



# Messenger

F a i t h L u t h e r a n C h u r c h

January—2025

volume 65 . issue 1

a message from senior pastor, Jacob Heine

*The end of all things is near; therefore, be alert and sober-minded for prayer. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.*

1 Peter 4:7 – 11

The Bible speaks a lot about Hospitality. It is an important biblical concept from Genesis through Revelation. The word that we translate into English as "hospitality" means something closer to "welcoming of the strange" or "welcoming of the stranger." God is very clear with us that as God's people we are supposed be welcoming and inviting to those who are strangers to us.

That isn't to say that we are to ignore those that are familiar to us. To the contrary, as God's people we are called to work with those that are familiar to us in order to make a space and place that is welcoming to those that are different than ourselves, to those that are not a part of the family of God.

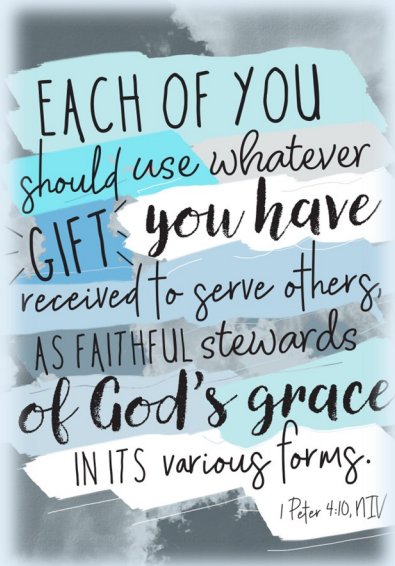
2025 will be a Year of Hospitality here at Faith. We are looking hard at ourselves and asking questions about what we are doing well, what are challenges to our hospitality, and what we might need to change or do differently in order to be more hospitable to the strangers.

To help us in this we are engaging with LCEF (Lutheran Church Extension Fund) in their Ministry Clarity Process to help us look at our vision and plans as we continue to grow and reach out with Christ's love. This process will kick off in January and will last 12 – 18 months. The congregation will be engaged in many different ways including congregational events, surveys, one on one and group conversations, as well as meetings.

I am excited to see how we will be following the lead of our Savior and making plans to position our congregation for kingdom growth for years to come. I believe that God will truly lead us, to use our gifts to serve others, and that by working together we will continue to be a place with families of all make ups come to and grow in their faith.

In Christ's Hands,

Pastor Heine



**IN THIS NEWSLETTER:**

- Doorstep..... 2
- LWML..... 3
- Calendar..... 4
- Birthdays/Anniversaries ..... 5
- Children/Youth/Families..... 6
- Update from Treasurer ..... 6
- Odds & Ends ..... 7





Happy New Year! First and foremost, thank you to everyone who assisted Doorstep in some way to provide Christmas for 260 households with 822 individuals this past December! We tried to provide each person with an item from their wish list, along with books, board games, health kits, blankets, food for several meals, school supplies, if appropriate, and gift cards.

The year 2024 felt a bit like a repeat of 2023 in many ways! The needs of our neighbors remained at an increased level. We provided over 2,700 food orders in 2024, exceeding the higher number we provided in 2023. Doorstep assisted with over 150,000 pounds of food to feed our neighbors and spent over \$75,000 on food purchases to keep the shelves stocked at Doorstep! Our food budget in two years went from \$6,900 to \$75,000; that is an increase of 1,100%! Doorstep applied for more grants to assist with food purchases and our supporting congregations and individuals stepped up to donate more food, and monetarily so we could buy food in bulk. At this point, we do not expect a big decrease in the need in 2025 and our budget reflects the amount we anticipate having to spend to feed our neighbors in need.

One way to help in the first part of 2025 is by donating towards our annual SouperBowl Sunday's collection of soup and crackers! During the weekend of the Super Bowl (Feb. 7- 9) we ask our member congregations to collect soup, all varieties, and crackers to help stock our food shelves.



A successful event will keep our soup shelves stocked for a few months, at least! In 2024, we had a goal of 5,000 pounds, and we received over 8,400 pounds!!!! **“Let’s do it again this year with a new goal of 5 ton = 10,000 pounds of soup and crackers!!”**

I cannot stress enough just how thankful and blessed we feel to have the partnership and support of our Mission Members (formerly congregations) as we all work to help our neighbors in need. Of course, our volunteers are an incredibly valuable resource, and Doorstep could not be open without their constant assistance! And, the support of our whole community when Doorstep, and those we help, continues to be inspiring to the work we do!

*Chad Bird Event*

**Saturday, January 18  
9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**The Christ Key: Unlocking the Mystery of Jesus in the Old Testament**

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church  
17535 Say Rd., Wamego KS 66547

There is no cost to attend, but registration is required to attend. A light breakfast will be served from 8:30am – 9am and lunch will be provided on-site.

Register by calling 785-456-2444 or emailing [mclc.wamego@gmail.com](mailto:mclc.wamego@gmail.com). **Spots are limited so register early!**



*Oh come, let us sing to the  
LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise  
to the rock of our  
salvation!*  
Psalm 95:1

**DEBORAH GROUP** met December 17 at the home of Janet Zima to celebrate Christmas. Our next gathering will be January 21 at the home of Maureen Schwant at 7:00 pm.

In December, the **EVE GROUP** enjoyed a lovely Christmas party at Gisela Bartling's beautiful home. The Topic was on "living in the moment." January's meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on the 13th, in the church's ground floor (206) class room. Rebecca Gutierrez will be the Hostess and Patrice Thomsen will present the Topic for the evening. There will be discussion on the group's plans for service projects in 2025.

**HANNAH GROUP** meets first Monday at Faith at 5:30 pm.

**RUTH CIRCLE** will meet Wednesday, January 8, in the church basement at 9:30am. The topic leader is Elaine Eggold and the hostess are Wanita Dammann and Pam Boetcher.

Our Current mission grant for which we are collecting Mites is Shepherd's Canyon Retreat, Called Workers and Spouse Financial Assistance in Wickenburg, Arizona. Funds will be used for pastors, teachers, and other full-time church workers and their spouses who need extra financial assistance to attend Shephard's Canyon Retreat. Please consider donating your loose change anytime the large mite box is out in the lobby.

To request prayer from others in our congregation or be added to the prayer chain to pray for others in need, please contact our prayer chain coordinators:

Karlea Landman, [karlea@edlinklgen.com](mailto:karlea@edlinklgen.com), 785-266-4467

OR

Barb Reed, [bjr400475@gmail.com](mailto:bjr400475@gmail.com), 785-220-4363

Faith has created the Faith Lutheran Church fund at the Topeka Community Foundation (TCF) to handle non-cash donations to the church.

Donations that can be made to Faith through TCF include stocks, bonds, IRA RMD distributions, real estate, estate bequests and life insurance proceeds.

For details to make a non-cash donation send an email to [bookkeeper@faithlutherantopeka.com](mailto:bookkeeper@faithlutherantopeka.com), put "Investment Donation" in the subject line and include your contact information in the email.

### **FAITH IS ENROLLED IN THE DILLONS COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM**

Anyone with a Dillon's Shoppers Card can designate Faith Lutheran Church – Topeka (organization # CX912) as the reward recipient for their purchases.

To designate Faith on your Shoppers Card account, go to [www.dillons.com/communityrewards](http://www.dillons.com/communityrewards) Sign into your Dillons account. Go to "Link your Card to an organization." Then click on "Search for your organization here."

On the next screen, in the field "Find an Organization", enter Faith Lutheran Church and press enter. Click on "Enroll" under the name "Faith Lutheran Church – Topeka". You will see a message you have successfully enrolled and you are finished. Shoppers Card holders must re-enroll annually to designate Faith in this program.

 Faith Lutheran

## Solid Foundation Campaign

Thank you for moving forward in faith! Commitments can be turned in to the church office!





# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship	<b>30</b> 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Scouts	<b>31</b> 7:00pm NYE Worship	<b>1</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> <b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>2</b> 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club
<b>5</b> 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship	<b>6</b> 5:30pm Hannah Circle 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Scouts	<b>7</b> 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Spiritual Life	<b>8</b> 11:00am Eve Circle 5:15pm WOW Meal 6:00pm WOW 7:30pm Praise Team Re-	<b>9</b> 8:00am Scrapbooking 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	<b>10</b> 8:00am Scrapbooking 6:00pm JH Bowling	<b>11</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study 8:00am MOST Ministry 9:00am Breakfast Club 6:00pm SH
<b>12</b> 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship	<b>13</b> 9:00am Quilting 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Eve Circle 7:00pm Scouts	<b>14</b> 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm LLC	<b>15</b> 5:15pm WOW Meal 6:00pm WOW 7:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 11:30am Senior Saints 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7:00am Scout Pancake Feed 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club
<b>19</b> 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship	<b>20</b> <b>Martin L. King, Jr. Day</b> <b>Office closed</b> 6:00pm Cub Scouts	<b>21</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Deborah Circle	<b>22</b> 5:15pm WOW Meal 6:00pm WOW 7:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Murder Mystery Dinner	<b>25</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club
<b>26</b> 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship	<b>27</b> 9:00am Quilting 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Scouts	<b>28</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>29</b> 5:15pm WOW Meal 6:00pm WOW 7:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club 6:00pm Faith Speaks: Jon Jordening



# JANUARY

## *birthdays*

Scott Hudson	1				
Becky Lee	1				
David McGuigan	1				
Nancy Kinney	2				
Kevin Maxwell	2				
Jane Schaible	2				
Steve Tilton	2	Judy Moss	12	Sidney Ray	20
Karen Elsen	3	Barbara Reed	12	Denise Grotbeck	21
Rachel Smelter	3	Paul Roberts	12	Heidi Mark	21
Natalie Hogg	5	Aidyn Schultz	12	Kathy Thomason	21
Merrilee Kuhn	5	Marita Gabler	13	Amanda Crawford	22
Tom Pufahl	5	Paige Heine	13	Carrie Moran	22
Susan Thowe	5	Alisa Kalinka	13	Carolyn Schneider	24
Melissa Wills	5	Kendall Michalski	13	Hannah Elsey	25
Rowen Bennett	6	Kayson Neddermeyer	13	John Falk	25
Joy Lester	6	Mallory Bertels	14	Brenda Perry	25
Aaron Dunton	7	Lori Hennessey	14	Phil Theimer	25
Ethan Dunton	7	Alison Ledbetter	15	Alissa Gaps	26
Scott Grotbeck	7	Brevan Long	15	JoAnn Schick	26
Corry Hogg	7	Ashley McCallister	15	Michael White	26
Scott Leonard	7	Karen Pickett	15	Hannah Wilson	25
Patty Hanser	8	Nels Huesers	16	Jim Bradshaw	27
Madaline Jefferson	8	Phyllis Ladner	16	Josie Marchant	27
Judie Mlynek	8	Clayton Schultz	16	Judy Thompson	27
Paxton Moran	8	Jacob Heine	17	Bryce Liedtke	28
Izzy Bennett	9	Hank Hudson	17	Idonna Rogge	28
Brandon Decker	9	Grant Jefferson	17	Darlene Miller	29
Owen Reetz	11	Elijah McCormick	18	Allen Corzine	30
Colleen Lippe	11	Brian Boyer	19	Ginny Falk	30
Katie Mize	11	Tim Lyle	19	Greg Johnson	30
Kevin Robertson	11	Lacey Greene	20	Jan Rankin	30
Karen Brumleve	12	Tracy Leonard	20	Brynne Liedtke	31
Sophia McCallister	12				

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Kent & Debbie Anschutz	3
Darrell & Kim Savage	4
Tim & Marian Bolz	14
Bob & Muriel Bartlow	20
Ernie & Connie Gerhardt	20
Glen & Ellen Berry	25
Mike & Corry Hogg	29
Mike & Berry Deiter	31



# JANUARY

## *anniversaries*

# .CHILDREN. .YOUTH. .FAMILIES.

Heather McCormick, director of youth & family ministry

**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY:** A new round of FPU classes will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 6pm at Faith! Classes will continue for 8 weeks on Wednesdays. Register at [financialpeace.com](http://financialpeace.com) under "Find a Class"!

**MURDER MYSTERY DINNER:** Save the date for our next Murder Mystery Dinner on Friday, January 24 from 6:30-8:30pm at Faith! Our senior youth will be hosting and serving an Italian dinner, while we unravel the mystery progressively throughout the evening. Tickets are now available from the church office (\$15/ticket). Funds raised will go towards the senior youth trip to the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering.

**JUNIOR YOUTH** will host coffee fellowship on Sunday, Jan. 5 at 8:30am! All proceeds go towards junior youth summer trips.

Junior youth will have a bowling night on Friday, Jan. 10 from 6-9pm at West Ridge Lanes. Drop off and pick up are AT West Ridge Lanes (1935 SW Westport Dr.). Dinner is included with this event!

**SENIOR YOUTH** will host coffee fellowship on Sunday, Jan. 19 at 8:30am! All proceeds go towards senior youth summer trips.

Senior youth will have a bowling night on Saturday, Jan. 11 from 6-9pm at West Ridge Lanes. Drop off and pick up are AT West Ridge Lanes (1935 SW Westport Dr.). Dinner is included with this event!

## WOW MEALS IN JANUARY

(WOW does not meet on Wednesday, Jan. 1)

Jan. 8: Breakfast Casserole, Sausage Patties, Hash Browns, Peaches/Pears, Cupcakes

Jan. 15: Chicken Noodle Soup, Tomato Soup, Grilled Cheese, Grapes/Strawberries, Brownies

Jan. 22: Spaghetti & Meatballs, Green Salad, Garlic Bread, Cookies

Jan. 29: Chicken Parmesan, Pasta, Green Salad, Garlic Bread, Rice Krispy Treats

## Update from our treasurer. . .

### MONTHLY FINANCIAL RESULTS (GENERAL FUND)

- Donations for November were \$93,378 and expenses were \$86,466 resulting in a **net positive** balance for the month of \$6,911.
- Year to date donations are \$1,025,500 and expenses were \$992,604 resulting in a year to date balance of \$32,896.
- Donations for the month were \$8,184 below 2023. YTD donation are \$55,180 higher than 2023.
- Year to date donations are \$51,993 above 2023.



### NEW QUILTERS ALWAYS WELCOME

Our Monday morning quilters are always in need of more help. Please consider joining them on 2nd & 4th Monday mornings here at Faith.

January quilting dates: Jan 13 & 20. No experience necessary.

We meet in a room in the south campus building.

Questions? Contact Anne Johnson, 408-8004.

## FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH



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FaithLutheranTopeka.com

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### STAFF

**Jacob Heine**, senior pastor

*PastorHeine@faithlutherantopeka.com*

**Martin Albrecht**, assistant pastor

*PastorMartin@faithlutherantopeka.com*

**Jeff Lane**, assistant pastor

*JeffLane@faithlutherantopeka.com*

**Heather McCormick**, dir. of youth/family ministry

*DCEHeather@faithlutherantopeka.com*

**Linda Meyer**, director of music & worship arts

*LindaMeyer@faithlutherantopeka.com*

**Sharon Lowe**, admin assist/publications

*SharonLowe@faithlutherantopeka.com*

**Jason Wills**, facility manager/admin coordinator

*JasonWills@faithlutherantopeka.com*

**Debbie Siegel**, bookkeeper

*Bookkeeper@faithlutherantopeka.com*

**Pat Schultz**, RN, parish nurse

*TiredMomPLS@aol.com*

**Jessica Atchison**, SS & WOW superintendent

*JessicaKidMin@gmail.com*

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Fri 8:00am to 4:30pm (closed 12-1pm)

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00\* - Traditional Worship

10:45\* - Contemporary Worship

12:15 - Traditional Worship

\* also live-streamed on Facebook, YouTube

### EDUCATION

Sundays for all ages: 9:30am

WOW Wednesdays: 5:15-7:30pm (Sept-Apr)

*The Messenger is emailed monthly to all members. Next edition deadline is*

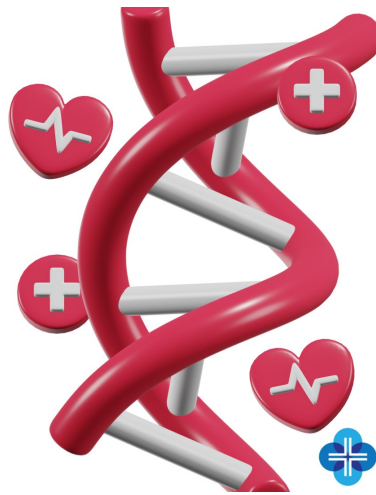
**Jan. 16 to**

*sharonlowe@faithlutherantopeka.com.*

**THANK YOU** – I want to say thank you to the congregation for the wonderful blessings, gifts, and warm wishes over the Christmas Season. In addition, thank you for the wonderful comments, encouragement, and guidance as I contemplated a Call in this season as well. I know that it is an uncertain time for all, but you were as always wonderful in your love and understanding. I am looking forward to continued ministry here at Faith and working with you all in Christ's Kingdom. ~Pastor Heine

## BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, Feb. 12  
2-6pm at Faith  
Registration  
coming soon!



FAITH SPEAKS  
PRESENTS

*Jon Jordening*

Saturday, Feb. 1 | 6pm  
At Faith



### CARE CARDS

Join friends at church every-other Wednesday in room 206 to make 4"x4" Care Cards. All materials are provided and no experience is necessary. Card making days this month are Jan . Finished cards are placed in a box at the Care Card Center near the church's front entry - to be sent to members who need to know people CARE about them. Please write a note to the person(s) whose names appear on the white board at the Care Card center.