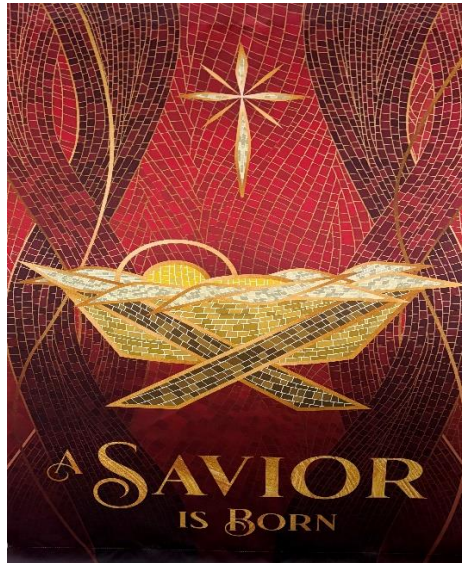


Faith Chronicle

January 2025



Rejoyce evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.



Faith Lutheran Church
6142 State Rt. 31
Cicero, NY 13039



Sisters and Brothers of Faith Church,

Once upon a time—and not so long ago—everyone began a new year with a calendar that had no appointments written in. The only dates marked out were holidays. The United Methodist Church used to publish a calendar in a little black book that fit in a shirt pocket. (Those were the days when a pastor needed to carry both a pen and pencil for keeping certain dates flexible and some written in ink.) The ELCA produced a similar little red book for the same reason. Churches could buy a larger desk version for the secretary to keep the church running smoothly. The new book that came out each year invited a feeling of opportunity for delving into the unknowns of the future.

A parishioner gave me an entire Franklin Planner system a couple of years into my ministry. I was never late to appointments or failed to meet deadlines, but her work with engineers at Nine Mile Point convinced her *everyone* could be more effective with better planning tools. A large 5½ by 8 ½ binder held the pages and notes for the whole year. A smaller, briefcase-sized notebook fit the bill for handling one month's work at a time. A new planner for the new year was just that: 365 daily pages waiting to be filled with appointment dates plus pages for plans and meeting notes. A new year brought a nearly blank book. Once again, the blank pages spoke of opportunity and new things waiting to happen.

Then I entered the computer age for my planning. A computer I bought had Lotus Organizer already installed. It felt and looked like the old paper and pen Franklin Planner I had used for years, with the difference that I could color code tabs and organize pages the way I wanted. Another benefit was I did not need to transfer appointments made this year for next year into a new book. Everything immediately rolled over on January 1 for the new year. Therein lies a sense of loss.

I stayed with computer-based calendars since that first trial in 1996 or '97. There were years I used now obsolete electronic tools like Palm Pilots and Blackberries. iPhones finished my progress into the digital age by consolidating calendar, phone, and whatnot into one electronic gizmo that hangs from my belt or fits in a jacket pocket. The sad news was that never again did January 1 dawn with the same anticipation of filling a book with new experiences and appointments. Doctor and dentist appointments: already in place long before I get a reminder from the office. Tasks like writing my tithe check and making the car payment greet me before I can say “maybe I should add that to my calendar.” Meetings? Already scheduled. The wonder and questions about what the new year will look like suffered because the computer age made planning and thinking ongoing rather than creating opportunity for new ideas and plans to arise.

The good news in Jesus Christ is that while God's amazing work goes on year after year, Revelation 21:5 says: “the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’” My prayer for you and this world is that 2025 dawns on you as a new year, a year filled with God's grace and wonder for what Jesus will do next. May the Holy Spirit prevent you from living in the same old same old that my computer calendars predict. Most of all may the year of our Lord 2025 be the year of the Lord's favor when we all proclaim God's word of mercy and justice in the name of Jesus Christ.

Blessings for the new year and beyond!

Pastor Allan



Our mission: **As a Community of Faith in Christ, we Live in Grace and Share the Gospel of Salvation.**

Our Guiding Principles: **Jesus is Lord; We are a Community of Faith; We Invite All People to Share in God's Grace; We pray First; We Act on the Holy Spirit's Guidance; We Give Generously of Ourselves as God has given to us.**

Adopted by the Congregation, September 28, 2008

News and Notes



In our prayers –

PRAYERS

OUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES:

Ayden, Bruce, Toni, Ray, Patricia Fosdick, Courtney, Mary

Swanson, Pat Green, Mahl Wagner, Rich LaMonte, Gary Schumacher, Arnold Hogan (Dawn Spink's father), Patti Smith, Betty Craner, Carol Jean, Ann Grimm (Patty Carter's mother), Nick, Clara Long, Pamela Strohl (friend of Kathy Newcomb), Diane Senzarino, Betty and Gary Winther, Jean Kelley, Joan and Lamont Hahn, Phyllis Harm, Maureen Anderson, Pr. Paul and Mary Luisi, Rachel and Matthew Gurniak, Francis Letizia, Pr. Steve Deckard, Ginny Gronozio, Heather Miller (Bishop Miller's wife), Jennifer, Dorris Heath, Alan and Ann Lincoln (Barb Snyder's Brother-in-law and sister)

MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES: Leah Bratt (Sarah Bratt's sister), Sam (Leah's husband), Zachary & Daniel Rosney (Pat Green's great nephews), Jackie, Kenny and Isaac Bowne (Betty Gay's grandchildren), Eric Currier (Dan Currier's son) Jared Lonergan (family friend of Patty Carter) Sam Yonkers (friend of Barb & John Snyder)



"Faith Lutheran men's breakfast group will be held on January 11th at 9am. The Cost will remain the as the past; \$6. Look for a sign-up sheet on the narthex bulletin board"



The Quilters will resume meeting on Tuesday mornings from 10 am – 12 noon starting January 14th. We not only sew but have a great time at fellowship and then go to lunch afterwards. We thank you all for the support you gave us with the Quilt raffle. **Sue Gewinner** was the winner of the raffle. The proceeds will be used to purchase batting and supplies to continue our outreach to the community. We can always use help with sewing on a binding (and it doesn't have to be the whole blanket) We are willing to teach how to tie knot a blanket. Come and join us. Please let Lorrie Monthie or Rose McCarthy know if you would like to join the group.



Food Pantry distribution is as follows:

January 12th 11:30- 1:00 pm

January 13th 4:30- 5:30 pm

If you can volunteer, please let Tracy know. If you might be interested in taking over this role of the Food Pantry coordinator, contact Tracy. She is willing to go over all that is involved with the Food Pantry.

The Altar Guild is requesting help on January 4th to take down the Christmas tree, greens and lights outside the church. If you have time and can help. Please be at the church by 9:30 am. Thank you Linda Keller.

Also, the picture on the front of the newsletter is from the new banner hanging in the Narthex. Stop by and see it in person.



Do you have any news or notes you would like for the members of the Congregation to see in the February issue of the Faith Chronicle? Please have your submission into the office by January 22nd. If you would like to see other things in the newsletter, please let the office know and we will see what we can do to get it in. Thank you.

If you would like to unsubscribe to Faith Lutheran's newsletter or bulletin distribution. Please notify the office and we can remove your name from the lists.

Please call or email the office when you or a member of your family is sick or in the hospital.

If you have given up your land line telephone and would like your cell phone indicated in the church records. Please notify the office.

Please call or email the office if your telephone # or email address has or is changed.

The Church number is 315-699-5224 - email address is flchurch31@gmail.com



If you are unable to make it to the Sunday morning service stream the service on the Church's Facebook account on your computer and phone. Service starts at 10am.

Facebook: @FaithLutheranChurchCiceroNY

Pictures from around Faith

We had an assistant to help the Worship Assistant on Sunday December 1st. Thank you Jack Helly, grandson of Kathy & Arnold Hansen.



Faith Lutheran's Choir performed their Cantata on December 22nd.



In case you were unable to attend the service on Christmas Eve. Here is a picture of the Christmas tree



Faith Lutheran Church became a member of the Cicero Plank Road Chamber of Commerce in late November 2024. We are grateful for their generosity in presenting the church with a gift in December.





Nursery School Notes

January 2025

Happy New Year ... and welcome 2025! We had a nice break from school over the holidays and are ready to get back into a brand new year!

Some special days we will celebrate this month are "Pajama Day" (we'll wear our pajamas to school and enjoy a movie and a snack), "Snowflake Day" to celebrate ... the snowflakes, of course! (preschoolers always seem to love the snow more than their teachers!) We continue to enjoy School Spirit Day at the beginning of each month and will end this month with a visitor from the Sheriff's Department.

Over the break our students were asked to make birthday cards for Baby Jesus. We will visit the Chapel and search for Baby Jesus to bring Him our "gifts," as did the Three Wise Men. These cards will be displayed in the Nursery School hallway and posted on our Facebook page. Be sure to check out these beautiful creations!

It is hard to believe but registration for 2025 begins this month! We'll continue to offer a two and three day program for three-year-old children turning three by December 1, and a three or five day program for four-year-old children turning four by December 1. Children must be potty trained by the beginning of September to attend school. Please share this information if you know anyone who wishes to enroll a child for next year. Contact the Nursery School at 315-699-6087 or send us an email at flnsnsyr@gmail.com as soon as possible to secure a placement. We appreciate our church family spreading the word to help us keep our wonderful program available to area families.

Our Bottle and Can Drive to support the school will continue until the end of this month. We appreciate all the donations so far and ask that you consider saving your bottles and cans to help us with our special days, supplies and field trips.

Cans and bottles can be dropped off in or outside room 4 of the preschool (monetary donations can be left in the church office if it's easier to return them on your own.)



Holiday/New Year's Bottle and Can Drive



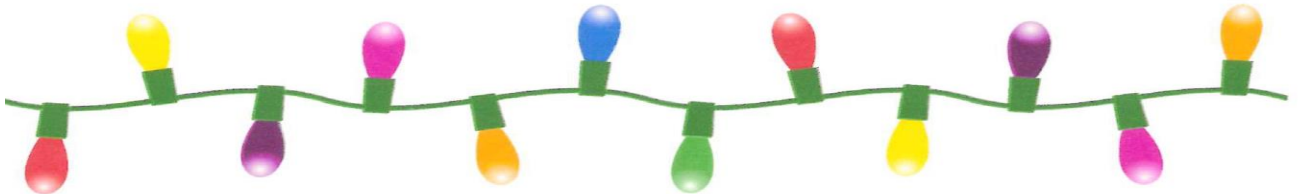
The preschool will be collecting bottles and cans **through the end of January** to help raise funds for our school.

Please save your bottles and cans over the holidays and consider donating them to help us raise money for our supplies, special days and field trips.

You can drop off any donations that you have during school hours (Monday through Friday, 9:00-11:30 a.m.) or **leave them in/outside Room 4 (4's classroom)**.

Our goal is to surpass our profit of \$200 from last year!!

Thank you for your continued support of our students!



Those Who Serve – January 2025

TIDBITS & DATES

ALTAR GUILD

Diane Monthie

Fran Smith - Candles

USHERS

TELLERS:

Week 1

Linda Keller, Rose McCarthy

Week 2

Volunteers needed

Week 3

Ralph and Cassie Richmond

Week 4

Barb Stevenson Maria Scheuer

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR January

01/05 Service of Holy Communion

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Worship Assistant | Bill Stevenson |
| Reader | Rose McCarthy |
| Cantor | Barb Snyder |
| Greeter | Lauri Hoover |

01/12 Service of Holy Communion

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Worship Assistant | Lorrie Monthie |
| Reader | Barb Snyder |
| Cantor | Rose McCarthy |
| Greeter | Linda Keller |

01/19 Service of Holy Communion

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Worship Assistant | Arnold Hansen |
| Reader: | Cassie Richmond |
| Cantors: | Cassie & Ralph Richmond |
| Greeter: | Bill Azzoto |

01/26 Service of the Word

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Worship Assistant | Bill Stevenson |
| Reader | Lorrie Monthie |
| Cantor | Sharon Mirizio |
| Greeter | Kathy Newcomb |

F FOLLOW FAITH! Follow us on Social Media:

F Facebook: @FaithLutheranChurchCiceroNY

T Twitter: @FLC_Cicero

In Instagram: flc_cicero

W Website: faithlutherancny.org

Financial Report for 2024

| | Nov. 2024 | 2024YTD |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Income | \$32,150.63 | \$ 131,878.18 |
| Expense: | (\$ 7,972.48) | (\$111,230.86) |
| Totals: | \$24,178.15 | \$20,647.32 |

A copy of the monthly financial report to the Church Council is available in the Church office.

Faith Lutheran Church is always in need of additional Worship Assistants, Readers, Cantors and Tellers. **No Experience necessary. On-site training is available. Please volunteer!!!**



January Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| John Snyder | 01/03 |
| Kathy Pabis | 01/04 |
| Jackson Snyder | 01/10 |
| Clara Long | 01/12 |
| Jacqueline Fisher | 01/13 |
| Dan Pabis | 01/20 |
| Linda Ferguson | 01/30 |
| Kathy Hansen | 01/30 |
| Lauri Hoover | 01/31 |

Faith Lutheran Church Council Directory 2024-2025

CHURCH PHONE: 315-699-5224 flchurch31@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Rose McCarthy

OFFICERS:

President Bill Stevenson

Vice President Patty Carter

Council Secretary Barb Snyder

Treasurer Kathy Newcomb

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL VOTING MEMBERS:

Pastor Allan Ferguson

Financial Secretary Barb Stevenson

Christian Education

Mutual Ministry, Co-Chair Cassie Richmond

Mutual Ministry, Co-Chair Chuck Bronner

Mutual Ministry, Co-Chair – open position

Property Committee, Co-Chair John Snyder

Property Committee, Co-Chair Jim Kelley

Property Committee, Co-Chair Gary Winther

Congregational Life Diane Monthie (with the help of Lynn Werner & others)

Community Outreach/Evangelism Jeanne Bronner

STEWARDSHIP

COUNCIL NON-VOTING POSITIONS:

Superintendent of Sunday School

Co-Chair Diane Monthie

Co-Chair Lorrie Monthie

**If you need to reach any of the Council members, please contact
the church office for the person's contact information**

January 2025 Calendar of Events

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------|---|
| | | | 1 Happy New Year! | 2 | 3 | 4 Taking down the Christmas tree, greens and lights – 9:30 am Saturday Groups 11-3 & 7 to 8 |
| 5 Service of Holy Communion 10am | 6 Mutual Ministry Mtg 7pm | 7 Quilting 10-12 pm | 8 | 9 Lakeshore Heights Mtg 6:30-7:30 pm | 10 Ladies Night | 11 Men's Breakfast gam Saturday Groups 11-3 & 7-8pm |
| 12 Service of Holy Communion 10am Food Pantry 11:30-1:00 | 13 Council Mtg 7pm Food Pantry 11:30-1:00 | 14 Quilting 10-12 pm | 15 | 16 Lakeshore Heights Mtg 6:30-7:30 pm | 17 | 18 Saturday Groups 11-3 & 7-8pm |
| 19 Affirmation of Baptism 10am | 20 | 21 Quilting 10-12 pm | 22 Articles for newsletter needed | 23 Lakeshore Heights Mtg 6:30-7:30 pm | 24 | 25 Saturday Groups 11-4& 7-8pm |
| 26 Service of Word Communion 10am Congregational meeting following service | 27 . | 28 Quilting 10-12 pm | 29 | 30 Lakeshore Heights Mtg 6:30-7:30 pm | 31 | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |