

# Faith Weekly

A NEWSLETTER OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH



## PASTOR'S STUDY

## DATES TO REMEMBER

*Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, And as in the day of temptation in the wilderness."*  
*Psalm 95:7-8*

Dear friends of Faith, the author of Hebrews warned his readers against having an "evil heart" that departs from faith in the living God. This happens to believers today, just as it did with the children of Israel in the wilderness, who had heard God's word yet decided that they knew better. Eventually, this failure to hear God's word led to a hardening of their hearts and they no longer believed it to be true. Christians are urged, "For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end," (Heb. 3:14). The beginning of our confidence is faith that comes from hearing the gospel.

The Enlightenment spawned much evil, including the notion of "my truth"; that somehow there is no longer objective truth, but that it can change based on personal opinion, feeling, or experience. "My truth" is unbelief masquerading as empowerment, a rejection of God's singular, objective truth revealed in His Word. It's a desire to hear "my voice", not God's. My truth hardens hearts as you demand that God accede to your demands and desires, just as Israel complained about water, bread, and meat, in the wilderness. My truth despises Scripture by subordinating it to personal narrative—"The Bible says what I feel it says," Thus, we no longer gladly hear and learn God's word.

When Jesus prayed for the disciples, and all believers, in John 17:17ff, He asked the Father to: "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth." "My truth" is

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### January

29<sup>th</sup> Bible Study (Online) - 7:00 p.m.

### February

1<sup>st</sup> Celebration of Baptisms - 11:45 a.m.

2<sup>nd</sup> "Generations of Faith"  
Choir Rehearsal - 7:30 p.m.

8<sup>th</sup> Special Voters' Meeting - 11:45 a.m.

9<sup>th</sup> "Generations of Faith"  
Choir Rehearsal - 7:30 p.m.

10<sup>th</sup> Dunedin Youth Guild - 5:30 p.m.

10<sup>th</sup> Board of Elders Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

14<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Workday - 9:00 a.m.

15<sup>th</sup> Church Council Meeting - 11:45 a.m.

If you would like to join our Bible Studies online please notify the pastor and specify which Bible Study you would like to attend.

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Rev. Andrew Sorenson  
1620 Pinehurst Road  
Dunedin, FL 34698

Divine Service - 10:15a  
Christian Education - 9:15a  
Wednesday Bible Study - 9:15a  
Thursday Bible Study - 7:00p

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the wilderness whispering of the deceiver, the man of lawlessness, who would lead you to destruction. The Lord is the “Way, the truth, and the Life,” the Word made flesh. He is the rule and norm of our faith and our source of hope in a dark and dying world.

Turn from the darkness of “My truth”, repent and hear His voice. Come into the Light of Christ, and warm yourself in His grace found in Word and Sacrament; found wherever the gospel is proclaimed in its purity. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Pastor Sorenson*

<i>O Lord, have mercy. O Christ, have mercy.</i>		
<h2 style="text-align: center;">PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL</h2>		
<i>Names will be kept on the prayer list for 30 days unless otherwise requested.</i>		
CATEGORY	THOSE IN NEED	PETITIONS
THE CHURCH	For unity of doctrine and practice; faithful pastors, teachers, administrators, and laity; and courage to preach and teach the whole counsel of God.	<i>Kyrie elison!</i> Lord, have mercy!
THE NATION	Elected officials; First Responders; Military; and Justices. For economic stability; for peace in our nation and around the world and especially for peace in Ukraine, the Middle East, and Africa.	For just rule, a peaceful, orderly society, and relief from natural disasters.
HOSPITALIZED		For healing, safety, and strength.
IN CARE FACILITIES	Edna Opatka, George Klemaier and Tom Fowler.	For healing, strength, hope, and that they may know Christ’s love.
UNDERGOING TREATMENT	Colton Hafner, Jim Watters, Neal Laeder, Ray Rothe, Doug Dyer, Fred Robbins, Dianne Shelby (Dorothy’s niece) and Brent Dusenberg.	For healing, strength, patience, compassionate & wise care givers, and faith.
HOSPICE		For comfort, peace, and faith.
GRIEVING	David Kuntz	For comfort, and the peace in the hope of the Resurrection.
NEW LIFE		For a healthy pregnancy for mother and child, safe delivery, and God’s blessings on both family and home.
SPECIAL REQUESTS	Gail and her family (Connie, Maya & Jaxson), Carol (Linda R’s niece), Jane Sternemann (Rachel’s aunt), Lisa Kunder (Kathy Kreiman’s sister), Linda Richardson, JoCarol Kautz (Sue Laeder’s cousin) Stephen Fenton (cancer), Johanna Punch, Becky Cox (Sue Laeder’s niece) Karl Streitenfeld (Kathleen Kreiman’s son) and Jake Sorenson.	That the Holy Spirit, knowing the needs of His children, would intercede on their behalf before heaven’s throne.

*A regular update of the financial health of our congregation.*

The numbers to the right are the unrestricted offerings and current expenses of the Church. We received additional donations of \$100 for the Sunday Bible Study, \$100 for the Wednesday Bible Study, \$1,000 for Chancel/Kneelers, \$500 for Higher Things, \$3,045 for Musical Instruments, and \$2,010 for Stained Glass Windows.

Major restricted fund balances include: Musical Instruments: \$14,004; Stained Glass Windows: \$6,050; Chancel/Kneelers: \$6,000; and Higher Things: \$2,951.

	DECEMBER	2025
INCOME	\$20,226	\$351,862
EXPENSE	\$17,399	\$284,881
TOTAL	\$2,827	\$66,981

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE...  
 Website - [www.faithdunedin.org](http://www.faithdunedin.org)  
 Zelle pay - Check with your bank.  
 Email: [treasurer@faithdunedin.org](mailto:treasurer@faithdunedin.org)

## THIS WE CONFESS

*The following excerpts come from the Lutheran Confessions. Unless otherwise note, they are from the Tappert edition of the Book of Concord, Mühlenberg Press, 1959.*

The Word of God is the true holy thing above all holy things. Indeed, it is the only one we Christians acknowledge and have. Though we had the bones of all the saints or all the holy and consecrated vestments gathered together in one heap, they could not help us in the slightest degree, for they are all dead things that can sanctify no one. But God's Word is the treasure that sanctifies all things. By it all the saints themselves have been sanctified.

At whatever time God's Word is taught, preached, heard, read, or pondered, there the person, the day, and the work are sanctified by it, not on account of the external work but on account of the Word which makes us all saints. Accordingly, I constantly repeat that all our life and work must be guided by God's Word if they are to be God-pleasing or holy.

(The Large Catechism, Third Commandment, 91-92)

### BIRTHDAY

6<sup>th</sup> Selah Sunday  
 7<sup>th</sup> Samantha Vanhorenbeck  
 16<sup>th</sup> Emma Belknap  
 16<sup>th</sup> Jordan Belknap  
 19<sup>th</sup> Paul Bellhorn  
 19<sup>th</sup> Rick Snap  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Jenny Kim  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Russel Goheen  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Robert Smilanich  
 26<sup>th</sup> Shirley Scott  
 26<sup>th</sup> Theodor King

### ANNIVERSARY

24<sup>th</sup> Thomas & Janice Tyma

### BAPTISM

6<sup>th</sup> Lukas Nieminen  
 20<sup>th</sup> Pam Robbins  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Carol Engwall

*There is one body  
 and one Spirit*

# Thank you!

*For continuing to support the Word and Sacrament ministry at Faith Lutheran with both prayer and your donations.*

## DONATIONS

If you would like to donate flowers to beautify the Sanctuary during our services, please sign up using the Flower Calendar posted on the bulletin board in the Mail Room behind the Sanctuary. Please use the provided envelopes & request forms. Cost is \$25 per arrangement. Orders may be placed in Sharon Murawski's mailbox.

Thank you to everyone that brings in aluminum cans to be recycled. The monies generated are placed in the general church budget. Please keep bringing empty cans and placing them in the trash bin outside of Luther Hall.

## SERVANT NOTES

### CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATED

The church photo directory has been updated for January 2026. Printed copies are available on the desk in the office. A link to download a digital copy has been emailed to all members.

### FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

As we look ahead to a new year, we're looking for people with ideas who enjoy helping bring others together! Help create fun and welcoming fellowship events in 2026 by joining the Fellowship Committee. If you're interested, see Sharon Murawski for details. We'd love to have you join us!

### BOOK OF CONCORD ONLINE

CPH has made the Readers' Edition of the Book of Concord available online for free. <https://bookofconcord.cph.org/> This is an excellent resource for those seeking to understand what Lutherans confess. It was written and formatted to be more understandable to the lay person.

### LWML NOTES

February 1, 2026, is Baptismal Celebration Sunday. Lucas Nieminen, Pam Robbins, and Carol Engwall are the celebrants this month. Following Worship, you are invited to pick up your treats and coffee in the hall. The Baptismal candle and special treats will be on the table in the Luther Hall Room after worship. Jen-Nett or Emily will lead us in a baptismal hymn. Sharon will take a picture for the weekly newsletter. This fellowship time is a blessing for us all to remember our own Baptismal Blessing. See you there!

March 8, we've scheduled a Mission Potluck with a Mission Speaker. What is a MISSION POTLUCK? The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod sponsors missionaries and projects all around the globe. We are going to post a list of those countries on the board. Folks can choose one or two countries, find a recipe, make the dish(es), and bring it on Sunday, March 8, 2026. If anyone has questions, ask Sue Laeder.

### SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING

There will be a special voters' meeting after the service on February 8, in order to approve the congregation's nominees for various Synod positions, and to elect a lay voting delegate to represent the congregation for the election of the Synodical President. This should be a quick meeting.

### PRE-LENT ("GESIMA")

This season serves as a transition from Epiphany's revelation of Christ's glory to Lent's meditation on His suffering. *Septuagesima*, 70 days before Easter, emphasizes God's grace over man's works. *Sexagesima*, sixty days, focuses on the power of God's Word in the face of opposition. And *Quinquagesima* focuses on faith coming by hearing. The themes pre-figure Lent by showing man's sinfulness, the power of God's word, and ultimately God's love for us in Christ Jesus.

## SERVING IN FEBRUARY

<b>SUNDAY SERVANT</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>
GREETERS	Linda Burns	Linda Burns	Linda Burns	Linda Burns
USHERS	Brian Murawski & Jeff Phillips			
SERVERS	Paul & Flo Bellhorn			
ALTAR CARE	Steven Arsenault	Steven Arsenault	Steven Arsenault	Steven Arsenault
ACOLYTE	Lukas Nieminen	Lukas Nieminen	Lukas Nieminen	Lukas Nieminen
COMMUNION ELDER	Fred Robbins	Fred Robbins	Fred Robbins	Fred Robbins

## FAITH FAMILY PHOTOS



### Target Shooting!

Last week we had a record turn out for our monthly outing to the gun range. There were eight of us, including several new shooters. This allowed folks to try a variety of guns that they may never have had a chance to fire before. Everyone at the range had a great time, and several enjoyed lunch together afterwards. We meet monthly on the third Saturday, 10:30 a.m., at Reload in Tarpon Springs.

## February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:15am Children's Sunday school 9:15am Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday Worship 11:45am Celebration of Baptisms	<b>2</b> 7:30pm "Generations of Faith" Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:15am Children's Sunday school 9:15am Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday Worship 11:45am Special Voters' Meeting	<b>9</b> 7:30pm "Generations of Faith" Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 5:30pm Dunedin Youth Guild 7pm Board of Elders Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9am Maintenance Workday
<b>15</b> 9:15am Children's Sunday school 9:15am Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday Worship 11:45am Church Council Meeting	<b>16</b> 7:30pm Confirmation Class 7:30pm "Generations of Faith" Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 10am LWML Meeting	<b>18</b> 10:15am Ash Wednesday - Matins 7pm Ash Wednesday - Vespers	<b>19</b> 7pm Bible Study (Online)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:15am Children's Sunday school 9:15am Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday Worship 11:45am Voters' Meeting	<b>23</b> 7:30pm Confirmation Class 7:30pm "Generations of Faith" Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:15am Bible Study (Live/Online) 10:15am Lenten Matins 7pm Lenten Vespers	<b>26</b> 7pm Bible Study (Online)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:30am Target Shooting Club