



Faith Lutheran Church

Receiving and Sharing the Love of Christ
January 2026 Newsletter

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

God inspired Paul to pen these words at the conclusion of his first letter to the church in Thessalonica. This on the northeast coast of Greece on modern maps. Paul established the church in Thessalonica, but people opposed to the Gospel of Jesus ran Paul out of town. Paul sent Timothy later to check on the church, and even though they had gone through great persecution for the faith, they remained faithful. This letter is to encourage the church to remain faithful. Rejoice! Pray! Give Thanks!

Rejoice always! Paul was also inspired to write that to the Philippians as well. Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice! God isn't telling us to "Be Happy!" Happy is the emotional response to delightful circumstances. Rejoicing comes from a deeper commitment to intentionally look for the positive. It is a fulfilling of the 8th commandment – "to put the best construction on everything."

Pray without ceasing! Prayer is purely communicating with God. It isn't meant to take place 5 times a day when the prayer siren blows, or just at meals and bedtime. Prayer is intended to be a walking with God throughout the day. Developing the deep personal relationship with God who is above all and in all who sees you through all.

Give Thanks in all circumstances! It is easy to give thanks for those things that bring you happiness, but how do you give thanks in ALL circumstances? It is by believing God's Word that "All things work to the good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose." So we hear the testimony of those who witness the violent deaths of Jesus' disciples, that they gave thanks for having the opportunity to die for the Gospel. They knew that the death of the mortal body was not eternal death, but a transition from the mortal to the immortal.

Gail and I have truly been blessed to be called here to Stephenville, TX to serve the people of Faith Lutheran Church. You are all a great blessing to us. We are just blown away by your generous love offering that was given to us at the Children's Christmas Program.

Faith Lutheran Church is filled with faithful servants who are warm and welcoming. I love listening to the "buzz" before the worship service. This is an indication that you enjoy being with each other. Gail and I both love that the congregation sings with gusto. I give thanks for Lisa who administers the affairs of this congregation faithfully, for Christine and all of her musical talents and dedication to bringing the spirit of praise to our worship, for faithful elders who love and care for the people of faith with me. I am thankful for Faith School. What a precious treasure we have to share the Gospel with these young people. I can't tell you the joy it brings me when one of these little students sees me in a public place and wants to give me a hug or coming to work when the little ones in highchairs are having breakfast and they see me walk through the door and a little one yells "Pastor" and several want to give me high five or a fist bump. May God continue to bless our fellowship as we move into 2026. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this place. Again, thank you for your generous love offering and all the Christmas cards and other gifts as well.

In His Service;
Pastor Lee & Gail



WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU!

Please join us in November for Sunday School and Worship.

Sunday School for All Ages is at 9:00am followed by worship
at 10:15am.

Adult Bible Class meets in the sanctuary with Rev. Lee.

Children and Youth classes meet in the family center as follows:

Junior High & High School -- Room Nine

Elementary (grades 4-6) -- Room Six

Early Childhood (grades K – 3) -- Kinder Room

Young Adult Bible Study meets Fridays from 6:00pm – 7:30pm in Room 9 of the FFC.

Mission of the Month:

Choices Clinic & Life Resources Center

Mission Statement: Choices Life Resource Center is a Christian ministry dedicated to preserving the value of human life by providing abortion alternatives, practical assistance and education to the Cross Timbers area.

As Faith prepares to celebrate Sanctity of Life Sunday, we are, once again, partnering with Choices Clinic & Life Resource Center in January to provide prayer support and financial assistance. The 'Change for Life' baby bottle campaign will begin on January 18 and continue through March 1. You can begin saving your change now and, on the 18th, pick up and fill your baby bottle. Your support is very important to help Choices provide services in our community such as pregnancy tests, limited ultrasound, material assistance and pregnancy support classes. Choices also offers group support study and individual support sessions to men and women suffering from abortion trauma, women impacted by abuse and to those seeking a growing relationship with Christ.

Lutherans For Life's 2026 theme for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is

"Fearfully and Wonderfully Made"

Hospitalizations:

If you would like pastoral care when you are hospitalized, please call the church office or Pastor Lee directly. The hospital does not notify us of your admissions, even if you inform them that you are a member of Faith Lutheran Church. Privacy laws prohibit them contacting us about your hospitalization. Thank you.

Pastor Lee

We are here to help! The Board of Evangelism will provide food to church members who are recovering from illnesses or surgical procedures, birth of a baby, or other situations where meals are challenging.

Contact Rosanne Keilers, board chair; Sue Angerhofer, Pat Hardy, Kat Hinkel, Sheila Small, Pastor Lee, or the church office.



Sunday School Christmas Program

Thanks to all of our children and youth who participated in this year's Christmas program and thanks to the teachers, parents and Board who helped make it possible!

Thanks also to LWML for gifting the children goodie bags after the program!





Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is available to anyone who is facing overwhelming needs for care: hospitalizations, grief, suffering, loneliness or discouragement, divorce or separation, unemployment, accidents, and the list goes on. Please feel free to contact Everett Seider, Referrals Coordinator. Your Stephen Ministry team prays for you to have a blessed New Year! Here's a poem to ponder:

As the clock strikes twelve
We are beckoned through the door
Into a new year.
Go forward slowly..no need to rush,
everything is waiting for you.
What will you be taking with you?
and what will you be leaving behind?

Here awaits a blank canvas
For you to fill with new experiences.
Paint it brightly, live it joyously.
Welcome each trial and accept
every tribulation as they unfold.
Carry yourself with grace
and in difficult times, look to
the wisdom you have gained
thus far, to accompany you through.

In a short while new buds will be
appearing and fresh growth will resume
in all its glory.
Bask in the beauty that each season
will inevitably bring.
Celebrate each gift and mourn each loss
All is part of the wheel of life, so generously
given to each of us.

And remember to give thanks for each
and every new blessing coming your way ..
So go now, the door is open,
the future awaits
A new year has been gifted ...

 C.E.Coombes

Faith Family,

Thank you for the privilege
of serving this beautiful
congregation for another
year! I am truly blessed to
be in this place.

Jeff and I extend our
sincerest thanks to all for
the lovely Christmas cards
and sweet gifts, delicious
Christmas goodies as well
as the very generous love
offering.

We are truly humbled
and grateful for all of the
acts of love, support and
kindness you show to us
and our family, not just at
Christmas, but throughout
the year!

Jeff and Lisa Stroebel

Thank you for the love offering!! It
was a blessing to my family, and it
was greatly appreciated! I feel so
blessed to have the love and
support of the church throughout
the year!

With your help, Faith School is a
place to Believe, Belong and
Be Loved!
Lauren Johnson



Epiphany:
January 6



"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Happy New Year everyone! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas celebrating Jesus. As we begin a new year, we may look forward to some happy events in the future, but we may also be uncertain about other events. It's important to remember that God is in control and that His plans for us will ultimately be for our good, even though we may not understand it at the time. His love for us never fails.

Advent by Candlelight was beautiful and uplifting this year as always. We learned a lot about the carols we sing at Christmas while enjoying food, fellowship, and wassail. Thanks to our hostesses and all who helped put this together.

Next month, in February, we will have a video presentation showing our LWML mission grants at work. Please be sure to join us for that.

Thank you for donating to the mite box last month. Because of your contributions, we can help fund mission grants like Phil's Friends, which provides cancer patients with care packages containing both practical and comforting items. The most comforting item, of course, is the Bible, the only true source of hope.

Blessings to all,
Marlene Peiser



Advent by Candlelight



Our 2025 theme: The Carols of Christmas

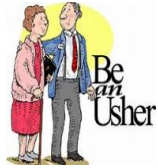
The Bulletin Board

Bulletin Folders (by Sunday)

1st Paula Hymer	3rd Sue Angerhofer
2nd Trudy Carlson	4th & 5th Lynann Simpson



Serving in January:
Suzie Cornman



January Ushers

Everett Seider
Jeff Stroebe

Ushers are needed for the remainder of the church year. If you have questions, please speak with Lee Barlow.

Lector Schedule (by date)

01/04	Brandon Bohannon
01/11	Keith Fredrickson
01/18	Ginia Bruno
01/25	Lee Barlow

Altar Flower Chart - The altar flower chart for 2026 is ready for volunteers. If you would like to celebrate or commemorate a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion by sharing a bouquet with the church, please sign up. The chart can be found on the wall next to the church kitchen. If you have questions, please speak with Lisa.

Grief Support ~ Faith's grief support group meets the first Sunday of the month at Cotton Patch immediately following worship. If you have questions or thoughts, please contact Ann Soltau at 254-592-9289.

FREE Notary Public Service

Cindy Stafford – (254) 592-6630

Faith Lutheran's Elders

Glen Cornman, Head Elder;
Andy Burke, Will Lansmon, Richarde Liedtke,
John Quade, Ronnie Tate

Church Council meets every third Monday at 6:00pm in the Narthex/Lobby.

Altar Flowers for January

01/04	Open
01/11	Open
01/18	West Family
01/25	Simpson Family

(Sign-Up hangs on the wall beside church kitchen)



JOIN Choir!

Choir meets on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm.



Faith's family center is open the first & third Sundays of each month from 2pm to 4pm'ish for pickleball.



~ NOTICE ~

Reuse, Reduce, Recycle

Thanks to those who have provided plastic bags for Faith School use and aluminum cans for the youth group. Let's keep it up!

Your humble bag folder and can crusher!



Like us on facebook at
FaithLutheranStephenville



If you have an upcoming event or photos of a recent event you want to be shared on Facebook, send to Emma Bouquet via Facebook Messenger, text, or email at emmabouquet@yahoo.com. Be sure to include all pertinent information including a description.

Church Information

3000 Senator Robert J Glasgow Loop
Stephenville, Texas 76401
254-968-2710

Website: faithlutheranstephenville.com

Email:
church.office@faithlutheranstephenville.com

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 8:30am – 5:30pm
(closed 12:30-1:30pm for lunch)
Friday: 8:30am – 12:30pm

JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship Schedule Pastor Jeffrey A. Lee 9:00am Sunday School for All Ages 10:15am Combined Worship Service No Brunch 6:00pm on Fridays: Young Adults~Room 9, FFC Faith School Chapel – Tuesdays at 10am		KEY *Birthday **Anniversary Church Events School Events Building Rentals LWML Events		1 New Year's Day **Matt & Leslie Hallgarth Church Office & Faith School Closed	2 *James Synatzske MOW~Stafford Church Office Closed	3 8:30am Undecorate the Church Sanctuary /Narthex
4 12:00pm Grief Support Lunch at Cotton Patch	5 5:00pm Delta Kappa Gamma~Narthex	6 Epiphany *Adelaide Ashley *Brandon Bohannon 3:00pm Evangelism Mtng~Library 6:00pm Barefoot Volleyball ~FFC 	7 *Erika Barlow	8 6:00pm Barefoot Volleyball~FFC 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal~Sanct.	9 *Darleene Hufstutler MOW~Franz **Brandon & Jennifer Bohannon	10 *Owen Bohannon *Ryan Coakley 2:00pm Landry (Stroebe) Brockman Baby Shower~FFC
11 *Kason Seider 11:30am Board of Trustees Mtng~Library 5:30pm Stephen Minister Supervision & Continuing Ed~Rm 6	12 5:30pm Faith School Board Mtng~Rm 9 6:00pm LWML Business Mtng~Room 6 6:30pm Board of Elders' Meeting~Library	13 6:00pm Barefoot Volleyball~FFC	14 10:30am Tate/Cornman Bible Study~Rm 6 5:15pm Board of Education Mtng~ 6:00pm LWML Bible Study~Rm 9	15 *Delaney Johnson 6:00pm Barefoot Volleyball~FFC 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal~Sanct.	16 MOW~Sparkman	17
18 Sanctity of Life Sunday LWML Mite Box Sunday Pick up baby bottles 	19 *Cheryl Hatton 6:00pm Church Council Mtng~Narthex	20 *Cary Strohmeier 9:00am Circuit Visitor Pastors' Mtng~Nrthx/Sanct. 1:30pm Simpson Small Group~Rm 6 6:00pm Barefoot Volleyball~FFC	21	22 *John Quade 6:00pm Barefoot Volleyball~FFC 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal~Sanct.	23 *Eli Espinoza *Matt Hallgarth *Sloan Weber MOW~Bruno	24
25 *Nora Espinoza *Jason Young 5:30pm Stephen Minister Supervision & Continuing Ed~Rm 6	26 *Glen Cornman	27 6:00pm Barefoot Volleyball~FFC	28 *Chuck Hamaker 10:30am Tate/Cornman Bible Study~Rm 6 6:00pm LWML Bible Study~Rm 9	29 *Ricky Osterloh 6:00pm Barefoot Volleyball~FFC 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal~Sanct.	30 *Lynann Simpson MOW~Pack	31 *Elliott Nehring *Ethan Nehring