

Faith's Blessings

Faith Lutheran Church

6567 Glades Pike

Somerset PA 15501

(814) 443-3179

(814) 483-3097 Pastor Kathy

May 2021

Holy Baptism - The Joy of Adoption into the Church

“Baptisma”, Greek for “baptism”, means “ceremonial washing, immersion”. This is a simplistic definition as baptism is more than a “ceremonial washing” or taking a Saturday night bath as it cleans us on the outside and it cleans us on the inside: The water and Word of baptism is God’s loving promise of forgiveness; it cleanses us of sin, it changes us; it makes us new. Baptism unites us to the body of Christ – his death and resurrection. The burden of sin is gone, our conscience is cleared and we are given a fresh start; it “saves us” (1 Peter 3:18-22). “Our old selves are dead; we are now alive in God in Jesus Christ” (Romans 6:11). Baptism is a sacrament, a divine gift from God. It is water and Word through which the Holy Spirit works; it is a means of grace.

In baptism, God’s love designates us as children of God, bestows upon us God’s Spirit, and sets us free to do whatever God calls us to do, enjoining us to Christ’s mission to love and serve one another. It is often associated as the sacrament which is bestowed upon infants, however, in the tradition of the early Church, baptism was an adult rite of initiation into the Church. It was preceded by requisite study which could last a year or more which culminated at the Easter Vigil when the adults were stripped of their clothing, fully immersed in water, fully anointed with oil, and then robed in white. Infant baptism did not become a common practice until the early Middle Ages. Today, the baptism of infants has become the norm. Infant and adult baptisms, however, are equally grounded on the same themes. “We baptize adults as if they were infants, washing them and clothing them with God’s love in Christ”.

Baptism is a vocation of a life in Christ, a call heard in the midst of daily life. “Jesus had a purpose in mind in seeking out John the Baptist. He wanted to be baptized by him”. (Matthew 3:13) Just as Jesus sought out John to be baptized, adult baptizands seek the Lord. The baptizand goes through “a process” of discovery in which the baptizand asks questions, prays, worships, reflects, accepts, and denies all that goes against God. It is a process which goes beyond the realm of a few classes with the pastor, it is “an apprenticeship in the faith”. It is a journey in which the baptizand builds relationship, relationships with the church community and a relationship with God. It is a process that embodies a life in Christ each and every day. Martin Luther wrote:

“We are not yet what we shall be,
but we are growing toward it,
the process is not yet finished
but it is going on,
this is not the end,
but it is the road.
All does not yet gleam in glory,
but all is being purified.”

Baptism “joins the baptized to the mission of Christ”. It is God’s outward sign which designates the child and adult as God’s child. It is a communal act with baptized members. “Every Baptism celebrated in the assembly is an occasion for the remembrance and renewal of baptism on the part of all the baptized”.

In his reflections and “digging into” scripture, our brother in Christ, Wendell Heil, has blessed us with further insights for additional reading:

In an adoption, there are usually a lot of “background investigations” to be researched and verified. This is to help decide the very best combination for the persons involved in the adoption. The hope is that these people will be loving, caring, and responsible for each other. In our Lutheran Church this adoption is referred to as “Holy Baptism.” In this Sacrament, participants are adopted into the most loving, caring, and responsible family known as “The Triune Family”; The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. To be baptized into this family, by Water and the Word, the baptized become brothers/sisters to this family and a member of Faith Lutheran Church. Why should we do this? Because God commands that we should do this. It is commanded; there is an earthly element used; and there is a promise of Eternal Life. The Triune Family will provide us with heavenly and earthly assistance as we encounter the forces of evil in our daily journey.

The Lutheran Book of Concord is an excellent source of information on baptism. The following will give you the gifts of and the result of baptism.

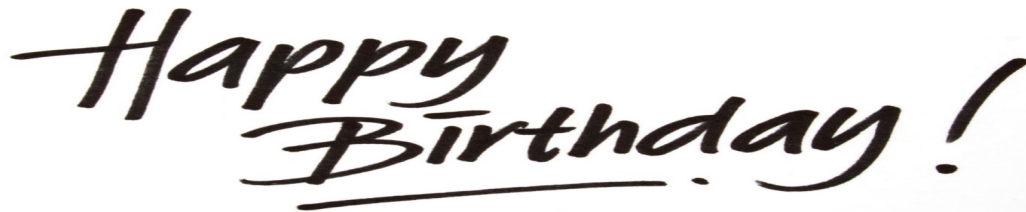
- Baptism lasts forever; Pg. 466, line 69
- It is a washing or regeneration; Pg. 359, line 10 and Pg. 460, line 27
- New birth; Pg. 375; line 30
- Makes one completely Holy and Blessed; Pg. 462, line 46
- For the commandment to be baptized, go to St. Matthew 28:19,20

Adults, children and grandchildren are adopted into the church and our community of faith through baptism. If you or your spouse, your children or grandchildren are not yet baptized, I invite you and/or your family to prayerfully discern this wonderful gift, God's outward sign of love. All are welcome!

In the grace and peace borne of the Risen Christ,
Pastor Kathy



CELEBRATING IN MAY



Happy Birthday!

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Steve Matolyak | May 4 |
| Karen Shaffer | May 7 |
| Zac Friedline | May 8 |
| Gene Hillegas | May 8 |
| Desiree Everett | May 13 |
| Ricky Saylor | May 16 |

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| Darren Walker | May 21 |
| Denny Rhoads | May 23 |
| Logan Gilbert | May 24 |
| Landon Gilbert | May 30 |
| Brenda Maust | May 30 |
| Butch Dill | May 31 |

Happy Anniversary!

| |
|-------------------------|
| Karen & Gary Shaffer |
| Brenda & Ryan Maust |
| Joeleen & Brian Everett |
| Mary & Don Snyder |
| Gennette & Joe Swank |
| Sami & Joe Swank |

| |
|--------|
| May 7 |
| May 16 |
| May 18 |
| May 22 |
| May 24 |
| May 26 |

| |
|----------------|
| 6 yrs. |
| 40 yrs. |
| 36 yrs. |
| 50 yrs. |
| 24 yrs. |
| 2 yrs. |



During the month of April, we lifted the following persons in prayer:

Charles Burk, Betty Simmons, Larry Rhoads, Ray Flowers, Levi Friedline, family and friends of Emmett Barron, David Miller

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

Reminders ...

Please keep in mind that in-person worship and all activities are dependent on the status of CDC and ELCA guidelines during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

If you are unable to attend in-person worship, the service is available on our Facebook page or the church website.

May Second Offering

The second offering for May, which will be collected May 9, has been designated for Faith's Relay for Life team.

Relay for Life teams raise money for the American Cancer Society. Thank you for your donation!

Sequanota Events

May 7-9 Service & Sabbath

Spend a weekend at Sequanota and help get ready for summer! More information available on the website.

May 8 Spring Work Day 9 am—?

Help camp get ready for summer, cost is free and lunch is provided.

May 10 Mother's Day Banquet

Two seatings: 11:30 am and 1:30 pm
Outdoor dining, cost is a freewill donation. Call the camp and make reservations.

May 10-13 Simple, Serene, Small Retreat

A quiet setting to think, plan, write, or create. Individuals will have a private room with work space. Cost \$250 per person 4 days 3/nights.

Website: www.sequanota.com

Phone: 629-6627

“Come to the Table”



A Celebration of the Women of Faith

Please mark your calendars for an evening of fun, fellowship, and, of course, great food, as the men join together to celebrate and honor the women of Faith on

Saturday, May 8th, at 5:00 pm

That's right – the men will be in the kitchen cooking and serving up a wonderful meal – they will even do the dishes!

If you are a mom, a mother-in-law, an aunt, a daughter, a daughter-in-law, a grandmother, a granddaughter, a cousin, a niece, a sister, a.... well, you get the idea – gals of every age.

There will be a sign-up sheet posted for you to let us know who, how many and how old - well, not your age, just the children's – unless you really want to tell us - so we can plan accordingly.

Men of Faith

We need YOU!



Please join us in celebrating and honoring the women of Faith on
Saturday, May 8th.

All hands are needed to help prepare, serve, and clear and clean up afterwards – there is something for everyone to do!

Men of all ages are invited to help!

Sign up in the church lobby to let us know we can count on YOU!

HEARTSTRINGS

Faith's "Heartstrings" is collecting socks or non-skid footies for the month of May.

We collected 95 bottles of body lotion during April!

We will be supporting Countryside in Friedens, Martin's in Rockwood and also Siemons in Somerset.

A goal has been set to collect 200 of each item requested!

A table and a box have been provided in the overflow for donations. Any item at any time can be donated, you don't have to follow the schedule. A copy of the wish list has been posted in the overflow and on the board at the front doors.

Can you help with our "Heartstrings?"



Geranium Sunday

Don't forget to bring a red geranium to worship on Sunday, May 23 and wear your red as we celebrate Pentecost. A sign-up sheet is posted for anyone who would like to help plant around the church on Monday, May 24 at 6 pm.

Calling All Graduates

On Sunday, June 6 during worship we would like to honor the graduates of the congregation.

If you are a graduate of kindergarten, high school, technical school or college or have a family member who is graduating, please submit names to the office.



“HEARTSTRINGS”

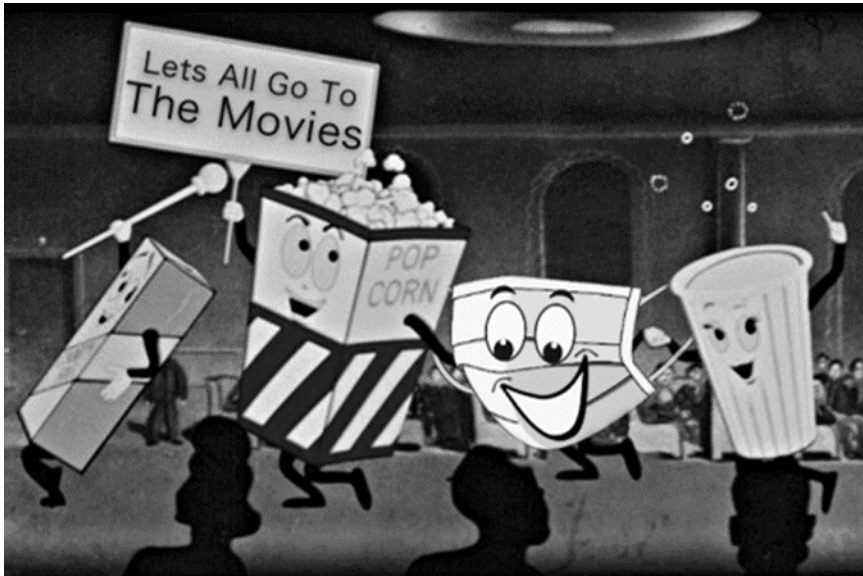
WISH LIST FOR PERSONAL CARE HOMES

| | |
|------------------|--|
| <u>January</u> | Boxes of Kleenex |
| <u>February</u> | Body wash (for both males and females) |
| <u>March</u> | Shampoo (for both males and females) |
| <u>April</u> | Body lotion |
| <u>May</u> | Socks or non-skid footies |
| <u>June</u> | Word Search or puzzle books (LG PRINT) |
| <u>July</u> | Chap stick and individual size unsweetened plain applesauce |
| <u>August</u> | |
| <u>September</u> | |
| <u>October</u> | |
| <u>November</u> | |

The list will be updated with items that are still needed in order to reach our goal of 200 of each item collected.

THANK YOU

“REEL” Faith Movie Matinee

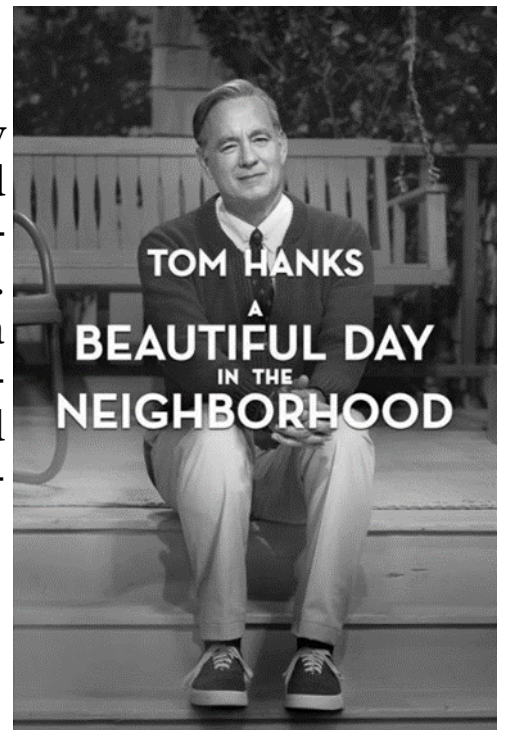


Sunday,
May 23rd
at
2:00 p.m.

We will have ice cream sundaes, popcorn and more!

Be sure to wear your sweater, tie and sneakers so we can see who makes the best “Mr. Rogers” at Faith!

“Tom Hanks portrays Mister Rogers in a story of kindness triumphing over cynicism - based on the true story of a real-life friendship between Fred Rogers and journalist Tom Junod. After a jaded magazine writer is assigned a profile of Fred Rogers, he overcomes his skepticism, learning about empathy, kindness, and decency from America's most beloved neighbor.”



(Rated PG)

All Creation Sings

Day One brought heaven, earth and light. It must have been so very bright!

Day Two God made the clear blue sky. A place for many birds to fly.

Day Three brought land apart from seas. With all the plants, grass and trees.

Day Four shone forth moon, stars and sun. The work of God was not yet done.

Day Five we see the fish and birds. God did all of this with just His words.

Day Six God formed all beasts and man. To finish his creation plan.

Day Seven was especially blessed, a day for worship and rest.



Join us for a week of **“KIDS KAMP”** June 21-25 from 9 am until 3 pm here at Faith Lutheran!

Children kindergarten through 6th grade are encouraged to attend and learn about creation with crafts, games, songs and good fun. Lunch will be served each day.

Watch for a letter and a registration form in the mail. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please see Pastor Kathy.



May 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|-----------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|---|
| May 2nd offering Relay for Life | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 Worship 9 am Donut Sunday SCS 10:30 am | 3 | 4 | 5 Caring Workers 10 am | 6 | 7 | 8 "Come to the Table" Celebration 5 pm |
| 9 Worship 9 am 2nd offering (Relay for Life) SCS 10:30 am Happy Mother's Day! | 10 WELCA 7 pm | 11 | 12 Caring Workers 10 am | 13 Council 7 pm | 14 | 15 |
| 16 Worship 9 am SCS 10:30 am | 17 | 18 | 19 Caring Workers 10 am | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 Pentecost Worship 9 am Geranium Sunday SCS 10:30 am 30 Holy Trinity Worship 9 am SCS 10:30 am | 24 Plant geraniums 6 pm 31 Memorial Day Office closed | 25 | 26 Caring Workers 10 am | 27 | 28 | 29 |

NO YOUTH IN ACTION THIS MONTH ...
HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!

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

May 2

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| Altar Guild | Dawn | Reader | Brenda Maust |
| Assisting Minister | Darren Walker | Acolyte | Arianna Ohler |
| Council Person | Sandy Pyle | | |

May 9

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|---------|---------------|
| Altar Guild | Sandy | Reader | Will Brant |
| Assisting Minister | Annalina Brant | Acolyte | Jack Loeffert |

May 16

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|---------|---------------|
| Altar Guild | Dawn | Reader | Tomalee Will |
| Assisting Minister | Brock Bowers | Acolyte | Kolton George |

May 23

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|---------|----------------|
| Altar Guild | Sandy | Reader | Annalina Brant |
| Assisting Minister | Will Brant | Acolyte | Arianna Ohler |

May 30

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|---------|--------------|
| Altar Guild | Dawn | Reader | Bob Kemerer |
| Assisting Minister | Dave Pugh | Acolyte | Kaden George |

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

WE GIVE THANKS TO

Everyone who helped prepare, cook and clean up for Easter breakfast

Randy Fieg for fixing a problem with the office computer

Gene Hillegas for fixing the folding machine for the office

Altar Guild for helping decorate the church for Easter Services

The men who cut down and trimmed trees at the parsonage

Caring Workers for the Easter decorations in the
fellowship hall

Children and Youth who rang bells and processed
on Easter morning

All who are helping to support our Heartstrings Ministry,
our Youth Ministry and our Kid's Kamp

Everyone who ordered Easter flowers
to help make the Sanctuary beautiful Easter morning

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

We ARE Church – TOGETHER!

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

