

JANUARY 2025

Faith CONNECTIONS

Official Newsletter of
Faith Lutheran Church, Marshfield, WI

Faith Alive in 2025: Embracing God's Newness Together

FROM PASTOR HEATHER BROWN

Revelation 21:3-5

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Dear Faith Lutheran Members & Friends,

As we embark on a new calendar year, we give thanks to God for the words of Revelation 21:5, "See, I am making all things new." We know that each year of our lives brings joys, sorrows, challenges and opportunities. And as we turn the page on our calendar, it's important to take a moment and reflect on it all.

When I was a child, I regularly watched "Mr. Rogers's Neighborhood" on Public Television. Fred Rogers often talked about how when he was a boy and would see scary things on the news, his mother would respond with wise words:

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"My mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" Even as an adult, Fred Rogers said that he remembered his mothers words, especially in times of disaster. He was always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers — so many caring people in this world.

As Christians, we believe that we live 'in-between the times.' We know though Jesus Christ began building his kingdom when he walked upon the earth, his kingdom won't be fully established until he comes again. We long for that day to come, especially when we experience heartache in this broken world. However, in the end pain and suffering will not rule the day. God uses those who help others in their time of need in order to shine his light and love into the darkest of places .The "helpers" are a significant part of how God works to make all things new.

We can give thanks to God for the ways we experienced God's "newness" at Faith Lutheran in 2024. We welcomed 15+ new members, we launched a new website and 'app;' we welcomed Justin Polzin as a new staff person (custodian and education & family ministry); we created a new 'Private' Facebook Group; we had two new, active Mission Teams (Communications, Finance); Alicia Heinrich helped create a new Faith Lutheran logo; Faith Lutheran Youth and their advisors started a "Free Little Pantry" located by the church entrance ... and there are more things we could add.

On Sunday, April 7, 2024 we celebrated the 70th Anniversary of Faith Lutheran Church (1954-2024) and welcomed back former pastors, our synod bishop and other special guests. We lifted-up the mission statement which guides our ministry: Loved by God. Living for Others. As we move forward in faith at Faith Lutheran Church, let's add another slogan: Faith Alive in 2025!

Happy New Year!

Pastor Heather

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your prayers: (Names will remain on the prayer list for three weeks unless otherwise requested.)

Alice Abbott; Jean Gerretsen's brother-in-law, Bernard; Jim Legge; Diane Herron; Marian Oelhafen and her son-in-law, Steve; Maxine Morgan's brother, Keith and god-daughter's family; Doug Petznick's stepdaughter, Rachel; Dave & Diane Herron's niece, Mia; Tom & Darlene Krake.

GLOW

Celebrating Milestones and Looking Ahead:

Exciting Beginnings for the New Year!"

FROM CO-DIRECTORS
JUSTIN POLZIN & BRIANNE THOMPSON

The holidays have quickly passed us by, and we are now gearing up for the rest of the year with many exciting activities ahead! Reflecting on the past couple of months, we've shared wonderful moments as a church family. From our incredible Christmas Program to Kids Night Out, there's been so much to celebrate—and even more to look forward to.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM DECEMBER

The Christmas Program

Our children, from Pre-K through 5th grade, along with some of our confirmation students, put on one of the most memorable Christmas Programs to date. It's an event that will be talked about for years to come! The effort and enthusiasm shown by our children, teachers, and Education Team were nothing short of amazing. We thank everyone who supported the program and are already planning for next year—our kids are so excited!

Confirmation Church Visits

Our 8th-grade Confirmation students have completed visits to other churches in the community and welcomed a special visitor to one of their classes. These experiences sparked thoughtful discussions and provided valuable insights. The students' curiosity and reflections have been inspiring, and we are so proud of their growth.



BIRTHDAYS:

LEO ZELLNER – 01/15
PAXTON RASMUSSEN – 01/16
ADRIANA POST – 01/21
ALEXANDRA POST – 01/21

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS:

SOPHIA RHODES – 01/07



Pictures from Christmas Caroling, Holiday Parade & Shut-in deliveries.

Looking Ahead: January Highlights

January 12th Classes and Special Announcement

During our January 12th church service, we're asking as many students as possible to attend for a special moment during the announcements. We'll be presenting a check to the Fire Department, representing the offerings collected by our students. We hope to have a fire department representative on hand to accept the check.

Afterward, students will meet in their assigned classrooms for attendance before heading to the Fellowship Hall for a fun, all-grades activity led by Marty Yohn. While the children enjoy their activity, we'll hold a teacher in-service session. Teachers, please bring your questions, suggestions, and thoughts for the remainder of the year—we'd love to hear from you!

Kids Night Out

We've loved hosting Kids Night Out and are working on ways to make this event even more exciting in the months ahead. Keep an eye out for updates and new plans!

Join Our Team

We're always eager to welcome new members to our Education Team! Whether you can commit regularly or help occasionally, your involvement makes a difference. Together, we grow as a church family and create meaningful experiences for our children and community.

Thank You!

Thank you for your continued support and dedication. We look forward to an exciting and blessed January as we move forward together! 🌟

GLOW RESUMES JANUARY 5TH



FLY: January Updates and Ways to Make a Difference

FROM KIM VRANA

Holiday Gathering

We were grateful to be able to get together again this year for our annual Holiday Gathering on December 30. We enjoyed supper, FLY Bingo, a Christmas Trivia Challenge through Kahoot, our famous sock exchange, the giant Saran-Wrapped Ball of Prizes (in a fast-paced unwrapping with oven mitts) and then our traditional game of Telestrations. We all had a blast and it was great to have everyone from 7th Grade to our FLY college Alumni!



FLY on Sunday Morning

High School FLY continues to gather on Sunday mornings after worship from 10 to 11 AM in the Youth Room. We will be gathering next on January 5 and 19. As is our Advent tradition, Faith Lutheran Youth make gingerbread houses. This year we decided to switch it up and try our hand at Christmas cookies. Yes, it was the Great FLY Christmas Cookie Bake Off!

We had a fun time and thanks to Mark for sharing Grandma's recipe giant tub of cookie dough. Thanks also to our FLY Alumni special guest cookie artist.

Little Free Pantry (LFP)

Our Little Free Pantry continues to thrive and we continue to see more people benefit from the Pantry. As winter continues, it becomes more challenging to find food when needed.

An LFP is a manageable and tangible way to help address food insecurity and create community through neighborhood engagement. It is not meant to address an on-going need, but rather to offer direct and immediate relief. An LFP may be a lifeline for those who need help with food to stretch until their next paycheck, someone unable to get to the store, or when our big food pantries are closed.

We encourage our congregation to give what they can by placing unexpired food, hygiene items, or paper items inside the LFP. Focus on items you would want to receive and buy duplicates of what your household uses. No gift is too small. Just know that we now in a time of freezing temperatures which can be hard on some products, especially liquids (our Pantry is not insulated or heated).

Take what you need. If you find an item inside that you need, take it and know that we care. Please remember that the LFP belongs to all of us and take only those items needed, trusting the pantry will be here for you again.

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Picture from FLY Christmas Cookie Bake Off

Aluminum Cans



We are still collecting aluminum cans (ONLY) in support of Mission Trip 2025. Keep collecting those cans and bringing them in. They can be placed inside the church garage any day of the week. Or drop them off at Shaw's during business hours and mention that money should go to Faith Lutheran Youth.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- JAN. 5TH FLY GROUP MEETING 10 AM
- JAN. 19TH FLY GROUP MEETING 10 AM

Mission Team Updates

Kitchen Update

COME AND SHARE THE SPIRIT

On Sunday Jan 26, 2025, the FLC Kitchen Committee will be hosting an "Open House" event at 10:15 following the church service. Coffee hour and treats will be served in the the kitchen area. This event is a collaborative with Piece Corps and will showcase the quilters at their workstations using their talents to demonstrate the quilting process. Everyone is invited to attend!

The Kitchen Committee: Judy Rhodes- representative and Co-Coordinator, Joyce Cesar - Co-coordinator; Mike Behling, Karen Bohm, Kristin Litwaitis, Nancy Sternweiss & Julaine Varsho



Faith In Action Team Updates

CHAIR TREVA TISDELL

The Faith in Action Mission Team will be meeting on Thursday, January 16th at 6:00 pm. at the church. If you are looking for a team to share outreach and activity ideas, we are it! If you can't commit to monthly meetings, no problem, attend when you can, or be on a planning team for certain events. Want more information? Contact Treva at 715-387-4569 or Michelle at 715-897-3503.



FLC Women Upcoming Meeting

KAREN BOHM

Attention women: our Faith Lutheran Women's planning meeting is January 7, 2025 at 1:30 pm at church. It has been changed from our evening time to make it more convenient as we now prefer going out in daylight instead of darkness. This meeting welcomes all of our Faith women, anyone who has an interest in planning events for our women and church community. New ideas are welcome. Hope to see you there.

Karen Bohm, Faith Lutheran Women





Parsonage
Informational Meeting
JAN. 5TH
following the service

Mission Team Updates

Facilities Management Team

CHAIR PAM JOHNSON

Facility Highlights:

- Continued discussions were had regarding the parsonage.

Parsonage Letter 2 for Congregation

PARSONAGE UPDATE

Since the first table talk on October 7 the Facilities Team has continued to analyze the two options for the future of our parsonage: to tear down the parsonage or to keep and remodel/renovate the parsonage.

Multiple discussions, deliberations, and debates have occurred. This is a complex issue and includes analysis of both initial costs and ongoing maintenance costs. At its November meeting Facilities made the difficult decision to recommend to Council that the Parsonage be torn down and initially replaced with a green space. Our church building must be our priority. Our church building is aging and will require significant capital investment over the next decade to remain in good operating condition. A new church roof and new boilers are just two of many items that will be needed. Tearing down the parsonage is the most cost effective way to maintain our church.

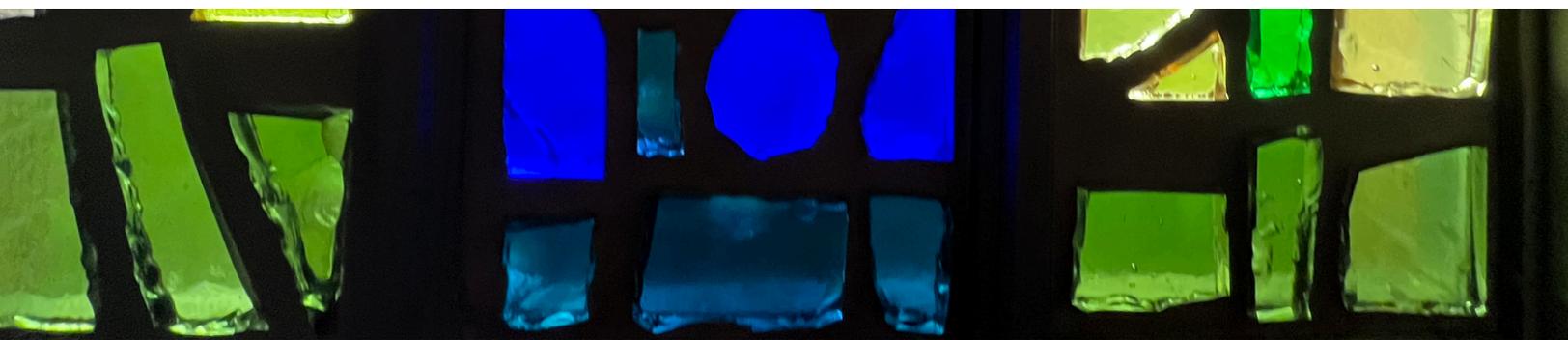
Tearing down the parsonage and creating a green space has an initial estimated cost of about \$55,000. There are minimal on-going costs and the green space retains several options for future use such as parking, picnicking or solar panels. Keeping the parsonage has an initial estimated cost of \$75-\$100,000 depending on use but has significant on-going maintenance costs as electrical, roof, boilers, bathroom repairs, and flooring at a minimum will need to be replaced in the next 2-5 years.

As a Team we were tasked to make a recommendation to Council. Many people have spent many hours gathering information and discussing options. We feel confident our recommendation is best for the future of Faith Lutheran Church.

On Sunday, January 5th's meeting is the next step. This is an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. The plan is to then request Council place our recommendation before the congregation at the annual meeting. There will be an opportunity to ask any final questions at the Annual Meeting on February 16 prior to a vote being taken.

Please understand that tearing down will NOT start the day after the annual meeting. There is a process that we must follow before any demolition starts. Bids must be gathered, funding must be decided and approved, and permits granted for starters. The actual tearing down could be 1 to 2 years away, but this gives us a direction.

Facilities Management Team: Pam Johnson, Paul Kapla, Jeff Tisdell, Kent Mueller, Linda Nelson-Schreiber, Randy Lueth, Judy Rhodes, John and Kathy Campbell



Finance Team Updates

Memorial and Other Funds Report

FROM TREASURER CINDY PRUST

Camps and Sound System were removed due to no more need for them. Faith-In-Action line item was added. For more detail or any questions, please contact Cindy Prust. Here are the total balances as of 12/31/24:

Undesignated Memorial	\$ 10,814.14
Flowers & Altar	\$ 3,361.37
Piece Corp	\$ 1,310.19
Music Ministry	\$ 4,321.22
Churkey Ed. Fund	\$ 2,941.37
God's Work, Our Hands	\$ 1,025.58
Faith-In-Action	\$ 398.00
Property Improvement	\$ 875.58
Kitchen Remodel	\$ 2,634.76

Care Fund Update

FROM TREASURER ALICIA HEINRICH

We supported a few families needing help with rent & mortgage payments during the month of December.

BALANCES as of 12/31/24

Refugee Fund	\$2,453.19*
Care Fund	\$6,914.61
Total Balance	\$9,373.80



**The Refugee Fund is managed by Team II of the Refugee Group and a determination of monies will occur by Dec. 31st, 2024.*

Finance Team Update

INTERIM CHAIR ALICIA HEINRICH

Highlights

- Discussion regarding specific use around the Capital Campaign Fund.
- Discussion on monies available for upcoming Parsonage discussion.
- Cindy Prust brought up difficulty in making changes to online giving. Taking to Communications team to make adjustments.
- All Fund Accounts to be moved to Forward Bank for 2025.

Treasurer's Report

FROM TREASURER KENT MUELLER

General giving for November was \$50,243, compared to \$28,594 for 2023 and \$48,318 for 2022. The year-to-date general giving is now \$742 more than the budgeted general giving. Year-to-date income is \$34,417 higher than expenses. Year-to-date total income is higher than budget by \$25,765, expenses are lower than budget by \$18,199, and interest earnings are higher than budget by \$1,763, resulting in net income that is \$45,727 higher than budgeted.



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Winter Office Hours:
Tuesdays-Thursdays 8:30 AM-2:30 PM
Service Time:
Sundays 9:00 AM



SERVICE TIME

IN-PERSON 9:00 AM

New! WAYS TO WATCH

1. Live-streaming on our APP, Facebook & YouTube.
2. Cable Access 989
Broadcast Times:
 - Sunday at 12 Noon
 - Monday at 11:30 AM
 - Friday at 11 AM
3. Always access on App, Facebook & YouTube.



DOWNLOAD TODAY
<http://get.theapp.co/n4rm>

Parsonage Informational Meeting

JAN. 5TH

following the service

See letter to Congregation in Bulletin or Newsletter
for more information. Submit any questions
beforehand by clicking on QR Code.

