A prayer for the new year. The text is centered on a white background, framed by a decorative border of evergreen branches. The font is a simple, black, sans-serif typeface.

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Dear Master, for this coming year
Just one request I bring;
I do not pray for happiness
Or any earthly thing.
I do not ask to understand
The way Thou ledest me,
But this I ask: Teach me to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.
I want to know Thy guiding voice,
To talk with Thee each day
Dear Master, Make me swift to hear
And ready to obey.
And then the year I now begin
A happy year will be
If I am seeking just to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.

~Author Unknown

A winter-themed illustration. A red mug with white polka dots sits on a white surface, with a small sprig of holly leaves and berries next to it. In the background, there are bare, snow-covered branches. The text 'Welcome January' is written in a green, cursive font, and '2025' is written in a large, bold, red font at the bottom right.

Welcome
January

2025



Not my will, but Thine, be done. [Luke 22:42](#).

Commit your works to the LORD And your plans will be established.
Proverbs 16:3

Are you truly able to say this? You say it often, but do you mean it? For it is so infinitely great to submit to the will of God. It is the greatest victory of faith. It is the

complete handing over of the heart to the care of God's loving heart. It is the entire and absolute surrender of our own will, our own desires, and our own right to regulate our lives according to our own plans.

Not my will, but Thine, be done.

You are anxious for the conversion of your beloved friends, and with a fervent heart you pray for their salvation. But do you also dare to entrust them to God and let His will be done with them even if He has to lead them in an unlooked for, dark and mysterious way?

Or you pray for something which concerns yourself, but do you also dare to say: "Not my will, but Thine, be done"? Do you dare to resign all to God and to place yourself in His holy hands, regardless of how He must treat you in order to be able to answer your prayer?

Not my will, but Thine, be done.

It is so easy to repeat from memory and yet there is nothing harder. It can only be done by him who is truly willing to lose his life. Taken from *The Word*, by Madsen

I can't think of any better way to start to new year than to commit your life anew to Jesus Christ.

Pastor Paul



Church Officers

Church Council

Paul Larson, Pastor
Dave Hestekin-Chair
Scott Lerud, Vice Chair
Aaron Tovson-Treasurer
Tricia Smith, Sec.

Deacons

Brent Smith
Richard Duffney
Mark Mitchell

Trustees

Aaron Tovson, Chairman
Aaron Larson
Dave Hestekin
Randy Mehrer
Martin Shervey

Christian Education

Natalie Hestekin-Co SS
Supt/Chair
Jessie Tovson-Co SS Supt/Chair
Gretchen Shervey
Alisha Lancaster
JoAnne Aldrich

Faith Christian School Board

Deb Swanson, Chair
Jeff Bober
Joyce Duffney
Monica Ames
Tiffany Holm
Karen Mitchell
Sue Swanstrom
Deb Johnson

A glimpse of Taste of Christmas!





Happy Birthday

Lila Tingelstad	1/3	Lauren Aldrich	1/14
Phil Kinney	1/5	Bronson Pihlaja	1/15
Kjerstin Larson	1/6	Derek Pihlaja	1/17
Shirley Holzgrove	1/7	Angie Svenby	1/21
Lynn Johnson	1/9	Jeni Hostrup	1/25
Diane Smedshammer	1/11	Isaiah Holm	1/26



Faith Lutheran Youth
Come "FLY" with us!

Bible study, fellowship, food,
games and so much more!

Join Us!



If you have a prayer request during the week, you can start the prayer chain by calling the church office at 847-1040.

Happy Anniversary



Scott & Kelley Lerud January 9

Zion Hilde

Tiffaney Holm

Gloria Mitchell



Alisha Lancaster

Lila Tingelstad

Monica Ames

JOIN US

Resuming January 9th

Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM
3 weeks a month we will have Bible Study and once a month will be a time of fellowship and an activity!

Men's Fellowship Supper

Thursday, January 9th at 6 PM

Join us Wednesday nights at 7 PM

Adult Bible Study

Come and learn about God through His word.

Youth Group

Come, let's learn together!

Invite your friends, Strengthen your faith, & build life-long friendships.



Kids For Christ



Memorize Scripture verses,

Learn more about the Holy Bible and Jesus Christ.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES:

Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM

Serving in the Military

First Responders

Layne Johnson-Grandson of Betty Lerud

Rick Johnson-Fireman

Luke Tweeton-Son of Dan & Tracey Tweeton

Jeremiah Larson-Chief of Police --El Cajon, CA

Nephew of Pastor Paul & Dawn Larson

Brayden Duffney-Grandson of Richard & Joyce Duffney

Phil Kinney-Fireman

Isabelle Tingelstad-Granddaughter of JoAnn & Gary Tingelstad

Briah Johnson-Paramedic

Granddaughter of JoAnn & Gary Tingelstad

Larissa Seifert-daughter of Bob & Sue Seifert

Joel Svenby-Police Officer-Son of Angie Svenby

Reece Johnson-Grandson of Monica Ames

Eric Brunn-Police Officer-Grandson of Angie Svenby

***Please keep our military and
First Responders in your prayers!***

Abby Eifealtd, EMT-Perham

Granddaughter of Gary & Jean Krause

**MISANGA CHURCH
BUILDING WAS OFFICIALLY
OPENED ON 24/11/2024 BY
BISHOP JOEL KARUMA
OF LIVING FAITH
BIBLE CHURCH OF KENYA**



School Newsletter

Happy New Year everyone!

I trust you all had a wonderful Christmas celebration with family and friends.

We are so proud of how well the young people presented our Christmas Program, Carriers of the Light. There were many people who contributed and we are grateful for their assistance.

We are looking for volunteers to assist us each school morning in the gym from 8:00-8:30 am. It is important that our teaching staff have adequate time to prepare for the day, prior to students entering the classrooms.

If your schedule permits and you would like to help us with this, please let Kari or me know. We can build a rotating schedule if we have enough volunteers.

We are working on other areas of the school: playground equipment, school banners, new Facebook page, special activities, etc. 2025 will be an exciting year for FCS!

Blessings,
Mark Kiser

WINTER FUN!



The Nominating Committee will be looking for people to serve in various capacities for the coming year or term.

If you are asked to serve, please prayerfully consider accepting the call.

Our Annual Meeting will take place on

Sunday, February 2, 2025

Followed by a Potluck Dinner and Fellowship.

Also, Committee Chairs, please turn in your annual Reports by January 20th



WE CARE RECEIPTS!

Save your Central Market receipts with the "We Care" stamp.

(RECIPTS MUST NOT BE OVER A YEAR OLD)

FLC collects the receipts and submits them for a 0.5% rebate to help support our youth and school.



Consider taking your recycling to MinnKota Recycling and have proceeds donated to Faith Christian School!

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER: MODERN-DAY MARTYR

BY MICHELLE ADSERIAS—PUBLISHED ON TODAY'S CHRISTIAN LIVING WEBSITE

Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his twin sister, Sabine, were born in 1906 into a large, right-knit family that was well-educated and actively involved in politics but only nominally religious. A true prodigy as a pianist, Bonhoeffer was playing chamber music by the time he was eight years old. Everyone thought he would become a professional musician.

When, at the age of 13, he announced his intentions to become a minister, it caused quite a ruckus at home. His mother, whose father and grandfather were both clergymen, was supportive. Other family members were openly antagonistic. Bonhoeffer was undeterred.

He studied theology at the universities in Berlin and Tübingen before accepting a position as assistant pastor for a German-speaking congregation in Barcelona, Spain. While there, he took a leave of absence to attend Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

In 1931, Bonhoeffer returned to Berlin to teach systematic theology at the University of Berlin. As Adolf Hitler began rising to power, Bonhoeffer recognized the Nazi Party as a threat to Christianity. He had come to understand, while he was in New York, that our faith in God is expressed as we live in relationship with one another so our concern must extend to those who are marginalized – those who did not enjoy the comfortable life Bonhoeffer had always known. Hitler's ideology trampled on marginalized populations and encouraged racism – both things that threatened the unity of the church.

Bonhoeffer was boldly outspoken in his opposition to Hitler's regime. He encouraged believers in Germany to read their Bibles and see the events unfolding through the eyes of biblical truths. "Christianity

deny You" (v.35) Yet after Jesus was arrested and taken to the high priest's Peter failed miserably, but Jesus was willing to forgive and restore him. When Jesus rose from the dead, the first apostle He appeared to was Peter (1 Corinthians 15:3-5). This was His way of saying, "I forgive you." Six weeks later, Peter preached a sermon about the resurrection, and thousands of people came to faith in Jesus Christ.

Your failure doesn't have to be the final word about your life story. This year can become your new beginning. No matter what you have done, God is not only willing. Do you know why God offers to forgive our sins and give us a fresh start? The answer is grace.

Grace has been defined many different ways, but I love this definition: "Grace is God's burst of undeserved generosity." That's the kind of God we serve. One who loves us. One who understands that our mistakes are inevitable, but He also says they are forgivable.

God doesn't stop just with His forgiveness, though. He goes one step further and offers to redeem your mistakes. God is willing to take the worst mistakes you have made and still use them for your good and His glory.

I want you to do something: Raise your right hand and place it over your heart. Do you feel a heartbeat there? The fact that God didn't strike you dead the moment you made that mistake is a sign of His grace. God has given you time not only to receive His forgiveness through Jesus Christ but also to recover from your mistake. And if you turn to Him today, He offers to give you a brand-new beginning.

A new
YEAR

A new
BEGINNING

Dr. Robert Jeffress: The new year can be your new beginning

One Saturday, I was at the airport waiting for my flight number to be called and I decided to stop at the restroom before boarding the plane. While I was washing my hands, a woman walked in. She froze when she saw me and apologized profusely for being in the wrong restroom.

"Don't worry about it," I said, trying to diminish her embarrassment. "It happens to me all of the time." She quickly darted out of there, while I finished drying my hands and straightening my tie.

As I left, for some reason I happened to look back. Posted on the wall next to the entrance was a feminine stick figure and the word "Women" written underneath it. I had been the one in the wrong restroom the whole time!

We all make mistakes, don't we? At the beginning of a new year, we often think about our mistakes and resolve to do things differently. Maybe your mistake involved a disastrous relationship or a poor financial decision. Perhaps you accepted a job offer, but the change proved to be difficult for your family. Or possibly you ignored issues with your health until someone persuaded you to go to the doctor, and you found out it was serious.

As you consider a past mistake, you might be wondering, Can God ever forgive me? Will I have to spend another year regretting that mistake? And most importantly, Can I ever hope to recover?

Unfortunately, life has no rewind button. But God can use even your worst mistakes as tools for greater success in your life. Scripture says that no matter what has happened in your past, you can have a second chance.

The apostle Peter certainly had his share of mistakes. He tried to walk on water, but when he took his eyes off Jesus, he began to sink. When he was in the Garden of Gethsemane with the Lord, he impulsively cut off the ear of the high priest's servant. But the failure for which Peter will always be remembered is his screw up the night before Jesus was crucified.

In Matthew 26, the disciples had just celebrated the Passover with Jesus. When they left the Upper Room, Jesus said to Peter, "This very night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times" (Matthew 26:34). Peter insisted, "I will not

stand or fall with its revolutionary protest against violence, arbitrariness, and pride of power and with its plea for the weak."

In the mid-1930's, Bonhoeffer held a series of five seminaries intended to prepare fellow clergymen for the tumultuous days he saw coming. These Confessing Church seminaries were considered "Illegal" under church law and, in 1937, they were shut down by Heinrich Himmler's decree. As tensions in Germany grew, Bonhoeffer's friends in the United States encouraged him to leave – fearing for his safety. And he did return to the United States for a time. He felt unsettled about his decision, however, and returned to Germany within a few months. He would not make a decision based on his own safety when the well-being of his nation was at stake.



Bonhoeffer was arrested on vague charges in 1943 and imprisoned in Berlin. While there, he wrote Letters and Papers from Prison, an incomplete look at what it means to live out one's faith in the midst of suffering – not one's own, but the suffering of God's people.

In 1944, a final failed attempt on Hitler's life brought implications that Bonhoeffer was somehow involved. Though he had always advocated for justice, he had never endorsed assassination. It didn't matter. He had spoken out against Hitler's evil regime and that was enough. A year later, April 9, 1945, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was marched to the gallows, naked, and hanged. He was 39 years old. His brothers and brother-in-law were all executed the same week. His family and friends were not notified of his death until June.

"Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are."

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

January 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sunday Schedule: 9:30 AM Worship Service *Communion Service is the 1st Sunday of the month. 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:45 AM Sunday School for ALL ages			1 	2	3	4
5 Communion Sunday No Sunday School	6	7	8 FLY 6:45 PM Bible Study 7 PM Kids 4 Christ 7 PM	9 Men's Supper 6 PM Women's Bible Study resumes at 6:30 PM	10	11
12 Deacon's Mtg 10:30 AM	13	14 FCS BOD Mtg 5 15 PM Trustees Mtg 6:30 PM Church Council 7 PM	15 FLY 6:45 PM Bible Study 7 PM Kids 4 Christ 7 PM	16 Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM	17	18
19	20  Inauguration Day Martin Luther King Day	21	22 FLY 6:45 PM Bible Study 7 PM Kids 4 Christ 7 PM	23 Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM	24	25
26	27	28	29 FLY 6:45 PM Bible Study 7 PM Kids 4 Christ 7 PM	30 Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM	31	