FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL





MONTHLY NEWSLETTER 2025

Faith Opens Doors

On entering the house, [the magi] saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

~ Matthew 2:11



From the Pastor's Desk

"Wouldn't it be great if we had a holiday focused on giving away the stuff we have, rather than accumulating more stuff?" a friend of mine recently asked. Of course, most of us have something in mind we'd like to receive for Christmas. For those of us with young children, Santa Claus is coming, and we may have prompted our kids to make out wish lists for Santa as well as for grandparents and other loved ones. There is joy in giving! Christmas is also a time, though, to remember Christmas is not about accumulating more stuff. When I look at what I already have, versus what so many lack in our hurting world, I find that I am both grateful and more focused on giving to help alleviate those needs.

In fact, a few years ago, my family decided to challenge ourselves to not buy the adults presents, but rather make something, give an experience, make a donation to a charity, or re-gift something. We have enjoyed this idea so much, it has become a new tradition. Some of us prepare the whole year to knit or sew or create beautiful woodworking for our family. Our kids also feel included, making homemade keepsakes of their own. We spend less, but it feels like we give more, because of the thoughtfulness of the gifts.

In this season of giving, we might be tempted to "buy in" to the commercialism and consumerism of Christmas, but the heart of the Christmas message is ultimately giving thanks to God for what we have received. Christ has come as Emmanuel, God-with-us, and Savior of the world! When the magi see this most gracious gift from God, they kneel down in worship. They give Jesus gifts out of gratitude for all God has already done. Jesus is God's most precious, personalized gift to us. In our giving and our receiving this Christmas, may we hold in the forefront of our minds this most precious gift, our Lord and Savior! Merry Christmas, dear Faith family!



It is an old Chinese custom that near the end of the year a man would make every effort to pay all of his past debts, in order that he might begin the New Year with a clean slate, owing no one.

To us, "near the end of the year" means the Christmas season, and it is more often than not a time of running up new bills rather than paying old ones. We buy toys for the children; gifts for friends and relatives. We often invest in a major purchase for the family, a flat-screen TV or a larger refrigerator, and take on new payments for another 24 to 36 months. This is our custom in the season of giving.

We give to those we love to express our love, on the birthday of the one who taught us what love is all about. But, too often, gift giving becomes an end in itself, a custom without meaning, a distraction, a Santa Claus thing, and we lose sight of Love with a capital L. We forget about God! The end of the year is an excellent time to re-appraise our giving to God.

Why not adopt the old Chinese custom? Let us assume our obligation to re-pay God, in light of all that God has given us. And, in the spirit of our Lord's birthday, let us see what gift of self we can give out of our love. We know by now what our annual income is or will be, as well as how much we have given to God, both through the church and through worthy charities.

Ask if the amount I have given truly represents what I think of Almighty God? Does it represent my love, my gratitude, my repentance, my acts of self-denial, my crosses and joys?

In this season of giving, we should take time to re-appraise what we have offered God this year. Let's use tithing as a measure, an acceptable standard, and determine now if our gift of love is worthy of us.

Sunday School

With Advent now upon us, our school and nursery-aged young people are working hard to put together our annual Christmas pageant. Thanks to all of the Sunday School teachers for putting together what is sure to be a unique way to tell one of the best stories of all time: the birth of Christ! Don't miss the pageant on Sunday, December 21.

Our school-age group continues their exploration of Old Testament stories, linking their understanding to present day experience. For example, in learning about when King Solomon built a temple, students explored the idea of sanctuary, considering both our church's sanctuary and the unique and individual places we each find to worship God in our unique faith journeys. The questions and discussions are rich!

This past month, several young people participated in our 2nd Annual Faith Talent Show, sharing their God-given talents and gifts. As we look forward to Faith Family events in 2026, we are planning a movie night and potluck meal on Saturday, January 24 - save the date!



Nursery School

Hello families!

We are so excited to welcome the month of December here at Faith Nursery School! November was a wonderful month filled with thankfulness, cozy activities, and so much growth. We loved celebrating the season of gratitude with your children and watching them learn about kindness, sharing, and appreciation. Thank you for being such an important part of our community!

Now we're heading into one of our favorite times of the year — the month of Christmas spirit and joy! December is always magical here, and we have so many fun things planned to make the weeks leading up to Christmas break extra special.

Throughout the month, the children will be busy with lots of winter themed projects. We'll be decorating holiday crafts, making

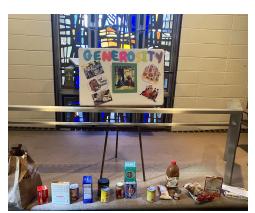
ornaments, painting festive art, and creating little gifts. There will also be seasonal story times, Christmas music, and playful activities that bring the holiday spirit to life in every classroom.

We're also thrilled to announce that we have a special Christmas show planned this year! The kids have already begun practicing their songs, dances, and little surprises. We know parents and families will absolutely adore it — it's always a heart-warming way to end the year and celebrate all the joy your children bring.

As always, thank you for trusting us with your little ones. We can't wait to make this December full of sparkle, laughter, and holiday memories!

Wishing all of our families a warm and joyful holiday season!

~ Olivia Weinert, Interim Director





Council Corner

The Faith council met on November 16th and discussed the following:

- Our Nursery School's Director Leeann Sigona Hernandez will return from maternity leave on December 1st.
- The School Board will be meeting in January.
- The front doors of the church as well as the two elevator doors have been fixed.
- The Sunday School is gearing up for the Annual Christmas Pageant on December 21st.
- Our three-week 2026
 Stewardship Campaign will kick off on January 25th. Commitment Sunday is February 8th.
 - Our Worship Committee is interviewing candidates for Musical Director.
 - Our Mid-week Advent services in partnership with Good Shepherd of Plainview are scheduled as follows: A light meal at 6 pm, followed by the service at 7 pm.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Our morning Bible study group meets two Thursdays a month at 10:30am downstairs in the music room or on Zoom. This month, we will be meeting on December 4 & 18, wrapping up our study on the Five Gifts of Discipleship.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86812884989? pwd=ZC9PWHB1TjVIRkIramxGdVY4Y3BBQT0

Meeting ID: 868 1288 4989

Passcode: 474102

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kHvUdGR4j



Monday Evening Bible Study

Pastor Rebecca is also leading an evening study group on the same topics this fall on Mondays from 8-9pm in the church library or on Zoom. We will meet on December 8, 15, and 22nd this month:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84902024385? pwd=ejXtfnQbxO5wv6nkH0p4kmG1aepfGC.1

Meeting ID: 849 0202 4385

Passcode: 098078



- Wednesday, December 3rd at Faith Lutheran
 Wednesday, December 10th at Good Shepherd
 Wednesday, December 17th at Good Shepherd
- Christmas Caroling to our shutins is scheduled for December 21st.
- Our 75th Anniversary Committee will begin to meet in January to start planning for our anniversary celebration in 2027.
- Our next Council Meeting will be on January 18th.

Like our Facebook Page, Faith Lutheran Church at https://fb.com/faithlutheransyosset/. Also check us out on our **website** at www.faithsyosset.org.

Our YouTube channel is https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCz51Ic5Hy6URvNyVM-AEe0A.

Our 10am worship services continue to be live-streamed to our Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Nursery Sunday School

We now offer pre-reader Sunday School for nursery-age children in addition to our school-age Sunday School during worship. Please speak with one of our ushers or Pastor Rebecca if you would like more information about these options.

December Worship:

We prepare for and celebrate Jesus' coming at Christmas this month! Our Advent theme for midweek worship and Sundays are "Restore Our Hope."

December 7: Restore Our Peace

December 14: Restore Our Joy

December 21: Sunday School Christmas Pageant: Christmas Isn't Christmas

December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 4:30PM

December 28: Christmas Lessons & Carols (no Holy Communion)

Midweek Advent Services

Our annual midweek Advent services are shared with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Plainview, 99 Central Park Dr. This year, following a light meal at 6pm, we will have a Vespers prayer service focused on readings from the prophet Isaiah at 7pm:

Wednesday, December 3 at Faith (chapel)



Faith is a member of Lutheran Counseling Center Services of Long Island. As a member of Faith, you may be eligible for sessions with a mental health therapist for \$35 per session. You are welcome to speak confidentially with Pastor Rebecca for more information, and check out their website at www.lccny.org.





Wednesday, December 10 at Good Shepherd

Wednesday, December 17 at Good Shepherd

Men's Breakfast

The next Faith Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, December 6 at 8:00 AM at the On Parade Diner on Jericho Tpke in Woodbury. Please contact John Hinsch at j4bhinsch@hotmail.com for more information.

Designated Gift Priorities

Faith's Council has established a running list of designated gift priorities for our church. If you would like to give a special gift in memory or in honor of someone, or simply to support our church's ministries outside of your regular offering, the current list is below:

- · Nursery School upgrades
- Outdoor nativity
- New office laptops and software upgrades
- Fellowship Hall Lighting
- Faith Music Conservation and Ministry Fund
- Landscaping and Biblical Garden upkeep

Fellowship Hall Floor

Please contact Linda Boccafola, secretary, or Pastor Rebecca for further questions.

Giving Electronically

You may register to give electronically on the front page of our website or mail in your offering. Please let us know if you need more offering envelopes. Find us on Zelle at faithsyossetbilling@gmail.com for a one-time electronic donation. Please follow up with an email stating the intent of your gift (memorial, flowers, general offering), and we will respond with a confirmation of receipt by the next business day. Thank you for your ongoing support of Faith and its ministries! We now have laminated cards to place in the offering plate during worship for those who give electronically!

Children's Choir

Children's Choir will rehearse with Miloš after worship on Sunday, December 7 and 14, and at 9:15am on Sunday, December 21 in the music room to share an anthem at our Christmas Pageant. Please talk with him or Pastor Rebecca if interested!

New Life Food Pantry

Faith supports the New Life Food Pantry in Franklin Square (housed at Ascension Lutheran Church). You are welcome to bring in nonperishable food donations and grocery store gift cards on Sunday mornings or 9am to 3pm during the week.

We received this thank you for our Thanksgiving donations:

I want to express my gratitude for the generous donation of 281 pounds of food and gift cards that we received from your congregation on November 20.

The \$190.00 in gift cards and the cash donation of \$100.00 will be used immediately to purchase food for the pantry.

Thank you for your support of the New LIFE Center especially now as we have seen a significant increase in the number of clients we are serving.

Wishing your congregation a Happy Thanksgiving!

DONATION

Best Regards, Lynn Butte Program Director Lutheran Social Services NY New LIFE Center-Long Island







All Saints Sunday

On Sunday, November 2, we remembered all those who have died, especially loved ones and church members from the past year.



DECEMBER 2025







DECEMBER 2025



Talent Show

On Friday, November 7, we had a wonderful time celebrating our church members' and local community talent with our second annual talent show. About half of our audience and participants were non-church members! We enjoyed a reception with goodies provided by members of the Syosset-Woodbury Chamber of Commerce, Pam's Jamz and Noms Bar None. A big thank you to Michelle Chan on our Evangelism Committee for her promotion, organizing and emceeing of the event.



DECEMBER 2025



















DECEMBER 2025











Baptism of Belle Douglas

On Christ the King Sunday, November 23, we celebrated the baptism of Michele Joy "Belle" Douglas. Belle's baptismal sponsor is Dorothy Reardon. We rejoice with you in the gift of baptism!











DECEMBER 2025







DECEMBER 2025



LuHi Bid for Kids

On Friday, November 14, Faith supported LuHi's annual Bid for Kids auction with a table for a fun evening of fellowship and supporting Christian education.



DECEMBER 2025



















Interfaith Dinner & Thanksgiving Service on November 22

Pastor Rebecca, Michelle, Ruth, John, Lydia, Kee, Jojo, Stella, and Martha attended the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Dinner hosted at the Woodbury Jewish Center organized by the Syosset-Woodbury Interfaith Clergy Council. Participants included clergy and lay members of the Woodbury Jewish Center, Faith Lutheran Church, North Shore Synagogue, Simchat Halev, and the Ahmadiyya Mosque in Amityville. This year's theme was centered around hunger--physical, spiritual, and emotional. Each religious leader spoke on a specific aspect of this topic. Some takeaway questions include: What am I emotionally and/or spiritually hungry for right now? What from my religious tradition helps fill/warm me up spiritually or emotionally? How can I share the emotional/spiritual warmth with others this holiday season? Monetary offerings supported the Interfaith Nutrition Network.







DECEMBER 2025



Installation of the Metropolitan New York Synod Bishop on November 22

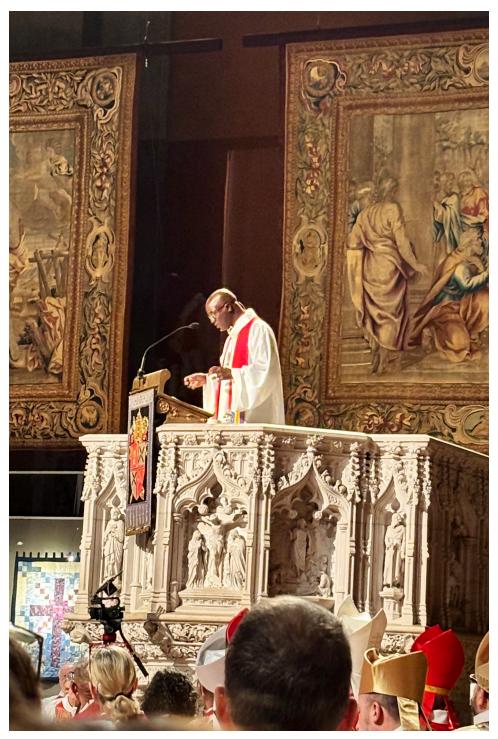
For the first time in 6 years, the Metropolitan New York Synod installed a new Bishop, The Rev. Dr. Katrina Foster. She is also the first woman and openly gay person to serve this highly esteemed position within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). She succeeds The Rev. Paul Egensteiner. Making history on top of history, she also serves her term simultaneously with newly installed Bishop Yehiel Curry and Secretary to the Bishop CeCe Mills--both first-ever individuals of color to serve these high positions within the ELCA. Bishop Yehiel Curry presided and preached at Bishop Foster's installation over a record attendance of over 800 people at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Pastors Rich & Rebecca Sheridan, Steven Baker, and Michelle Chan (serving as communion assistant and first-ever Young Adult Representative of the MNYS) were in attendance from Faith.



DECEMBER 2025







DECEMBER 2025



Christmas Decorating on November 28th

A team of volunteers decorated the church the day after Thanksgiving. We're officially ready for Christmas!



DECEMBER 2025



DECEMBER 2025





DECEMBER 2025





DECEMBER 2025







DECEMBER 2025



Welcoming our new members on November 30th We formally welcomed our new members on November 30th during service.







DECEMBER 2025





DECEMBER 2025



Prayer Concerns

Beth Speiser,

Eliana Melody (granddaughter of

Pam Morritt Freitag),

Anthony & Lois Martillo,

Barbara Krampitz,

Arthur Millin (brother-in-law of

Lydia Kaboolian),

Lauren,

Tommy & their daughter Emerson

Wondsel (friends of Pam Freitag),

Joseph Boccafola (son of Linda

and Everett Boccafola),

Wayne Gruber (son of Evelyn

Gruber),

Evelyn Gruber,

Julian Hyman (friend of the

Kaboolian family),

Jennifer & Bob Male (dear friends

of Lydia Kaboolian),

Lorraine Benson,

Marianna Berkowitz, (friends of

Margaret Schuffenhauer),

Fran.

Mary Alice and Beth (sisters of

Lydia Kaboolian),

Harold Nahigian (Lydia

Kaboolian's brother-in-law),

Elizabeth Ahlers (mother of Audrey

Bullaro),

Joyce Schultz,

Annabelle & Kara Martone (mother

& daughter friends of the Rabas),

Lauren Ebbin (granddaughter of

Debbie Ostermeier),

Susan MacDonald (friend of Patty Cadavid).

Stan Miller (dear friend of Tricia

Shannon and Ron Geraci),

Heath Sangster (nephew-in-law of Lydia Kaboolian),

Lisa Psareas (daughter of Debbie

Ostermeier),

Rory Nicoletti (grandnephew of

Tricia Shannon and Ron Geraci),

Linda Zaratin,

Doris Krahn,

Lisa Hinsch,

Kathy Hinsch (sisters-in-law of

John Hinsch),

Olivia Melia (friend of Linda

Boccafola),

Glenn Hoyvik,

Erika Carmody & Regina Bowler

(friends of Belle Douglas),

Andrew Boccafola-Fritz

(Grandnephew of Linda & Everett

Boccafola),

Frances Douglas (mother of Belle

Douglas),

The family and friends of Alma

Erichsen, who entered into eternal

rest on November 5, 2025,

the family and friends of Richard

Hance who entered into eternal rest on November 22, 2025

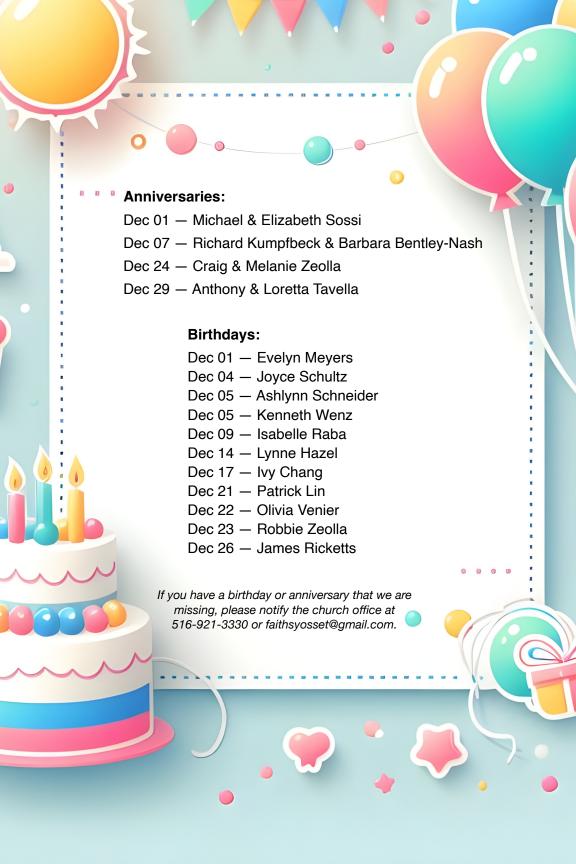
DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

	Dec 7	Dec 14	Dec 21	Dec 24	Dec 28
Acolytes	Patrick Lin	Gabrielle Ho	Izzy Raba	Patrick Lin Belle Douglas	Michelle Chan
Lectors	Rich Sheridan	Darlene Gaffney	Christmas Pageant	Lydia Kaboolian	
Counters	Norma Burns Betty Schmale	Priscilla Ho Jeanne Sofia	Ruth Minkoff Pam Freitag	Ruth Minkoff Evelyn Meyers	Ruth Minkoff Evelyn Meyers
Fellowship Host	Raba Family	Zeolla Family	Evelyn Meyers Chris Diekmann	-	Jeanne Sofia
Ushers	Carl Juul-Nielsen Ronald Geraci	Richard Lin Evelyn Meyers	Belle Douglas Joy Chen	Evelyn Meyers Carl Juul- Nielsen	Ronald Geraci Belle Douglas
Lectors for Dec 28	Michelle Chan, Belle Douglas, Linda Boccafola, Abigail Ho, Gabrielle Ho				



Altar Guild for the Month of December:
Chris Diekmann & Linda Boccafola





December 2025 Agenda Happenings at Faith

WEEK 1 WEEK 2

Sunday November 30, 2025 Sun Dec 7, 25 9:15am Adult Choir 10am Worship & Sunday School 11:15am Children Choir 1pm Trinity Mon Dec 1, 25 Mon Dec 8, 25 · 9am Nursery School 9am Nursery School 8pm Bible Study Tue Dec 2, 25 Tue Dec 9, 25 · 9am Nursery School 9am Nursery School 7pm LI Harmonizers 7pm LI Harmonizers Wed Dec 3, 25 Wed Dec 10, 25 · 9am Nursery School · 9am Nursery School · 6pm Advent meal & 7pm · 6pm Advent meal & 7pm Worship (Good Shepherd) Worship (Faith) 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm Boy Scouts Thu Dec 4, 25 Thu Dec 11, 25 • 9am Nursery School 9am Nursery School 10:30am Bible Study 7pm Twin County Chorus 7pm Twin County Chorus Fri Dec 5, 25 Fri Dec 12, 25 9am Nursery School 9am Nursery School · 7pm Trinity Young Adult Night Sat Dec 6, 25 Sat Dec 13, 25

3at Dec 0, 23

 8am Men's Breakfast (On Parade Diner)

 Boccafola Ravioli making (fellowship hall)

December 2025 Agenda

Happenings at Faith

(Continued)

Sun Dec 21, 25

Sun Dec 14, 25

Mon Dec 15, 25 • 9am Nursery School • 8pm Bible Study Tue Dec 16, 25 • 9am Nursery School • 9am Nursery School • 9am Nursery School • 7pm LI Harmonizers Mon Dec 22, 25 • 9am Nursery School • 7pm Trinity Christmas Eve Service
 8pm Bible Study 8pm Bible Study Tue Dec 16, 25 9am Nursery School 7pm LI Harmonizers 8pm Bible Study 9un Bible Study 9am Rible Study 9am Nursery School 7pm Trinity Christmas Eve
 9am Nursery School 7pm LI Harmonizers 9am Nursery School 7pm Trinity Christmas Eve
• 7pm LI Harmonizers • 7pm Trinity Christmas Eve
Wed Dec 24, 25
 9am Nursery School 6pm Advent meal & 7pm Worship (Good Shepherd) 7pm Boy Scouts Christmas Eve 4:30pm Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
Thu Dec 18, 25 Thu Dec 25, 25
 9am Nursery School 10:30am Bible Study Christmas Day Boccafola Family Christmas
Fri Dec 19, 25 Fri Dec 26, 25
9am Nursery School No School
Sat Dec 20, 25 Sat Dec 27, 25

December 2025 Agenda

Happenings at Faith

(Continued)

WEEK 5	WEEK 6

Sun Dec 28, 25	Sun Jan 4, 26
 10am Worship 10am Christmas Lessons and Carols No Sunday School 1pm Trinity 	
Mon Dec 29, 25	Mon Jan 5, 26
No School	
Tue Dec 30, 25	Tue Jan 6, 26
No School	
Wed Dec 31, 25	Wed Jan 7, 26
New Years EveNo School	
Thu Jan 1, 26	Thu Jan 8, 26
 New Years Day 	
Fri Jan 2, 26	Fri Jan 9, 26
Sat Jan 3, 26	Sat Jan 10, 26

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Faith Lutheran Church and School

Tel: 516-921-3330

Email: faithsyosset@gmail.com Facebook: faithlutheransyosset

PASTOR: Rebecca Sheridan

516-281-4418

pastor.rsheridan@gmail.com

CHURCH SECRETARY:

Linda Boccafola

INTERIM MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Miloš Veljiković

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL:

President: Richard Lin

Vice President: Doug Raba

Treasurer:

Lulu Milicenco-Domathoti

Secretary: Lydia Kaboolian

Financial Secretary:

Evelyn Meyers

Other Members

Betty Schmale

Craig Zeolla

Jeanne Sofia

Tricia Shannon



COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Acolytes: Linda Boccafola

Altar Guild: Pam Freitag

Counters: Ruth Minkoff

Evangelism: Richard Lin

Fellowship: Jeanne Sofia

Finance:

Lulu Milicenco-Domathoti

Lectors & Prayer Chain:

Lydia Kaboolian

Property: Carl Juul-Nielsen &

Craig Zeolla

Stewardship: Evelyn Meyers

Sunday School: Jessica Raba

231 Jackson Avenue

Syosset, New York 11791

Website: https://faithsyosset.org



Faith's mission is to openly share the saving grace of Jesus' love



