



# Faith Family

## News

February 2025

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

### LISTENING TOGETHER

By Pastor Adam

Last Sunday, I told a story about my first day of seminary. My classmates and I started our orientation by sharing how each of us had heard God's call in our lives, ultimately leading us to the decision to prepare for ordained ministry. There were some Peters in the group, those who heard God calling them to leave their occupation, drop their nets, and follow. There were a lot of Jonahs, those who heard God calling and promptly ran in the opposite direction. I was a Samuel, one who realized God had been calling me for a long time, but I just hadn't recognized God's voice and needed others to help me discern.

We miss all sorts of things when we aren't listening. We get busy and distracted. We get tired and complacent. Rarely are we sitting on the edge of our seats, ears poised and tuned in (right now I'm in one of those rare situations as I sit in a waiting room with Marilyn at the Siteman Cancer Center in St. Louis, surrounded by people listening intently for their names to be called). Listening requires us to intentionally stop, not just to hear what is going on around us, but to allow our spirit to stir and then respond to the call that is placed upon us.

Our church Council is inviting you to just such an opportunity. We are going to be hosting a **listening session after worship on Sunday, February 23**. The men are offering to give us a taste of the fabulous breakfasts you've been hearing so much about so that growling stomachs don't get in the way of listening ears. We'll gather around tables and reflect on a few questions together such as:

1. What is most meaningful to you about being involved in our ministry at Faith Lutheran Church?
2. In what ways is our ministry nurturing your faith? What could we do to help further?
3. We realize everyone is in a different place in their life's walk (single, married, parents, retired, etc.). In your walk, are you getting the support you need? How can we help? (For example, providing a babysitting night for parents, support group for living with loss/grief, or other life transitions, etc.)
4. Here at Faith, we value all generations involved and interacting. In what ways can we do this better? How can you help?

Please make time to join us for this wonderful opportunity to listen together, and in the meantime, reflect on these questions and listen on your own. How might God be speaking to you, calling you, and calling us into a new season of ministry together at Faith Lutheran Church? Let's follow Peter's example with a willingness to let go and follow. Let's follow Samuel's example, allowing others to help us recognize God's voice. Let's follow Jonah's example... wait, maybe not. But, as we commit to listening together, do be on the lookout for big fish with big appetites sent to get us going in the right direction!

*Pastor Adam*

*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.

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### **ANNUAL MEETING RECAP**

On January 26, we held our Annual Meeting. It was a great opportunity to give thanks to God for our ministry in 2024 and rededicate ourselves to God's mission among us for the year to come. Here are a few highlights:

- President Kelly Hartz expressed appreciation to the rest of the Council and congregation for helping through Pastor Adam's sabbatical. Pastor Adam also expressed appreciation for his sabbatical as an opportunity for renewal and perspective through receiving new eyes.
- A question was raised concerning the Faith Scholarship Fund. We do still have a fund for a one-time, \$1,000 scholarship for any member of Faith who is a high school graduate or adult seeking a degree. Applications can be picked up in the church office.
- A desire was expressed for more frequent financial updates. This is something the congregational Council has been discussing through the last year and will continue to discuss at our next meeting. As always, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Endowment Fund reports are available in the monthly Council packet on the turnstile by the Total Ministry Center. You can direct questions to any of our Council members (Greg Kimler, Kay Schnitker, Kelly Hartz, Kelly Street, Ken Devlin, Mindy Carlson, Monica Proefrock, and Patty Nelson,) or Treasurers (Barb Davenport and Martha Krohe).
- We approved the withdrawal of \$20,000 from Faith's Endowment Fund to be distributed to local ministries, global ministries, educational ministries, and capital improvements. This money is separate from our annual budget and is held in specific investments that retain the principle and make the capital gains available for disbursement. At the end of 2024, the Endowment Fund had a cost basis of \$316,566 and market value of \$422,345. If you have any recommendations for ministry recipients of these funds, contact Patty Nelson at [pattynelson1938@gmail.com](mailto:pattynelson1938@gmail.com) before the end of February.
- A balanced 2025 budget was passed as we commit to support our shared ministry through the spiritual practice of stewardship.
- In the congregational Council meeting after the Annual Meeting, Kelly Street was elected to be our new president and Patty Nelson our new secretary. Many thanks to outgoing president Kelly Hartz, outgoing secretary Kelly Street, and to all of our Council members for their leadership and service.

### **TOTAL MINISTRY... A REFRESHER**

In the wake of the Covid pandemic, our congregation lost all appetite to serve on committees. There was no willingness to meet monthly to participate in a top-down approach to planning, overseeing, and carrying out programs. In the wake of void this left, Total Ministry was born. It's approach is different from committees as it relies on the Holy Spirit at work in you, nudging and calling you to step forward to participate in various ministry teams or to start a new one. Core teams of Worship, Outreach, and Discipleship meet to assess the strength and effectiveness of ministry in their area, supporting those who are already serving, helping new ministry teams to form, and sharing suggestions with the congregation on new ideas for ministry in the future. The next three pages of our newsletter are dedicated to these areas of ministry – worship, discipleship, and outreach. Look and see what ministry is already happening for you to join, or consider what new ministry you may help start. If you would like to learn more, you can talk to any of our Council members or the members of the core teams listed in this newsletter.

# Reaching Up... Connecting with God through Worship

Flows. Grows. Shows



## WORSHIP CORE TEAM... TOTAL MINISTRY IN ACTION

Our Worship Core Team – comprised of Liddy Stark (chair), Cole Street, Jean Welch, and Martha Krohe – pays special attention to our worship life together, meeting regularly to consider plans and needs to maintain vibrant worship. The Total Ministry model expressly encourages and makes room for you to step forward to participate in a current ministry team, or bring an idea forward to start a new one. Below are a few ways that you can plug in to our worship. What else may God be calling you to do?

## WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAMS

The following are some worship ministry teams here at Faith. To learn more and for a list of contacts, pick up a Total Ministry Menu in the Total Ministry Center by the coat rack.

**Chancel Committee** (Altar Guild) – prepare the sanctuary for communion and worship.

**Greeters** – welcome all when they come through the doors on Sunday morning.

**Ushers** – assist in worship by handing out bulletins, assisting with communion, counting attendance, and more.

**Readers** – read the scripture for us during worship.

**Musicians** – make a joyful noise with your voice or instrument, in a group or as a solo.

**Stream Team** – work with sound and streaming technology for our in-person and online worship experience.

**Communion Assistants** – distribute the bread and wine of Holy Communion.

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

In February, we continue to read through Luke's gospel as we see Jesus proclaim God's universal grace and hear his call for us to join in this important kingdom work.

February 2 – Healing on the Sabbath. *Luke 6:1-16*

February 9 – Raising the Widow's Son. *Luke 7:1-17*

February 16 – More than a Prophet. *Luke 7:18-35*

February 23 – Forgiven at Jesus' feet. *Luke 7:36-50*

## Ash Wednesday March 5 - 7:00pm

Lent is just around the corner! Join us for our traditional service of the imposition of ashes. This practice reminds us that we are dust and to dust we shall return... but also proclaims that we find life in the cross of Christ.

## Baptism

We celebrate with Brittany and Shawn Forbes at the baptism of their daughter, Kyla Renee, on January 12. We welcome you into the mission we share and join in giving thanks to God!



*Flows. Grows. Shows*



## *Reaching In... Connecting through Discipleship*

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### **DISCIPLESHIP CORE TEAM... TOTAL MINISTRY IN ACTION**

Our Discipleship Core Team – comprised of Carol Freesen and Pam Devlin – pays special attention to our discipleship life together, meeting regularly to consider plans and needs to maintain a strong discipleship and education ministry. The Total Ministry model expressly encourages and makes room for you to step forward to participate in a current ministry team, or bring an idea forward to start a new one. Below are a few ways that you can plug into discipleship here at Faith. What else may God be calling you to do?

#### **FAITH'S LITTLE FLOCK**

This month, Faith's Little Flock will enjoy activities related to healing including, why we rest on the Sabbath, Jesus raising the widow's son, exploring who Jesus is, and the healing power of forgiveness. Faith's Little Flock is for children ages 2-7. We also welcome Big Kid Helpers (ages 8 and up) to help the little ones with the more difficult parts of the crafts, and our older adults to read the scripture story to the children. Contact Melissa Street if you would like to take a turn reading the story to the children. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far!

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 (and adults) to help reinforce the message of the day. We look forward to seeing all of the children in February!

#### **DISCIPLESHIP GROUP**

It's that special time of year! ♥ Swing by the Faith Library at 10:00am on **Wednesday, February 19**, for a heartwarming chat all about LOVE and everything it brings. Have questions or need more info? Contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or email [khartz@sompo-intl.com](mailto:khartz@sompo-intl.com). Can't wait to see you there!

#### **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

Come and connect with other men as we share our faith and enjoy some good food on **Saturday, February 1**. 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.

#### **WOMEN OF FAITH Galentine's Day Tea Party**

Join us on **Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30am** in the Great Room at Faith for our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Galentine's Day! This year we'll be having a fun tea party with tea, cakes, scones, finger sandwiches, and of course, a special craft. Gals of all ages are invited. Feel free to invite friends to join you. **Please RSVP by Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>** to Monica at 217-737-0475.

#### **BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF LUKE**

Following worship, join Pastor Adam for a Bible study on Luke in the Justice Room. We will discuss the reading of the day, connect it to the gospel context, and reflect on it's significance for us today.

#### **BIBLE BOOT CAMP with our Elementary Children**

Calling all elementary kids for some fun in God's Word! Pastor Adam shares a Bible story and music, then Patty Nelson and Shelley McDaniel lead creative play and crafts. At 5:30, we share a meal with parents and older youth. Future events are scheduled on Sundays, from 4:30-6:00, **February 2, and March 9 & 16**.

#### **FAITH INKUBATORS**

Our Faith Inkubators Youth Nights incorporate all the learning of confirmation, but also some games and activities to include upper-elementary-aged kids that are up for the challenge and our high school youth. Talk to Pastor Adam for more information. **Future events are scheduled on Sundays, from 5:30-7:30, February 23**.

# *Reaching Out... Connecting through Outreach*

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*Flows. Grows. Shows*



## **OUTREACH CORE TEAM... TOTAL MINISTRY IN ACTION**

Our Outreach Core Team – comprised of Kay Schnitker and Hallie Mayner – pays special attention to our congregational outreach, meeting to consider plans and needs to share the love of God with our neighbors near and far. The Total Ministry model expressly encourages and makes room for you to step forward to participate in a current ministry team, or bring an idea forward to start a new one. Below are a few ways that you can plug into outreach here at Faith. What else may God be calling you to do?

## **OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAMS**

The following are some outreach ministry teams here at Faith. To learn more and for a list of contacts, pick up a Total Ministry Menu in the Total Ministry Center by the coat rack.

**Homebound Visitors** – visit our homebound members and bring Holy Communion.

**Card Ministry** – share the kindness of God by sending cards to celebrate with and encourage one another.

**Friends from Faith** – help provide cards and ideas for sending notes of prayer, support, and gratitude.

**Funeral Support Team** – offer compassionate and loving support at funerals and visitations at Faith.

**Prayer Chain** – join this email group to receive prayer requests as we are “linked” to one another and God.

## **JACKSONVILLE FOOD CENTER (Souper) Bowl Food Drive**

Let's continue to help the Jacksonville Area Food Center tackle hunger! Beginning Super Bowl Sunday (February 9) and through the month of February, we will be collecting food items like soups, peanut butter and jelly, and Chef Boyardee. You can put your donations by the table under the working cross in the gathering area at church. Thank You!

*Lillian Korous & Pat Glyshaw*

## **DOORBELL DINNERS**

**THANK YOU** to all who delivered Doorbell Dinners in the frigid cold. Our next time will be May 26-30 when it will be much warmer!

## **END-OF-YEAR GIVING**

For many years, Faith has designated money to be given to a variety of partners in ministry. This year, at our Annual Meeting, we approved \$20,000 to be shared. Below is a list of last year's recipients. If you have a recommendation of a 501(c)3 recipient for this year, tell Patty Nelson ([pattynelson1938@gmail.com](mailto:pattynelson1938@gmail.com)) by the end of February.

2024 Recipients: Hearts United in God's Service (HUGS), International Health and Development Network (IDHN), Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Western IL Youth Camp, YMCA, Faith Scholarship, Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen, Salvation Army, Prairie Council on Aging, New Directions, St. Vincent DePaul, Jacksonville Food Center, Pastor Discretionary Fund, Faith mortgage.

## **HUGS THANK YOU AND NOTICE TO DONORS**

Thank you to all who supported our ministry with the Pillars of Africa Children's Ministry in Uganda through HUGS! Together, we have provided so much ministry to these children and their surrounding villages. We have 2024 giving statements available, but some noticed that not all of their HUGS donations are included. If you donated to HUGS but wrote your check to Faith Lutheran Church, your donation will be reflected on your Faith Lutheran Church giving statement and not the one from HUGS. Statements are available in the church office.

# Worship Assistants

## Chancel Committee

Feb. 2 Kris Roth  
Feb. 9 Pat Glyshaw  
Feb. 16 to be determined  
Feb. 23 Mary Jane Esslinger

## Communion Assts.

Feb. 2 Barb Davenport  
Feb. 9 Hallie Mayner  
Feb. 16 Pam Devlin  
Feb. 23 Kay Schnitker

## Readers

Feb. 2 Liddy Stark  
Feb. 9 Mike Fenner  
Feb. 16 Barb Davenport  
Feb. 23 **need volunteer**

## Coffee Hosts

Feb. 2 Karen Sibert  
Feb. 9 Karen Sibert  
Feb. 16 Judy D. & Vicki R.  
Feb. 23 Kay Schnitker

## Greeters

Feb. 2 Liddy Stark  
Feb. 9 Lynette Hamilton  
Feb. 16 Hallie Mayner  
Feb. 23 Lynette Hamilton

## Ushers

Feb. 2 Paul Scheerer  
Feb. 9 Pat Glyshaw  
Feb. 16 Angie & Mike Fenner  
Feb. 23 Hallie Mayner

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.).

Feb. 2 By the Roth-Snodgrass family in memory  
of Mary & Sam Roth  
& **Open for donation**

Feb. 9 By the Dichsen family in celebration of  
Benen's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday today  
& **Open for donation**

Feb. 16 **Open for donation**  
& **Open for donation**

Feb. 23 **Open for donation**  
& **Open for donation**

## Financial Assistants

Feb. 2 Patty Nelson & Kay Schnitker  
Feb. 9 Greg Kimler & Mindy Carlson  
Feb. 16 Ken Devlin & Kelly Street  
Feb. 23 Kelly Hartz & Monica Proefrock

## Financial Statements

2024 Financial Statements are available in the office at church. If there is no envelope with your name on it, please let Pam Devlin know or contact the church.

## 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.

## 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 February 23**, 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.

## Newsletter Deadline

February 16