



Faith Lutheran Church

Receiving and Sharing the Love of Christ
April 2026 Newsletter



6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²“Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³“that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” ⁴Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. *Ephesians 6:1–4 (ESV)*

Dear Friends in Christ,

In December 2022, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Samson had their 2 daughters removed from their home. The oldest daughter at the time was 11 years old. Earlier that year, their 11-year-old daughter accused her parents of abuse and Swedish Authorities stepped in to take custody of their daughters. 11-year-old Sarah was mad at her parents because they would not let her wear makeup or have a smart phone. So, in anger, she filed a false abuse report with Swedish authorities. The Samson family attended church 3 times a week. They were considered “hyper-religious.” Even though 11-year-old Sarah retracted her allegations of abuse, the Swedish authorities have refused to return the daughters to the Samson household. During these past 3 + years, both of the Samson daughters have attempted suicide in State custody. The State cited the fact that the family attended church 3 times a week as evidence of religious extremism as the reason they are not returning their daughters. The parents have gone through required parenting classes and have been deemed fit to parent, but the state refuses to return the children. ADF International (Alliance for the Defense of Freedom = ADF) told [Premier Christian News](#) that social services in Hässleholm are now moving to permanently sever the family's ties and place the girls for adoption.

Ephesians 6 tells children to obey their parents and fathers should not exasperate their children. Discipline is good with guidance to help children grow up to be responsible adults. But the discipline also needs to be thoughtful and loving. If parents are critical of everything their children do so that they are exasperated, then parents face the consequences of killing the spirit of their children. Jesus says it would be better to have a millstone tied around your neck and tossed into the depths of the sea than to cause one of these little ones to be lost.

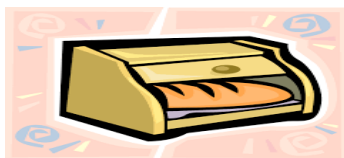
All of this took place in Sweden, and I know there are people who think that could never happen here in the United States, but children have been removed from homes in the U.S. when the State determines that children's welfare is at stake. For instance, if the parents belong to a religious order that would prevent their children from receiving medical care.

Mike and Kitty Burke are lifelong residents of Springfield, Massachusetts. Mike is an Iraq War veteran, and Kitty has experience working with special needs children. After finding they could not bear their own children, the Burkes applied to be foster parents, successfully completing training and going through extensive interviews and an evaluation of the home environment in which foster kids would live. DCF, however, rejected their application solely because of their religious beliefs, as faithful Catholics, about sexuality and marriage.

DCF regulations require foster families to “support and respect a child's sexual orientation and gender identity” but, unfortunately, do not further define what this means. The Burkes' objective qualifications and commitment to accept, love, and care for children regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity was not enough. I suppose you could say that the state of Massachusetts considered the Burkes to be “too religious” to foster children.

I keep praying, “Come Lord Jesus.” Pray for our leaders. Pray that God would lead them to govern wisely, and I also pray that our leaders seek Godly wisdom. But we do live in a sinful world, and the devil is active. Keep the faith. Be steadfast and faithful in all that you say and do. We wait expectantly for our Lord to return.

In His Service,
Rev. Jeffrey A. Lee



Mission of the Month

The Breadbox

The Breadbox is a benevolence fund of Faith Lutheran Church that provides financial assistance to Erath County residents for basic needs like rent and utilities. In some instances, the Breadbox helps with specific problems like car repairs, prescriptions or medical procedures. As was in 2024, in 2025, Faith's Breadbox provided over \$12,000.00 in assistance to people in need within our community.

In any given month, the Breadbox may help 15 to 30 people depending on the amount of funds available. So far in 2026, the Breadbox has assisted around sixty clients with various expenses. Clients may be given assistance once every 6 months, so assistance can be shared among a greater number of people.

The Breadbox fund is completely supported by free-will offerings and a 1% monthly gift from members' total tithes. With rising costs in everything from food, clothing, utilities and rent, the Breadbox has struggled to keep up with requests for assistance. This month, the church is partnering with the Breadbox as our Mission of the Month. Please consider giving not only free-will offerings towards the Breadbox, but also prayers for the people who come to us for help. Special envelopes will be available for free-will offerings. Your continued support of our Breadbox ministry is greatly appreciated.

Lent / Holy Week Schedule

April 2

Maundy Thursday at 6:45pm

April 3

Good Friday at 6:45pm

April 5

Easter Sunrise at 7:15am

Breakfast at 8:30am

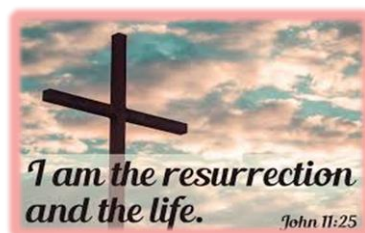
Egg Hunt at 9:15am

Easter Worship at 10:15am



Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter morning (April 5) following breakfast. Weather permitting, egg hunts will take place outside.

Thanks to all who donated candy and treats for the egg hunt!



I am the resurrection and the life.
John 11:25



A ministry of care giving, relying on God to be the cure giver.

Stephen Ministry

50th Anniversary Celebration & Learning Event

Founded in 1975, Stephen Ministries is celebrating its 50th year of equipping God's people for ministry! To commemorate this milestone and all that God has done over the past half a century, we're conducting a celebratory tour across the U.S. in 2025 and 2026.

These one-day events will feature Stephen Ministries' Founder and Executive Director, Dr. Kenneth Haugk, and other key teaching faculty from Stephen Ministries St. Louis.

These events are open to all those whose lives have been touched by Stephen Ministries, including:

- Past and present Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers
- Stephen Ministry care receivers
- Pastors and church staff
- Givers and recipients of Journeying through Grief
- Givers and recipients of Cancer—Now What?
- Participants in The Gift of Empathy and Caring Assertiveness discussion groups
- Family members and friends of any of the above

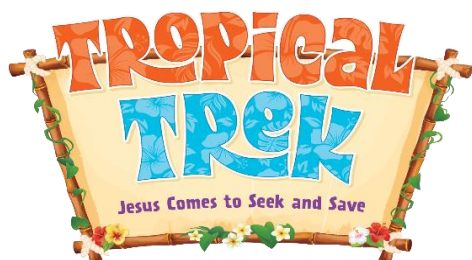
We also welcome guests and anyone else passionate about making the church and the world a more caring place.

Our Faith Lutheran Stephen Ministers are planning on attending this learning event on Saturday, August 29, 2026, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 4000 Midway Rd, Carrollton, Texas.

We hope that you will join us!



Save the Date



VBS: July 19 - 23



**Saturday
April 25**

LWML is hosting its annual garage sale in the family center from 8:00am – 2:00pm on Saturday, April 25. Gather your items, price them and bring them to the church on Friday, the 24th after 6:00pm. If you need help to transport items, contact Marlene Peiser or the church office. Help decorate on Friday evening as well.

Ms. Emmi

Hello! My name is Emmi and I am incredibly thrilled to begin my journey both working along side our leadership team as well as helping in your little ones' classes here at Faith School! After working in various Faith-based Childcare Facilities and Early Childhood Education settings over the last four years, the last two inspired me to complete my Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education at Midwestern State this past summer. I look forward to discovering what precious relationships I will get the pleasure to build with parents and students in the near future!



From the Faith School Board

Dear Faith Lutheran Church Family,

We are delighted to share some wonderful news with you regarding our school ministry.

Please join us in welcoming Madonna Nielsen as the new Assistant Director of Faith School and Emmi Cobb as our new Administrative Assistant/Teacher.

Hello! I'm
Madonna

About Me

Hi, my name is Madonna! I am so excited to be here and serve as the assistant director. I hope to make each child grow and feel loved! I hold a degree in human services, with child care experience. I am passionate about creating a safe, joyful space for every child. When I'm not at the center, I love spending time with my husband Josh, son Hudson and dog Cooper. I can't wait to get to know you and your little ones!



My Hobbies

I love walking or riding my bike
Spending time with family
Shopping
Traveling

The Thing That Makes Me Happy

- Family
- Music
- Jesus
- Nature

My Family



Both Emmi and Madonna bring a strong passion for early childhood education, a heart for serving children and families, and a commitment to fostering a nurturing, Christ-centered environment.

In her role, Madonna will support the daily operations of the preschool, assist in curriculum development, and partner closely with staff and families to ensure that every child feels loved, valued, and encouraged to grow both academically and spiritually.

We are excited about the gifts and leadership Emmi and Madonna bring to our ministry, and we look forward to the positive impact they will have on our preschool community.

Please keep Madonna and Emmi in your prayers as they step into these important roles and be sure to extend a warm welcome when you see them!





“He is not here. He is risen as He said.” Matthew 28:6a

Happy Easter everyone. He is risen indeed! Alleluia! That first Easter message spoken by the angel is the reason we can be joyful regardless of the circumstances around us. We know that just as Christ was raised from the dead, we will also be raised to live with Him forever.

It’s also the reason we want to share the Gospel message with people near and far who don’t know Jesus. This month, our mission focus is “Introducing Muslims to the Savior,” an international outreach of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, which provides Bibles and other Gospel oriented materials to Muslims in their own language. Thank you for your gifts to mites which help make this possible. Last month we received \$178.25 in mite box donations.

LWML will be having our annual garage sale on Saturday, April 25th from 8am until 2pm. We will be setting up on Friday evening, the 24th, beginning around 5:45pm. Please bring your items priced if possible. Let Marlene Peiser know if you need help bringing your items to church. We will have sign-up sheets posted later so please join us to help if you can.

Save the Date for our Ladies Day Out coming up on Saturday May 16th. We will be traveling to Granbury for shopping, lunch and enjoying a presentation of “To Kill a Mockingbird” at the Granbury Opera House. Tickets for the play are \$39 (or less if we get a group or senior discount.) Sign up early so we can reserve our seats.

**Easter Blessings to all,
Marlene Peiser**

Save the Date:

**Voters’ Assembly
May 17, 2026, after worship.**

**We will vote on nominees for Elders,
Church Council Officers & Board Members.**

Faith AllStars

The AllStars’ season continues thru April 27 at 5:30pm. Come out and cheer on these young people. The family center will be backup in case of bad weather. The end-of-season party is on April 27.





**SUNDAY
SCHOOL**

**WE HAVE A PLACE
FOR YOU!**

**Please join us each week for
Sunday School and Worship.**

**Sunday School for All Ages meets
at 9:00am.**

**Pastor Lee teaches college and
adults in the sanctuary.**

**Children / Youth meet in various
classrooms in the family center.**

THE GATHERING PLACE

ADOPTION CARE

SUPPORT GROUP

**2nd and 4th Friday every
month
11:30 am to 1 pm
Free of Charge
No Childcare available**

*For more information please contact us at
254-595-3751
info@thegathering-place.com*

Chronic Illness/Pain Support Group

1ST, 3RD, & 5TH THURSDAYS

6:00-7:30

THE GATHERING PLACE

634 EAST RD, STEPHENVILLE, TX

To register call or email us at 254-595-3751
info@thegathering-place.com



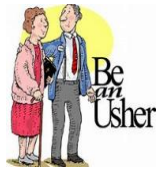
The Bulletin Board

Bulletin Folders (by Sunday)

1st Paula Hymer	4th Lynann Simpson
2nd Trudy Carlson	5th Pat Hardy
3rd Sue Angerhofer	



Serving in April:
Rosanne Keilers



April Ushers

Lee Barlow
Open

Ushers are needed for the remainder of the church year. If you have questions, please speak with Lee Barlow.

Lector Schedule (by date)

04/05	Matt Hallgarth (Easter 10:15am)
04/12	Jeff Stroebel
04/19	Ginia Bruno
04/26	Everett Seider

Grief Support ~ Faith's grief support group meets the first of the month at El Corral Mexican Grill (next to McDonald's, off Hwy 101, near the Take 5 Oil Change) immediately following worship. **Next meeting will be May 3**. If you are interested, please contact Ann Soltau at 254-592-9200.



In April, Faith's family center is only open the third Sunday from 2pm to 4pm for pickleball. **No play on April 5.**

The church office & Faith School will be closed on Friday, April 3, in observance of Good Friday.

Faith Lutheran's Elders

Glen Cornman, Head Elder;
Andy Burke, Will Lansmon,
Richard Liedtke, John Quade, Ronnie Tate
(Elders' care lists are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex/lobby)

Church Council meets every third Monday at 6:00pm in the Narthex/Lobby.

Altar Flowers for April

04/05	Easter Lilies
04/12	Lansmon Family
04/19	Bohannon Family
04/26	Cameron Family



(Sign-Up hangs on the wall beside church kitchen)

FREE Notary Public Service

Cindy Stafford – (254) 592-6630



JOIN Choir!

After Easter, choir rehearsals will return to Thursdays at 6:30pm.



Reuse, Reduce, Recycle

~ NOTICE ~

Thanks to those who have provided plastic bags for Faith School use and aluminum cans for the youth group. Let's keep it up!

Your humble bag folder and can crusher!



Like us on facebook at
FaithLutheranStephenville



If you have an upcoming event or photos of a recent event you want to be shared on Facebook, send to Emma Bouquet via Facebook Messenger, text, or email at emmabouquet@yahoo.com. Be sure to include all pertinent information including a description.

LWML Garage Sale – Saturday, April 25 at 8:00am

Church Information

3000 Senator Robert J Glasgow Loop
Stephenville, Texas 76401
254-968-2710

Website: faithlutheranstephenville.com

Email: church.office@faithlutheranstephenville.com

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 8:30am – 5:30pm
(closed 12:30-1:30pm for lunch)
Friday: 8:30am – 12:30pm

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pastor Jeffrey A. Lee Sunday Worship Schedule 9:00am Sunday School for All Ages 10:15am Worship Service Young Adults – Fridays, 6-7:30pm in the family ctr Faith School Chapel – Tuesdays at 10:00am		KEY *Birthday **Anniversary Church Events School Events Building Rentals LWML Events	1 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal ~Sanctuary	2 Maundy Thursday 6:45pm Maundy Thursday Worship	3 Good Friday *Matt Bouquet *Mike Luera Church Office & Faith School Closed 6:45pm Good Friday Worship	4 Holy Saturday *Brantley Riola 9:00am Set up for Easter Breakfast ~FFC
5 Easter *Sheryl Truss 7:15am Easter Sunrise Service~Sanctuary 8:30am Easter Breakfast~FFC 9:15am Easter Egg Hunt 10:15am Worship ~Sanctuary	6 Deadline for Faith School Scholarship Applications 5:00pm Delta Kappa Gamma ~ Nrthx 5:30 Faith All Stars (FFC is backup location)	7 *Cindy Franz **Ricky & Sarah Osterloh 3:00pm Board of Evangelisam~Library 6:00pm FFC Occupied~ Linne/Smith Attndng	8 10:30am Tate/Cornman Bible Study~Rm 6 5:15pm Board of Education ~ Libry 6:00pm Stewardship Board Mtng~Rm 6	9 *Emily Lansmon 6:00pm FFC Occupied~ Linne/Smith Attndng	10 MOW~Franz	11 *Sheila Small *Ken Van Matre 2:00pm FFC Occupied~L.Johnson Attending
12 11:30am Board of Trustees Mtng~Library 5:30pm Stephen Minister Supervision & Continuing Ed~Rm 6	13 5:30pm Faith School Board Mtng~Rm 9 5:30 Faith All Stars (FFC is backup location) 6:00pm LWML Business Mtng~Room 6 6:30pm Board of Elders' Mtng~Library	14 *Mark Gallagher 6:00pm FFC Occupied~ Linne/Smith Attndng	15	16 *Heidi Lansmon 6:00pm FFC Occupied~ Linne/Smith Attndng	17 *Cindy Stafford MOW~Bruno	18 1:00pm FFC Occupied~Peiser Attending
19 LWML Mite Box Sunday *Kameron Seider 2:00pm Pickleball~FFC	20 5:30 Faith All Stars (FFC is backup location) 6:00pm Church Council Mtng~Narthex	21 1:30pm Simpson Small Group~Room 6 6:00pm FFC Occupied~ Linne/Smith Attndng	22 10:30am Tate/Cornman Bible Study~Rm 6	23 *David Stelter **Matt & Emma Bouquet 6:00pm FFC Occupied~Linne /Smith Attndng	24 *Louisa Luera *Barbara Yocum MOW~Pack 5:45pm Decorate for LWML Garage Sale	25 *Julian Barksdale 8:00am LWML Garage Sale~FFC
26 5:30pm Stephen Minister Supervision & Continuing Ed~Rm 6	27 5:30 Faith All Stars End of Year Party~FFC	28 6:00pm FFC Occupied~ Linne/Smith Attndng	29 *Tori Cameron	30 6:00pm FFC Occupied~ Linne/Smith Attndng		