

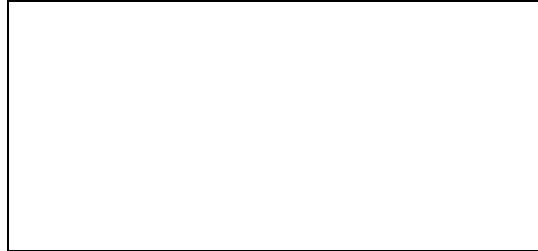
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

6567 Glades Pike
Somerset, PA 15501

www.faithlutheransomerset.org
faith@faithlutheransomerset.org

Sunday Worship 9 am
Sunday Church School 10:30 am

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Faith's Blessings

6567 Glades Pike Somerset PA 15501 • (O) 814-443-3179; Pastor Ben (904) 556-6687

From the Pastor ...

December 2017

Grace and Peace to you, from God the Father Almighty. The Advent Season quickly approaches as we start to wear our winter coats and thick socks. In the midst of preparing for all that is to come, it is always nice to take some time from all the business and just relax a little. I pray that you might be able to find that time in your daily lives, but also that the worship at the church might be a relaxing time during a hectic life. Having a time of peace in your life is not only beneficial to your mental and physical health, it is important for your spiritual health as well. Knowing this to be true, consider finding a time in your schedule to sit still and talk with God. Sometimes it seems strange to talk with someone you cannot see and often do not hear. However, it helps us to remember God's presence with us every day and everywhere we go. It also invites God to be a peaceful presence in our lives not just while we worship. Holding all this I encourage everyone to try this exercise at least twice. First, take a five-minute break out of your day, in the middle of the day. If you are at work see if you can take a five-minute break, if you are at home in the middle of your routine take a break to talk to God. Some of us can have difficulties beginning this conversation, so start by telling God about your day (the way you might to a relative or close friend.) Then ask God the question, what is he planning to do through you today? It is ok to sit in silence for a little while, but during the silence be attentive to where your mind goes after you ask the question. I find that the Lord often speaks to me in this way. It may be the heavens open and the Lord answers you or you simply sit in silence for a time. Regardless of the way in which God interacts with you I have faith that you will find the time rewarding. Don't feel pressure to continue, after the second time trying, if you are uncomfortable with this discipline; but do try to find peace.

Amid looking for peace in our lives I am pleased to announce this year we are offering midweek Advent Services on Wednesdays with *Holden's Evening Prayer*. The sermon series will be focused on light. As we all are coming to terms with the days shortening and the nights getting longer, it is a chance for us to consider the significance of Christ being the light of our lives. All who come will be able to participate in an interactive sermon craft. These will include ornament creation, fire starters, and a small watercolor painting. Those who wish to, will be invited to create their craft while I share the message of the ways in which Christ is like light.

Above all, I pray for all of you that God will bring you peace. The struggles of this world can seem over whelming and there is always another thing to do. Have peace in your heart and soul knowing that there is someone who will always love and appreciate you for just being who you are. Please receive this blessing, "May God be with you always, above you to watch over you, beneath you to carry you, in front of you to lead you, behind you to encourage you, beside to befriend you, and within you to bring you to eternal life." Remember God loves you, and so do I. **Pastor Ben**



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During the month of November the following individuals were lifted in prayer: Family & friends of Ruth Fieg, Jeb Friedline, Dave Bowers, Blanche Hubbard

We also pray for Michael Fonner and Leslie Weed-Fonner, the missionaries we sponsor.

Continue to remember those who are in Harm's Way: Sgt. Sean Blackburn, H.N., David Geary, Zachery Kimmel, Benjamin Meese, Jamie Miller, Maj. Scott Powell, Justin Pugh, Joshua Walker and Clair Weyant.

NOTE THE CHANGE

Bible Study will be taking the months of December and January off. Watch your bulletins and newsletter for the date we will resume.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mary Ann Long	12-2	
Bob Will	12-4	80 yrs
Brenda Walker	12-6	
Elaine Hillegas	12-7	
Jan Fochtman	12-11	
Ruth Williams	12-11	
Andi Mandrick	12-16	
Lakin Friedline	12-17	
Jim Ream	12-18	81 yrs
Macie Shepley	12-18	
Ben Weiss	12-18	
Audrey Walker	12-19	
Bobby Duppsstadt	12-20	
Avery Mandrick	12-22	
Jen Ohler	12-22	
Bob Swank	12-27	81 yrs
Gannon Shepley	12-28	
Gracelyn Friedline	12-31	
Roger Saylor	12-31	

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

George & Ardelle Mason	12-13	
		42 yrs.

Breakfast with Santa

On December 9 from 9 am-11 am, you can have breakfast with Santa at Camp Sequanota. Have your picture taken and make some holiday crafts. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for kids.

2018 Greeter Schedule

	JULY	1	Sandy Pyle & Patti Trent
		8	Jen Ohler & Jane Pugh
		15	Carl & Carol Schrock
		22	Cliff & Louise Spangler
		30	Tomalee Will /Jan Fochtman
JAN.	7		Dave & Audrey Walker
	14		Ryan & Brenda Maust
	21		Tom & Katey Hill
	29		Carl & Carol Schrock
FEB.	4		Bill Bowers Family
	11		Steve & Dawn Will
	18		Mark Friedline Family
	25		Nancy Walker & Tomalee Will
MAR.	4		Tom & Brenda Walker
	11		Cliff & Louise Spangler
	18		Dave & Cindy Miller
	25		Dave & Jane Pugh
APR.	1		early Wendell & Nancy Heil
	9		am Shirley Weimer & Lori Dill
	8		David & Sandy Pyle
	15		Karen Shaffer/Nancy Walker
	22		Donna & Jackie Rhoads
	29		Richard & Darren Walker
MAY	6		Lee & Jean Shaffer
	13		Gary & Jeanetta Shaffer
	20		Herb & Marian Walker
	27		Audrey & Mollie Walker
JUNE	3		Billy & Brock Bowers
	10		Ryan Maust & Jim Rayman
	17		Doug & Laura Miller
	24		Dan & Dawn Walker
	JULY	1	Sandy Pyle & Patti Trent
		8	Jen Ohler & Jane Pugh
		15	Carl & Carol Schrock
		22	Cliff & Louise Spangler
		30	Tomalee Will /Jan Fochtman
	AUG.	5	Bill & Dave Walker
		12	Gene & Elaine Hillegas
		19	Tom & Brenda Walker
		26	Chris Brant Family
	SEPT.	2	Dave & Jane Pugh
		9	Mark Friedline Family
		16	David Pyle & Ken Will
		23	Wendell & Nancy Heil
		30	Bill & Mollie Walker
	OCT.	7	Dave & Cindy Miller
		14	Janet Anderson and Mabel Revello
		21	Keith & Kathy Rhoads
		28	Bill Bowers Family
	NOV.	4	Andi Mandrick & Dee Custer
		11	Richard & Darren Walker
		18	Donna & Jackie Rhoads
		25	Steve & Dawn Will
	DEC.	2	Tresa & Nicole Keller
		9	Brenda Maust & Laura Miller
		16	Dave & Jane Pugh
		23	Gene & Elaine Hillegas
		24	David & Sandy Pyle; Paul & Ruthie Will (C. Eve)
		30	Tom & Brenda Walker

2017 Congregational Statistics**Baptisms**

3-12-17 Lane Gilbert (infant)
 6-11-17 Heath & Nash Shepley (infants)
 Dawn Will (adult)
 Donna Phillippi (adult)
 Matthew Csencsics (child)
 10-8-17 Avery DeWitt (infant)

Funerals

1-13-17 Mollie Swank
 2-18-17 Ron Gross
 4-12-17 Linetta Hamer
 4-22-17 Tom Stouffer, Jr.
 8-9-17 Leo Zerfoss, Sr.
 8-26-17 John Tims
 11-8-17 Ruth Fieg (Pr. Winger)

Marriages **None**

Confirmations

10-29-17 Annalina Brant
 Will Brant
 Matthew Csencsics
 Jeb Friedline
 Zac Friedline
 Nicole Keller
 Jack Loeffert
 Jackalynn Lohr

New Members

Bruce & Karen Schmidt

Transfer out 14 persons (this is as a result of updating our membership roll)

Children's Sunday School

The Children's Sunday School class meets every Sunday throughout the year, with only a few "days" off."

We provide a lesson that usually follows the Narrative Lectionary, as well as kitchen time, crafts and games. "Field trips" may taken outdoors as weather permits. Of course, snack time is a class favorite.

Andi Mandrick is on board as she willingly shares her imagination and artistic flair.

This year the children will be making their own costumes for the Nativity Play to be held on Dec. 24 during worship. Our class is never too big that we can't welcome your child!

WELCA

Women of the ELCA meet the 2nd Monday of the month at 7 pm. Katey Hill & Sandy Pyle lead the group and Mabel Revello is Treasurer. There are 15-20 women at meetings and all women who belong to Faith are members of WELCA.

Some of the activities we sponsor include; Coffee Breaks, Worship Bags, Easter Egg Hunt (stuff eggs,) Mary Ellen's Prayer Chain. At our Christmas Party we reveal our Secret Prayer Partners, select names for the new year and chose an organization to donate to.

Our group definitely enjoys the fellowship when we meet. Can we expect you to join us?

October 12, 2017 Council Minutes

Council met with 7 members and Pastor Ben present. Joeleen Everett provided devotions.

Council Minutes, Treasurer's Report and Pastor's Report were reviewed. Motion made and 2nd for each and approved after one correction to September's Minutes. It was marked that Faith's youth had an activity with Salisbury. It was with Friedens youth.

Committee Reports:

- **Finance** – Tally Sheet reviewed
 - **Social** – the Harvest Social is scheduled for October 28; a confirmation reception will be held with cake provided
 - **Worship** – again using a paper bulletin; Confirmation of 8 confirmands on the October 29 Sunday Service; All Saint's Sunday planned with a candle-lighting; going to use ELW Setting 4 starting November 19th; WELCA will also have their ThankOffering Sunday on the 19th; working on a Blessing of Hunters; Thanksgiving Worship; Midweek Advent and Christmas Worship; Pastor will be on vacation November 20 to November 26
 - **Education** – Nativity play planned for Christmas Eve Sunday Service; December is going to be inter-generational Sunday School that Pastor will teach
 - **Youth** – looking at having a combined activity with Friedens but possibly only Faith's youth will have a lock-in on November 11; all confirmands passed their Christian Education Classes and will be receiving an engraved walking stick
 - **Property** – overflow curtains to be taken down during week of October 20
 - **Mission Team** – talked with President Bill of Mission Builders about a February project
 - **Caring Workers** - taking a winter break after finishing up lap blankets, wheel chair totes, knotted blankets and a quilt for the Camp Sequanota Auction
- Old Business** - curtain removal set for 10/16; parsonage oven also set for 10/16; lock changed for Altar Guild cabinet; LED lights (still waiting on quotes); shelf for Listie Church model progressing; Congregational meeting set for December 10 (items still need done for meeting)

COUNCIL MINUTES (cont. from page 3)**New Business**

Employee Review Committee will be made up of members Carl Schrock, Steve Will and Jeanetta Shaffer; they will meet with each employee to discuss working things, need for improvement items and goals; November Council meeting date is changed to November 16; Portico Insurance-keeping gold status

Good of the Order/Adjournment

Next Council meeting will be held November 16, 2017. Steve Will has devotions. Motion made, 2nd and approved to adjourn; closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Cindy Miller, Council Secretary

Poinsettias for Christmas Eve

Now through December 3, you can order your poinsettia for Christmas Eve. The cost is \$8. Please pay Mabel Revello (check payable to Faith Lutheran) when you sign up. Thank you!

Altar Flowers and Communion Bread

Sign up sheets for 2018 are on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you can help provide either flowers or bread for our worship, please sign up. We appreciate your help.

Christmas Cards, Updated Directories and 2018 Offering Envelopes

These can be picked up from the tables in the overflow in the sanctuary. If you can deliver to a friend, neighbor or shut-in, the office would appreciate your help in distributing these items.

Midweek Advent

Beginning Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 6:45 pm, we will be meeting for midweek Advent Worship. Our theme this year will be "Light" and we once again will be using "*Holden's Evening Prayer*." There will be "activity sermons" so mark your calendars and plan on joining us!

Christmas Caroling

Help us make a "joyful" noise as we gather on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 1 pm to visit our shut-ins and brighten their season with Christmas Carols. They really appreciate seeing us and we hope you will ALL join us!

Christmas Nativity Play

Sunday morning, Dec. 24 during our 9 am worship, the Children's Sunday School will present at Nativity Drama.

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24 at 6:30 pm our Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship begins with special music.

At 7 pm, regular worship with Holy Communion and Candlelighting begins (and battery operated candles will be available for the little ones.)

Join us as we celebrate the Birth of the Christ Child!

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 10, Faith will hold their Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following the 9 am worship.

Items on the agenda include voting on 3 people to fill council; discussion/voting on the 2018 Ministry Proposal; Employee Review Committee Report and an Amendment to the Constitution (see the attached flyer inserted in this newsletter.)

December 2nd Offering

The 2nd offering being collected on Dec. 10 has been designated for Lutheran Disaster Relief.

Our offering will specifically be sent for Hurricane Irma Relief in Florida.

Thank you for helping those affected by the storm try and get back to a normal, everyday life.

"Christmas Memories"

This is the theme of the Laurel Highlands Chorale program. Come reminisce with them on Christmas past.

Sunday, December 3 at 3:30 pm or Monday, December 4 at 7 pm they will be performing at the Somerset Church of the Brethren.

Tickets are available from Jane Pugh or at the door.

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2nd offering is for Lutheran Disaster Relief Hurricane Irma					1	2
3 Advent 1 Worship 9 am Coffee Break SCS 10:30 am	4 Committee Night 7 pm	5	6 Mid-week Advent 6:45 pm Choir follows	7	8	9
10 Advent 2 Worship 9 am 2nd off (Luth. Disaster Relief) Cong. Meeting SCS 10:30 am Shut-in caroling 1 pm	11 WELCA 7 pm	12	13 Mid-week Advent 6:45 pm Choir follows	14 Council 7 pm	15	16
17 Advent 3 Worship 9 am SCS 10:30 am	18	19	20 Mid-week Advent 6:45 pm Choir follows	21	22	23
24 Advent 4 Christmas Eve Worship 9 am Nativity Play SCS 10:30 am Worship 7 pm 31 Christmas 1 Worship 9 am, Baptism; 5th Sun offering SCS 10:30 am	25 Merry Christmas Office closed	26	27 NO choir	28	29	30

**We thank those who are willing to serve
for the month of December:**

December 3

Altar Guild	Mabel & Janet	Acolyte	Brock Bowers
Assisting Minister	Jane Pugh	Reader	Brock Bowers
Greeters	Tresa & Nicole Keller		
Council Person	Joeleen Everett		

December 10

Altar Guild	Karen Shaffer	Acolyte	Nicole Keller
Assisting Minister	Darren Walker	Reader	Tomalee Will
Greeters	Rich & Darren Walker		

December 17

Altar Guild	Mabel & Janet	Acolyte	Will Brant
Assisting Minister	Brenda Maust	Reader	Dave Pugh
Greeters	Wendell & Nancy Heil		

December 24 (9 am)

Altar Guild	Karen Shaffer	Acolyte	Billy Bowers
Assisting Minister	Dave Pugh	Reader	Mabel Revello
Greeters	Gene & Elaine Hillegas		

Christmas Eve

Altar Guild	Everyone	Acolyte	Everyone
Assisting Minister	Brenda Walker	Reader	Jane Pugh
Greeters	David/Sandy Pyle & Paul/Ruthie Will		

December 31

Altar Guild	Mabel & Janet	Acolyte	Annalina Brant
Assisting Minister	Bill Hoffman	Reader	Tom Walker
Greeters	Tom & Brenda Walker		

2018 READER SCHEDULE

JAN. 7	Dave Walker
14	Brenda Maust
21	Katey Hill
28	Tom Walker
FEB. 4	Deanna Bowers
11	Steve Will
18	Mark Friedline
25	Tomalee Will
MAR. 4	Tom Walker
11	Richard Walker
18	Cindy Miller
25	Jane Pugh
APR. 1	Brenda Walker (sunrise)
	Wendell Heil (9 am)
8	Sandy Pyle
15	Audrey Walker
22	Jackie Rhoads
29	Mabel Revello
MAY 6	Brenda Walker
13	Dave Pugh
20	Richard Walker
27	Brock Bowers
JUNE 3	Deanna Bowers
10	Ryan Maust
17	Laura Miller
24	Richard Walker

JULY 1	Sandy Pyle
8	Jane Pugh
15	Andi Mandrick
22	Katey Hill
29	Tomalee Will
AUG. 5	Dave Walker
12	Mabel Revello
19	Tom Walker
26	Annalina Brant
SEPT. 2	Jane Pugh
9	Mark Friedline
16	Mabel Revello
23	Wendell Heil
30	Dave Walker
OCT. 7	Cindy Miller
14	Tom Walker
21	Richard Walker
28	Deanna Bowers
NOV. 4	Andi Mandrick
11	Richard Walker
18	Jackie Rhoads
25	Steve Will
DEC. 2	Brock Bowers
9	Tomalee Will
16	Dave Pugh
23	Mabel Revello
24	Tom Walker (C. Eve)
30	Richard Walker

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2017 TREASURER'S REPORT**

	<u>October</u>	2017 <u>Totals</u>	Previous <u>Year</u>
<u>INCOME</u>			
Current	9,779.16	95,120.93	9,216.75
Benevolence	1,473.75	13,949.55	1,069.00
Missionary Support	215.00	2,065.00	172.00
Building/Maint.	678.00	7,418.00	809.00
Misc. In/Out	<u>713.92</u>	<u>4,816.03</u>	<u>631.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	12,859.83	123,369.51	11,897.75
 <u>EXPENSES</u>			
Total Ministries	164.10	3,807.14	9,550.00
<u>Operating</u>	2,243.39	11,478.88	18,000.00
<u>Payroll</u>			
Taxes	<u>138.26</u>	<u>1,584.44</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total Payroll	7,725.52	73,811.55	93,186.88
<u>Outreach</u>			
Benevolence	376.00	5101.00	9,000.00
World Hunger	20.00	400.00	0.00
Missionary Support	135.00	2,230.00	2,000.00
2nd Offering	216.30	3,115.55	0.00
Other	301.00	6,231.96	2,850.00
Food Pantry	0.00	100.00	0.00
Chamber Dues	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>
Total Outreach	1,048.30	17,178.51	14,000.00
<u>Maintenance</u>	1,215.00	15,458.25	19,000.00
<u>Mem. Fund Purch.</u>	92.19	92.19	0.00
<u>Misc. In/Out</u>	0.00	3,890.38	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>12,488.50</u>	<u>125,779.90</u>	<u>153,736.88</u>
 <u>ASSETS</u>			
General Checking			\$6,281.84
Savings (Pastors Disc. Fund)			\$1,236.89
Somerset Trust CD (60 mo.)			\$5,000.00
Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund			\$16,845.80
FNB CD (9 mo. Flex)			\$568.83
Memorial Funds			\$10,347.88
Camp Scholarship CD			\$6,410.40
Funeral Meals			\$861.74
Mission Team			\$1,266.45