

MARCH 2026

FAITH CHRONICLE

The monthly newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church



Faith Lutheran Church
6142 State Route 31
Cicero, NY 13039



Pastor's Page

SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF FAITH CHURCH,

Several years ago, in a Lutheran church far, far away, a certain pastor found himself in trouble with a member of the congregation. Full disclosure: I am that pastor who got into trouble. Everyone who knows me knows sometimes I invite a certain amount of trouble. Some trouble goes with the call of being pastor. Some trouble simply happens. In this case, I invited trouble by (gasp) preaching from Paul's letters instead of Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. The individual believed I had betrayed my calling as a minister of the gospel.

The idea that a pastor preaches from one of the readings assigned for that Sunday is a relatively new idea. One only has to go as far back as the 1950's to find hymnals and prayer books that used a one-year lectionary instead of the current three-year cycle of readings. Those one-year cycles of Bible lessons used readings only from the New Testament. (One seminary professor I knew would have pointed out they left out three quarters of the Bible.) The custom of the day allowed a preacher to deliver a sermon from whatever Bible passage interested him. It did not have to match the season (like Lent or Easter) or the themes found in the designated lessons for that Sunday.

History tells an even more "interesting" story. The Lutherans who settled in North America in the 1600's and 1700's read a sermon from a book of sermons when they did not have a pastor in their community. (The designated reader was often the organist!) Reformed Christians were supposed to read the Heidelberg Catechism during worship or preach from the catechism rather than having a sermon preached from the Bible.

More than history, though, is the distinction between Gospel and gospel. We have four books we call Gospel: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Each Gospel tells the story of Jesus. Each Gospel points us to the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord. The other gospel ("small g" gospel) is the story of how God meets a sinful humankind with mercy and understanding. The greatest example of gospel obviously comes in the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection... but we find the gospel in many other places. St. Paul's letters show us how the first Christians found words for their faith in Jesus in spite of many conflicts and discussions. Paul's letters contain the gospel.

The first five books of the Hebrew Bible—Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy—give us the story of God's power to create and make a covenant with a chosen people. God freed the chosen people from slavery in a foreign land and promised them a new home. Prophets as different as Elijah and Isaiah, Micah and Daniel, shared God's message of saving mercy and the way to live faithfully before God and neighbor. Does the Hebrew Bible contain the gospel? Absolutely!

Christians need to be a people of the entire Bible, not just the four Gospels. In other words, do not think I am forgetting God's call to be a minister of the gospel when I preach from some other lesson than Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. The gospel God gives us is broad and deep. God challenges us to hear and understand the big story (or "the small g" gospel) to the best of our ability.

Blessing for all as we make our way to Easter,

Pastor Allan

LENTEN MISSIONS TO REMEMBER

Back in the late-1980's and early-90's I served a church in southern Oswego County. The church rented its downstairs level Sunday School rooms to an East Coast Migrant Headstart program during the summer growing season. Additional rent came in the off-season because the Headstart stored its equipment in the parsonage basement to let the church use all its classrooms for Sunday School.



The church and I belonged to the Fulton Council of Churches at the time. We shared Lenten programs and occasionally did mission projects together. One year our consensus Lenten project was collecting children's clothing and housewarming items for the migrant worker families when they returned to our neighborhood. One church collected children's underwear. Other churches collected lightly-used jackets and outerwear and so on. Every church in the council had an opportunity to do something. My church, with its relationship with Headstart and the families, was Ground Zero for where we would complete the mission.

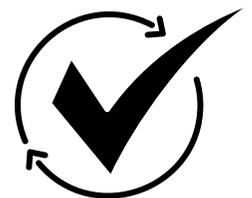


Then came the local Salvation Army. I received a call asking if our church would accept a gift they received of 24 cases of disposable diapers. Families with young children would certainly need diapers—and most of the “camps” had little in the way of laundry facilities. The one problem with this gift is it had to be received IMMEDIATELY. They had no place to store 24 cases of diapers in their citadel. We had no room in the church. There was room in the parsonage basement. That is where 24 cases of diapers went until the families returned.



I announced our windfall gift of 24 cases of disposable diapers and where they were stored to the church the next Sunday. One member spoke a comment loud enough to be heard by everyone sitting around her: “They won't have to worry about water in the parsonage basement when the snow melts!”

The good news is the parsonage basement was usually dry, and families who needed diapers got them when they returned to the onion farms in Oswego County. Mission accomplished!



On a more recent note, our Church Council decided this year to collect diapers for the Central New York diaper bank as our Lenten mission. Onondaga County has many families who cannot afford the diapers their infants and children need. Asking those families to use cloth (reusable) diapers places stress on families without their own laundering ability. We do not have a parsonage or a church basement, so you know the diapers will end up where families really need them.



LCM CHILI LUNCH

On March 15, we're having a Chili Lunch! This will be a relaxed and welcoming time to share a meal and catch up with friends. There's no competition—just plenty of good chili, warm conversation, and a chance to support the Lutheran Campus Ministry. We hope you'll join us for this special afternoon of food, fellowship, and connection! There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.



DIAPER DRIVE



As we journey through the season of Lent, we are reminded of Christ's call to love and serve our neighbors, especially those in need. This is a time of reflection, prayer, and compassionate action. One simple yet meaningful way we can live out our faith is by caring for families in our community who are facing hardship. We will be collecting diapers for the CNY Diaper Bank, which provides essential support to local families with young children. There is a special need for sizes 5 and 6. Diapers are a basic necessity that cannot be purchased with food assistance benefits, making this ministry a vital blessing for many households.



LENT LUNCH AND DEVOTIONAL

During the season of Lent, we invite you to gather with us at noon on Wednesdays for a shared lunch and devotional. Take time to reflect on God's Word, deepen your faith, and enjoy fellowship. This will continue through Holy Week, come for nourishment of both body and spirit.



EASTER FLOWERS

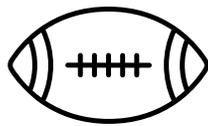
The sign-up sheet for Easter flowers is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, March 8th. The cost is \$9 per plant. These beautiful flowers will adorn our altar on Easter Sunday morning, adding to the joy and celebration of the Resurrection. They will be enjoyed by all during worship, and following the service, you are welcome to take your plant home as a lasting reminder of the Easter season.



CLEANING THE CHURCH



Join us on March 14 at 9:00 AM as we gather to spruce up our church in preparation for Easter! Many hands make light work, and it's a wonderful way to share fellowship while helping our worship space shine for this joyful season. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board soon. If you have any questions, please see Rose McCarthy. We hope you can join us as we get ready to celebrate the joy of Easter together!



SOUPER SUNDAY



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), Toni, Patricia Fosdick, Mary Swanson (Friend of the Bronners), Pat Green, 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, Doris Heath, Elaine and Dell Blume (Friends of the Winthers), Philomena and Garrett Bronner (Chuck Bronner's parents), 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), Joe Krywalski, Katlyn Fleury, Chuckie (friend of parishioner)



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.

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 March

We gather to share a meal, build friendships, and grow in faith together. Look for a sign-up sheet on the narthex bulletin board.

The Quilters Will Meet In March

We enjoy not only sewing, but also wonderful fellowship together. We are happy to teach anyone—no experience needed. Come join us!



FOOD PANTRY

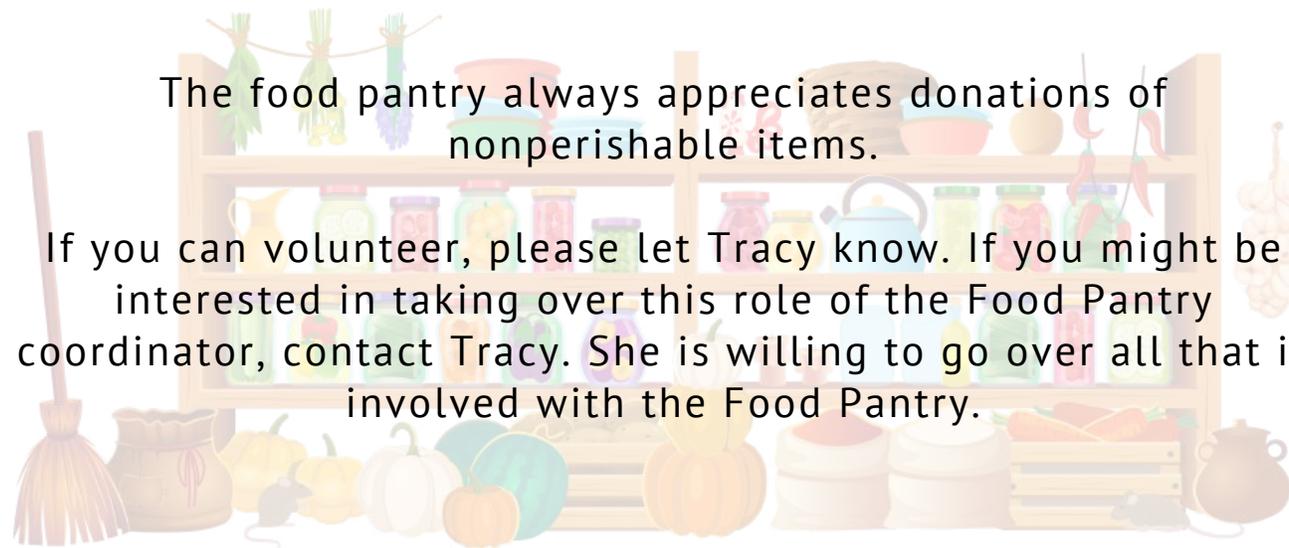
DISTRIBUTION

Sunday March 15: 11:30am -1:00 pm
Monday March 16: 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm



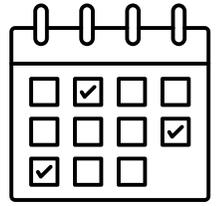
The food pantry always appreciates donations of nonperishable items.

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



- 3/2 Mutual Ministry Meeting 7:00 pm
- 3/4 Lent Lunch and Devotional 12:00 pm
- 3/9 Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 3/11 Lent Lunch and Devotional 12:00 pm
- 3/14 Church Clean Up
- 3/15 LCM Chili Challenge
- 3/15 Food Pantry Distribution 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
- 3/16 Food Pantry Distribution 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
- 3/18 Lent Lunch and Devotional 12:00 pm
- 3/25 Lent Lunch and Devotional 12:00 pm



SWEETHEART BREAKFAST



THOSE WHO SERVE

ALTAR GUILD

Kathy Newcomb and Lauri Hoover

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 2026

	January 2026	2026 YTD
Income	\$16,601.72	\$16,601.72
Expense	\$12,139.72	\$12,139.72
Totals	\$4,462.00	\$4,462.00

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

3/1 Service

Worship Assistant	Bill Stevenson
Reader	Lorrie Monthie
Cantor	Barb Snyder
Greeter	Diane Monthie

3/8 Service

Worship Assistant	Arnold Hansen
Reader	Rose McCarthy
Cantor	Betty Gay
Greeter	Linda Keller

3/15 Service

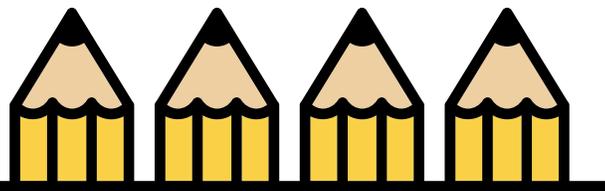
Worship Assistant	Lorrie Monthie
Reader	Barb Snyder
Cantor	Lauri Hoover
Greeter	Lauri Hoover

3/22 Service

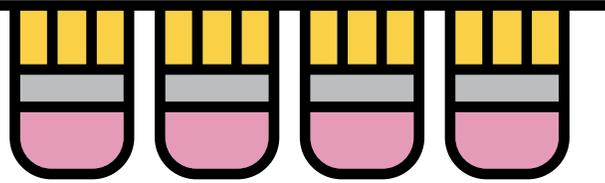
Worship Assistant	Bill Stevenson
Reader	Cassie Richmond
Cantor	Cassie & Ralph Richmond
Greeter	Bill Azzoto

3/29 Service

Worship Assistant	Arnold Hansen
Reader	Bill Stevenson
Cantor	Rose McCarthy
Greeter	Kathy Newcomb



Nursery School Notes
March 2026



Nursery School Registration for the fall of 2026 is ongoing. Paperwork is available in our office and there are brochures located in the church entrance. If you or someone you know would like to enroll a child in preschool next year, please contact us at 315-699-6087. We can also be reached at flnsnsyr@gmail.com or message us on Facebook (our page provides a lot of information and pictures of some things we do). We are also happy to schedule an in-person visit.

We enjoyed the February break. Now we are definitely looking forward to spring, warmer weather, and some special days here at school! We will enjoy SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY on March 4 and 5, PIZZA DAY on March 11 and 12, and our annual KARATE VISIT on March 16 and 17. Sensei Jon Kraus from Peak Martial Arts in Cicero will be here to teach us some fun karate skills! Our JELLY BEAN HUNT/EASTER PARTIES will be on March 25 and 26 before we are on Spring Break from March 27 - April 3. We are also looking forward to Pastor Allan and his bagpipes for St. Patrick's Day!

We wrapped up our Gertrude Hawk Candy Fundraiser on February 23 and we expect our orders to arrive during the week of March 23 in time for Easter. Once again, this was a successful sale that will help us with our supplies, special days and four's field trip in May. Many thanks to those in the Church community who participated in this fundraiser!

The Nursery School staff and students hope you are staying warm and looking forward to Spring.



Andrew Hahn	03/01
Carol Frey	03/05
Alexandra Freytag	03/12
Brett Helmer	03/13
Fred Freytag	03/18
Emma Bronner-Smith	03/19
Michael Martino	03/30



Tournament

Saturday March 7, 2026

Benefit to support The **Benjamin Drew Foster** Memorial Fund

Ben was taken too soon unexpectedly in a car accident. Funds are being raised to honor his memory with local scholarships at Central Square and travel baseball scholarships.

Woody's on 37

725 County Route 37 Central Square

Doors open @ 11AM – Bags fly @ 12PM

Basket Raffles and 50/50

Food and Bar Available for purchase

\$25 per person – 4 game round robin, into double elimination

(cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place)

Pre-sign up available on Scorholio App

Any questions please contact Tricia Foster tfoster00031@roadrunner.com

Nadine Denman dep885@aol.com Pay at the door the day of the event.

\$10⁰⁰
PER TICKET

Benjamin Drew Foster
Memorial Scholarship Fund
Corn Hole Tournament Raffle

Win a Samsung 65" 4K Smart TV

Woody's on 37
725 County Route 37 Central Square NY
MARCH 7, 2026
Thank you for your support BF #26

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Faith Lutheran Church Council Directory

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 March 18th. 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.

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday Service 10 am	2 M&M meeting 7pm	3 Choir 6:30-7:30	4 Lent Lunch and Devotional 12:00 pm	5 Lakeshore Heights Mtg 6:30-7:30 pm	6	7 Saturday Groups 11-3 7 - 8
8 Sunday Service 10 am	9 Council Mtg 7pm	10 Choir 6:30-7:30	11 Lent Lunch and Devotional 12:00 pm	12 Lakeshore Heights Mtg 6:30-7:30 pm	13	14 Saturday Groups 11-3 7 - 8 Church Clean Up 9:00 AM
15 Sunday Service 10 am LCM Chili Lunch after Service Food Pantry 11:30-1:00	16 Food Pantry 4:30-5:30	17 Choir 6:30-7:30	18 Lent Lunch and Devotional 12:00 pm	19 Lakeshore Heights Mtg 6:30-7:30 pm	20	21 Saturday Groups 11-3 7 - 8
22 Sunday Service 10 am	23	24 Choir 6:30-7:30	25 Lent Lunch and Devotional 12:00 pm	26 Lakeshore Heights Mtg 6:30-7:30 pm	27	28 Saturday Groups 11-3 7 - 8
29 Sunday Service 10 am	30	31	<p><i>Faith Lutheran</i> CHURCH</p>			