



## The Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church

9608 US 301 North, Parrish Florida 34219  
website: [faithlutheranfl.com](http://faithlutheranfl.com) Phone: (941) 776-1395  
email: [office@faithlutheranfl.com](mailto:office@faithlutheranfl.com)

### March, 2025

Grace, mercy and peace be to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Recently I have had several conversations about the role of elders in the church. Every Lutheran church has a group of elders, but it is often not clear what their purpose is, beyond helping the Pastor on Sunday morning with the Divine Service. You might be surprised that the Bible doesn't say a lot about what the elder is to do, but has very specific qualifications of what kind of a man an elder should be, especially concerning their faith, their behavior, their character and even the character of their wives and children. They are very similar to the qualifications of a Pastor.

Our understanding of the duties and qualifications of an elder come mainly from 1 Timothy 3 and Acts 6. All of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus have insights about the Pastoral office as well, that can also be connected to the modern-day office of elder.

Now one of the first things we learn is that in each of these verses the title of "elder" is actually reserved for the position of Pastor. The person and office that we call pastor is called "elder" and "overseer" in the Bible. What today we call elder in 1 Timothy 3 is called "deacon". In Acts 6 they are not given a title, but they are chosen to "serve tables", so that the twelve (Apostles) could devote themselves to preaching the word of God.

Another thing we learn is that the "elder" or "overseer" is not necessarily someone who is physically older than everyone else, but rather is spiritually mature. If this were not the case, we would not send out 26-year-olds to be Pastors. So, the term elder refers to someone who has studied and continues to study the scriptures, someone who is mature in their faith.

Timothy was a young man who was taught by Paul and established as an elder (Pastor), but Paul tells him "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers and example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." 1 Tim 4:12.

In Acts 6 the disciples (believers) were to choose men who were "of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom." One of the men who was chosen was Stephen who is described as "a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit". He of course is the first Martyr for the faith, being stoned because he confessed Christ crucified.

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We also read in 1 Timothy, “Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.”

1 Tim 3:8-13.

Like the office of Pastor, elders, should be mature in faith, but also in conduct and in speech. In choosing elders one should look to those men who are actively involved in the Divine Service and Bible Study. In 1 Timothy 5:22 Paul tells Timothy “Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands”. In other words, when calling a Pastor or choosing elders much time, prayer and discernment are involved in the process.

Today the Board of elders serve as a sounding board for the Pastor. They are able to give good counsel concerning the spiritual affairs of the church. They are to be peacemakers and not prone to provocative speech. They are also to help the Pastor in providing an orderly and respectful Divine Service as well as the caring ministry of our church. This does not necessarily mean that they must do all of the work, but they are to ensure that everything is done well. They are to help care for the spiritual well being of the congregation and especially help in caring for the widows who are without other assistance.

Please pray for our current and future elders as you pray for me that we might have men whom God raises up to help and be of service to our congregation’s life in Christ. Peace be with you. Amen.

*Pastor Poock*



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**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CHURCH COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 11, 2025**

**Present:** President Glen Collier, VP Greg Wissner, Treasurer Barbara Wikel, Financial Secretary Larry Colton, Recording Secretary Jean Roehrs, Trustee David Benson, Altar Guild Eloise Schwarz, Elder Tony Bowen and Pastor Pooch.

The President called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. A quorum was established. Pastor shared a devotion based on Colossians 7:3, Compassionate Heart.

The minutes of January 14, 2025, were approved as printed.

Financial Secretary and Treasurer's reports were filed. Barbara reported that she is in the process of transferring funds from one bank to another. Larry is prepared to begin depositing offerings into the new bank as soon as the endorsement stamps are received. Barbara also reported that we earned over \$32,000 in interest from LCEF last year.

**PASTOR:** The organ is in need of repair. The former organ tuner has retired but Pastor has found someone who will be available soon. Adult confirmation will begin Feb. 16 with 15-20 participants expected. The vicar application is ready to be sent. Pastor is planning to attend "Higher Ground," a program for youth, next summer.

**PRESIDENT:** No report. **VP:** No report

**ELDERS:** Tony has clarified one paragraph in the Congregational Assistance Program guidelines which deals with the approval process. He MOVED adoption of this clarification. Motion seconded and carried with all voting yes. Jack Conte explained how the weight of the Corpus was an issue but has now been resolved. The sculpture will be personally delivered by the artist and he will assist with its installation. Due to the artist offering a discount, the remaining balance is only \$10,000.

**LWML:** They packed hygiene kits for Project Heart in Jan. and will pack Hope Seeds in Feb. All women are welcome to attend.

**ALTAR GUILD:** Eloise distributed an Annual Planning Calendar for 2025.

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**TRUSTEE:** Westfall will replace the fascia damaged by the hurricane. The roof mold will be removed and the roof repaired. They will guarantee the results. The tree stump has been removed. The carpets have been cleaned. Comfort King did a good job installing new A/C units. Dave recommended entering a maintenance contract with them. Annual inspections will be coming soon. Everything is ready and in place for the installation of the Christus. Finally, there are rodents in the ceiling. The soffits and fascia are over 20 years old and need to be replaced. Dave will solicit bid.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Home School Contract:** There have been a few problems, possibly because some of the children have ADHD; however, overall things are going well. Pastor added that they are attentive during his religion classes. Jean MOVED that their contract be renewed for another school year. Motion seconded and carried with all voting yes.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m. followed by prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jean E Roehrs*

Jean E Roehrs, Recording Secretary



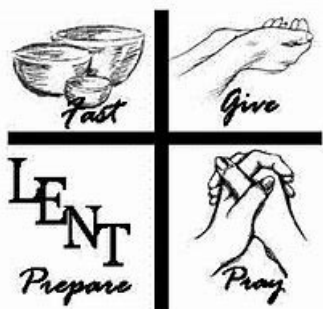
### Easter Lillies

Please remember to turn in your Easter Lilly orders by March 23, 2025. Remember we are only ordering 30 plants.



### REMEMBER:

To turn forward your clocks on March 9th when Daylight Savings time begins.



**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

Ash Wednesday Service will be, **March 5**, at 5 pm. and 7 pm.

Lenten Services: Wednesday, **March 12, 19, 26, April 2, and April 9**

at 5 pm.

with a light meal to follow.

Palm Sunday Services: Sunday, **April 13** at 8 am. and 10:30 am .

Holy Week Services: Holy Thursday, **April 17** at 5 pm. and 7 pm.

Good Friday, **April 18** at 5 pm. and 7 pm.

Easter Services: Sunrise Sunday Service, **April 20** at 8 am. followed by

Easter Divine Service at 10:30 am.



Pastor's 3:30 & 6:30 pm Wednesday Bible Studies **will continue** to meet every Wednesday in March after Ash Wednesday.

**FOOD BARREL DONATIONS**

**Many thanks to all who have been so generous in filling up our food barrel.**

**Items of priority this month are: toilet tissue, canned fruit, bottles of fruit juice and toiletries.**



Larry Colton is volunteering his time to work with the United Methodist Church of Parrish to provide for homeless and needy families here in Manatee County who need paper products and food items. Larry will be delivering our food barrel items to the Methodist Church weekly. Please be generous and let's keep the FOOD BARREL overflowing.



***Opportunities for you to grow and become involved...*****Bible Classes****Bible Study**

Our **Sunday Bible Class** meets at **9:15 am** in the Great Hall led by Pastor Poock. We are continuing to study the Book Hebrew in depth. *Come and have a cup of coffee with the group and join in the discussions.* The offerings received at this time go to benefit pastoral students at the Concordia Seminary.

Pastor Poock's **Wednesday Bible Classes** meets at 3:30 & 6:30 pm. on Wednesdays in the Great Hall. They are studying the book of Genesis.



**The Bell Choir** is practicing in the Sanctuary every Thursday, 6-7:30 pm. in preparation for Easter Services. They are still in need of more willing volunteers to ring the bells.



**March is a FIVE SUNDAY month, but because we are in the middle of Lent, the fifth Sunday and next Wednesday will be treated like a regular weekend and Wednesday.**

**Sunday, March 30th Divine Services will be at 8 and 10:30 am. with Bible Study at 9:15 am. Wednesday, April 2nd Divine Service will be at 5:00 pm. with Bible Studies at 3:30 and 6:30 pm.**



## This Month's Privileged Servants



*Faith Lutheran Church  
Parrish, Florida*

### Altar Guild

#### **Wednesdays, 5:00 pm**

March 5	Eloise Schwarz ( 5:00 & 7:00)
March 12	Gwyn Poock
March 19	Karen Hill/Robin Parkin
March 26	Eloise Schwarz

#### **Sundays, 8:00 am**

March 2	Martha Riedl
March 9	Sean Morales
March 16	Meta Green
March 23	Martha Riedl
March 30	NO Service

#### **Sundays, 10:30 am**

March 2	Nancy Niemi
March 9	Nancy Niemi
March 16	Cindy Nuetzel
March 23	Alec & Erin Carpp
March 30	Pat Barlow

### Elders

#### **Sundays, 8:00 am**

March 2	Tom Weiss
March 9	Dennis Steinke
March 16	Tom Weiss
March 23	Dennis Steinke
March 30	NO Service

#### **Sundays, 10:30 am.**

March 2	Jack Conte
March 9	Caleb Poock
March 16	Jack Conte
March 23	Caleb Poock
March 30	Jack Conte

#### **Assistant**

Caleb Poock
Alex Boettcher
Caleb Poock
Alex Boettcher
Caleb Poock

#### **Wednesdays, 5:00 pm.**

March 5	Tony Bowen
March 12	Tony Bowen
March 19	Tony Bowen
March 26	Tony Bowen

#### **Assistant**

Curt McCarty
Dave Barber
Carl Schwarz
Jeff Sattanno

### Offering Counters

March 3	John Niemi
	Carol Schreiber
	Tom Barlow

March 10	John Niemi
	Judy Sattanno
	Stu Lindberg

March 17	Marilyn Howard
	Nancy Kendall
	Marti Katterhenry

March 24	Larry Colton
	Nancy Kendall
	Jean Roehrs

April 1	Larry Colton
	Nancy Kendall
	Jean Roehrs

## EASTER LILIES



Lilies will be ordered to decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday again this year. You may purchase the lilies for **\$20.00 per pot** and take them home after the late service on Easter Sunday. Please indicate on the form provided on a table in the Narthex if your order is in honor or memory of a loved one/s or simply to the Glory of God. Orders with payment may be placed in the box provided. The deadline for orders to be received will be **March 23rd**. We will only be purchasing 30 plants (no extra plants).

Questions or concerns should be addressed to Eloise Schwarz at **414-807-4373** or email [eloise637@gmail.com](mailto:eloise637@gmail.com)



## Prayer Partners

The Lord tells us to let our prayers rise before Him like incense. Please make your prayer needs known to the church office or to the prayer chairman and your requests/needs will be shared with the Prayer Partners who have joined the Faith Prayer Ministry.

To be a member of this vital ministry, send an email to Jean Roehrs at [jroehrs27@gmail.com](mailto:jroehrs27@gmail.com) and prayer requests will be sent to you via email. Thank you.





## Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 3 Trudy Hitsman
- 4 Toni McCarty
- 5 Betty Piepenbrink
- 8 Teena Ross
- 10 Jessica Franklin
- 12 Jenna Fluegge
- 13 Bob Kostic
- 17 Robert Biebl, Cabe Crusan
- 18 Jason Laser
- 20 Barbara Wikel
- 24 Laurie Anderson
- 29 Martha Riedl, Andy Lundgren
- 30 Don Hill
- 31 Susie Cashon



Special Wishes to:  
Betty Piepenbrink on her 96th,



- 27 Paul & Annette Schander (60 years)

God  
made this  
day for You-  
Celebrate  
every second,  
enjoy every  
minute...

## HAPPENINGS AT FAITH

WOMEN OF FAITH

Surprisingly Women of Faith have just about completed their shopping for Christmas toys for the Redlands Christian Migrant Association Head Start Program. Members have found toys on clearance at Walmart and Walgreens. They had 75% off this past week. We're still making quilts and your free will offerings in November make these toy purchases possible.



Two more volunteers in January and February have joined us and will be a big help. Questions or concerns, please call Marjorie Weiss 941-757-7307.

Mite Boxes

We want to thank those of you who so generously contribute to our LWML Mites. Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4), the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of 'mites' offerings above and beyond the support given to congregation and the LCMS. The idea is to put your coins in the mite box at the end of each day. Say "Thank you" with an appropriate amount whenever calamity or misfortune has been averted. Empty all your loose change from your coin bowl into the box on a specific day of the month and bring your mite box to the church where you can leave it and take a new mite box or put it into the large Mite box. LWML ladies take the coins to the bank for counting. The bank counting machine DOES NOT accept half dollars nor any foreign coins. So please in your generous donations, be sure you are giving semi-clean **U.S. coins**. The coins are converted to dollars which make it easier for our financial counters here at the church to deposit and then Faith LWML sends a check to the LWML FL-GA district to fund district and national mission grants.





**LWML** ladies met on February 14th, for Bible Study and a meeting followed by packing seeds for HOPE SEEDS at 11:00 with all Faith Members and Friends invited to help and then fellowship with a light luncheon provided by Judy Sattanno.



The attendees  
1000 bags of  
Pepper seeds

to provide food, nutrition, and income for the most vulnerable people and their communities throughout the world.

packed  
Banana  
to be used

We enjoyed wonderful sloppy joe sandwiches accompanied with green beans. Brownies and cupcakes filled out the meal. Many thanks to volunteers and helpers.

March 14, the **LWML** ladies will visit **RCMA** Academy in Wimauma for a tour of the facility and then lunch at Sol Mexican Cantina, 702 Railroad St., Wimauma. If you plan on going, please be sure to let Judy Sattanno know so she can make reservations.

Carpooling will take place here at Faith at 9:25 on that Friday. Residents in Sun City Center are asked to meet at the **RCMA** Academy at 10:00 am.

Lenten suppers were also discussed and volunteers were named to order sandwiches, make soups or desserts for March 19 and April 2. Members were reminded that people were needed to set up, serve and clean up.

The Spring Rally is Saturday, April 5th at Lakeside Lutheran Church in Venice. A \$ 10.00 registration fee is due March 22nd. Please see Margaret or Arlene to get put on the registration list. We will do a carpooling to make things easier for all. Those wishing to carpool from the church, please let Judy Sattanno know at 941-241-6334 and we will meet at the church at 9:25 am.

Judy Sattanno will be packing up the clothing for **RCMA** here in Palmetto and delivering it the end of March. Please have all contributions on the **LWML** table or bin to the right of the **LWML** table by March 30th.







### Fellowship News

We continue to enjoy coffee, coffee bites and fellowship on Sundays following the 10:30 am Divine Service. Monica calls our volunteers who graciously donate their time to providing goodies to go with our coffee.

We are busy preparing for Lenten Meals. Eloise Schwarz is in charge of the Lenten Meals this year, so please, if you have questions or concerns, check with her.

**Special Note:** March is a five Sunday month, however we are not planning on a meal event since we are in the middle of the Lenten season. Church services will be as usual. Sunday Divine services (3/30/25) at 8 and 10:30 am and a Wednesday Divine service (4/2/25) at 5:00. Bible Studies will be as usual.



Beautiful Flowers are still around despite the previous hurricanes damaging our area farms. Our new florist, has arrangements for any event including our church services, funerals, wedding and baptisms. Fresh Flowers always add a nice touch to our altar, so if you have an anniversary, birthday, or special event to celebrate or if you would like to donate in memory of a loved one, the flower calendar on the bulletin board in the Narthex, makes it easy to sign up. There are written directions that will help and answer your concerns. Costs remain at \$60.00 per bouquet. Eloise Schwarz