Faith Matters

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

December

CHRISTMAS IN OUR HEARTS

Prevent us, O Lord, from spending Christmas foolishly. Remind us that we celebrate Christ's birth, not our own desires.

Keep us from becoming disappointed, angry or hurt when things do not go as we hoped. Help us to be gracious and mature in our thoughts, words and actions.

Above all, stir within us a deep love for You and for others, so that the joy and warmth of Christmas may remain with us not only during this season, but throughout the days to come.

In the name of the Christ child,
Amen.

BIBLE QUIZ

The New Testament describes Jesus Christ as "Lord of lords and King of kings." In which book of the Bible is this title found?

A. Revelation

B. Acts

C. Colossians

D. Matthew

Answer: A. Revelation (See Revelation 17:14)

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK…

2026 has been a productive year of ministry at Faith Lutheran. An incredible movie night, reaching out to our homebound members, Lenten Bible Study, Fellowship Fish Fry, Relay for Life, an amazing Vacation Bible School, and many other events that make Faith Lutheran Church an active and 'going forward' congregation.

On Reformation Sunday, nine young people were confirmed. This was an exciting accomplishment with great cooperation of parents, young people, and leaders.

Within our Faith family, serious illnesses, hospitalizations, and treatments continue. Keep the prayers, cards, and concerns ongoing.

As we enter the Advent season, and celebrate the birth of Jesus, remember that Jesus is the reason for the season.

Pastor Don Safrit

CHURCH CALENDAR

12/4-12/5	FLC Reserved (Tim Williams)
12/5	2:00pm-10:00pm Assembly Room Reserved (Stephanie Petrea)
12/6	**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT** 2:00pm-7:00pm Assembly Room Reserved (Kayla Mickey) 4:00pm Christmas Play Practice
12/7	5:30pm Yount Group Meeting (Christmas Covered Dish)
12/11	3:00pm-7:00pm (FACS Christmas Party)
12/12	8:00am-3:00pm FLC Reserved (Holly Moody)
12/13	**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** 10:30am Lessons & Carols Worship Service 4:00pm Christmas Play Practice
12/14	FLC Reserved (Randall Barger)
12/20	**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** 8:30am-9:30am Annual Christmas Breakfast 6:00pm Children's Christmas Play
12/21	**FIRST DAY OF WINTER**
12/24	**CHRISTMAS EVE** 9:00pm Candlelight Worship Service
12/25	**CHRISTMAS DAY**
12/27	11:30am Young Disciples Sunday School Class Christmas Party (Assembly Room)
12/31	**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

WEDNESDAYS – 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30
10:00am – Bible Study & Holy Communion
6:30pm – Handbells
7:30pm – Choir Practice

SUNDAYS – 12/6, 12/13, 12/20, 12/27
9:00am – Refreshments & Fellowship
9:30am – Sunday School
10:30am – Worship



DECEMBER
Birthdays and Anniversaries

1 – Lisa Overcash
2 – Aaron Bradshaw
3 – Abby Cobb
8 – Bradley Cobb
9 – Wayne Canup
Ashtyn Peeler Gardner
Beverly Petrea
13 – Trent Bradshaw
21 – Natalie Spinella
23 – Gavin Peeler
Charles Walker
27 – Cory Barger
29 – Jake Moose
31 – Lilly Thomas

ANNIVERSARIES
29 – Tony & Sallie Herrin

WiFFLe
Dates: Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings in FLC
Times: 10:00am-11:00am

FACS Basketball Practice
Dates: December 2, 7, 9, 11, 16, and 18 in FLC
Times: 3:30pm-6:30pm

Cub Scouts
Dates: Thursdays – December 3, 10, and 17 in FLC
Times: 3:30pm-6:30pm

**Please email or call the church office if your birthday/anniversary has been missed.*

What are you doing on Giving Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026?

Would you or your church consider giving to the Carolinas Mission Region and have your gift be matched by Thrivent?

Any donation given to the Carolinas Mission Region through Thrivent **on December 1st** will be matched by Thrivent. So if your church is giving a normal gift for November and December, why not combine it and give it on December 1st and it will be matched.

Donations **must** be made through Thrivent's giving platform between 12 midnight and 11:59 p.m. in the donor's time zone on Tuesday, December 1, 2026, to be eligible for the boost. See the next item for the QR Code or website to go to in order to make the donation.



Scan the code or visit
thrivent.com/give
to get started.

thrivent

[1] Thrivent will provide up to $3 million in matching funds to boost eligible online donations made through Thrivent's giving platform on Giving Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026. Donations may be matched up to one-to-one, but the total match provided by Thrivent will not exceed $3 million. If eligible donations total more than $3 million, matching funds will be distributed proportionally based on each organization's share of total eligible donations. Final match amounts will be calculated after Giving Tuesday, and a full dollar-for-dollar match is not guaranteed.

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Q&A

Q: Are there fees for online donations?

A: Thrivent covers 100% of the online processing fees[2] for donations made through our giving platform, so the organization receives the full donation amount.

Q: Can donations be made by check, donor-advised fund, qualified charitable distribution or another method?

A: No. To be eligible for the Giving Tuesday boost, donations must be made online through Thrivent's giving platform during the campaign window.

Q. What payment methods are allowed on Thrivent's giving platform during the campaign window?

A: Available payment methods are credit/debit card and Apple/Google Pay.
Note: Direct bank payments (ACH) will not be available on Giving Tuesday.

When you search for the organization, it is listed as NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH CAROLINAS MISSION REGION. Once you type that in the search bar, scroll down beyond the part that asks for more information – the organization will be listed below that.

For questions or more information, call or text me at 717-224-1050.

Kathy Hefner
Treasurer
Carolinas Mission Region NALC

The Feast of Christ the King, 2026

Greetings in the Name of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ!

For thirteen years now, the Lutheran Studies Program at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (GCTS) has equipped faithful, confessional Lutheran pastors to serve Christ's Church. **You have helped build this ministry.** Through your generosity, prayers, and faithful partnership, the program has grown into an established and increasingly vital ministry, preparing pastors to preach and teach in accordance with Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.

We are deeply grateful for all you have made possible. And today, we invite you to help us take the next step.

As more Lutheran students seek a distinctly confessional education through Gordon-Conwell, we have an opportunity to build on the strong foundation you helped establish. We must now invest in these students, strengthen the program's leadership, and ensure that this ministry continues to grow and serve the Church for generations to come.

The GCTS Lutheran Studies Program is a leading partner in the North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) Network, serving 15 NALS students and counting. With exciting opportunities opening for the NALS and its new center at Beeson Divinity School, we anticipate an increasing role for Gordon-Conwell and its hybrid capabilities for in-person and online education.

Therefore, we need to raise $50,000 by December 15 to provide scholarships for our Lutheran students and support the leadership of our director, the Rev. Dr. Nathan Yoder.

The future of this ministry—and the future of orthodox Lutheran theological education—depends on what we invest in today. The students we support now will become the pastors who preach the gospel, teach the faith, shepherd congregations, and form future generations of disciples. By investing in their education, we invest in the Church's future and in the faithful proclamation of God's Word.

Your generosity has helped shape this ministry over the past thirteen years. We ask you to prayerfully consider helping us carry it forward. Would you, or your congregation, make a gift this fall toward our $50,000 goal? Your generosity will help us continue to invest in our students, strengthen the program, and prepare for the growing number of students who will seek this education in the years ahead.

Please send your contribution by December 15 to Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, for the Lutheran Studies Program, at:

Lutheran Studies Program
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
14542 Choate Circle
Charlotte, NC 28273

Thank you for the part you have played in building this program. We are grateful for what God has accomplished through your generosity, and we look forward with hope to what lies ahead.

In Christ's service,

Rev W Steve Johnson

The Rev. W. Steve Johnson
Advisory Board Chair
Gordon-Conwell Lutheran Studies Program

Puzzle!

FOLLOW THE STAR

Start at Clue 1. Choose the correct answer, record its star letter, and follow its number.

1 The Wise Men came from the:

- East — J — go to 4
- West — P — go to 2

2 Herod asked when the _____ appeared.

- angel — T — go to 3
- star — S — go to 5

3 Warned in a dream, they returned:

- another way — S — Finish
- to Herod — D — go to 4

4 The prophecy pointed to:

- Nazareth — R — go to 5
- Bethlehem — E — go to 2

5 They found the child in a:

- house — U — go to 3
- stable — M — go to 1

Who did they find?

Matthew 2:1–12

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Answer: Jesus



Paper Bag Luminarias

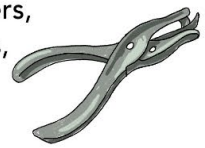
Light the way for family and friends while celebrating the birth of Jesus.





What you need:

- Pencil
- Brown or white paper lunch bags
- Hole punch or pushpin
- Cardboard
- Sand
- Battery-operated LED tea lights
- Optional: markers, crayons, stickers, or stencils



What you do:

1. Draw a Christmas design or word on each bag, such as a star, manger, heart, or "JOY."
2. Place cardboard inside the bag. With adult supervision, punch holes along your design.
3. Add about two inches of sand and place an LED tea light inside.
4. Set the bags along your walkway, porch, or patio. Turn on the lights at dusk and enjoy!



DATE	TOTAL OFFERING	ATTENDANCE
OCTOBER 25	$5,828.00	56 Sunday School, 132 Worship
NOVEMBER 1	$8,330.00	44 Sunday School, 93 Worship
NOVEMBER 8	$3,769.00	28 Sunday School, 85 Worship
NOVEMBER 15	$6,135.80	48 Sunday School, 86 Worship
NOVEMBER 22	$7,393.00	45 Sunday School, 119 Worship

SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

	DECEMBER 6	DECEMBER 13	DECEMBER 20	DECEMBER 27
Acolytes	Adam Short, Leila Roberts	Brooks Moody, Reagan Bradshaw	Sailor Shoaf, Caylee Sheets	Adam Short, Reagan Bradshaw
	DEC. 24: Griffin Alderman, Sydney Alderman (Processional: Caylee Sheets)			
Audio/Broadcast Team	David Alderman, Aaron Smith, Jeff Mills, Jeff Overcash, Caitlin Rimmer			
Children's Church	*Children take Communion*	*Lessons & Carols Service*	*Children take Communion*	Jennifer Alderman
Children's Message	Pastor Don	Tim Williams	Lu Gamewell	*Faith Kids Sing*
Church Sign	Tim Williams			
Communion Prep.	Ann Bruce & Wanda Mills			
Fellowship Refreshments	Chad & Jamie Sheets	John & Ann Bruce	*Annual Christmas Breakfast*	Jake & Barbara Moose
Lector	Roberts Family	Sheets Family	Thomas Family	Jeff Overcash
	DEC. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE: Vicki Meyer			
Nursery	Meredyth Fisher, Lela Brooks	Amanda Meacham, Holly Moody	Carolyn Rogers, Crystal Bradshaw	Stephanie Barkley, Marissa Asbury
Offering Tellers	Becky Cobb, Barbara Moose			
Ushers	Kenny Fisher, Gwynn Harrison, Dwayne Fink, Perry McKnight			
2025 Council Members	Rhonda Alderman, Dwight Bradshaw, Randy Buckwell, Dallas Cobb *(Vice President)*, Chandra Fink, Lisa Laws, Perry McKnight *(President)*, Jake Moose, Laura Peeler *(Secretary)*			

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Rev. Don Safrit, *Interim Pastor*
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