

JANUARY 2026

FAITH CHRONICLE

The monthly newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church

2  26



Faith Lutheran Church
6142 State Route 31
Cicero, NY 13039

Pastor's Page



SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF FAITH CHURCH,

I grew up in the day when the only television station serving Watertown was a CBS affiliate. Every year, on New Year's Eve, the program showing the ball drop in Times Square featured a band I thought was easy to make fun of—Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians. I was not alone in that idea. I think Rowan and Martin made the same comment on Laugh-In. I still remember the saxophone section wailing (or weeping) away on Auld Lang Syne at the stroke of midnight.

Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And auld lang syne.

The 1960's never seemed to get better after that maudlin song greeted the new year. As Rowan and Martin said, perhaps the years would be better if Guy Lombardo did not start the new year with Auld Lang Syne.

Most people know only a few verses of the many the Scottish poet Robert Burns wrote in Auld Lang Syne. More than a few verses are as maudlin as Guy Lombardo's version of the song. If nothing else, once you get past the Scottish dialect Burns wrote in, you realize taking "a wee draught" of whisky was one of the poet's favorite pastimes.

This year I suggest a different tradition that Scots honor at New Year's (alias Hogmanay). It is called "first footing." The first person who steps through your door in the new year is a sign of how the rest of the year will be. With that in mind, I pray the first person who steps through your door in 2026 is a friend who brings you smiles and laughter. May that person look forward to sharing a meal with you and your loved ones. May the first foot that crosses your threshold have such faith in Jesus and love for you that you realize the new year is God's blessing and hope for you to grow in faith and service to your neighbors. If you are the first person to cross someone's threshold in 2026, may there be a song of joy in your heart and blessings come from your lips.

The year going into the past was hard for far too many people. It was filled with worries and questions ranging from how hungry people will put food on their tables during the government shutdown to what will happen to the vaccines people rely on. There were moments of blessing, too, but let's make 2026 the year of the Lord's favor for all. Let us all put a best foot forward!

Christmas blessings for all,
Pastor Allan

A little side note: I will be doing my continuing education from January 2-5, 2026 with the North American Academy of Liturgy. The group is meeting in Atlanta. I will take part by Zoom. If I seem a little tired on January 4—or eager to get home—that is the reason. Thanks to our secretary, Rebecca Neider, I have a paper to present on Saturday morning, January 3. Thank you, Becca!

NEW AED—CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER AS CHRIST CALLS US

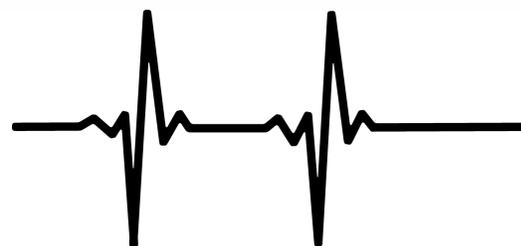
We are thankful to share that our church has installed a new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) as part of our commitment to care for one another in both body and spirit. As we seek to love our neighbors as Christ taught us, this device is a meaningful step toward ensuring safety within our church family.



If you would like to learn how to use the AED, we will be offering a brief training session soon—please contact the office to be included.

We are also welcoming donations to help cover the cost of the unit. Your gifts, of any amount, support our shared ministry of compassion and care.

Thank you for helping us look after one another in Christ's name.



FAITH IN ACTION: SUPPORTING THE CANTEEN



It's that time of year when we are settling in for the winter month's after a big Christmas season. Some of our friends at the Canteen though need that extra energy boost after school to make it through till their parents pick them up each night. Faith Lutheran Church has been a big part of the children's lives at the Canteen with providing snacks. If you would like to donate a snack or two for a donation to the Canteen we will be collecting donations until January 18th. If you have any questions, please see Diane Monthie. Thank you for your support.

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

Adopted by the Congregation, September 28, 2008

In Our Prayers

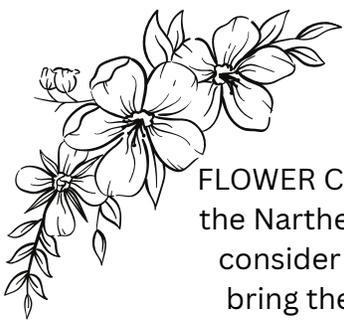
OUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES

Ayden (Diane Senzarino's grandson), Bruce, Toni, Patricia Fosdick, Mary Swanson (Friend of the Bronners), Pat Green, Mahl Wagner, Rich LaMonte, Gary Schumacher, Arnold Hogan (Dawn Spink's father), Betty Craner, Ann Grim (Patty Carter's mother), Nick, Clara Long, Pamela Strohl (friend of Kathy Newcomb), Betty and Gary Winther, Jean Kelley, Joan and Lamont Hahn, Phyllis Harm, Maureen Anderson, Phyllis and Francis Letizia, Ginny Gronozio, Heather Miller (Bishop Miller's wife), Jennifer (Bishop Miller's Sister-in-law), Doris Heath, Elaine and Dell Blume (Friends of the Winthers), Philomena Bronner, Joe Houser, Charlie Bullock, Alice, Lynda, Maria (Friends of Diane Monthie), Daniel Canastra and Quentin Canastra (Ri Ho's son and grandson), Rose (friend of an AA member), Don Richmond (Ralph Richmond's brother) Danny Whitney (Friend of Lynn Werner)



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), Sam Yonkers (friend of Barb & John Snyder)



FLOWER CHART: The Altar Guild has placed this year's Flower Chart on the bulletin board in the Narthex. We all love having live flowers on the altar for Sunday morning worship. Please consider providing flowers for a memorial or special occasion. Sign up on the chart, then bring the flowers to church on Sunday morning or call Linda Keller or Diane Monthie for information or to make special arrangements. Also, you can request live flowers by placing a donation in an envelope with your name and information in the collection plate at least 2 weeks before your selected date. And, of course, we will be most grateful for any donation to the general flower fund.

Please see Linda Keller if you are interested in helping. Thank you

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



The Men's Breakfast Group Will Meet In January

The Quilters Will Meet In January



FOOD PANTRY

DISTRIBUTION

Sunday January 11: 11:30am -1:00 pm
Monday January 12: 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm



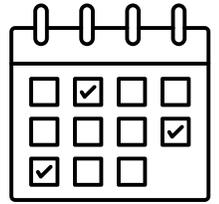
The food pantry always appreciates donations of nonperishable items.

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.





Calendar at a Glance



- 1/5 Mutual Ministry Meeting 7:00 pm
- 1/10 Taking Down Christmas Decorations 10:00 am
- 1/11 Food Pantry Distribution 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
- 1/12 Food Pantry Distribution 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
- 1/12 Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 1/25 Congregational Voters Meeting After 10:00 am Service



THOSE WHO SERVE

ALTAR GUILD
Diane Monthie

MUSICIANS
Lindsay Brown, Barb Schwartz

TELLERS:
Week 1
Linda Keller and Rose McCarthy
Week 2
Maria Scheuer and Barb Stevenson
Week 3
Ralph and Cassie Richmond
Week 4
Barb Stevenson and Maria Scheuer

Financial Report for 2025

	November 2025	2025 YTD
Income	\$11,243.00	\$206,460.68
Expense	\$8,633.93	\$207,769.05
Totals	\$2,609.07	(\$1,308.37)

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

1/4 Service

Worship Assistant	Arnold Hansen
Reader	Cassie Richmond
Cantor	Cassie & Ralph Richmond
Greeter	Kathy Newcomb

1/11 Service

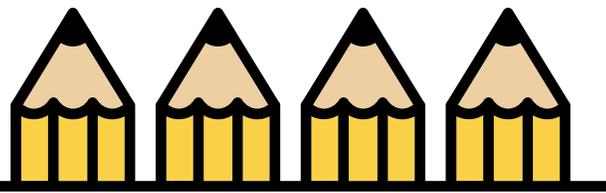
Worship Assistant	Lorrie Monthie
Reader	Rose McCarthy
Cantor	Barb Snyder
Greeter	Diane Monthie

1/18 Service

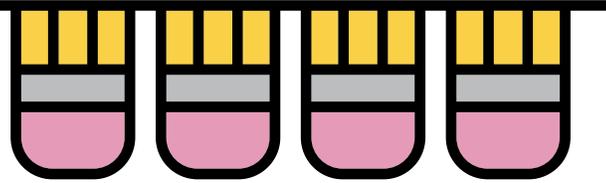
Worship Assistant	Bill Stevenson
Reader	Sharon Mirizio
Cantor	Betty Gay
Greeter	Bill Azzoto

1/25 Service

Worship Assistant	Arnold Hansen
Reader	Lorrie Monthie
Cantor	Lauri Hoover
Greeter	Linda Keller



Nursery School Notes January 2026



Welcome 2026 ... Happy New Year to all! We enjoyed our break from over the holidays and are ready to get back into a brand new year at the preschool!

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) and “Snowflake Day” to celebrate all the snow this winter has brought us (preschoolers always seem to love the snow more than their teachers)! We continue to enjoy School Spirit Day at the beginning of each month.

Over the holiday 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 if you have a chance!

It is hard to believe but registration for the 2026-2027 school year has begun! 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). We require children to be potty trained by the beginning of September to attend school. Please share this information if you know anyone who wants to enroll a child for next year. Contact the Nursery School at 315-699-6087 or send an email at flnsnsyr@gmail.com or message us on Facebook 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 families in our community.

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. Donations can be dropped off in or outside room 4 of the preschool (monetary donations can be left in the church office envelope if it’s easier for you).

Holiday/New Year's Bottle and Can Drive



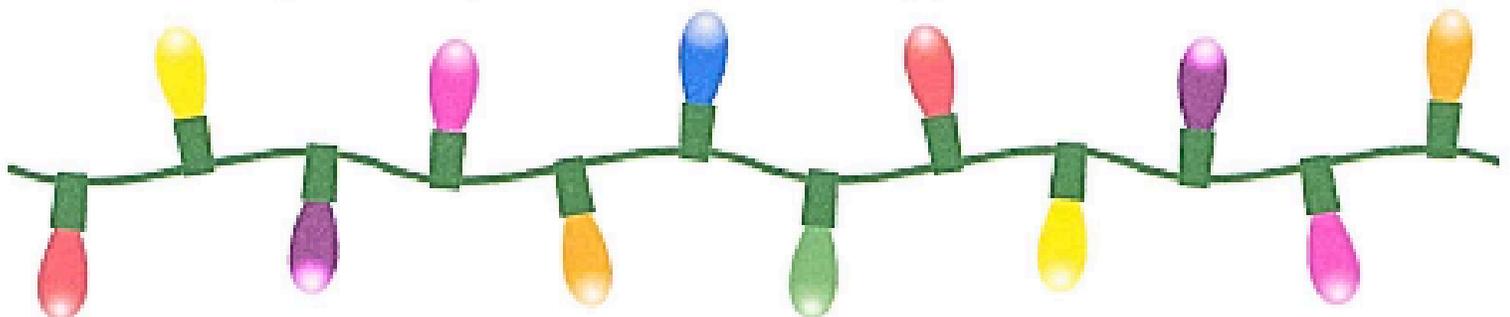
The preschool is collecting bottles and cans **through the end of January** to help raise funds for our school.

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.

Bottles/cans can be dropped off during school hours (Monday through Wednesday, 9:00-11:30 a.m.) or **leave them in/outside Room 4 (4's classroom).**

If it's easier to return them yourself and send the monetary donation to school, please feel free to do so and use the envelope in the church office.

Our goal is to surpass our profit of \$200 from last year!!
Thank you for your continued support of our students!





John Snyder	1/01
Kathy Pabis	1/04
Jackson Snyder	1/10
Clara Long	1/12
Jacqueline Fisher	1/13
Lamont Hahn	1/16
Lindsay Brown	1/16
Jackson Neider	1/17
Dan Pabis	1/20
John Fisher	1/22
Linda Ferguson	1/30
Kathy Hansen	1/30
Lauri Hoover	1/31

**Faith Lutheran Church Council Directory
2024-2025**

**CHURCH PHONE: 315-699-5224 flchurch31@gmail.com
Church Secretary: Rebecca Neider**

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 Bruce Hahn

Property Committee, Co-Chair John Snyder
Property Committee, Co-Chair Jim Kelley
Property Committee, Co-Chair Gary Winther**

**Congregational Life Diane Monthie
Community Outreach/Evangelism Jeanne Bronner**

STEWARDSHIP

COUNCIL NON-VOTING POSITIONS:

**Superintendent of Sunday School
Co-Chair Diane Monthie
Co-Chair Lorrie Monthie
Bookkeeper Maria Scheuer**

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

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

You can also follow Faith Lutheran Church on Instagram: @FLC.Cicero



Do you have any news or notes you would like for the members of the Congregation to see in the December issue of the Faith Chronicle? Please have your submission into the office by January 21st. 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 at flchurch31@gmail.com and we can remove your name from the lists.

January

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Choir 6:30-7:30		1 Lakeshore Heights Mtg 6:30-7:30 pm	2	3 Saturday Groups 11-3 7-8
4 Sunday Service 10 am	5 M&M meeting 7pm	6 Choir 6:30-7:30	7	8 Lakeshore Heights Mtg 6:30-7:30 pm	9	10 Taking Down Christmas Decorations 10 am Saturday Groups 11-3 7-8
11 Sunday Service 10 am Food Pantry 11:30-1:00	12 Council Mtg 7pm Food Pantry 4:30-5:30	13 Choir 6:30-7:30	14	15 Lakeshore Heights Mtg 6:30-7:30 pm	16	17 Saturday Groups 11-3 7-8
18 Sunday Service 10 am	19	20 Choir 6:30-7:30	21	22 Lakeshore Heights Mtg 6:30-7:30 pm	23	24 Saturday Groups 11-3 7-8
25 Sunday Service 10 am Congregational Voters Meeting following Service	26	27 Choir 6:30-7:30	28	29 Lakeshore Heights Mtg 6:30-7:30 pm	30	31 Saturday Groups 11-3 7-8

Faith Lutheran
CHURCH