

MAY 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,

I grew up learning a simple rhyme for springtime in upstate New York: April showers bring May flowers. Tulips and daffodils, hyacinth and crocus, emerge starting in April and into May. The May Tulip Festival in Ottawa, Canada's capital city, is a very big deal north of the border. Apple and cherry trees feast our eyes (and give us hope for a warm slice of pie during the fruit season). Trees and shrubbery treat us to rhododendron, azalea, lilac, forsythia and crabapple blossoms. My seminary years in New Jersey introduced me to magnolia trees and entire hillsides covered in a golden blaze of forsythia.

Unfortunately, I count myself among the many who feel the effects of the flowers and their cycle of life. My body tells me through itchy eyes, nasal congestion, and the occasional bout of laryngitis that spring has sprung. The April showers do their best (and worst) in bringing the May flowers. Fortunately, years of allergy shots and a mix of antihistamines and other medications allow me to enjoy the beauty and wonders of spring. I enjoy the garden around our front door at Faith Church as much as any person.

Years ago I heard a church member in New Jersey declare "How can anyone deny God exists or Christ is risen?" as he pointed to a hillside covered with forsythia in full bloom. The sight was that beautiful, but I kept a theological question to myself as I rode in his car.

There is a holiness in beauty. The height and stone carving of the gothic arches and altarpiece of Riverside Church in New York City stunned me when I saw it the first time decades ago. An immense pipe organ rising from the quiet statement of a hymn's first verse to the full sound of rejoicing in refrain not only moves the soul, it can cause the floor to vibrate and move your feet. Writers, artists, and poets found holy experiences at Niagara Falls, among giant sequoias, looking into the Grand Canyon, and watching the sun set across the mountains in the desert Southwest. Long ago I imagined a chapel built around Claude Monet's paintings of water lilies would please God and draw people closer to God. There is a holiness in beauty.

As Christians, though, we also find beauty in holiness. The cup of coffee shared in deep conversation with a neighbor sorting through countless problems holds its own beauty. The stack of disposable diapers in the church's entryway during Lent spoke of a different kind of beauty. The day of our chili lunch to benefit Lutheran Campus Ministry created a fleeting sort of beauty. Our Council president saw the many steaming containers of chili on the serving table and the cars lined up outside for the food pantry distribution. "Is there any reason why we can't share our lunch with the folks outside?" My answer was simple. Why not? We had more than enough food for ourselves. The people outside were our neighbors, both geographically and spiritually. That simple action, sharing our lunch, was simple, holy, and beautiful. The only comment I heard afterward is somebody wished Bill Stevenson was wearing roller skates so he could work like a carhop at a 1950's drive-in.

As May flowers feast your eyes, look beyond the blossoms to see the holiness of God's creating and loving hand. Share a bouquet of flowers, even dandelions, as a sign of love. Then take a moment to see the beauty of faith living in the people around you. God will not disappoint you.

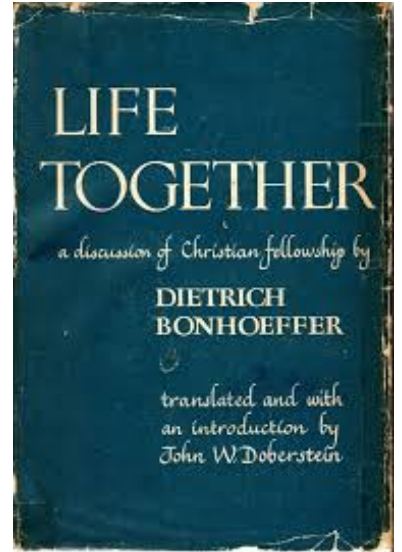
Praying for the beauty of holiness to surround you,

Pastor Allan

FROM THE PASTOR'S READING LIST

The situation of the one who is reading the Scripture would probably come closest to that in which I read to another person a letter from a friend. I would not read the letter as though I had written it myself. The distance between us would be clearly noticeable as it was read. And yet I would also not be able to read my friend's letter as if it were of no concern to me. On the contrary, because of our close relationship, I would read it with personal interest. Proper reading of Scripture is not a technical exercise that can be learned; it is something that grows or diminishes according to my own spiritual condition. The ponderous, laborious reading of the Bible by many a Christian who has become seasoned through experience often far surpasses a minister's reading, no matter how perfect the latter in form.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together, trans. John W. Doberstein (New York: Harper, 1954), 64, quoted in Timothy J. Wengert. Minister's Prayer Book: An Order of Prayers and Readings (308-309). Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Kindle Edition.



SPRING HAS SPRUNG

As we welcome the new life of spring, our church garden is in need of some care after the winter season. If you feel called to serve, we invite you to join us for a garden clean-up on May 2nd at 9:00 AM. Your helping hands are a blessing, and your time and fellowship are deeply appreciated as we tend to God's creation together.

Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Rose



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, Pat Green, 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 Winther, Jean Kelley, Joan and Lamont Hahn, Phyllis Harm, Phyllis and Francis Letizia, Ginny Gronozio, Doris Heath, Philomena and Garrett Bronner (Chuck Bronner's parents), Charlie Bullock, Alice, Lynda, Maria (Friends of Diane Monthie), Daniel Canastra and Quentin Canastra (Ri Ho's son and grandson, Don Richmond (Ralph Richmond's brother) Danny Whitney (Friend of Lynn Werner), Joe Krywalski, and Katlyn Fleury.



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 May



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 May

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

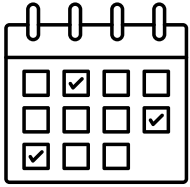
Sunday May 17: 11:30am - 1:00 pm
Monday May 18: 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm



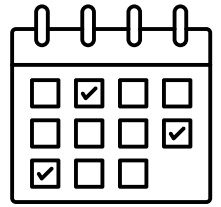
New federal SNAP (food stamp) rules, effective March 1, may affect about 6,000 people in Onondaga County. Adults ages 18–64 without children under 14 must work, volunteer, or participate in job training for 80 hours per month to keep benefits. While the rules are now in place, impacts may not be felt until June. Some exceptions apply, including pregnancy and participation in treatment programs. Those affected should have received information from the county with next steps.

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



- 5/2 Garden Spring Clean Up 9:00 am
- 5/4 Mutual Ministry Meeting 7:00 pm
- 5/6 Nursery School Fundraiser at William's Farm Ice cream Stand
- 5/11 Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- 5/17 Food Pantry Distribution 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
- 5/18 Food Pantry Distribution 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
- 5/31 Voters Meeting After Service

Dear Pastor and Parishioners of Faith,
I first want to thank you for celebrating my birthday with more than 40 birthday cards, not including family and neighbors. I am overwhelmed.
I also enjoyed the cake it was delicious!

Thank you,
Fran Smith



THOSE WHO SERVE

ALTAR GUILD
Kathy Newcomb

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

	March 2026	2026 YTD
Income	\$13,919.92	\$42,601.64
Expense	\$13,272.71	\$36,690.73
Totals	\$647.21	\$5,910.91

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

5/3 Service

Worship Assistant	Bill Stevenson
Reader	Rose McCarthy
Cantor	Barb Snyder
Greeter	Barb and John Snyder

5/10 Service

Worship Assistant	Arnold Hansen
Reader	Cassie Richmond
Cantor	Cassie & Ralph Richmond
Greeter	Diane Monthie

5/17 Service

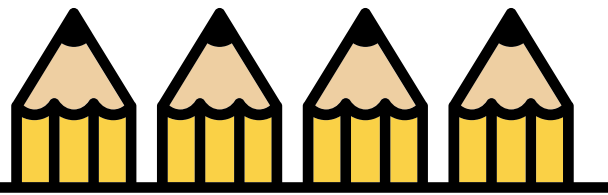
Worship Assistant	Lorrie Monthie
Reader	Sharon Mirizio
Cantor	Betty Gay
Greeter	Bill Azzoto

5/24 Service

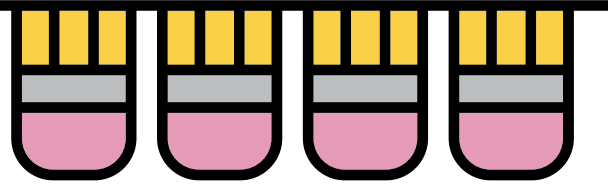
Worship Assistant	Arnold Hansen
Reader	Betty Winther
Cantor	Lauri Hoover
Greeter	Kathy Newcomb

5/31 Service

Worship Assistant	Bill Stevenson
Reader	Lorrie Monthie
Cantor	Rose McCarthy
Greeter	Linda Keller



Nursery School Notes May 2026



Enrollment for fall 2026 is in full swing and will continue through the summer until both classes are at full capacity. We are thrilled that we have received a number of registrations already. Our Threes Class in particular still has room for more students and we are hoping that we can fill all of those spots. We appreciate your spreading the word about our program! We are so proud of our school and if you or someone you know would like their young child to be a part of it, please call our office at 315-699-6087 or send an email to flnsnsyr@gmail.com. Also, encourage them to check out our Facebook page to see some great things we've been doing this year. Messages can also be left for us there.

Our final School Spirit days will be May 6 and 7. We certainly have a LOT of spirit to celebrate. Our students have grown so much this year and have made us so proud. Our end of year ice cream parties will be held in our classrooms on May 13,14 & 20.

Save the date! On Wednesday, May 6 we will be having our final fundraiser of the year at William's Farm Ice Cream Stand on Route 31. This was such a great event last year, and we invite you all to stop by (a flyer with more information regarding times will be available in the church entrance). A portion of all sales will be donated to our school! You'll be supporting us, as well as this wonderful local business while you enjoy a delicious treat.

The Four's Class is looking forward to our annual field trip on May 13. We will be going to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. We can't wait for a fun time together with our students and their families.

The three year old's Spring Program for parents will be held on May 19 and May 20 and our Nursery School Graduation will be held on May 21 for those children completing the four-year-old program. Congratulations class of 2026!

We would like to formally thank everyone at Faith Lutheran Church for their support of the Nursery School this year. We are blessed that we are able to provide our students with a safe and loving environment to learn and grow. We already look forward to another great new school year in the fall!

Have a healthy, happy, and SUNNY summer!



Kim Apar	05/03
Christina Hahn	05/05
Patty Carter	05/06
Lorie Giamartino	05/11
Jack Helly	05/20
Lorrie Monthie	05/26

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 May issue of the Faith Chronicle? Please have your submission into the office by May 20th. 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.

May

2026

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

31
Sunday Service
10 am

Voters Meeting
After Service

Faith Lutheran
CHURCH