family Services. They are a local, Christ centered charity serving families facing homelessness in the area. We hope to partner with them for several projects in 2024.



As we end this year, I am humbled as I look back on all the support and prayers the Missions Team received from Faith's community. We work hard to spread the love of Jesus through our projects and donations, and we could not do that without Faith's caring and supportive members and friends.

May God continue to bless and guide us all as we begin this new year.

With great thanks -
Marguerite McKee, Missions Ministry Chair

Ways you can SERVE

Dear Faith Family,

In order for our ministries to strengthen and expand, we are looking for people to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus in the following areas & more:

Altar Guild: Preparing communion and the chancel area for worship.

Lay Readers: Proclaiming the Word of God to your brothers and sisters.

Eucharist Assistants: Serving the Body of Christ to your brothers and sisters.

PowerPoint Operators: Clicking the slides to facilitate singing and spoken parts of worship for your brothers and sisters.

Ushers: Greeting your Faith Family, handing out bulletins, and helping them get situated in the sanctuary as needed.

Livestream Producers: Running the worship services online every Sunday.

Joseph Guild: Maintaining, fixing & painting our beautiful church facility on a regular basis.

Gardeners: Weeding & maintaining Faith's gardens once or twice a month.

Stephen Ministry: Lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Knit or Crochet prayer shawls for people needing comfort due to illness or personal issues in their lives. Meet with the group on the second Monday of the month at church and/or work at home to complete your projects.

FCCNS: looking for volunteers to rock babies, classroom readers, classroom project helpers, craft/basement organizer.

If you are able to assist in any of these areas, please contact Elizabeth Balentine and she can direct you accordingly (elizabeth@faithpenfield.org) and/or check the Worship Volunteer Sign Up for some general available slots found at this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0544afaf2eabfd0-worship1>



Children's Ministry

Sunday School 2023-2024

Thank you to all the Sunday School students and families who participated in the annual Christmas Pageant! It was so special to hear the story of Christmas from the children. A special thanks to Peggy Muller and Mari-Beth Schembri for organizing and facilitating the pageant and cookie reception this year! It was well attended and enjoyed by all!

In Sunday school, we concluded Old Testament lessons and children in all classes have been learning about the miracle Jesus' birth and the promise that He brings. We will be following Jesus's journey to the cross with upcoming New Testament rotations on Feeding the 5,000, Mary & Martha, Wise and Foolish Builders and Lazarus.



This Winter, Children's Ministries will be bringing back Kidz Konnect. Once a month we will be hosting a service project for 4th-6th graders which will include lunch or dinner. More information will be provided to families through a Smore email.

****Please note, there will be NO Sunday School offered January 14th in observance of the Celebration of Pastor Peter's Ministry.***

Goings on at Faith

Men's Breakfast Group

Join us as we start the day together in fellowship!

When: **Tuesday, January 2nd @ 7am**

Where: **Browncroft Diner**, 2501 Browncroft Blvd, Rochester, Ny 14625

It is intended to gather men of all ages together at the beginning of the day.

Whether you are on your way to work, enjoying retirement, dropping the kids off at school or just taking a mental health day, we all deal with a variety of stresses in this life. It is for that reason we are encouraging you to gather on the first Tuesday of each month from 7am to 8am, for a time of **fellowship, encouragement, a brief devotion and of course breakfast.**



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our next meeting will be on **Monday January 8th** at 1:30 in Room 204. Marie Ferner, one of our prayer shawl ministry members, is very accomplished both in knitting and crocheting and would be happy to work with anyone who is interested in participating. If you would like a shawl, please contact the church office or Sue Hutchings. Prayer squares are available on the information desk in the concourse.



The Dorcas Group is meeting on **Thursday January 12th** at 11:30 am in Room 204. Please bring your lunch and join us for some socializing and making of pillows, bears, walker bags and shirt savers. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Contact Laurie Ebbecke at 671-7285 or Karen Wright at 377-4414 with any questions

SOLA - Strength of Living Alone



We will meet at 11:30 for lunch on **Friday, January 12th**. Everyone will pay their own bill. Donna Kaser will send out an email to let you know the specific restaurant. We will need to know if you are coming so we can alert the restaurant and have enough seats for everyone. ***If you are interested, please email Donna to get on the contact list.*** If you have any questions or want more information please email Donna Kaser at dontshop@gmail.com or call or text 259-6488.



For the spring the **Women's Book Group** is reading the best-selling novel, *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. The novel takes place "in 1961, when smart ambitious women had limited options." (NY Times) Elizabeth Zott is a brilliant research chemist whose career takes a detour when she becomes the unlikely star of a TV cooking show. Elizabeth doesn't just teach women how to cook—she dares them to challenge the status quo. Join us in the spring to discuss this "darkly funny, poignant, and quirky" novel. For more information contact Rae Usinger (381-1391 home; 585 738-9345 cell) or Barb Riethmeier (585 704-8459 cell; 381-0779 home).



Thank you..

- To the 50 youth & adults who attended our Sunday Night FLY Christmas Party on Dec. 10!
- To the Schembri's, Kuiper's, and Young's for hosting our wonderful Progressive Dinner on Dec. 17!
- To everyone who purchased a Faith ornament at our sale last month! Over \$600 was raised for our workcamp team heading to Erie, PA this July!
- To all of the youth who are bringing friends to FLY events! Let's keep inviting more!
- To our incredible Youth Advisors for their dedicated service to God and His children!

Join us for the Celebration of Pastor Peter's Ministry on Jan. 14 @ 9:30am!

All past & present FLYers are invited to follow the cross w/ Pastor Peter in this special worship service on Sunday, Jan. 14! FLY will be saying a blessing over Pastor Peter as he officially becomes our pastor. There will be a special finger-food reception following the service. We are excited for what God has in store for Faith and our youth group this year!

*No Sunday Night FLY on Jan. 14 due to the Celebration of Pastor Peter's Ministry

Sunday Night FLY "Tough Questions" – Sunday, Jan. 28 @ 7-8:45pm

All 7th-12th grade students are invited to ask our Youth Advisors tough questions about God, faith, and life on Jan. 28. Bring your friends and get ready for some engaging conversations about a variety of topics. We'll end the evening together with some games and fun!

*This year's SNFLY Challenge:

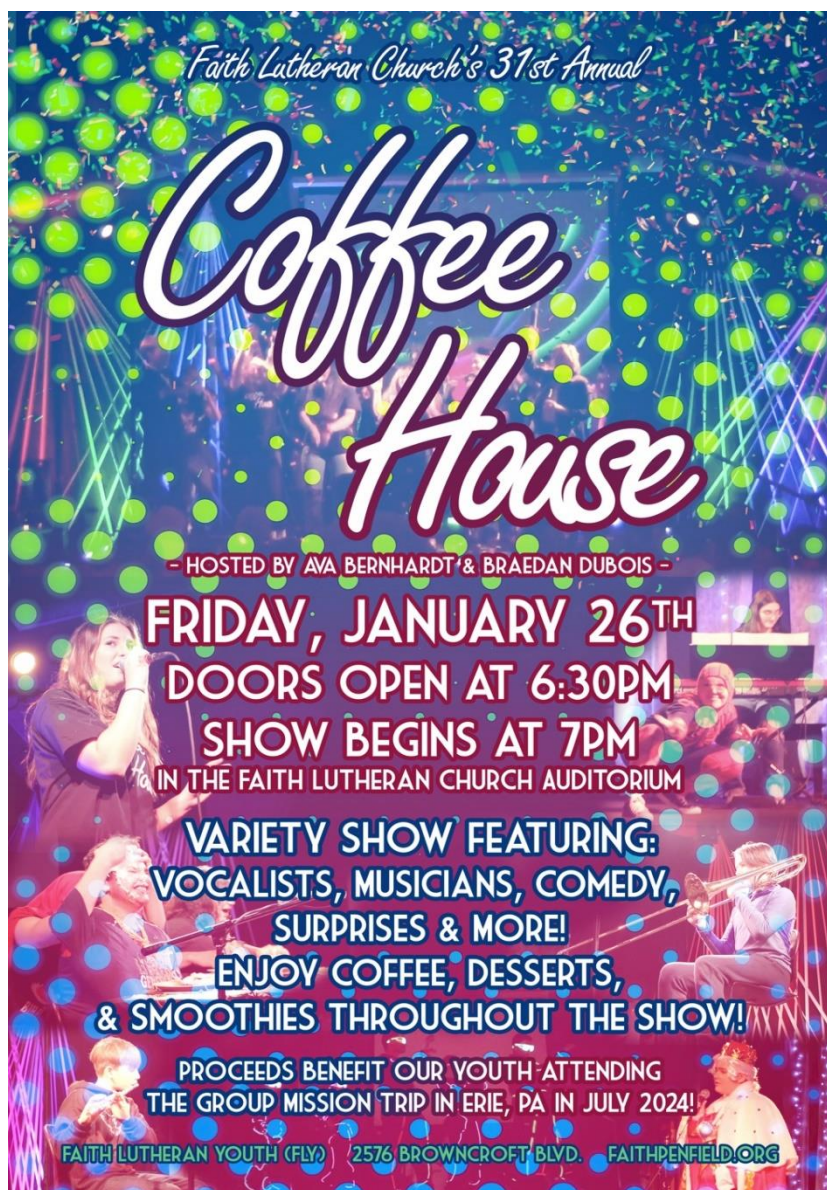
-If 55 youth attend at SNFLY, we'll play laser tag at church!

*About Sunday Night FLY (SNFLY):

Youth in grades 7-12 meet on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month from 7-8:45pm in the FLY Room from Sept-June! We worship together, read God's Word, talk in small groups, play large group games, eat lots of food, and more! The nightly topics are always relevant for teens as we grow together in our relationships with God & others. The FLY Café is open from 6:30-9 where youth can purchase candy, soda, t-shirts, and other FLY merch. (Popcorn is always FREE!) Spin the Birthday Wheel for a fun birthday surprise! The Nintendo Switch, air hockey, and foosball games can be played before and after Sunday Night FLY. Friends are always welcome!



Thank you to the 50 youth and adults who brought food donations and gifts to our awesome FLY Christmas Party on Dec. 10!



31st Annual Coffee House –

Jan. 26 @ 7pm

Everyone is invited to an evening of fun-filled entertainment in the Faith Auditorium on Jan. 26! Faith's 31st Annual Coffee House variety show will highlight various talented people from our church while raising money for youth attending Group Work Camp in Erie, PA this July!

Many thanks to all who signed up to share their talents on-stage! A talent can be baking, too, because FLY will be serving desserts made by Faith members! **Bakers can sign-up in the Concourse this month** and deliver their baked goods to the church kitchen before the show.

Please talk to Pastor Peter if you have questions. The doors will open at 6:30pm and the acts will begin at 7. Come enjoy desserts, coffee, smoothies, talented performers, and more!

***Help volunteer at the Coffee House! Check out the sign-up sheet on the FLY bulletin board to join a volunteer team! Many thanks!**

Jr. FLY Confirmation Class – Sundays @ 9:45-10:40am

7th & 8th grade students are going through the Small Catechism on Sundays with Pastor Peter and Meredith Tindall. All classes are in-person in Room 204. If you miss a class, you can download the PowerPoint presentation online at: <https://faithpenfield.org/ministries/confirmation-lessons> *No class on Jan. 14.

Sunday Morning Sr. FLY Class - Sundays @ 9:45-10:40am

All high school students are invited to the combined Sr. FLY & adult Bible Class in the Auditorium at 9:45am. The class will learn about different world religions led by Diane Van Auken. *No class on Jan. 14.

FLY Internship Opportunity!

Have you ever wanted to serve and grow as a Christian leader in FLY? Are you interested in leading Bible studies or planning FLY events? If so, pray about applying to be a new FLY Intern for 6 months starting March 4, 2024. Ava Bernhardt and Hailey Keller currently serve as our FLY Interns and their term ends on Mar. 3. There are two spots available for people to serve as interns! The internship application can be found in the FLY Room or the FLY bulletin board. The application deadline is January 31. Talk to Pastor Peter if you have any questions.

Small Group for FLY Parents – Jan. 7

Parenting teenagers is an adventure! Sometimes it can feel like no-one else understands the highs and lows of this adventure. BUT, you are not alone! Other FLY parents want to support and walk alongside you! The next meeting is Jan. 7 @ 7pm in the FLY Room. Please talk to Cris Alello if you have any questions.

Save the Dates:**-Spaghetti Dinner on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14**

Enjoy a delicious meal of Spaghetti before our Ash Wed. worship service! FLYers can sign-up on the FLY Bulletin Board to volunteer.

-Sr. FLY Winter Retreat on Mar. 1-3 @ Camp Casowasco

Online registration and more information are coming next month! Our FLY Interns are busy creating a fun and engaging retreat experience for all high school & college-age students! It'll be AWESOME!

Mark Your Calendars...

*No SNFLY on Feb. 11 due to the Super Bowl

Feb. 14 – Spaghetti Dinner/Placemat FUNdraiser

Feb. 25 - Sunday Night FLY "REMIX"

Mar. 1-3 – 2024 Sr. FLY Winter Retreat @ Camp Casowasco

Online Contact Form/Activity Participation Agreement

Our church's insurance company asks every youth to complete the following online form to participate in FLY activities on our church property this school year. We also included some questions about the type of activities and topics you'd like FLY to cover this coming year. <https://faithpenfield.org/resources/fly-contact-form>

JOIN FLY's Text-based Communication Service!

Sign-up to receive reminders, announcements, and other info about upcoming FLY events right to your phone here: <https://www.remind.com/join> and join this class: [flyouth](#).

**Check us out on YouTube!**

You can watch hilarious Coffee House videos, FLY promos, and more on our YouTube page?!

www.youtube.com/faithlutheranyouth

**Connect with FLY on Facebook! Join our group today!**

Search for "Faith Lutheran Youth (FLY)" on Facebook or type out this link...

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/flypenfield/>

**Follow FLY on Instagram!**

<https://www.instagram.com/flypenfield/>

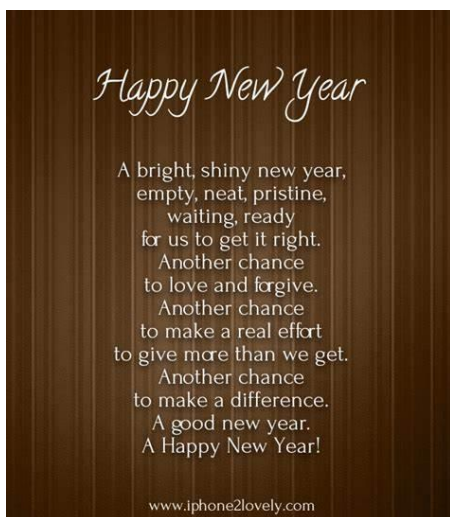
Faith Child Care and Nursery School (FCCNS)

"Where your child can grow in body, mind and spirit"

Our theme for January is Winter. The letters we will be working on are K, L and M as well as working on the color Yellow, the Oval shape and Sorting. Our Faith Character Words for the Month Will Be: Star, Passover, Baptize, Disciple, and Miracle. Our Bible Stories will be The Bright Star and Three Visitors, Jesus is Lost, John Baptizes Jesus, Jesus Chooses His Disciples and Jesus' First Miracle. Our Character Trait is Kindness.

There are a few special activities we will be having in January:

- FCCNS Re-Opens- January 2nd
- Parent-Teacher Conferences- January 2nd- 12th
- Penfield Schools Closed- January 15th and 22nd MLK, Jr. Day and Conference Day (School Age here all day)
- National Lutheran Schools Week- January 21st – 26th



I remember as a child wanting desperately to stay awake until midnight on New Years Eve. I just wanted to stay up late, watch movies and have really good snacks. I seldom succeeded in my efforts. Looking back, I don't think I really understood the significance of a brand-new year. It was just another day. Why were my parents waking me up to wish me a happy new year? It wasn't until I was older that I really understood. It wasn't about staying up to midnight or watching the ball drop, it was about celebrating the people we get to spend our lives with. My parents woke us up because they wanted to be with us to celebrate a new year filled with infinite possibilities. We have been using that saying around Faith a lot talking about what the future is going to look like. A blank slate with infinite possibilities. I am so excited to be starting a brand-new year with all my FCCNS families and my Faith family. I am looking forward to what we can do together as a congregation to show this world who our Savior is. There was one year I was blessed to see the ball drop in person in Time Square with the Tindalls. It was on my bucket list, but to tell you the truth I wouldn't do it again. It was a cool experience with great people and a nice memory, but I missed the really good snacks and being in my Pj's, watching movies hanging out with the people I am blessed to share my life with. I probably won't make it to midnight this year either, but I'll happily get woken up by those who want to wish me a Happy New Year because I realize more and more that life is unpredictable, and we need to hang on and love as much as we can. Happy New Year Faith! Let's make it amazing!

Faith Child Care & Nursery School
Year to Date Income & Expenses Compared to Budget
As of 11/30/2023

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Fav/(Unfav) Variance	Prior YTD	Board Approved 2023 Budget
Operating Income					
Fees	793,384	804,908	(11,524)	737,232	854,749
Interest/Misc./Other	26,143	28,114	(1,971)	22,204	29,526
Total Operating Income	<u>819,527</u>	<u>833,022</u>	<u>(13,495)</u>	<u>759,436</u>	<u>884,275</u>
Expenses:					
Program	41,269	38,516	(2,753)	36,699	42,646
Employee Related	682,427	711,725	29,298	608,074	776,406
Property & Equipment	55,320	57,331	2,011	64,742	62,256
Supplies	12,625	12,300	(325)	13,978	13,400
Operating Expenses	<u>791,642</u>	<u>819,872</u>	<u>28,230</u>	<u>723,493</u>	<u>894,708</u>
Net Operating Income (Loss)	27,885	13,150	14,735	35,943	(10,433)
PPP Loan Forgiveness Grant	12,042	12,042	0	43,917	13,137
Stabilization Grant	0		0	80,500	
Total Other Income	<u>12,042</u>	<u>12,042</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>124,417</u>	<u>13,137</u>
Allocation to Reserve	0		0	80,500	
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>39,927</u>	<u>25,192</u>	<u>14,735</u>	<u>79,860</u>	<u>2,704</u>

End of November enrollment 76 children

HOW TO REDUCE TAXABLE INCOME WITH A QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION



In an effort to help you be a good steward of the gifts God has given you, we would like to share a strategy that could be a blessing to you, your family, and our Faith family.

The generous standard deduction available for the current tax year is welcomed by many as it will simplify filing and could even reduce your tax bill. Even if you take the standard deduction, however, there is a tax-savvy strategy that allows retirees to further reduce their tax liability by taking advantage of qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) from their individual retirement accounts. This charitable rollover provision allows IRA owners 70 ½ years or older to transfer up to \$100,000 per year **directly** from their IRA to one or more qualified charities, without that donation being counted as taxable income when it is withdrawn. In addition, these qualified charitable distributions count as part of the person's required withdrawals from the IRA account.

Please consult your tax adviser and IRA trustee to make sure that you meet the qualifications to take advantage of this provision and that the distribution is properly processed.

If you would like to make a qualified charitable distribution to Faith Lutheran Church, please instruct your IRA trustee or custodian to make a transfer from the IRA **directly** to Faith Lutheran Church as the payee on the check. You may also have the distribution transferred **directly** from your IRA account to Faith Lutheran Church's checking account by contacting Kay Gerlach in the church office at **485-0412 or finance@faithpenfield.org** for the necessary information. Your donation will be credited to support the unified budget of Faith Lutheran Church unless you designate otherwise via written communication to either Kay Gerlach, Director of Finance, or Kris Cronk, Church Secretary.

Please know that we sincerely appreciate any gift you make to support the ministry and mission of Faith Lutheran Church. We are so blessed that God provides so many ways for us to be a part of His work here on earth! May your gifts serve as a reminder that God provides all that you have and has given to us His greatest gift of all – His Son, Jesus who gave His very life for you!

Faith Lutheran Church
Year to Date Income & Expenses Compared to Budget
As of 11/30/2023

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Fav/(Unfav) Variance	Prior YTD	Voter Approved 2023 Budget
Operating Income					
Envelope Offering/Plate Cash	587,235	619,075	(31,840)	604,185	695,000
FCCNS Facility Cost Sharing	22,917	22,917	0	22,917	25,000
Fund Distribution-Endowment	0	8,000	(8,000)	0	8,000
Interest/Misc./Other	12,030	11,365	665	5,174	11,500
Total Operating Income	<u>622,181</u>	<u>661,357</u>	<u>(39,175)</u>	<u>632,275</u>	<u>739,500</u>
Expenses:					
Education	16,406	19,875	3,469	14,060	20,700
Employee Related	378,807	430,081	51,273	433,093	470,502
Mission & Outreach	61,008	62,167	1,158	58,236	69,800
Music	5,258	6,338	1,079	4,647	7,800
Other Expense	10,539	7,480	(3,059)	6,309	8,150
Property	128,457	126,251	(2,206)	116,327	140,200
Supplies	27,658	26,525	(1,133)	25,495	28,900
Operating Expenses	<u>628,134</u>	<u>678,716</u>	<u>50,582</u>	<u>658,166</u>	<u>746,052</u>
Net Operating Income (Loss)	<u>(5,952)</u>	<u>(17,359)</u>	<u>11,407</u>	<u>(25,891)</u>	<u>(6,552)</u>
PPP Loan Forgiveness Grant	0	0	0	163,068	
PPP Grant-Funds Expended	0	0	0	(53,014)	
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(5,952)</u>	<u>(17,359)</u>	<u>11,407</u>	<u>84,163</u>	<u>(6,552)</u>

GIVING AT FAITH

At Faith Lutheran, giving is something we do with a spirit of joy in response to the love and forgiveness we have freely received in Jesus. "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver," (2 Corinthians 9:7). Your gift blesses Faith's continued mission to "seek and save the lost," (Luke 19:10).

There are a number of ways you can choose to give to the many ministries and outreach efforts at Faith.
 (Please contact Kay Gerlach, Director of Finance, at finance@faithpenfield.org or 485-0142 if you have any questions.)

1) *NEW* TEXT GIVING:

Simply enter Faith Lutheran Church's own dedicated number which is **833-958-1685**, enter the amount of your gift as your text message, press send and follow the remaining easy steps to make your secure one-time or recurring contribution.

2) ONLINE GIVING:

Visit the Faith Lutheran Church website at www.faithpenfield.org. Click the GIVING button on the top menu and then the "Start Giving" button. A new secure webpage powered by Vanco Payment Solutions will open that will give you further instructions and giving options for your gifts to Faith Lutheran Church.

3) VANCO PAYMENT SOLUTIONS (previously SIMPLY GIVING):

The Vanco Payment Solutions program also allows you to have your contributions automatically deducted from your bank account. Any changes to your giving through the Vanco program must be made through the church office. Please contact Kay Gerlach in the church office at 485-0142 if you have questions or need assistance.

4) ENVELOPE GIVING:

Our traditional method of receiving a box of offering envelopes for the year which allows you to mail your offering to the church office at 2576 Browncroft Blvd, Rochester, NY 14625 or place it in the collection plate during our worship service..

5) GIFT OF STOCK OR IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION

Both of these methods of gift giving offer additional tax advantages that can best be explained by your tax advisor or IRA trustee. Please contact Kay Gerlach directly at 485-0142 for assistance on how to make these types of contributions.

Endowment Fund:

The Faith Lutheran Church Permanent Endowment Fund was established in 2004 to provide members and friends the opportunity to make charitable gifts to Faith that will become a permanent endowment providing financial support for the ministry and mission of the Church. The custodian for the Faith Lutheran Church endowment fund brokerage account is Charles Schwab & Co, Inc. If you would like to make a contribution to this fund, please contact Kay Gerlach directly at 485-0142 or finance@faithpenfield.org for assistance.

From the Church Office

Faith Leadership Board Officers

Chair - Karoline Trojian

Vice Chair - Carrie Hignett Steiner

Secretary - Greg Gerbasi

Treasurer - Todd Natemeier

Nominating Committee Reps- Stacy Ledermann, Bruce Oaks, Carrie Ford



Altar Flowers Form: Help beautify our sanctuary on a Sunday morning by giving altar flowers in honor or memory of a loved one. We will be utilizing silk altar flowers unless someone orders fresh flowers for a Dedication. Any orders need to be in to the Church Office by the end of the 3rd week each month for the following month.

* Either complete a new online form and pay the \$75 fee at our online giving page here:

<https://faithpenfield.org/resources/altar-flowers>

* Or contact Kris Cronk (secretary@faithpenfield.org) and send a check to the Church Office made out to "Faith Lutheran Church" and Altar Flowers in the memo line.

* Or Utilize the sign-up book on the Information Center in the concourse and followup with a check made out to "Faith Lutheran" Church with Altar Flowers in the memo line

Announcement Request Form:

If you have an announcement that you'd like to include in our bulletin announcements or monthly newsletter "Faith Notes." Please submit an Announcement Form either in the Church Office or online here: <https://faithpenfield.org/resources/announcement-form>

This form will help us streamline our communications within our congregation and to our community. Thanks for understanding! Please contact the Church Office if you have any questions.

February Faith Notes Articles due Monday, January 22nd and should be directed to our Church Secretary, Kris Cronk (secretary@faithpenfield.org). Thank you!



If you are receiving **Offering Envelopes** for 2024, they can be found in the concourse.



Dear Faith Family,

*Thank
you*

Thank you so very much for all of the prayers, sympathy cards, text messages, emails, Facebook messages, and phone calls that we have received from our Faith Family. Your love and support have truly been felt by our family and have lifted us up during this time of grief. We were blessed to have Mom/Grammie as part of our family for many years and she will be missed.

We miss all of you!!! May you be showered with Blessings in 2024!!!

Debbie and Lyle Heggemeier

Births:

- **Evan James Valerio** (12/4/23), son of Corey & Michelle (Freitag) Valerio, grandson of Bob & Sandie Freitag

Called to Glory:

- **Nadine Koegeboehn** (11/25/23), mother of Debbie Heggemeier
- **Jeanne Therrien** (11/25/23), daughter of Jane Sandgren's sister-in-law
- **Bob Miller** (12/8/23), cousin of Ed Lindskoog
- **Beverly Jagow** (12/13/23), cousin of Wayne Samuels
- **Bob Ockenden** (12/13/23), friend of Ed Lindskoog
- **Hubert Velepcek** (12/14/23), husband of Audrey, long-time member of Faith
- **Sonny Born** (12/18/23), infant son of Carey & Jen Born
- **Andy Gundlach** (12/22/23), father-in-law of Wendy (Wright) Gundlach

Wedding Anniversaries



1	Gaylord & Lynne Leinenbach	15	Peter & Mary Versprille
4	Dan & Katharine Zager	23	Tim & Kimberley Albert
8	Glenn & Linda Collins	27	David & Jennifer Cook
9	Vincent & Cristine Alello	29	Siegfried & Liane Bartsch
12	Stephen & Charlene Sudore	30	Dean & Tracy Muller

Birthdays

1		15		25	
	Linda Hanss		Sarah Grace Fernaays		Sydney Crouse
3			Katherine Housand		Sharon Kiellach
	Janice Schrack		Audrey Stenzel	26	
5			Edward Wright		Hayden Lincoln
	Lawrence Christensen	16			Robert Wyman
	Bruce Kulp		Paul Lucci	27	
8		17			Mackenzie Harrington
	Mathias McDonough		Elisabeth Mangerian	28	
9			Rachel Poetker		Taylor Albert
	Gabriel Buck	18			Christopher Demme
	Jayden Hoad		Christina Brownell		Douglas Osovski
	Ayden Kennedy		Nik Couture	29	
10		20			Beth D'Ambrosio
	Marsha Freeman		Davis Easton		Madeline Hartley
11			Scarlet Kabat		Owen Kaser
	Allison Cappellino-Boyle		Sally Schooley		Cheryl Speisman
	David Lindskoog		Corey Sharp		Jennifer Wagner
12		21		30	
	Lisa Easton		Peter Versprille		Mary Carpenter
	Maria Gerbasi		Jack Webb		Edward Freeman
13		23			David Lapresi
	Liam Cerveney		Zachary Ottman	31	
	Frederick Mason		Madison Steiner		Kennedy Coles
	Quinn McGahey		Tracey Testa		Carolyn McDonough
14		24			
	Alivia Duckles		Will Withall		
	Shane Maginn				
	Elizabeth Trimble				



January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 FCCNS Closed Church Office Closed 	2 7:00am Men's Breakfast (Browniecroft/Diner) 10:00am FLC Bowling Lgwe 10:30am FCCNS Chapel 1:00pm Legacy	3 10:00am Church Staff 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Music Rm)	4 7:00pm Music & Worship (CmRm)	5	6 11:30am Parents of Young Children (FLYRm)
7 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Adult Bible Class Sunday School Jr FLY in 204 / Sr FLY in FLY Rm 10:45am Contemporary Worship 12:00pm Taking Down the Greens 7:00pm FLY Parents Small Group (FLYRm)	8 1:30pm Prayer Shawl (Rm204) 7:00pm Lyric Chorale (Aud)	9 10:00am FLC Bowling Lgwe 10:30am FCCNS Chapel 4:00pm Stephen Ministry (CmRm)	10 10:00am Church Staff 5:30pm Board of Ed (Rm204) 5:45pm Girl Scouts (CmRm) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Music Rm)	11 11:30am Dorcas Group (Rm204) 2:00pm Property Board (CmRm) 6:00pm Girl Scouts (CmRm)	12 11:30am SOLA Lunch	13 1:00pm Fiddlers Rehearsal (MusicRm)
14 <i>Celebration of Pastor Peter's Ministry</i> 9:30am Combined Service 11:00am Reception	15 8:00am Joseph Guild 10:00am Flower City Rug Hook Group (CmRm) 7:00pm FCCNS Board Mtg (CmRm/ZOOM) 7:00pm Lyric Chorale (Aud)	16 10:00am FLC Bowling Lgwe 10:30am FCCNS Chapel 1:00pm Legacy 7:00pm FLB Mtg (CmRm)	17 10:00am Church Staff 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Music Rm)	18 7:00pm Youth Advisors Mtg	19	20
21 <i>FCCNS Sunday</i> 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Adult Bible Class Sunday School Jr FLY in 204 / Sr FLY in FLY Rm 10:45am Contemporary Worship 6:00pm Faith Connections (CmRm)	22 7:00pm Lyric Chorale (Aud) 	23 10:00am FLC Bowling Lgwe 10:30am FCCNS Chapel	24 10:00am Church Staff 6:00pm Coffee House Stage/Lights Setup 5:30pm FCCNS Staff Mtg (Rm204)	25	26 <i>Coffee House</i> 6:30pm Doors Open 7:00pm Entertainment Begins!	27
28 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Adult Bible Class Sunday School Jr FLY in 204 / Sr FLY in FLY Rm 10:45am Contemporary Worship 7:00pm Sunday Night FLY "Tough Questions"	29 7:00pm Lyric Chorale (Aud)	30 10:00am FLC Bowling Lgwe 10:30am FCCNS Chapel	31 10:00am Church Staff 5:45pm FCCNS Staff Mtg (Rm204) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Music Rm)	Lutheran Schools Week	Lutheran Schools Week	

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2576 Browncroft Blvd
Rochester NY 14625-1530

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED