

Faith Lutheran Church
The Messenger
February, 2025



God scatters hail like breadcrumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?

(Psalm 147:17)

In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.

(Proverbs 16:9, NIV)

Dear Friends,

Seven people at the 11:00 service. Thus began 2025.

With winter weather making it difficult for people to travel in Lexington, we kicked off the year with a couple of cold and snowy Sundays. As a pastor, I try not to be overly concerned about worship attendance from Sunday to Sunday, but one of my goals this year is for our "Average Sunday Attendance" (ASA) to go back above 100. ASA is a useful measuring stick for ministry planning. I am not sure what God thinks about my goal: on the one hand, one's plans often are undone by reality, and on the other, the fact that we held worship at all was a blessing. I guess I will keep planning and praying, and we will see how God directs our steps this year.

I do give credit to the editors of the lectionary: picking Psalm 147 for the second Sunday of Christmas is a smart move. In the middle of winter, we read the psalmist's question, "who can stand against God's cold?" In the context of our recent frigid weather, the answer is obvious: no one. Like many people at Faith, I grew up in a more northern clime and I am familiar with winter weather. Personally, I will take 20 degrees and 4 inches of snow over 95 with 98% humidity any day. But cold does remind us that there are forces far more powerful than we are, that we are creatures within creation, and that our lives, like those of all living things, are fragile. Like a skeleton in the corner of a Baroque painting, winter weather breaks up our routines, offering us a "memento mori." Things get canceled, familiar roads become unpassable, and those who can, hunker down at home.

Thankfully, while we can witness the power of God in and through creation, we also know that God is not cold or distant to us. In Jesus Christ, we have reconciliation and redemption. We are invited in from the cold of separation from God and given a place in God's household forever. This too is alluded to by the psalmist, who in the very next verse reminds us "The Lord send for the word and melts them." The word of God brings the light and warmth of truth into our lives.

May we experience milder weather going forward and be able to rejoice together at worship throughout the year.

In Christ,

Dana

Souper Bowl is Back!



Bring your cans of soup for donations to Gods Pantry. Place them in the appropriate box located in the Narthex: Philadelphia, Kansas City, or Undecided. One can of soup equals one vote. Winning Souper Bowl team will be announced the week following the big game! Note that Souper Bowl results may not reflect the actual football game outcome. Thank you for your generosity in feeding the hungry.

Introducing Our Facilities Manager



Parker Taul is 31 and from a small town in California. He has been in the maintenance industry for 13 years. He learned from his father at a young age by helping him with his contracting business. Parker enjoys traveling to different places, trying new food and seeing new sights. Gardening is one of his new hobbies that he has been enjoying learning about. He is a shy person until he becomes comfortable with people and his surroundings. God willing, he can build a strong community with the people he meets at Faith Lutheran Church.

From the Music Director



We are still in the season of Epiphany where we celebrate the ways that Jesus is revealed to be the Holy One. One of the recurring themes of the season is that of light. The Magi followed the star to Jesus. Jesus himself is light. I've been pondering the significance of this revelation. Did you know that physicists say that there is no such thing as absolute darkness? That even in the deepest darkness there are still particles of light unseen by the human eye? That gives profound meaning to John's gospel where he proclaims that the light of Christ shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake the light. Even in our deepest sorrows where darkness seems complete, we can be assured that we are in Christ and in Christ there is no darkness. My prayer is that our music will proclaim that light in your lives this Epiphany.

In Christ, Kathy

Music@faithlutheranchurch.com

Grace Jar Entries



Thank you to everyone who has placed a note in the Grace Jar. Here are the entries we received in January. Please continue to place these in the jar in the Narthex.

- ◆ Cheers to Parker Taul for getting off to a great start as Facilities Manager. He isn't afraid of any task, and does everything with a smile on his face. We are so happy to have you here, Parker!
- ◆ Thank you to Gayle McGrath for the wonderful way she conducted and presided over our Annual Meeting.
- ◆ Blessings to the Parish Life Committee for organizing a wonderful luncheon before the Annual Congressional Meeting.
- ◆ I want to give a big thank you to everyone who came in Saturday, January 18th to help set up for the Annual Meeting. We were able to set everything up in under 2 hours because we had so much help.
- ◆ Thanks to all who braved the cold and came to worship.
- ◆ The Visuals Team worked hard to prepare for Christmas and then to remove everything for Epiphany.

Holy Cow: The CAT is Here!



At the Annual Meeting, Pastor Dana gave an introduction to a resource that council will be using to assist with mission, vision and strategic planning work. This resource is the Congregational Assessment Tool from Holy Cow Consulting. This tool will provide a clearer picture of who we are as a church and what directions might be important for our future. Your response is very important to us.

We ask that you take the on-line assessment as soon as possible, but before February 28, 2025. Our goal is to have at least 70 people take this assessment. If we reach our goal of 70 completed assessments by February 14th, Pastor Dana will dress up in a cat costume!

While it is helpful for as many people as possible to complete this assessment online, provisions will be made for church members who need a paper copy. Members can contact the church office to request one.

All answers are anonymous. We have no way of matching any assessment to a particular person, so please feel free to candidly share your perceptions, opinions and experiences. The assessment will take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete. Please set aside enough time to complete the survey all at one time. Getting accurate information to help plan our future together is dependent on your participation and honest answers.

If you have questions, please contact the church office.

Many thanks,
Faith Lutheran Church Council

Providing Care and Joy During Snow Days

This month, Faith Lutheran Learning Center had the privilege of offering drop-in care for FCPS children during snow days, providing a safe and nurturing environment while school was out. Over the course of 8 drop-in days, we welcomed children who might otherwise have faced challenges in finding care on short notice.

Our staff worked hard to ensure these days were filled with warmth and joy. From engaging activities indoors to playing outside in the snow, the children not only stayed busy but also created lasting memories. It was heart-warming to see them working together, laughing, and embracing the beauty of the season.

We're thankful for the opportunity to support our community and the families who rely on us, and we're equally grateful to the church for its continued partnership in making this care possible. It's through your prayers, support, and encouragement that we're able to serve families in times of need.

(see pictures on Page 5)

Deep Green Forums



Deep Green Forums @ Faith

First Thursdays at 7 pm
Faith Lutheran Church
1000 Bates Creek Road
Lexington, KY

How do I fit into this world?

That is the question we will be exploring as we gather for **Deep Green Forums @ Faith**. Each of us is a unique member of the Body of Christ. We naturally have different gifts and abilities, along with different lifestyles. How do we integrate faith into our daily lives, to live in such a way that we honor the world that God has made?

To consider these questions, Faith Lutheran Church is gathering diverse voices from our community to share experiences of *God and nature, vocation and faith, and refuge and learning*. We will look at these three strands through Martin Luther's filter of everyday practical compassion. There will be a presentation and time for discussion at each forum.

At the end of the year, we will be invited to consider what tools or gifts we bring to address the challenges of our time. We will call these tools/gifts our **Five Smooth Stones** after Shepherd David's understanding that ill-fitting solutions are not as effective as ones that fit our hands, hearts, and minds. (1 Samuel 17:38-40)

We warmly invite you to join us!

Our Forums

February 6, 2025

Ole Wendroth

"When Soil Meets Soul—You are the Salt of the Earth"

March 6, 2025

Daniel Lau

"The Environmental, Economic, and Human Cost of Bitcoin"

April 10, 2025

Ray Hughes

"God Works in Mysterious Ways"

May 8, 2025

David Johnson

"Mathematics, Beauty, and the ELW"

September 4, 2025

Valerie Dutcher

"How Toyota's Key Philosophies for Success Can Help Us Succeed"

October 2, 2025

Jennifer Klee

"Stitching Together Vocation and Faith"

November 6, 2025

Finding our Five Smooth Stones



Last Month at Faith



We had a room full of parishioners for the Annual Meeting despite the terrible weather conditions. Thank you to all who attended. The meeting was very successful thanks to all who helped make it possible.



The Parish Life Committee organized a luncheon that was held before the Annual Meeting.



January was a month full of snow and ice. Although it made our beautiful church look quite majestic, I'm sure most of us are happy to finally see grass again!



The weather was particularly bad January 5th, making the roads treacherous to be on. These seven folks braved the conditions and made it to our 11am service anyway!



The kiddos in the Learning Center had a blast playing in the snow. It's safe to say they enjoy snow days far more than adults do!



Prayer List



The persons on the parish prayer list are lifted in prayer at every Sunday service. If you would like to be on the prayer list or no longer need to be on the list, please call or email the parish office.

If you would like a pastoral visit or home communion, you may contact Pastor Dana by calling the church office or by email pastordana@faithlutheranchurch.org

The prayer/care ministry invites you to join them in connecting with persons on our prayer list. You can volunteer to connect by phone or email, by a personal visit, or by agreeing to add one specific person to your daily prayers. Contact Pastor Dana for more information or to become part of this ministry.

Members of the Parish (recent concerns): Richard Heine, Gayle McGrath, Carol Buchanan and Carolyn Carden

Members of the Parish (ongoing concerns): Wayne Schedler, Nancy George, Mike Keller, Eva Lau, Ray Ranta, Linda McDaniel, Joe Swanson and Bev Stanley

Friends of the Parish:

Jim Pinkston, Rory Hefner-Templar (daughter of David Templar), John Klee, the family of Sue Raney, Britney Harris (daughter-in-law of Leta Harris), the family of Jim Johnson (brother of David Johnson), Danny Rees (nephew of Kathy Johnson), Bill and Jake McDonald (brother and nephew of Val Dutcher) and the family of Danny Kazez.



- 1 Leta Harris
- 3 Helen Born
Bonnie Chastain
Kenny Wilson
- 8 Susan Hamilton
- 11 Bert Grotrian
- 14 Aja Hammonds
- 15 Paige Barricklow
- 17 Debbie Anderson
- 21 Leah Hower
- 27 Patty Slevin

- 8 Daniel & Sue Anne Lau
- 16 Joyce & Ford Cornett
Charlie & Susan Hamilton
Ed & Jennifer Klee
- 17 Gene & Susan Harper



Help Wanted—Inquire Within

If you attend the 11:00 Worship Service, you've no doubt seen the three (3) adorable children who come forward for CWW – Children Worship & Wonder – with Miss Val.

Miss Val is looking for **any/all church members** who would like to be a “Helper” during our weekly CWW sessions with the kiddos.

It's REALLY simple; the Helper just assists with the children's coloring, with the “feast” (cut grapes and goldfish crackers), and acts as the 2nd Adult in the space in accordance with our Safe Church Policy.

Even helping out just ONE Sunday a month would be greatly appreciated; and the experience of interacting with these children as we talk about our God and Jesus is truly priceless!

Please contact Val Dutcher if you are interested or have any questions.

CASA: Bourbon and the Bayou



Join in the fun for one of CASA's biggest events of the year!

2025 Bourbon and the Bayou Tickets Available NOW!

Join us at Embassy Suites on Newtown Pike, February 28, 2025

6:30pm-11:00pm

Bourbon and the Bayou is your chance to turn out for the who's who of the Bluegrass. CASA of Lexington's flagship fundraiser is a Mardi Gras gala with a Kentucky twist: our can't-miss event blends delicious Cajun cuisine, bourbon samplings, live and silent auctions, games, photo ops, and more.

Purchase tickets:

<https://e.givesmart.com/events/EFE/>

Can't attend? There will be a silent auction with loads of wonderful items

for online bidding 1-2 weeks prior to the event.

Details to follow at a later date.

December Financial Summary

December 2024	Total Income - Month	Total Expense - Month	Actual Total Income Less Actual Total Expense	Total Income - YTD	Total Expense - YTD	Actual Total Income Less Actual Total Expense
Budget Forecast	\$24,935.83	\$34,780.21		\$299,229.96	\$417,362.52	
Actual	\$49,833.41	\$33,446.69	\$16,386.72	\$381,423.49	\$428,625.84	(\$47,202.35)
Variance	\$24,897.58	(\$1,333.52)	\$16,386.72	\$82,193.53	\$11,263.32	(\$47,202.35)
%	199.8%	96.2%		127.5%	102.7%	

Faith Lutheran Church

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Church Council 2024

Sue Anne Lau, President
Elaine Billington, Vice President
Val Dutcher, Secretary
Urton Anderson, Treasurer
Pastor Dana Lockhart
Steve Hayes
Becki Luddy

Financial Secretary

Jennifer Carey

Assistant Treasurer

Debbie Rosenberg

Sunday Worship Schedule

In-Person Worship 8:30 and 11:00 AM

Online Streaming, 11:00 AM

Clergy & Staff

Pastor Dana Lockhart

859-266-7621
pastordana@faithlutheranchurch.com

Amanda Nord

Parish Administrator

office@faithlutheranchurch.com
859-266-7621

Kathy Egner

Director of Music

music@faithlutheranchurch.com
859-266-7621

Neil McComb, Sexton

859-229-8834

Paige Barricklow, Youth Assistant

pebarricklow15@gmail.com
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Courtney Herald, Learning Center Director

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859-268-0108

Parker Taul, Facilities Manager

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502-642-6669

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