

# Faith's Blessings

Faith Lutheran Church

6567 Glades Pike

Somerset PA 15501

(814) 443-3179

(814) 483-3097 Pastor Kathy

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**November 2020**

Rummaging through boxes of books and notes these past few weeks in the process of trying to downsize a bit, I came across a favorite read by Darrell L. Guder entitled *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*. As I thumbed through the pages, I took note of some of the points and comments I had underlined, double-underlined and highlighted within the margins. One such note was Guder's definition of the word "mission", in which he stated meant "Sending" and that it is "the central biblical theme describing the purpose of God's action in human history." A missional church is also contextual in nature. As the world changes, so must the church; it must be flexible, adapting to an ever-changing culture, demographics, and economics.



Love



Grow



Serve



GO

The words that came to mind as I re-read this statement are those imparted at the end of each weekly service as we are sent out, in peace, to serve God, and we respond in thanks, affirming that we will. Our weekly commission, as followers of Christ, is to go out and serve the world as exemplified by Jesus. I cannot help but admire this bold affirmation heard round the sanctuary as we proclaim these words but I also sometimes wonder if some do so automatically, without thought to the depth of meaning that dwells within this affirmation...this "Thanks be to God...we will!" said in unison. In essence, do we realize that we are setting ourselves apart from the secular world, as Jesus did, in serving our neighbors, standing against injustice, and embracing those who live on the fringes of society? Do we realize we are a missional church?

Mission is not something we do “in” church when we attend worship and it is not something we do ourselves; rather, it is what God does through us as we go out, as the church, the body of Christ, into our communities, our workplaces, and our schools. “The Great Commission in the Gospel of Matthew says to ‘go out and make disciples’ not benchwarmers.” Missional church does not exist in a vacuum where one just goes to church, week after week, for an hour or so, and believe that is all there is to being the church. “Being” the church, a missional church, is not about receiving, it is about extending.

YES! Faith Lutheran Church is a missional church and the people of Faith, YOU, are doing just that – loving, growing, serving and going! The many ways in which we serve Christ and community, even, and especially, in the midst of a pandemic, continue to bless many of our friends, neighbors and the world: supporting the ministries of the church with your offerings; collecting food items for community member in need; putting together goodie bags for the residents of a local personal care home; “bee-ing” sweet by donating your change so that Faith could purchase bee colonies through ELCA’s Good Gifts Program; making “superhero” candies for caregivers; providing blankets to help keep people warm; baking cakes, cookies, and muffins for Meals-on-Wheels; supporting and assisting with area schools and scout troops and PARC and Relay and council and the cemetery and...the list goes on!

Reflecting theologically, grounded in baptism, we are, each of us, children of God, called and named by God, united with Christ by his death and resurrection. We are members of a community of faith, the body of Christ, set free from sin and given the hope of salvation, through God’s abundant love and grace, because of the faith of Jesus Christ, so that we may serve Christ and community IN community, accepting of all, loving all and sharing with all the grace and unconditional love God bestows - through proclamation and faithful witness to the Gospel. May we continue to reflect and remember what it means to be community and how we go about sharing, proclaiming the gospel, and continue to “be” the church as God calls us to be in an ever-changing world.

In grace and peace,

Pastor Kathy †



*Happy  
Birthday!*

### November Birthdays

|                 |                        |                |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Nolan Pyle      | Nov. 3                 | Kevin Foster   | Nov. 19                |
| Krista Speelman | Nov. 4                 | Bob Wilttrout  | Nov. 19 <b>92 yrs.</b> |
| Joe Swank, Jr.  | Nov. 10                | Clare Walker   | Nov. 22                |
| Herb Walker     | Nov. 10 <b>92 yrs.</b> | Arianna Ohler  | Nov. 24                |
| Allison Revello | Nov. 17                | Byron Glessner | Nov. 28                |
| Dan Walker      | Nov. 18                | Amy Romus      | Nov. 29                |
| Tacy Weaver     | Nov. 18                |                |                        |

*Happy Anniversary!*

|                        |         |                |
|------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Jay and Janet Anderson | Nov. 23 | <b>57 yrs.</b> |
| Carl and Carol Schrock | Nov. 28 | <b>62 yrs.</b> |



During the month of October we lifted the following in prayer:

Martha Onstead, Helen Fye, Jay Anderson, Forrest Swank, Susie and Ron Gandee, Trudy Saler, family and friends of Mary Lou Davis (Pr. Kathy's mother), Hazel Moore

### **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

### **November Second Offering**

The second offering to be collected Nov. 8 has been designated for the Berlin Food Pantry.

This outreach provides food, paper products and other necessary items to families in the community who may be struggling to make ends meet.

Thank you for generously supporting this cause.



### **All Saint's Worship**

Join us Sunday, Nov. 1 for observance of All Saint's Sunday. We will remember those members of Faith who have joined the church triumphant since last years service.

We will also remember relatives, friends and neighbors of our members and our community who have also passed away during the year with candle lighting.

### **Caring Workers Soup and Gob Sale**

Caring Workers will be taking orders for soup and gobs. Soups are vegetable, bean and chicken noodle; \$6/qt. and \$3/pint. The gobs are \$2/each.

You must pre-order by calling Patti Trent at 445-7280 (leave a message if needed).

Orders can be picked up November 1.

### **Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries**

Harvest Home is celebrated during the season of Thanksgiving as a way to share our bounty with those who are in need.

A basket and envelopes are on the table in the narthex if you would like to support this outreach.

Checks should be made payable to Faith Lutheran and we will collect your gifts through November 15.

## 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.



## Honoring our Veterans

We invite you to join us on Sunday, Nov. 8 when we will honor our veterans during worship.

Because of their service, we are able to worship this morning and enjoy many other freedoms.

Thank You Veterans!

## WELCA ThankOffering Sunday November 22

On this "Christ the King Sunday" the Ladies of WELCA will be leading our worship service as we let Christ be our Light.

A special offering will be received.



## Blessing of the Hunt and Hunters

Sunday, November 22

Come join in us for a special blessing and prayer for a safe hunting season.

You are invited to wear your hunter's orange and camouflage.



*"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us."*

**Thanksgiving Eve Service  
November 25<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.**

Thanksgiving is a special moment to reflect on God's abundant grace that God pours out in our lives through so many ways.

Please make this part of your Thanksgiving celebration – join us...bring your family and friends... and "Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!"





**Children and Youth  
it is time for**

*Advent in a Box!*

Be sure to pick up your “*Advent in a Box*” beginning on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

This is being shared with you so that you and your family can enjoy the journey to Christmas at home, at your own pace.

There are four different activities, one for each week of Advent, representing the four candles of the Advent wreath:  
Hope, Peace, Joy & Love

Each weekly activity includes a scripture reading, discussion thoughts to reflect on and talk about, and an ornament craft. The main ingredients for each craft are included in this box. You will have to use a few items from around your house, such as: scissors, tape, and eggs, butter and water (for Jesus’ birthday cake - the bonus activity!)

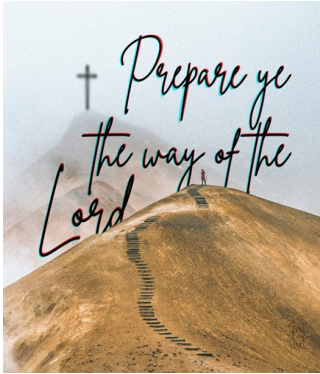
Our hope is that your family will experience Christmas together in a way that is memorable, meaningful and joyful this holiday season.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Kathy  
Caring Workers  
Worship Committee

## **Preparing for Advent and Christmas Eve Worship**

Wednesday evening, November 25 after our Thanksgiving Eve Worship, we will decorate for Advent and Christmas Eve. Everyone is welcome!



**Wednesday evenings during Advent, beginning December  
2<sup>nd</sup>,**

**at 7:00 p.m.**

**for traditional Advent Worship**

as we “ponder”, “pray”, “praise” and “proclaim” contemplating the many ways we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas, taking cues from the psalms of old and from those whom God chose to play a part in the story of our Lord’s birth.

As we draw near to the manger bed of our Savior from sin and death, let our hearts prepare him room for his everlasting love...

### **Mitten Tree**

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 during the seasons of Advent and Christmas.



### **Poinsettias for Christmas Eve**

Yes, you read that right! Believe it or not, it will soon be time to order poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas Eve.

Watch your bulletin for more information on price and deadline to order.



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

**"REINDEER GAMES!"**

Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Christmas is coming, Santa's loading  
the sleigh...

The reindeer are inviting you to come out  
and play!

We'll decorate cookies, do crafts, play games and be silly...  
We'll sing songs, have lunch and hot cocoa cause you know it is 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 12th, 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!







Coming to a worship service near you and currently in production...

# “WHAT A GIFT!”


Children’s Christmas Pageant

By Kathleen Stump ©2020

Sunday - December 20th

**Performed by children, youth & “kids at heart”  
of Faith Lutheran Church**

## November 2020

| Sun   | Mon       | Tue  | Wed   | Thu  | Fri       | Sat       |
|---|-----------|--|---|--|-----------|-----------|
| <b>1 All Saint's</b><br>Worship 9 am<br><b>All Saint's Remembrance</b><br>SCS 10:30 am  | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br><b>NO</b> Book Club<br>Election Day<br>Soup & Gob Sale | <b>4</b><br><b>NO</b> Caring Workers              | <b>5</b>   | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>8</b><br>Worship 9 am<br><b>2nd offering (Berlin Food Pantry)</b><br><b>Honor our Veterans</b><br>SCS 10:30 am                         | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b><br>Book Club 6:30 pm                                     | <b>11</b><br>Caring Workers 10 am                 | <b>12</b><br>Council 7 pm  | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b> |
| <b>15</b><br>Worship 9 am<br>SCS 10:30 am   | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b><br>Book Club 6:30 pm                                     | <b>18</b><br>Caring Workers 10 am                 | <b>19</b>  | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b> |
| <b>22 Christ the King</b><br>Worship 9 am<br><b>ThankOffering Sunday-WELCA</b><br><b>Blessing of the Hunt and Hunters</b><br>SCS 10:30 am | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b><br><b>NO</b> Book Club                                   | <b>25</b><br>Caring Workers 10 am<br>Worship 7 pm | <b>26 Thanksgiving</b><br> | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b> |
| <b>29 Advent 1</b><br>Worship 9 am<br><b>5th Sunday offering (Pr. Discretionary Fund)</b><br>SCS 10:30 am                                 | <b>30</b> |  | <b>Dec. 2</b><br>Advent Worship 7 pm              | <b>Nov. Second Offering is for Berlin Food Pantry</b>  |           |           |

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

**November 1**

|                    |               |        |              |
|--------------------|---------------|--------|--------------|
| Altar Guild        | Sandy & Carol | Reader | Brenda Maust |
| Assisting Minister | Brenda Maust  |        |              |
| Council Person     | Sandy Pyle    |        |              |

**November 8**

|                    |                |        |                |
|--------------------|----------------|--------|----------------|
| Altar Guild        | Dawn & Cindy   | Reader | Richard Walker |
| Assisting Minister | Annalina Brant |        |                |

**November 15**

|                    |               |        |              |
|--------------------|---------------|--------|--------------|
| Altar Guild        | Sandy & Carol | Reader | Laura Miller |
| Assisting Minister | Darren Walker |        |              |

**November 22**      **WELCA Sunday**

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Altar Guild        | Dawn & Cindy  |
| Assisting Minister | Jack Loeffert |

**November 25**      **Thanksgiving Eve**

|                    |               |        |            |
|--------------------|---------------|--------|------------|
| Altar Guild        | Sandy & Carol | Reader | Ryan Maust |
| Assisting Minister | Bill Hoffman  |        |            |

**November 29**

|                    |              |        |           |
|--------------------|--------------|--------|-----------|
| Altar Guild        | Dawn & Cindy | Reader | Dave Pugh |
| Assisting Minister | Dave Pugh    |        |           |

## **WE GIVE THANKS TO**

1. To all who helped make the Advent in a Box project possible - including Dominos for donating the pizza boxes, the Caring Workers for donating and preparing craft items, and the Worship Committee for writing, shopping and coordinating delivery.
2. Our new Assisting Ministers - Annalina, Jack, and Will - for helping lead worship.
3. All who helped make our "Superheroes of Faith" youth gathering SUPER fun!
4. All who donated fall decor to decorate the sanctuary for the new season.
5. All the hands that baked cookies, muffins, and cakes for Meals on Wheels - and those who provided for same.
6. Vivian Fuller, Tomalee Will and Allen Stump for assisting with the Pet Blessing.

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

**We ARE Church – TOGETHER!**

## Mark Your Calendars

Our annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, December 13 immediately following worship. Packets of information will be available on the table in the narthex beginning Nov. 29.

On the agenda is the election of three persons to serve on council for a 3 year term, discussion and voting on the 2021 Ministry Proposal and discussing any concerns or questions the congregation may have.

Be sure to attend worship and stay for the meeting so you can vote on these items.



# **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

6567 Glades Pike  
Somerset, PA 15501

Reverend Kathleen Stump

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

Sunday Worship 9 am  
Sunday Church School 10:30 am

