



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Faith Matters

FEBRUARY
2026

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAYS— 9:00 A.M.
WEDNESDAYS — 6:15 P.M.

CHURCH OFFICE

255 Roosevelt Street
PO Box 369
Valders, Wisconsin 54245
Phone 920-775-4141
Website:
www.faithlutheranchurchvalders.org

STAFF DIRECTORY

Pastor Dan Lyman
920-775-9411 Office
352-615-8656 Cell
Email:
pastordanlyman@gmail.com

Christine Olson, *Administrative Assistant*
Email: faith21@tds.net

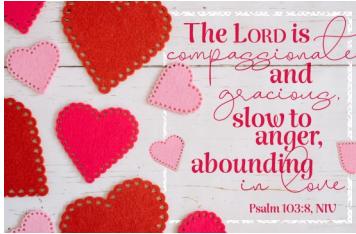
Bridget Valleskey, *Youth Coordinator*
Email: valleskeyb@gmail.com

Jill Wittmus, *Bookkeeper*

Rose Behnke, *Custodian*
Tony Schad, *Custodian Helper & Lawn Cutter*

Sue Riesterer, Whitney
Schamburek, Devin Zahringer
Organists

FLC President: Alan Gilbertson
FLC Vice Pres: Julie Hartman
FLC VP Elect: James Schuessler
Secretary: Mary Thomsen
Treasurer: Theresa Haupt



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Faith has a nice one.

People have asked what the funeral pall is all about. The funeral pall is that fabric we put over a casket at a funeral. We have a pall made of very nice brocade fabric with the cross and other symbols on it. Christian churches have been using palls at funerals for about a thousand years.

Naturally, anything used in the church for so long will have a symbolic or spiritual meaning given to it. We say that it symbolizes our baptism, and that we who are baptized have the hope of the resurrection because we have been baptized into Christ. "Since we have been baptized into a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."

There is another reason to use the pall, call it a pastoral reason. In death we are all equal before God. Even the best of us have not "earned" a place in heaven. We are all unworthy sinners who simply receive God's great gift of salvation from God's grace. Martin Luther was fond of reminding us, "We are all beggars." But poor people have, for the last thousand years, had poor people caskets (if they have any caskets at all) and rich people have had rich people caskets. So to recognize our equality before God, the pall was used to cover that which displays our poverty and our affluence. We are all equal in death and all equal before God and equally blessed by God's saving love.

As I understand it, we have had this particular pall for quite some time, nothing like the 175 years that our community of faith has existed, but decades. Therefore many loved ones have passed beneath it, from praising God in the pews with us, to praising God before the throne of God. We pastors talk about the Church in this life as "the Church Militant," because we are still in the struggle. And those who have died in the Lord have gone on to "the Church Triumphant." There is no more struggle. The victory is won. Every tear wiped away. Just eternal gladness.

Even if you have a really nice casket, I urge you to use the pall to show your baptismal identity and to show your modest equality before God, as the rest of us, who are still in the Church Militant takes comfort in the promise that you have gone on to the Church Triumphant.

Pastor Dan



February and March Stewardship is Fabric Kits

Two pieces of cotton or cotton blend fabric (no knits or 100% polyester). Fabric should have no stains or holes and cut into pieces measuring:

2 1/4 yards of 60" wide fabric

3 yards of 44" wide fabric

4 yards of 36" wide fabric

2 spools of matching or neutral colored general purpose thread (250-300 yards each).

2 people can buy 3 yards of material and the same color can be matched for the 6 yards needed. Look for material on sale. Hobby Lobby has 40% off material every other week. Items donated should be marked fabric kits and placed inside the stewardship cabinet across from the church office.

Lenten Soup and Sandwich Suppers begin Wednesday, February 25 at 5:00 pm. Join us before worship for a hearty bowl of soup and a sandwich. If interested in helping with the suppers, please signup on the sheets in the Gathering Space.

**Join us for a Chili Luncheon
Souper Bowl Sunday
February 8 at 10:00 am**

The Board of Evangelism will be having chili on "Souper Bowl" Sunday 2/8/25 right after worship. There will be warm chili to enjoy that day along with crackers, cheese, coffee, milk and desserts. We will also have cold chili available "to go" that day for those unable to stay and enjoy the warm chili. There will be a signup sheet in the gathering space for any board or individuals willing to provide chili. We will do a "Chili dump" on all soup donated. Please bring your chili to church before service that day. Monetary donations for chili will be accepted with proceeds going to our Faith Food Pantry.

Senior Christians will meet Tuesday, February 17 at 9:00 am at Four Seasons.

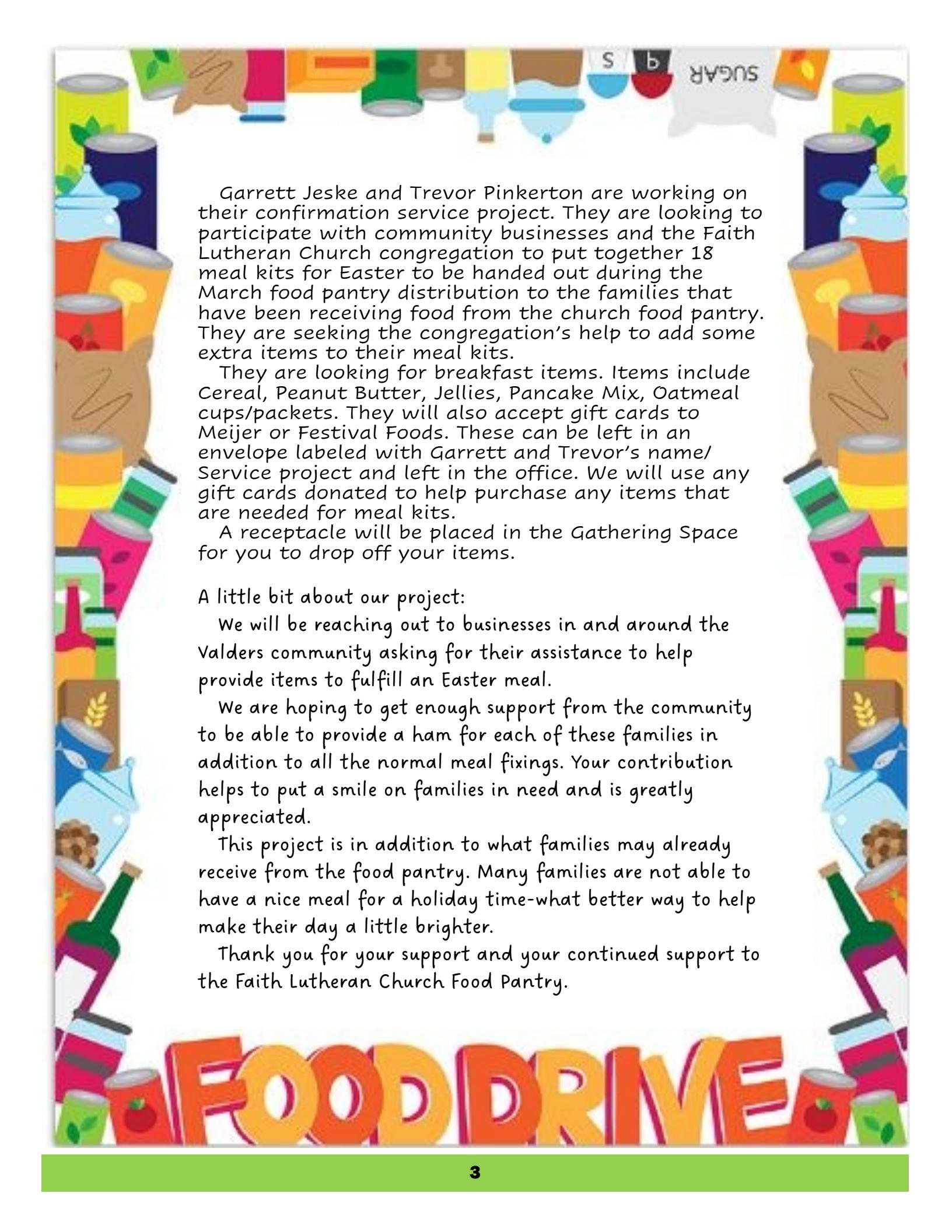
February 4, 2026
7:15pm Fellowship Hall
FAITH ON FIRE
Meditation & Relaxation

OPEN DOOR COUNSELING PRESENTS

FAITH YOGA CLASS

JOIN WENDY HUTTERER, LICENSED PRACTICING COUNSELOR AND CERTIFIED YOGA INSTRUCTOR FOR A FAITH YOGA CLASS.
QUIET THE MIND, OPEN THE HEART, AND CONNECT WITH GOD TO FEEL HIS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE

*Come enjoy this free event.
Open to High School Students & Young adults*



Garrett Jeske and Trevor Pinkerton are working on their confirmation service project. They are looking to participate with community businesses and the Faith Lutheran Church congregation to put together 18 meal kits for Easter to be handed out during the March food pantry distribution to the families that have been receiving food from the church food pantry. They are seeking the congregation's help to add some extra items to their meal kits.

They are looking for breakfast items. Items include Cereal, Peanut Butter, Jellies, Pancake Mix, Oatmeal cups/packets. They will also accept gift cards to Meijer or Festival Foods. These can be left in an envelope labeled with Garrett and Trevor's name/Service project and left in the office. We will use any gift cards donated to help purchase any items that are needed for meal kits.

A receptacle will be placed in the Gathering Space for you to drop off your items.

A little bit about our project:

We will be reaching out to businesses in and around the Valders community asking for their assistance to help provide items to fulfill an Easter meal.

We are hoping to get enough support from the community to be able to provide a ham for each of these families in addition to all the normal meal fixings. Your contribution helps to put a smile on families in need and is greatly appreciated.

This project is in addition to what families may already receive from the food pantry. Many families are not able to have a nice meal for a holiday time-what better way to help make their day a little brighter.

Thank you for your support and your continued support to the Faith Lutheran Church Food Pantry.

FOOD DRIVE

Finances

Income - December 2025

	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Envelope Offerings	\$ 38,323.28	\$ 21,366.83	\$ 256,402.00
Lent, Holiday Offerings	\$ 6,764.00	\$ 833.33	\$ 10,000.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 179.00	\$ 166.67	\$ 2,000.00
Other Income	\$ 195.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 2,100.00
General Fund Income	\$ 45,461.28	\$ 22,541.83	\$ 270,502.00

Operating Expenses - December 2025

Administrative/Office Expense	\$ 1,773.09	\$ 1,287.50	\$ 16,212.29	\$ 15,450.00
Benevolence	\$ 3,827.34	\$ 1,803.35	\$ 28,799.03	\$ 21,640.15
Board Expense (Total from all 7 Boards)	\$ 5,772.44	\$ 6,893.33	\$ 62,275.16	\$ 82,720.00
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Personnel Salaries/Benefits ¹	\$ 23,495.13	\$ 20,599.89	\$ 247,453.90	\$ 247,198.71
General Fund Expense	\$ 34,868.00	\$ 30,584.07	\$ 354,740.38	\$ 367,008.86
GENERAL FUND NET INCOME/LOSS	\$10,593.28	(\$8,042.24)	(\$40,127.91)	(\$96,506.86)

Year to Date General Fund Net Income: (\$40,127.91)

This year Faith's Quilters distributed quilts to these nonprofit agencies:

Lutheran World Relief Oct. 17 shipped.....	140	Domestic Violence (InCourage).....	30
Hope House.....	13	Manitowoc Co. Foster Care.....	30
Faith Church Pantry.....	25	The Haven (Men's Shelter).....	10
Texas Mission church taken by Linda Menza....	17	Salvation Army.....	93
Parish members recovering from surgeries.....	2	St. Mary's Parish.....	1
Reserve of children's quilts for future.....	8	Reserve of quilts for emergencies.....	9
Boxed quilts for Lutheran World Relief 2026....	24	Quilts for homeless in cars during census.	2
Quilt sales off pews by members.....	30	Quilts completed in 2025.....	434

Thank you to all who helped to make this mission successful. We provided warmth to people internationally, nationally as well as locally. If you would like to help with project, we meet Thursday mornings from 8:00-12:00. If you would like to cut squares or sew squares, we can give you patterns to follow and you can do this at home. We have a coffee break at 9:30. Join us and we would be happy to show you the process involved in making these quilts. We are also a good support group. All are welcome.

Liturgical Roles ~ Worship Responsibilities

Pastoral Acts

Funeral Ronald "Ron" Jones

Membership

Baptized 815

Confirmed 551

Families 102

Worship Attendance

	Sunday	Wednesday
12/14	88	32
12/21	230	
12/24	3:00 = 252	5:00 = 77
12/25	10:00 = 41	
12/28	55	
1/4	70	
	79	45

Altar Guild Servers

Communion:

February **Bev Torrison**, Chair (Committee #2)

March (Committee #1)

Lectors

2/1	Kaye Jandrey
2/4	Dennis Luckow
2/8	Lynn Merino
2/11	Jill Backus
2/15	Stacy Wilker
2/18	Joan Pritzl
2/22	Don Domrath
2/25	Kerry Schnell

Communion Servers

2/1	Tammy Brill
2/11	Judy Valleskey
2/15	Stacy Wilker
2/18	Joan Pritzl

Head Ushers Lee A. Evenson and Mark Zutz

Acolyte Schedule

2/1	Skyler Schuler
2/4	Dexter Valleskey
2/8	Eliza Wilker
2/11	Westen Schisel
2/15	Walker Ulness
2/18	Westen Schisel
2/22	Cambria Behnke
2/25	Dexter Valleskey

Greeters

2/1	Mitchell Kaderabek
2/4	Carter Kuenstler
2/8	Sage Peterson
2/11	Carter Kuenstler
2/15	Mitchell Kaderabek
2/18	Carter Kuenstler
2/22	Walker Ulness
2/25	Carter Kuenstler

Ushers

2/1	Tom & Kathy Muench, Wayne Huske
2/8	Austin & Stetson McCulley, Ethan Ulness
2/15	Mark and Angie Ulness, Brian Ulness
2/18	Steve Ahrens and Al Gilbertson
2/22	Delton & Cheryl Duchow, Mary Thomsen

Sound Operator

2/1	Stefanie Kaderabek
2/8	Loren Ulness
2/15	Erin Lenzner
2/22	Loren Ulness

Video Operator/Live Stream

2/1	Jake Kaderabek
2/8	Eric Thomsen
2/15	Michael Lenzner
2/22	Liam Cline

Projection

2/1	Whitney Ulness
2/4	Susan Christel
2/8	Loren Ulness
2/11	John Schnell
2/15	Zachary Lenzner
2/18	Cindy Pederson
2/22	Addison Spindler
2/25	Kayla Hildebrandt



Thank you so much for the special recognition of service to the Fellowship Committee for the past 3 years. It has been a pleasure to serve the Lord in this means. You all made my journey in this capacity of serving others one of great joy. God Bless you all.
Marilyn Robley

"The Stars Who Saw the Savior"

Youth Christmas Program 2025



On Sunday January 11 we celebrated and thanked Marilyn Robley for her years as Director of Fellowship.

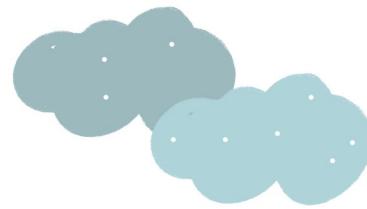


The cookie walk was a hit! Thanks to everyone who brought Christmas goodies to share and everyone who gave generously to our youth!





Lenten READING PLAN



Lenten Reading Plan: A Countdown of Hope

Get ready for Easter with this family Bible Reading Plan. From Ash Wednesday to Resurrection Sunday, read a promise from God each day. May God bless you as you discover his love and faithfulness through Scripture.

- The **Promise** of a Savior, *Genesis 3:15*
- The **Promise** to Never Again Flood the Earth, *Genesis 9:13-15*
- The **Promise** to Bless Abraham, *Genesis 12:1-3*
- The **Promise** to Multiply Abraham's Offspring, *Genesis 22:17-18*
- The **Promise** of Deliverance, *Exodus 3:7-8*
- The **Promise** of God's Presence, *Exodus 33:14*
- The **Promise** of Blessing for Obedience, *Leviticus 26:3-12*
- The **Promise** to Raise Up a Prophet, *Deuteronomy 18:15*
- The **Promise** of Strength Through God, *Joshua 1:6-9*
- The **Promise** of an Everlasting Covenant, *2 Samuel 7:12-16*
- The **Promise** of a Shepherd, *Psalm 23*
- The **Promise** of Wisdom, *Proverbs 2:1-6*
- The **Promise** of a Messiah, *Isaiah 9:1-7*
- The **Promise** to Strengthen and Help, *Isaiah 41:9-10*
- The **Promise** of a Suffering Servant, *Isaiah 53*
- The **Promise** of Restoration, *Jeremiah 29:10-14*
 - The **Promise** of a New Covenant, *Jeremiah 31:31-34*
 - The **Promise** of Renewal, *Ezekiel 37:1-14*
 - The **Promise** of the Spirit, *Joel 2:28-29*
 - The **Promise** of Jesus, *Luke 2:1-20*
 - The **Promise** of Provision, *Matthew 6:25-34*
 - The **Promise** of Rest, *Matthew 11:28-29*
 - The **Promise** of Eternal Life, *John 3:16-17*
 - The **Promise** of Christ's Return, *John 14:1-3*
- The **Promise** of Peace, *John 14:27*
- The **Promise** of Answered Prayer, *John 15:7*
- The **Promise** of Guidance, *John 16:13*
- The **Promise** of Power from on High, *Acts 1:8*
- The **Promise** of Grace, *Romans 6:14*
- The **Promise** of Freedom from Condemnation, *Romans 8:1-4*
- The **Promise** of Adoption, *Romans 8:15-17*
- The **Promise** of Purpose, *Romans 8:28*
- The **Promise** of Victory Over Death, *1 Corinthians 15:54-57*
- The **Promise** of Comfort, *2 Corinthians 1:3-4*
- The **Promise** of New Life, *2 Corinthians 5:17*
- The **Promise** of God's Faithfulness, *2 Thessalonians 3:3-5*
- The **Promise** of Eternal Glory, *2 Timothy 2:11-13*
- The **Promise** of Perseverance, *James 1:2-4*
- The **Promise** of a New Heaven and a New Earth, *Revelation 21:1-4*

Try the bonus activities to make Lent more meaningful

Family Lenten Activities

Make promise stones. Paint and display small stones that remind you how God keeps his promises.

Fill a jar with blessings. During Lent, jot down ways that God is faithful to you. On Easter, read aloud the slips of paper as a family.



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Faith Lutheran Church Minutes— December 15, 2025

Meeting Agenda: Larry called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Devotions were given by Joan.

Guest's Topic of Discussion: Jim Schuessler/National Youth Gathering plans. Jim and Bridget are the leaders of the efforts to have a group of Faith Lutheran youth attend the NYG in Minneapolis, Minn., June 28-July 2, 2027. Nine youth have signed up, and they are hoping to add a couple more. A written report with detailed plans and ideas was presented at the meeting. They would like to rent a 15-passenger van for the group, rather than joining groups from other churches, to allow the group to travel more efficiently. With everyone's luggage, 11 people would fit in one van, so if more than that attend, a second van may be needed, so the budget needs to be made clear soon. They wish to leave two days early to build rapport and learn the routine for the event. A list of ideas for fundraising was included in the report, and some were discussed. All students attending the NYG who attend at least 50% of the fundraising events will share equally in the money raised to help pay their costs. The leaders are seeking the council's approval of the plan. It was noted that a \$10,800 CD is set aside for the youth gathering and not renewing it will be considered to free up those funds.

Approval of Nov. 17, 2025, Council meeting minutes. Motion carried and passed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dan presented his written report: He presided at the funeral for Bertha Kulnick on Nov. 29. Voices of Peace sang at Faith on Nov. 30. The Dec. 10 Wednesday service was canceled due to weather. He visited Don Johnson and Jim Reinertson in early December and planned to attend the Senior Christians Breakfast at the Fork and Knife on Dec. 16. He also noted that 41 people attended the Thanksgiving worship service and outlined plans for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

Housekeeping Items: Annual reports are due to the office by Friday, Dec. 19. Jazercise will no longer use the church building on Mondays and Thursdays but will continue on Wednesdays, so donations from that group will be lower.

Old Business: Budget amendments. Joan asked for any changes from council members. Ken O'Leary will not be paid as janitor for the final two weeks of December, by his request, so the pay won't double up with the new janitor being trained, Rose Behnke. We will wait to see if the hours need to be adjusted from the current 12 allowed. Motion to accept proposed budget carried and passed. Annual Budget/Election Meeting is set for Jan. 18, 2026 (weather permitting). Discussion was held on trying to promote better attendance. The church constitution says at least 37 people have to attend to make it an official meeting. The Fellowship Committee will bring in coffee. Nominations for boards, committees and assistants—We need a vice president-elect for a 3-year term, which leads to the president position; also looking for a treasurer; and Fellowship director, as Marilyn is stepping down after 3 years. Also, the boards of Christian Education and Evangelism positions are up; and the nominating committee and auditing committees for next year need to be set.

New Business: The Manitowoc Public Library has requested to use the church for an English discussion group for people learning English. It would begin in January on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:45 p.m. We don't want it to conflict with space for the confirmation classes. Motion made and carried to allow them to use the music room for the education classes (could be moved to the Fellowship Hall if the group grows, if available, and maybe elsewhere in summer).

Council representative reports:

Treasurer's Report—A written report was handed out.

Stewardship-Joan-They are planning to add a new software account for administration.

Evangelism-Advent by Candlelight went well. Could consider inviting men.

Fellowship-Marilyn noted she is grateful to people who donate food or monetary donations. A suggestion was made about having the Sunday School children do singing or another activity in church one Sunday a month, which would bring in parents and build memories for the kids. Have we asked ourselves what we can do to help at church? Marilyn thanked everyone for her good experience on the council for the last three years.

Church Properties-Loren-report of water getting into the men's bathroom from thawing outside. It is a small problem that will be monitored.

Christian Education—Alyssa-Christmas program is set for Dec. 21.

Personnel Committee—New janitor Rose Behnke has been training on the job.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Next Meeting – Jan. 19, 2026—Devotions by AI –Submitted by Mary Thomsen, secretary

Housekeeping Note: We no longer use the dumpster located by the shed on the lower level. Please don't throw pumpkins, cardboard or refuse in it. We have (2) 90 gallon containers that are used for garbage. The Village of Valders does not have the means to empty our dumpster. Pumpkins are to be disposed of at the recycling center. Thank you for your assistance.

Celebrating Your Birthday!

FEBRUARY

2. Travis Schisel
3. Debra Linzmeier
Craig Zutz
Tristan Teuke
5. Garrett Ulness
Emmy Newberg
6. Marcus Galien
7. Virginia Schwoerer
8. Lawrence Naidl
Eli Nelson
9. Maribel Christianson
Raiden Sabourin
10. Cynthia Pederson
Rod Merino
Stephanie McCulley
11. Linda Menza
Tyne Peterson
12. Sawyer Wenzel
13. Jeffrey Evenson
Rick Evenson
14. Patricia Christianson
Ronald Pederson
Alisa Madson

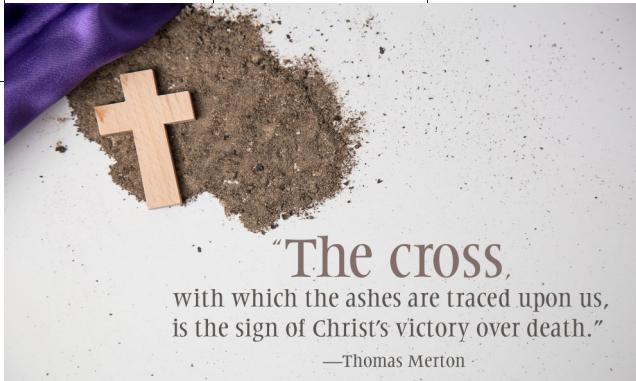
Brian Schnell

15. Jayme Hetland
Paul Sorenson
Ryan Wenzel
16. Garrett Jeske
17. Donald Christianson
18. Greg Wilker
19. Loren Ulness
Michael Zutz
21. Richard Christianson
Brenda Platten
22. Joan Griffin
23. Char Manke
Kai Meyer
24. Erin Reinke
25. Eric Thomsen
26. Aubree Boll
27. Trenton O'Leary
Jameson Hetland
Gracelyn Mulhaney

MARCH

2. William Griffin
Peter Steinberg
Andrea Christel
Ava Petska
Wendy Kuenstler
3. Roger Reichardt
6. Gerald Petska
7. Roger Larson
Gregg Valleskey
Angie Ulness
8. Stephen Kalies
Katherine Bubolz
Jeremy Peterson
Gretchen Spindler
10. Jake Kaderabek

February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Holy Communion 8:00 Bell Choir 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday school, Fellowship Hour 10:15 Inspiration Choir	2 9:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boards of Lay Ministry and Evangelism	3 3:00 Bible Study 6:30 Card Making	4 9:00 Jazzerce	5 8:00 Quilting	6	7
8 8:00 Bell Choir 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday school, Fellowship Hour 10:15 Inspiration Choir	9 9:00 Women's Bible Study	10 Newsletter info due 3:00 Bible Study	11 9:00 Jazzerce 5:15 Endowment Committee 6:15 Worship with Holy Communion 7:15 Confirmation	12 8:00 Quilting 8:30 Secretary's Meeting	13	14 9:00 2nd Saturday Bible Study
15 Holy Communion 8:00 Bell Choir 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday school, Fellowship Hour 10:15 Inspiration Choir	16 9:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Board of Stewardship 6:30 Council <i>No Mail — President's Day</i>	17 9:00 Senior Christians at Four Seasons 3:00 Bible Study	18 9:00 Jazzerce 6:15 Worship 7:15 Confirmation 7:15 Faith on Fire	19 8:00 Quilting	20	21 9:00 Open Pantry
22 8:00 Bell Choir 9:00 Worship Baptism—Delilah Amy Sue Johnson 10:00 Sunday school, Fellowship Hour 10:15 Inspiration Choir	23 9:00 Women's Bible Study	24 3:00 Bible Study	25 9:00 Jazzerce 5:00 Soup and Sandwich Supper 6:15 Worship 7:15 Confirmation	26 8:00 Quilting	27	28
<p>Change: Faith Matters info is due to the office on the 10th of the month, instead of the 15th. Submission of the newsletter to LPI will be on the 17th of the month if not before.</p>				 <p><i>The cross, with which the ashes are traced upon us, is the sign of Christ's victory over death.</i></p> <p>—Thomas Merton</p>		

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

255 Roosevelt Street

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STANDARD (A)

