

Faith's Blessings

Faith Lutheran Church

6567 Glades Pike

Somerset PA 15501

(814) 443-3179

(814) 483-3097 Pastor Kathy

December 2021

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

It is that time of year when hints of vanilla, ginger, cinnamon, and chocolate – the fragrances of Christmas baking – weave their way through our homes, tempting our taste buds and evoking fond memories of family traditions, loved ones and Christmases past. My sister, Nancy, and sisters-in-law, Sandy and Diane, are THE bakers of our family...starting weeks, even months before – mixing, rolling, dolloping, and icing an array of family favorites. The recipes have been gathered over the years from co-workers, neighbors, and friends – not to mention those time-honored ones from our aunts, moms and grandmothers.



This year we find ourselves orphans as our aunts, our moms and our grandmothers have entered the Church Triumphant, leaving us with legacies of their love, their faith and their treasured recipes. Each of them had found great joy in baking and giving their goodies away, little bundles of love wrapped in aluminum foil and Saran Wrap; I believe they were blessed in the giving as much, if not more, than those who received their homemade gifts.

We have discovered, however, that some of the family recipes are not quite exact, their having baked them for so many years they “just knew” what and how much to make the cookies just as we remembered them year after year....so we have had to “guesstimate” some of our measurements. My sister-in-law, Sandy, messaged me a couple months ago asking about mom’s gob recipe – she just couldn’t get hers to turn out like my mom’s – and, I shared with her that, I, too, had been unable to

duplicate her results. We decided that, perhaps, she might have forgotten to write something down – or – she may have kept one of the ingredients a secret! Now, I know from making some inquiries around the fellowship tables here at Faith that there are many recipes like mom's that are kept secret – shared with family members only - to be passed to the next generation – but not until the time is just right.

As we approach Christmas, I am reminded that the birth of Jesus, the main ingredient in the recipe for our salvation, was anything but secret; God wanted this good news to be known in every nook and cranny of the world. An angel came to share the good news to Mary and then to Joseph; King Herod heard it through the grapevine; shepherds and kings were drawn to it by a shining star and a choir of angels...all shared the news that there would be a new, born king.

The birth of Christ was the good news meant for everyone; a message of grace, love, and hope bursting to be proclaimed. Unlike those closely-held, secret ingredients and recipes, God's love could not be kept secret. God's desire to be in relationship with us...for us to know God's abounding love...God's abundant grace... was revealed to us in Jesus Christ...the Word made flesh for the love of all humanity.

Throughout Advent and Christmas, I invite you to share this good news – don't keep it a secret...the time is right, now. The people of the world need to hear that God cares about them...loves them – that's our family recipe! Things seem like they are so upside down right now, I believe we all need that reassurance. Let us open our hearts to embrace the good news of a love that has no end and share it! Welcome, invite, gather and join in the many ways we serve Christ and community here at Faith.

May this Christmas season be a time in which we might lift our voices boldly and gladly as we sing "Joy to the World!" ... and

May the joys and blessings of Christmas be with you and your families,

In grace and peace, and with much love,

Pastor Kathy +

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, December 12, Immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect (3) new Council members, and to review and vote on the 2022 Ministry Proposal. Information packets will be available on the table in the narthex. Hope to see you at the meeting.



During the month of November, we lifted the following persons in prayer: Family and Friends of Calvin Walker, Steve Watkins, Mike Kristoff, Sara Triebe and Lou Malnofski.

Carl Schrock, Mary Ann Long, Roger Saylor, Darlene Zerfoss, Bill Revello, Jack Loeffert, Marian Walker, Paul Simmons, Elaine Hillegas, Esther Malnofski, Carol Kemerer, Ann Friedline Kerr and Jansen Miller for strength, comfort and healing.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care visits are a means of bringing the presence of Jesus Christ into the lives of our community of Faith at times of acute illness, pending surgery, long-term care and rehabilitation of care, as well as hospice care. We rely on family members, friends, and neighbors to let the church staff know when someone is in a hospital or other facility; please call the church office 814-443-3179 and provide the name of the individual, name of hospital or care facility, and room number if known; and it is also helpful to give time/date of surgery. After office hours you may call Pastor Kathy directly at 814-483-3097.

Thank you,
Pastor Kathy

December Second Offering

The second offering for December, is designated for the Pastor's Discretionary fund will be collected Dec. 12.

These donations will help many in our congregation and our friends and neighbors in need. Thanks!

Annual Christmas Dinner

The annual Christmas Dinner is scheduled for December 13th at 6pm at King's Family Restaurant. Dinner for you and your spouse/guest is at your own cost. Hope to see you there.

Caring Workers

The group will be taking the months of December and January off. Watch your bulletin for the date when they will return.

PAVILION FUNDRAISER

Raffle tickets are on sale. Tickets will be for a DOUBLE DRAWING on December 18th. The prize includes \$250 cash and a \$250 gift certificate, two winners will be drawn. Cost of each ticket is \$10. See any member of council to get your ticket or to get some tickets to sell.

Laurel Highlands Chorale Concert

The Chorale will present songs to ring in the season on Sunday, December 5th at 3:30pm and Monday December 6th at 7pm at Somerset Church of the Brethren, Somerset. Admission is \$5 and is payable at the door. This is a great opportunity to hear the local talent and enjoy music of the holiday season.

CELEBRATING IN DECEMBER

*Happy
Birthday!*

Mary Ann Long.	Dec. 2
Michael Lensbouer	Dec. 5
Brenda Walker	Dec. 6
Elaine Hillegas	Dec. 7
Loni Nist	Dec. 10
Cheryl Cramer	Dec. 14
Adam Latuch	Dec. 15
Lakin Friedline	Dec. 17
Brittany Flick	Dec. 18
James Ream	Dec. 18
Richard Golby	Dec. 19
Robert Duppstadt Jr	Dec. 20
Katelynn Smeak	Dec. 20
Jenny Ohler	Dec. 22
Joshua Walker	Dec. 26
Robert Swank	Dec. 27
Allen Stump	Dec. 28
Halley Friedline	Dec. 30
Gracelyn Friedline	Dec. 31

Debbie Heiple	Dec. 5
Andrew Maust	Dec. 6
Will Brendle	Dec. 7
Jeffery Snyder	Dec. 9
Janora Fochtman	Dec. 11
Carol Kemerer	Dec. 15
Steven Latuch	Dec. 15
Benjamyn Domer	Dec. 18
Anna Lane	Dec. 18
Macie Shepley	Dec. 18
Karina Lee	Dec. 19
Tyler Fochtman	Dec. 20
Mark Cober	Dec. 22
Donald Weyant	Dec. 22
Becky Heiple	Dec. 27
Gannon Shepley	Dec. 28
Brexton Weyant	Dec. 28
Clair Weyant	Dec. 30
Roger Saylor	Dec. 31

Happy Anniversary!

Michael & Beth Lane	Dec. 6	24 years
George & Edith Lensbouer Jr.	Dec. 11	10 years

Mark your calendars ...

Wednesday, **Dec. 1**, "HeBrews" bible study will resume at 10:30 am.

Sunday, **Dec. 5**, 'Donut' Sunday, Christmas Gift bag assembly for the local nursing facilities after service. 2:00pm Movie Matinee "It's A Wonderful Life" . All are welcome.

Wednesday, **Dec. 8th and 15th**, Midweek Advent Services at 7:00pm.

Saturday, **Dec. 11**, Reindeer Games for children and teens at 10am.

Sunday, **Dec. 12**, 2nd Sunday Offering Discretionary Fund, Blessing of the Christmas packages for the nursing facilities, **Congregational Meeting following worship.**

Monday, **Dec. 13**, Faith's Christmas Dinner 6:00pm. King's Family Restaurant, Somerset . All are invited.

Sunday, **Dec. 19**, Christmas Pageant "Camelot"

Friday, **Dec. 24**, Christmas Services at 1:30pm and 6:30pm. Both with Holy Communion



"Make A Joyful Noise"

To all our members, children, teens and adults, we invite you to sign up to go caroling and bring a little bit of "Faith" and Christmas to our homebound members for the holidays. If you can help "make a joyful noise" or help with transportation as we will need drivers, watch upcoming bulletin announcement for date and time. There will be a sign-up sheet posted for singers and drivers.



December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Choir Practice 6:30 HeBrews Bible Study 10:30am	2	3	4
5 Advent 2 Worship 9 am SCS 10:30 Donut Sunday Pack Nursing Home Gifts Movie Matinee 2pm	6	7	8	9 HeBrews Bible Study 10:30am Council 7pm	10	11 Reindeer Games 10am
12 Advent 3 Worship 9 am 2nd off (Pr. Dis. Fund) <u>Congregational</u> <u>Meeting</u> SCS 10:30	13 Christmas Dinner at King's 6pm	14	15 Choir Practice 6:30	16 HeBrews Bible Study 10:30am	17	18 Pageant Practice
19 Advent 4 Worship 9 am Christmas Pageant "Camelot" SCS 10:30 am	20	21	22	23	24 <u>Christmas</u> <u>Eve Worship</u> 1:30pm with Holy Communion 6:30pm with Holy Communion and Special Music	25 Merry Christmas!
26 Worship 9 am SCS 10:30 am	27	28	29 Choir Practice 6:30	30 Second Offering is for Pastor's Discretionary Fund	31	

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

December 5

Altar Guild	Karen/Elaine Hillegas	Reader	Steve Will
Assisting Minister	Bill Hoffman	Acolyte	Will Brant
Council Person	Carl Schrock ?		

December 12

Altar Guild	Brenda Maust	Reader	Cindy Miller
Assisting Minister	Annalina Brant	Acolyte	Jack Loeffert

December 19

Altar Guild	Karen/Elaine Hillegas	Reader	Sandy Pyle
Assisting Minister	Darren Walker	Acolyte	Kolton George

December 24– Christmas Eve

Altar Guild	Everyone	Reader	Jane Pugh
Assisting Minister	Brenda Maust	Acolyte	Annalina Brant

December 26

Alter Guild	Brenda Maust	Reader	Annalina Brant
Assisting Minister	Will Brant	Acolyte	Brock Bowers

**Please remember that if you cannot be here and have
a “job”, find a replacement!**



*As we gather together
with family and friends to celebrate the season,
the sights and sounds that fill the air remind us of the reason:
The greatest gift, sent from heaven above,
found sleeping in a manger.*

*With thankful hearts let us come together in joy and thanksgiving,
celebrating that night of nights...
when angels sang
shepherds gathered
and Kings set off from afar with gifts of love and adoration*

**This year we offer two opportunities for worship:
A candlelight afternoon service with Holy Communion
will begin at 1:30 p.m.**

**A candlelight evening service with Holy Communion and children's
message will begin at 6:30 p.m. with special music.**

**Please join us and start your Christmas festivities celebrating the
coming of the Christ child, our Lord and Savior!
All are welcome!**

**Wishing you and yours a Joyous Christmas filled with the love and
hope that is found in Jesus Christ,
Rev. Kathleen Stump
Faith Lutheran Church
6567 Glades Pike Road, Somerset PA 15501
Phone: (814) 443-3179**

*"The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
in hopes that Children's Aid
would not despair!"*



Please join us in giving the gift of comfort and
warmth as we collect
white socks
for the youth in our area,
ages 12-18.

You may drop off your donations at the back of the
sanctuary
– there are red stockings there to fill....
“hung by the chimney with care”
at Faith's “fireplace” in the Sanctuary
through Christmas.



That's right!!!! It's **THAT** day –

the Children's Christmas Pageant!!!!

Children of all ages, teens, and adults who are children
at heart, present....

wait for it.... Yes!

“Camelot”

Get it? “Camel-ot”? J

It's going to be a “hump”-dinger of a morning so be sure
to join us at worship on

Sunday, December 19th

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregation meeting will be held on Sunday, December 12th at 10:30 A.M. in the sanctuary. The agenda for the meeting is the approval of the 2022 Budget, election of council members, and recommended updates to the church constitution. A copy of the Council's recommended budget, together with the two updates to the constitution will be included in the December newsletter. All confirmed members of the church are asked to be present.



FAITH LUTHERAN'S CHURCH COUNCIL of 2021

President, Carl Schrock
Vice President, Steve Will
Secretary, Sandy Pyle
Gene Hillegas
Jim Long
Dave Miller
Karen Shaffer
Joe Swank
Patti Trent

Thank you for all you have done throughout 2021!

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP and MOVIE MATINEE “IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE!”

I love baking cookies, putting up the tree and setting out the Nativity scene with Christmas music playing in the background. It is a beautiful season for giving and a time to gather with family and celebrate the birth of Jesus. AND...Christmas comes with great Christmas movies! There are many great films, from the warm and fuzzy Hallmark movies to yet another edition of *A Christmas Carol*. ***It's A Wonderful Life*** continues to be a classic year after year. Made in 1946, *It's a Wonderful Life* is a poignant reminder that **we do matter** and that our lives have tremendous impact... and what better way to affirm the blessings of God in and through us but during Advent...a time of waiting during the busiest season of the year.

Join us on December 5th at 2:00 p.m. for the movie matinee and then each Wednesday, beginning December 8th at 6:30, for worship with Holy Communion...a time to embrace what matters most and reflect on the tiny blessings of life.





Youth in Action
Doing God's Work with Our Hands
In Fellowship and Fun

“REINDEER GAMES!”

Saturday, December 11th

10 a.m - 1 p.m.

Christmas is coming, Santa's loading the sleigh...
Yes, he will be here today!
And the reindeer are inviting you to come out and play!
We'll do crafts, play games and be silly...
We'll sing songs, have lunch and hot cocoa cause you know it will be chilly!
Your parents and grandparents don't need to pout
cause while we're having fun,
they can have a day out!

So my DEERS of all ages, please make a note to come join us on
Saturday, December 11th, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
at Faith Lutheran Church...
and bring a DEER friend with you to share in the fun.

There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby at church
or just give us a jingle at 443-3179 and let us know you'll be here!



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

6567 Glades Pike
Somerset, PA 15501

Reverend Kathleen Stump

www.faithlutheransomerset.org
faith@faithlutheransomerset.org

Sunday Worship 9 am
Sunday Church School 10:30 am

