

# Faith's Blessings

Faith Lutheran Church

6567 Glades Pike

Somerset PA 15501

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January 2020



“FAITH”

A couple weeks ago Faith hosted a group of 14 teen confirmands from area Lutheran churches who are just beginning or in the midst of preparing for confirmation. Our conversations focused on Christian identity – who we are, how we would like to be seen, how other people see us and how God sees us. Our conversations were engaging and enlightening and, I believe them to be conversations which we, as Christians, should continue to engage in, amongst ourselves, as well as others, no matter our age...age, after all, is just a number.

An individual's identity is often shaped by that person's faith traditions and the diversity of the religious landscape in which they have lived. During my pastoral clinical assignment at Hershey Medical Center, I witnessed this firsthand. I met people whose religious convictions kept them separated from the secular world in which they lived, some whose faith traditions required specific rites, and some people who denied a faith tradition who found comfort and consolation through different channels of support such as family and music.

Understanding and engaging with a diverse community... understanding and engaging with friends, family and neighbors... requires an understanding of one's own faith and an openness for learning and appreciating the differences and similarities of faith traditions. The key theological principals that inform my understanding of and engagement for other religious and non-religious traditions include:

**God as Creator** - God created us, our physical bodies, senses, emotions, intellect and reasoning. Everything that we have is a gift from God. God's daily blessings provide us with everything that we need to sustain our life – other human beings, animals, food, clothing, shelter, nature. God's daily blessings provide all that is required to sustain the universe – water, light, air. I believe science is an integral part of understanding creation. In understanding and engaging with others, I have come to learn that there is a universal understanding that a “power” beyond our humanity brought us into being is a common thread of perceived beliefs.

**Christ-Centeredness** - Jesus Christ, the only son of God, has two natures – divine and human. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born into humanity. It is through Jesus' life that we know God's love in our daily lives and it is through Jesus's life that we know of God's desire to be in relationship with us – providing us everything we need, abundantly, and forgiving us of our sins. Jesus does everything that he can so that we are in right relationship with God. It is in Jesus' death, his faith in God, and in Jesus' resurrection that we realize forgiveness and have hope for salvation. The spectrum of belief and non-belief related to Jesus is very broad, there being some who do not see Jesus as our Savior, some who see him as a prophet and some who believe he was a man, just like any other. Even though these perspectives and beliefs contrast starkly with my faith, I respect their understanding and reasoning hoping that they will respect my belief. I believe that having questions about one another's faith and understanding can provide mutual respect, understanding and open one's heart to God for a deeper understanding of one's own faith as well.

**Justification by Faith Alone** - We are justified by faith alone; there is nothing we can do to merit salvation. The forgiveness of sins is gifted to us when we have faith and believe that they are forgiven because of Christ's obedience to God. The role of good works, as viewed through the Lutheran lens, is not a means for attaining favor and forgiveness from God. The role of good works manifests itself as an expression of Christian love, love for God and love for neighbor, in response to God's abounding gift of grace. I understand that some religious traditions hold good works as a means of forgiveness. I respect this understanding in that I believe good works are important, even vital, in addressing the needs of our global community while also forming and maintaining relationships. Caring for one another and the world benefits everyone.

What are the key theological principals that inform your understanding of and engagement for other religious and non-religious traditions?

If you have never taken the opportunity to visit the ELCA churchwide website (<https://www.elca.org>), I invite you to do so as it is an invaluable source of information not only for those who want to know what ELCA Lutherans believe, but also as an affirmation of faith for us. It is from here, I share with you “Faith”:

“Faith convictions expressed as statements of belief flow from this confident trust in God. We share in the faith expressed in the Apostles', Nicene and Athanasian Creeds, in the Lutheran confessional writings, and in the ELCA Confession of Faith.

At the same time faith does not close our minds to the world and our hearts to others. We continue to listen to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. We listen to the witness of others and we watch for the ways God is active in the world around us. Faith opens a place for engaging others in conversation, for seeking the truth, for asking questions and speaking love in word and deed.

Faith is a full life, liberated for a living, daring confidence in God's grace."

As we step forward into this new year, let us do so with renewed confidence and, as Paul notes in his letter to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 5:7), "walk by faith", serving Christ and community with the abounding love and grace gifted to us by God, exemplified by Christ, our Savior and Lord.

In grace and peace,  
Pastor Kathy

Faith Lutheran Church,

I would like to take this time to thank all of you for the love and support you have given me throughout the years. I very much appreciate it. You have all made a huge impact on my life, and I am so grateful that I was given the opportunity to be the pianist here for the last 11 years.

It has been a hard decision, but I will be resigning at the end of January. Thank you all for taking me in as part of your church family. It has been a pleasure to worship with you.

With love and thanks,  
Hannah Humbert

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

## “FAITH” in the Snow!

**Sunday, January 26th - 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.**

CHILDREN & YOUTH OF ALL AGES....  
FRIENDS welcome too!

There's "snow" place like Faith  
where Jesus is “cool”!  
Sooo... put on your mittens and your gloves and join us for snow-themed learning  
about faith including games, crafts and fellowship!  
Yes, supper too!

There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby  
or just give us a call at 443-3179 and let us “snow” you'll be here!

Frosty or not, looking forward to seeing you!





## WHO IS MARTIN LUTHER?

Our next confirmation gathering for youth preparing for confirmation, as well as those who are confirmed, grades 6-11, is set for  
Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>  
from 5:30 – 7:30.

St. Luke's in Rockwood will be hosting.

Our conversations will focus on Martin Luther, who he was, what he did and how the world changed because of it....

“Nail it” to your calendars and plan to attend this required evening of learning, fellowship, food and fun!

Sign up in the lobby, contact Pastor Kathy at [pastorkathystump@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkathystump@gmail.com) or call the church office 443-3179 so we can plan on your being there.

## Snow Camp 2020

All youth from 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend Snow Camp at Sequanota. The dates are Friday, January 31-Sunday, February 2. The theme is “Saints and Sinners.”

Games, crafts, food, sledding, worship, learning are just some of the things on the schedule. We will be staying in the camp's winterized cabins!

Let Pr. Kathy know if you will be attending and then register online at [www.sequanota.com](http://www.sequanota.com).

Space is limited, and registration is open from Dec. 15-Jan. 20!

Lots of fun activities and fellowship are planned and we hope to see as many youth from Faith who are eligible attend!





## Listen God is Calling

By Tomalee Will

With our brain we can think of how God put us in a link.  
With our eyes we can see how God has united us here with thee.  
With our ears we have a plan to hear Jesus' stories and expand them.  
With our mouth we can say we love our Lord Jesus every day.  
With our heart our love is shared giving to others as we prepare.  
Our hands reach out to those we love for all the glory from above.  
Our knees will bow in constant prayer knowing that Jesus is always there.  
With our feet we will walk his path, hoping someday it would be neat if  
Jesus came and washed our feet.

## Holy Women's Christmas Tea



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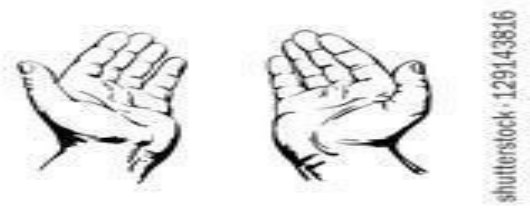
On Saturday, January 4 at 2:30 pm, the women of Faith are invited to a Holy Women's Christmas Tea at Sequanota Camp and Conference Center. The event will support the spring Women's Retreat this year. Individuals can sponsor a tea table and bring 5 other women with them. Or, you can simply come and find a place at a table and join others. Each seat is \$20. Thus, the cost to fill a six-person table with friends and family is \$120. All are welcome to pause for this tea party as the Christmas season comes to a close. Reservations are helpful. Please contact Sequanota at 629-6627 or [contact@sequanota.com](mailto:contact@sequanota.com) for registration information.

## Canned Goods Challenge

Are you a die-hard Penguins or Steeler fan? From January 1 through February 9, you can "vote" for your favorite team by donating canned goods and non-perishable food items that will be given to the Salvation Army Food Pantry.

Simply bring your donations and place them on the appropriate team table. You can most certainly donate more than once!

When the need is the greatest over the holiday season for assistance, let's help re-stock the shelves at this food pantry.



During the month of December we lifted the following persons in prayer:

Zachery Reed, Logan Henry, Ron Fitzpatrick, Rhonda Zeigler, Jay Anderson

### **Altar Flowers and Communion Bread**

Sign-up sheets have been posted if you can provide flowers or bread for our worship.

Flowers can be purchased through the florist or you can provide your own.

Thank you for helping with this part of our worship service.

### **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 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.

Thank you,  
Pastor Kathy

### **Caring Workers**

The group will be taking the month of January off. Watch your bulletin for the date they will return in the new year.

### **January 2nd Offering**

The second offering, being collected on January 12, has been designated for the Somerset Mobile Food Bank. They provide free food distribution with a monthly supply of fresh produce and other items to those in Somerset County who lack or have limited transportation.

The distribution is run by volunteers and your donation will help with expenses they incur providing this outreach.

### **Congregational Meeting Update**

At the Congregational Meeting on Dec. 8, the following were elected to serve a 3 year term on council, Gene Hillegas, Sandy Pyle and Jim Long.

The 2020 Ministry Proposal was voted on and also approved.

### **Installation of new Council Members**

All council members, those going off and those newly elected members are asked to attend worship on January 5 for your installation.

Thank You!

### **Old Christmas Cards**

When Christmas is over, don't throw away your cards. The youth will be using them for a project.

A box will be placed in the narthex for you to donate them. Thanks!

## Our Offering Envelopes at a Glance

We thought it might be helpful to explain the lines on our offering envelopes and share with you some information that may have been forgotten or you are not familiar with.

The first line is labeled **Current**. When your offering is listed on this line, your money is spent on bill payments, payroll, purchase of supplies and other expenses.

The second line is labeled **Benevolence**. This money is sent to the Allegheny Synod and is disbursed according to their guidelines.

The third line is labeled **Building/Maintenance**. This money is deposited and used for any repairs, supplies and any maintenance needed to our buildings.

The fourth line is labeled **Missionary Fund**. This money is specifically designated and is sent to the missionaries we have a covenant with. Currently it is Viking Deitrich.

The fifth line is labeled **Other**. This is where you can indicate any "cause" you wish to support with your offering ... World Hunger, 2nd offering, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, children & youth ministry, Mission Team, any organization in the community (Food Pantries, Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, etc.)

If at anytime you have questions, please contact the office and we will help you if we can!



## January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	2nd offering is for Somerset Mobile Food Bank		<b>1</b> Office Closed  <b>Pastor</b>	<b>2</b> Office Closed  <b>Kathy</b>	<b>3</b>  <b>on</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>Vacation</b>
<b>5</b> Worship 9 am; Hymn Sing Installation of Council Members Coffee Break SCS 10:30 am	<b>6</b> Committee Night 7 pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Choir 7 pm	<b>9</b> Council 7 pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Worship 9 am 2nd offering SCS 10:30 am	<b>13</b> WELCA 7 pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Choir 7 pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Worship 9 am SCS 10:30 am  Confirmation Gathering 5:30 pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Choir 7 pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Worship 9 am Anointing for Healing SCS 10:30 am  Youth in Action "FAITH" in the snow 4-6 pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Snow Camp begins	

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

**January 5**

Altar Guild	Donna & Jackie	Reader	Jackie Rhoads
Assisting Minister	Brenda Maust	Greeters	Jeanetta Shaffer & Jan Fochtman
Council Person	Dave Miller		

**January 12**

Altar Guild	Patti/Karen Schmidt	Reader	Patti Trent
Assisting Minister	Bill Hoffman	Greeters	David & Sandy Pyle

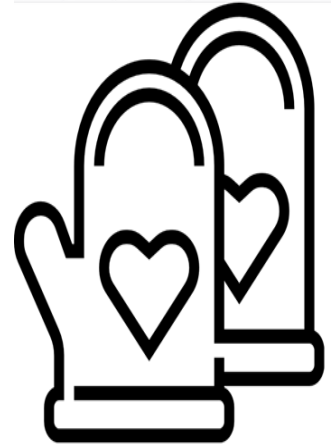
**January 19**

Altar Guild	Donna & Jackie	Reader	Karen Schmidt
Assisting Minister	Allen Stump	Greeters	Karen Schmidt & Ron Fitzpatrick

**January 26**

Altar Guild	Patti & Karen	Reader	Tomalee Will
Assisting Minister	Darren Walker	Greeters	Carl & Carol Schrock

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



**Please join us in giving the gift of warmth to children and youth in our area by donating new mittens, gloves, scarves and hats. All donations will be placed on Faith's Mitten Tree until January 12.**

### **WE GIVE THANKS TO...**

- All who helped prepare and decorate the church for Advent and Christmas.
- All who helped in hosting the rostered leaders of the Laurel Highlands Conference.
- Our youth in action who "Shared A Pizza You" making gloved "snowmen" for Faith's mitten tree
- The children, youth and "children at heart" who shared their gifts in the "Making it Joyful" Christmas pageant.
- The "reindeer" who prepared for and played "reindeer games" with our youth in action while parents and grandparents prepared for the upcoming holidays.
- Hannah Humbert, our pianist, for sharing her gifts with us.
- Rick, Faith's sexton, for all he does in help making our campus welcoming.
- Newly-elected council members – Sandy Pyle, Gene Hillegas, and Jim Long – for saying "yes"!
- Ken Will, Tomalee Will and Katey Hill, as they leave council –your leadership gifts have been greatly appreciated.
- Caring Works and WELCA – who made and provided Christmas gifts for our homebound and veterans – bridging fellowship and love.

We give Thanks to God-for all these gifts-  
shared in serving Christ and the community  
in community with one another.

# **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

6567 Glades Pike

Somerset, PA 15501

[www.faithlutheransomerset.org](http://www.faithlutheransomerset.org)

[faith@faithlutheransomerset.org](mailto:faith@faithlutheransomerset.org)

Sunday Worship 9 am

Sunday Church School 10:30 am

