

Faith Weekly

A NEWSLETTER OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH



PASTOR'S STUDY

*"Behold, he that keepeth Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep."
Psalm 121:4*

Dear friends of Faith, the world would have us believe that the goal of life is happiness, and that to achieve this requires nothing more than for all men to be good, nice, and fair to one another. To hold such a view requires that we believe humans to be innately good. It also relegates God to playing referee, for He'd only need be involved to resolve the rare dispute.

Such a view divorces moral decisions from God's Word, for you and I are left to decide what is right or wrong based on personal feelings and experiences. Again, it can only work if all mwen are inherently just. The Church, in an effort to sound more accommodating mimics this worldview when it teaches, "God loves you just as you are!"

God tells us: "There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God," (Ro. 3:10-11). While it is true that God loves you and died for you, He did this not because you were good just as you are, but the opposite. Jesus died for you because you cannot be good enough to merit salvation. The Spirit must call you by the Gospel. Your sins must be washed clean by the blood of the Lamb. You must have faith and repent of your sinful past. The life of true faith is not always easy.

Jacob did not live a peaceful life. His early scheming led Esau to seek to kill him. He lived with a an uncle who cheated him on wages, tricked

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DATES TO REMEMBER

February

- 26th Bible Study (Online) - 7:00 p.m.
- 28th Target Shooting Club - 10:30 a.m.

March

- 1st Celebration of Baptisms - 11:45 a.m.
- 2nd "Generations of Faith"
Choir Rehearsal - 7:30 p.m.
- 2nd Confirmation Class - 7:30 p.m.
- 4th Lenten Matins - 10:15 a.m.
- 4th Lenten Vespers - 7:00 p.m.
- 5th Bible Study (Online) - 7:00 p.m.
- 8th Mission Potluck - 11:45 a.m.
- 9th "Generations of Faith"
Choir Rehearsal - 7:30 p.m.
- 9th Confirmation Class - 7:30 p.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
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Dunedin, FL 34698

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

(Continued from p. 1)

him into marrying Leah, and conspired against him at every turn. Later, his sons brought him endless grief. These sorrows did not turn him from faith in God, but rather forced him to rely on God even more, a lesson we can learn.

Your God neither slumbers nor sleeps but is at work to guard and keep you in the faith. He does this both in good and hard times, even while you are asleep or fall short of His glory. He does this because He loves you enough to recreate you by water and Word; to give you His Spirit to guide you in the way everlasting, shaping you into the person who will enjoy eternity before His heavenly throne. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Pastor Sorenson

*O Lord, have mercy.
O Christ, have mercy.*

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Names will be kept on the prayer list for 30 days unless otherwise requested.

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, Flo Bellhorn.	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		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), JoCarol Kautz (Sue Laeder's cousin), Johanna Punch, Becky Cox (Sue Laeder's niece), Karl Streitenfeld (Kathleen Kreiman's son) and Sue Laeder.	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 \$200 for the Sunday Bible Study, \$200 for the Wednesday Bible Study, \$2,125 for Musical Instruments, and \$275 for Stained Glass Windows.

Major restricted fund balances include: Musical Instruments: \$15,129; Stained Glass Windows: \$6,065; Chancel/Kneelers: \$5,581; and Higher Things: \$371.

	JANUARY	2026
INCOME	\$19,464	\$19,464
EXPENSE	\$29,326	\$29,326
TOTAL	(\$9,862)	(\$9,862)

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE...
 Website - www.faithdunedin.org
 Zelle pay - Check with your bank.
 Email: 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.

God has briefly set before us all the afflictions that may ever beset us in order that we may never have an excuse for failing to pray. But the efficacy of prayer consists in our learning also to say “Amen” to it—that is, not to doubt that our prayer is surely heard and will be granted.

This word is nothing else than an unquestioning affirmation of faith on the part of one who does not pray as a matter of chance but knows that God does not lie since he has promised to grant his requests. Where such faith is wanting, there can be no true prayer.

(The Large Catechism, Lord’s Prayer, 119-120)

BIRTHDAY

- 4th Bob Scott
- 10th Marge Sieja
- 14th Joshua Nieminen
- 14th Violet Vanhorenbeck
- 20th David Hafner
- 26th Mark Sunday
- 26th Theodor King
- 27th Robert Hammerle
- 28th Jeff Phillips
- 28th Luke Belknap

ANNIVERSARY

BAPTISM

- 5th Brady D. Sunday
- 11th Jenny Kim
- 13th Flo Bellhorn
- 18th Kyle MacLean
- 20th Selah Sunday
- 25th Linda Burns
- 30th Joshua Nieminen
- 30th Morgan Sunday

*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

I am pleased to announce the formation of a new Fellowship Committee dedicated to building community and caring for one another. Committee members include: Rachel Onken, Emily Sorenson, Esther Engwall, Claudia Neiminen, Brian Murawski, Steven and Genesis Arsenault. I am grateful for their willingness to serve!

LWML NOTES

DON'T FORGET: The MISSION POTLUCK MARCH 8, 2026. Did you choose a country, find a recipe? Several people have signed up; it looks like we are going to have a great meal. Deaconess May is anxious to share our meal and her story. She is also willing to stay and answer questions after her talk. FYI: Those of you who don't cook or bake, don't stay away, come anyway, there is always enough for everyone. If we need more food, we call Domino's!

Group Meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is March 17, 2025, 10 a.m., in the CR at Faith Lutheran Church. All Faith women, plus snowbirds, too, are welcome.

LENTEN SUPPER REMINDER

Every Wednesday in Lent there is an informal time of fellowship as we gather to break bread together at 6 p.m. prior to evening Vespers.

EASTER VIGIL / EASTER SUNDAY

Fellowship isn't just a Wednesday evening affair, we will also have a reception following the Easter Vigil and a breakfast preceding the Easter Sunday Service.

SERVING IN MARCH

SUNDAY SERVANT	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
GREETERS	Gail Odea				
USHERS	Brian Murawski & Jeff Phillips	Brian Murawski & Jeff Phillips	Brian Murawski & Jeff Phillips	Brian Murawski & Jeff Phillips	Brian Murawski & Jeff Phillips
SERVERS	Paul & Flo Bellhorn				
ALTAR CARE	Steven Arsenault	Steven Arsenault	Steven Arsenault	Steven Arsenault	Steven Arsenault
ACOLYTE	Lukas Nieminen	Lukas Nieminen	Lukas Nieminen	Lukas Nieminen	Lukas Nieminen
COMMUNION ELDER	David Hafner				

FAITH FAMILY PHOTOS



LOOKING FORWARD TO EASTER!

No, this baby bunny won't be hopping around to leave plastic eggs full of candy, but it is a symbol of the new life that is ours in Christ! It was hanging out in the flowerbeds outside the sanctuary. I view him as a symbol of the new life that the Holy Spirit brings through water and the Word—new life that is plainly evident in the life of our congregation for those with eyes to see, and ears to hear the many favorable comments from our visitors.

Soli Deo Gloria!

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15am Sunday Morning Family Bible Study 10:15am Sunday Worship 11:45am Celebration of Baptisms	2 7:30pm Confirmation Class 7:30pm "Generations of Faith" Choir Rehearsal	3	4 10:15am Lenten Matins 7pm Lenten Vespers	5 7pm Bible Study (Online)	6	7
8 9:15am Sunday Morning Family Bible Study 10:15am Sunday Worship 11:45am Mission Potluck	9 7:30pm Confirmation Class 7:30pm "Generations of Faith" Choir Rehearsal	10 7pm Board of Elders Meeting	11 10:15am Lenten Matins 7pm Lenten Vespers	12 7pm Bible Study (Online)	13	14 9am Maintenance Workday
15 9:15am Sunday Morning Family Bible Study 10:15am Sunday Worship 11:45am Church Council Meeting	16 7:30pm Confirmation Class 7:30pm "Generations of Faith" Choir Rehearsal	17 10am LWML Meeting	18 10:15am Lenten Matins 11am Latin Exam 7pm Lenten Vespers	19 7pm Bible Study (Online)	20	21
22 9:15am Sunday Morning Family Bible Study 10:15am Sunday Worship	23 7:30pm Confirmation Class 7:30pm "Generations of Faith" Choir Rehearsal	24 5:30pm Dunedin Youth Guild	25 10:15am Lenten Matins 7pm Lenten Vespers	26 7pm Bible Study (Online)	27	28 10:30am Target Shooting Club
29 9:15am Sunday Morning Family Bible Study 10:15am Sunday Worship	30 10:15am Matins - Monday of Holy Week 7:30pm "Generations of Faith" Choir Rehearsal	31 10:15am Matins - Tuesday of Holy Week	1 10:15am Matins - Wednesday of Holy Week	2 7pm Maundy Thursday - Divine Service	3 7am Good Friday - Chief Service	4 7pm Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil 9pm Easter Vigil - Reception