



# Faith Family

## News

January 2025

*In response to God's grace flowing  
through Christ, we grow in faith  
and show Christ's love.*

### GRATITUDE... AND A CALL

By Pastor Adam

“All my words fall short... I've got nothing new... how could I express... all my gratitude?” These are the opening words from the song, *Gratitude*, by Brandon Lake, a song that Marilyn sang in worship a few weeks ago. In stark juxtaposition to the hardest struggle our family has ever walked together, this song has filled our home. Marilyn's angiosarcoma diagnosis has hit us hard, but in the face of deep pain, there has been gratitude. Our family would like to express our gratitude for the ways you have, as Bishop Greg Busboom shared when he led worship at Faith on December 15, “lived out your promise to support and pray for your pastor and family.” You made this promise when I was installed as your pastor 12 years ago, and you are keeping your promise. To allow us to focus our efforts on what is most important right now, you have taken three burdens off of our shoulders:

1. The Burden of Food. That's right, food! Thank you for the many meals you have provided. You have relieved the burden of grocery shopping, meal planning, and cooking to allow us to focus on the love that dwells at our kitchen table.
2. The Burden of Work. I imagine many parents walking our walk are faced with the struggle to maintain hours at a job so they still have a job and health benefits. You have shown grace by volunteering to help and giving me the time I need to be with my family for hospital stays, appointments, and just being together.
3. The Burden of Finances. Medical care is crazy expensive, but we have felt none of the burden.

Not only has our health insurance been spectacular, but the many financial gifts through cards and CaringBridge have met every extra expense, even giving us a cushion for the new year. Thank you, so very much, for your generosity.

These are three burdens that you have helped take off of our shoulders to lighten our load, but you have also lifted us up. James 5:16 says, “The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” Never before have I felt the power of prayer as we have these past two months! God has given us peace and strength beyond our own, and it is by the grace of God that we are able to be light and shine light in the midst of the darkness.

So, again, thank you! Thank you for your generosity, for your understanding, for your prayers, and for your love as you live out the promise you made at my installation.

What now? Well, please keep doing what you are doing 😊. Your support is both appreciated and needed in the long road ahead, but also, perhaps this is an opportunity to remember God's greatest command. Jesus tells us the greatest command is to love God and love our neighbors. I'm certain that each of us has neighbors who don't have an incredible community like our Faith Family to help take these burdens off of their shoulders. We have neighbors who are struggling to put food on their tables, to keep their jobs, and pay their bills. How can you show them grace and support? How can you invite them into our Faith Family? How can you be Christ to them?

Thank you for the great love and care you have shown to my family. Now, let's share this light and love with others in need.

Pastor Adam

*For some family pictures of  
gratitude, turn to the next page*

Flows. Grows. Shows



## Faith Family Updates

What's new around Faith? Maybe you haven't been here in awhile or you just haven't noticed, but our ministry is constantly changing.

### THANK YOU FROM THE DICHSENS

Adam expressed his gratitude in his cover message, but we wanted to say "thank you" as well and share a couple of Christmas pictures. Having him home with us on Christmas morning was such a wonderful gift so that we could be together with Marilyn's chemo treatment the next day. We are so grateful for our Faith Family and for the many ways you have cared for us. We love you and are so blessed by the faith and community we share!



### WOMEN OF FAITH

All Women of Faith are invited to gather for dinner together at Mulligan's on **Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.** Please RSVP to Monica Proefrock (217-737-0475) by **Sunday, the 5<sup>th</sup>.** Feel free to invite a friend to join us!

### CELEBRATING THE SAINTS

In December, Glen Berghaus joined the church triumphant. Together we give thanks for our saints, visible and invisible members of the great cloud of witnesses.



### DOORBELL DINNERS

With so many outreach activities going on, there wasn't room for this announcement on the outreach page, so this is an opportunity to encourage some new volunteers to this very special ministry. On **January 13-17**, we provide drivers and deliverers for five routes in the Jacksonville area. Meet at the hospital at 11:15, and you will be finished by 12:30. We already have volunteers for most routes, but this would be a wonderful opportunity to follow along and learn about this ministry.

# Reaching Up... Connecting with God through Worship

Flows. Grows. Shows



## SERMON SERIES - THE LIFE OF JESUS ACCORDING TO LUKE

You've heard Jesus' birth account in the Gospel of Luke, now hear the rest. For the next four months, we will journey through Luke's gospel in worship.

January 5 – Jesus as a Boy in the Temple  
*Luke 2:41-52*

January 12 – Jesus' Baptism. *Luke 3:1-22*

January 19 – Sermon at Nazareth. *Luke 4:14-30*

January 26 – Fish for People. *Luke 5:1-11*

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 LESSONS AND CAROLS

Continue the season of Christmas with a wonderful morning of Christmas Carols and scripture readings. Hear the prophetic anticipations, the story of the birth of our Savior, and feast on God's grace in the Word made flesh in Holy Communion.

## CHRISTMAS DELIGHT

Christmas brought joy to the world, and joy to our Faith Family. At our family service, the children joined in the singing and telling of the story as we heard from Leah (Patty Nelson), the innkeepers wife. At our traditional candlelight service, we celebrated that our King has come and has authority over all powers of this world. On Christmas morning, a rose blooming in winter helped us recall the significance of the incarnation. Many thanks to our musicians who worked so hard to prepare and lead, and to Bishop Emeritus John Roth for preaching and presiding on Christmas morning.



Flows. Grows. Shows



## Reaching In... Connecting through Discipleship

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Kids had a great afternoon of food and games that told the Christmas story. Many thanks to Patty Nelson and Shelley McDaniel for planning and leading this event!



### FAITH'S LITTLE FLOCK

This month, Faith's Little Flock will enjoy activities related to Jesus as a boy in the temple, Jesus' Baptism, His love for all people, and calling His disciples to be fishers of people. Faith's Little Flock is for children ages 2-6 and meets in the classroom next to the nursery after the Children's Sermon. "Big Kid Helpers" are welcome and appreciated in our Faith's Little Flock class. Our Big Kid Helpers do just that - they help the little ones with the more difficult parts of the crafts. The children all return to the sanctuary for the communion blessing. Word-finds, crossword puzzles, and other activity sheets are available in the gathering area for the older children to help reinforce the message of the day. We look forward to seeing all of the children in the New Year!

(Note: We would love to have older adult volunteers to read the scripture story to the children. Please contact Melissa Street if you are interested!)

### DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

Please join our next discussion at 10:00am on Wednesday, January 15, in the Faith Library. For more information, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at [khartz@sompo-intl.com](mailto:khartz@sompo-intl.com).

### BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Starting on January 5, Pastor Adam will lead a Bible study on the Gospel of Luke after worship. This month, we will get acquainted with some background on this gospel and read through chapters 1-5. Since Pastor Adam is leading and has a very difficult time keeping to a schedule (and likes visiting after worship), there will be no set start time. Enjoy some fellowship and then meet in the Justice Room. He will post questions on the board to spark discussion before he arrives.

### BIBLE BOOT CAMP AND FAITH INKUBATORS

Stay tuned for a schedule for the new year!

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

Come and connect with other men as we share our faith and enjoy some good food on **Saturday, January 4**. At 8:00, we hang out in the kitchen, helping to cook, drink coffee, and visit. At 9:00, we sit down for some conversation and discussion on a specific topic.

# Reaching Out... Connecting through Outreach

Flows. Grows. Shows



## EPIPHANY SOUP SUPPER CHALLENGE: GLOBAL HUNGER APPEAL

In recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ELCA World Hunger, our Central/Southern IL Synod staff have challenged congregations to raise a total of \$10,000. We've accepted the challenge! We will host our own soup supper at **5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 6** (the date of Epiphany) and have an Epiphany sing along with favorites and requests. A free-will donation will be collected towards the synod's goal. If you would like to bring a soup to share or have an Epiphany song request, please sign up and add it to the list.

## REVERSE ADVENT

Thank you to all who participated in our Reverse Advent to provide food for families in and around Jacksonville. We had a wonderful response and will be delivering the bags soon. Thank you to Hallie Mayner for leading this project this year!



## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

January 19 marks the start of the national Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. To commemorate, the Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches is hosting a celebration of music and prayer on **Sunday, January 19, at 2:00 p.m.** at Rammelkamp Chapel. The event is being organized by Jean Welch and Pastor Adam. If you would like to sing in the community choir, please let Jean know.



Lillian Koros from Faith Lutheran Church thank you to you all for the donations. We cannot do this without our generous community.

## JACKSONVILLE FOOD CENTER

The reaction from Faith Church concerning the annual Christmas Food baskets has been very kind and giving. Over 300 families have signed up for this event. As of this writing, our church has donated 136.4 pounds of foods at the estimated cost by weight equaling \$681.

The Food Center report for November is as follows: 786 families, a total of 1,854 people, were served for food orders at a cost of \$120,245.00, equaling 48,290 pounds. We served 535 families for bakery, a total of 1,191 people at a cost of \$9,085.00, equaling 8,025 pounds. The churches contributed \$24,022.40 in money and \$20,993 in food donations. Faith Church donated \$300 in November.

*Lillian Koros & Pat Glyshaw*



# Worship Assistants

## Chancel Committee

Jan. 5 Martha Krohe  
Jan. 12 Pat Glyshaw  
Jan. 19 Kris Roth  
Jan. 26 **to be determined**

## Communion Assts.

Jan. 5 Kay Schnitker  
Jan. 12 Pam Devlin  
Jan. 19 Hallie Mayner  
Jan. 26 Barb Davenport

## Readers

Jan. 5 Carol Kilver  
Jan. 12 Patty Nelson  
Jan. 19 Carol VanderKloot  
Jan. 26 Liddy Stark

## Coffee Hosts

Jan. 5 Judy D. & Vicki R.  
Jan. 12 Kay Schnitker  
Jan. 19 Terri K. & Kris R.  
Jan. 26 Halli M. & Liddy S.

## Greeters

Jan. 5 Lynette Hamilton  
Jan. 12 Lillian Korous  
Jan. 19 Lillian Korous  
Jan. 26 Liddy Stark

## Ushers

Jan. 5 **need volunteer**  
Jan. 12 Pat Glyshaw  
Jan. 19 Paul Scheerer  
Jan. 26 **need volunteer**

If you would like to help with assisting for the 9:30am worship services, please **sign up in the gathering area** at the podium by the east doors or contact the church office (faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) .

## Altar Plants

**(\$15 donation appreciated)**

If you would like to donate, please call or email the church office (245-8919 or faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) or **sign up in the gathering area at the podium by the east doors;** please make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church (1385 W. Walnut St.).

- Jan. 5 By Larry & Laura Sweatman in celebration of their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniv.  
& **Open for donation**
- Jan. 12 **Open for donation**  
& **Open for donation**
- Jan. 19 **Open for donation**  
& **Open for donation**
- Jan. 26 **Open for donation**  
& **Open for donation**

## Offering Envelopes for 2025

Offering envelopes are available in the gathering area at church. If you do not see a box with your name on it, please let us know.

## Newsletter Deadline

**January 19**

## Financial Assistants

- Jan. 5 Patty Nelson & to be determined  
Jan. 12 Greg Kimler & Kelly Street  
Jan. 19 Ken Devlin & Greg Kimler  
Jan. 26 Patty Nelson & Kelly Street

## Annual Meeting — January 26

Anyone who would like to have an **Annual Report** included in the Annual Report Packets for 2024, please have your report to the church office (by e-mail is preferred) **by January 12**. The Annual Meeting will be held on January 26, and we need time to duplicate the reports into a packet to distribute on Sunday, January 19.

## Friends From Faith

A ministry team led by Naomi Hahn: on the last Sunday of each month — everyone is welcome to send a greeting card. **On January 26**, visit the tall white table just outside the sanctuary where you can select a card, sign a card, or deposit a card in the mailbox to send. Cards and stamps are provided for your use. If you have extra cards or stamps to spare, please bring them and donate them in the provided jar.