

Faith's Blessings

Faith Lutheran Church

6567 Glades Pike

Somerset PA 15501

(814) 443-3179

(814) 483-3097 Pastor Kathy



October 2020

“I am always with you.” This is what we believe but do not always “see” in the ordinary. For example, the pattern of stars in a moonlit sky; the layers of rock and stone revealed along Route 30 as one weaves through the cut-outs we call roads through the mountains, the rolling nature of hills and fields, the intricacies of a single leaf. I believe that these are the “masks of God” that invite us to view creation from a different perspective. God, who declared all creation “good” reveals God’s love for us in creation.

When we look behind a mask, we do so to reveal what is hidden. This reminds me of my dad and his love for woodcarving. He would take a small piece of wood from the woodpile, carry it around the house for weeks, just turning it over and over in his hand. If you asked him what he was doing with the block of wood he would say he was just waiting for it to tell him what was hidden inside. Sometimes the wood told him it itself to him as a bear, or turtle, or bird; a gift of beauty revealed in something ordinary.

As children, we wore Halloween masks to keep our faces hidden. So the question is why would God hide behind a mask? An ordinary mask? I believe God does so so that we seek God out in the ordinary; that we look beyond ourselves, our masks – to reveal God in the faces of the homeless, the hungry, and the oppressed so that we can love them as God loves them; to reveal God in creation so that we can be good stewards; to reveal God in the provision of our everyday needs so that we can share the abundance with our neighbors.

God has also chosen us to be God’s mask in the world. As parents, grandparents, and brothers and sisters in Christ, God uses us to teach our children how to love other people, to love creation, and to be faithful to God. Simply stated, God has chosen us to be part of their growing up in the world. It is God who is raising them and providing for them through us.

Luther refers to this as a “mask” of God also. “God gives every good thing, but not just by waving a wand.” God gives all good gifts; but you must lend a hand and take the bull by the horns; that is, you must work and thus give God good cause and a mask.” (*Luther’s Works*, Vol. 14, pp. 114–15). When we live out our vocations as teachers, mentors, and encouragers, God is doing his work with our hands as we guide them through life – from baptism, through confirmation into adulthood - so that they may become the people God wants them to grow up to be. Paraphrasing Author Gene Veith’s explanation of the mask analogy: “On the surface, we see an ordinary human face—our parents, the doctor, the teacher, the waitress, yes, the pastor too —but, beneath the appearances, God is ministering to us through them. God is hidden in human vocations”. In all of our vocations in this earthly life, we are used by God as His masks to show His love to others.

Then there is the ultimate mask, Jesus Christ, who through his life, death and resurrection, reveals His love for God, His love for us, and God’s desire to be in relationship with us. This is the Good News we proclaim in serving Christ and community in community...in our vocations...and in creation.

In grace and peace, and with much love,
† 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.



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

Audrey Edwards, Darlene Zerfoss, Jane Pugh, Naomi Sheeler, family and friends of Michael Matieszyn, Tim Vought, Lois Baker, Michael & Amanda

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

October Second Offering

The second offering to be collected Oct. 11, has been designated by council for the Somerset Food Pantry.

This outreach provides those who need assistance in the community with food items. The Food Pantry is located at Trinity Lutheran Church in Somerset.

Your generosity in donating is very much



CARING FOR GODS CREATION

**Join us on Saturday,
October 3, at 11:00 a.m. for a
Blessing of the Animals**

Please bring leashed or crated pets, pictures of any animals whom you would like to be blessed in absentia, and/or items from pets who have passed away and whom you want to be remembered.

This is customary around the world, and everyone in the community is welcome to get their animals blessed. There will be treats for all – including our furry companions!

The event will take place in the Faith Lutheran Church's pavilion...rain or shine.

WELCA News

During the month of October, WELCA will be collecting personal hygiene items to be donated to the Next Step Homeless Shelter in Somerset.

A box has been provided in the narthex for your donations.

Thank You!

Happy Birthday!

October Birthdays

Michelle Custer	Oct. 2	Zac Foster	Oct. 13
Ron Fitzpatrick	Oct. 2 91 yrs.	Lori Dill	Oct. 16
Joeleen Everett	Oct. 4	Dave Miller	Oct. 16
Gary Shaffer	Oct. 7	Keri Friedline	Oct. 25
Mollie Walker	Oct. 10	Mirabella Tweardy	Oct. 29
		Doug Miller	Oct. 30

Happy Anniversary!

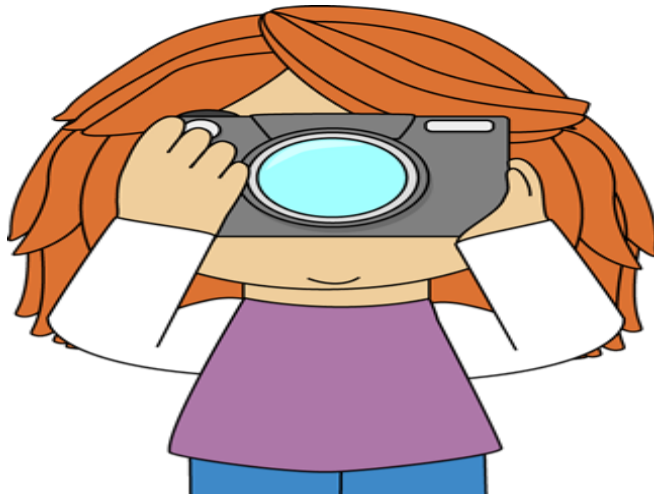
October Anniversaries

Dan and Dawn Walker	Oct. 4	42 yrs.
Gene and Elaine Hillegas	Oct. 18	51 yrs.
Allen & Pr. Kathy	Oct. 18	40 yrs.

Book Club

Women's Book Club continues to meet Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. We are currently reading "The Five People You Meet in Heaven."

Feel free to join us for an evening of discussion, fellowship, laughter and of course dessert!



Veterans

Looking ahead... We invite you to bring or send in photographs of veterans in your family (yes, yours too if you are a veteran!) by November 1st for Faith's recognition and blessing of veterans on Sunday, November 8th. Please contact Pastor Kathy or the church office with any questions. Framed photos are welcome.

All Saints

We invite you to bring or send in photographs of saints who have gone before us as Faith prepares for All Saints Sunday - A Time of Remembrance - on November 1st.

Please have all photos - framed photos are most welcome! - to the church by October 18th. Please contact Pastor Kathy or the church office with any questions.



Youth in Action

Doing God's Work with Our Hands

In Fellowship and Fun

"BOUNTI-FALL HARVEST"

Sunday, October 25th

4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

**CHILDREN & YOUTH OF
ALL AGES....**

Pumpkins, and scarecrows and spiders, OH MY!

The afternoon will include a "harvest" of Fall-themed learning about thanksgiving

including games, crafts and fellowship!
Yes, supper too!

There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby at church

or just give us a call at 443-3179 and let us know you'll be here!



Blessing of the Hunt and Hunters

Sunday, November 20

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.

Fall is in the Air

Leaves are changing, temperatures are getting cooler, Fall is right around the corner!

Well, not quite ... we are looking for any donations of pumpkins, gourds, mums, corn stalks in order to decorate the altar and sanctuary for Fall.

If you would like to help, please bring your items to the church and put them in the room at the literature rack (the old lounge.) Thanks!

October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2nd offering is for Somerset Food Pantry				1	2	3 Pet Blessing 11 am
4 Worship 9 am SCS 10:30 am	5	6 Book Club 6:30 pm	7 Caring Workers 10 am	8 Council 7 pm	9	10 Painting Party 1-4 pm Fellowship hall
11 Worship 9 am 2nd Offering (Somerset Food Pantry) SCS 10:30 am	12 WELCA 7 pm	13 Book Club 6:30 pm	14 Caring Workers 10 am	15	16	17
18 Worship 9 am SCS 10:30 am	19	20 Book Club 6:30 pm	21 Caring Workers 10 am	22	23	24
25 Worship 9 am SCS 10:30 am "Bounti-Fall Harvest" Youth in Action 4-6 pm	26	27 Book Club 6:30 pm	28 Caring Workers 10 am WELCA collecting personal hygiene items all month for the Next Step Homeless Shelter	29	30	31

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

October 4

Altar Guild	Donna & Jackie	Reader	Jackie Rhoads
Assisting Minister	Darren Walker		
Council Person	Dave Pugh		

October 11

Altar Guild	Patti	Reader	Katey Hill
Assisting Minister	Will Brant		

October 18

Altar Guild	Donna & Jackie	Reader	Brenda Maust
Assisting Minister	Bill Hoffman		

October 25

Altar Guild	Patti	Reader	Dave Pugh
Assisting Minister	Dave Pugh		

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

WE GIVE THANKS TO

To everyone who donated food items for our neighbor in need

Gene Hillegas and Dave Miller for cutting down the tree at the
parsonage

Everyone who baked or contributed to the Meals on Wheels Program

To all who helped pack bags and write cards for Countryside
Personal Care Home as part of “God’s Work, Our Hands” ministry

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

www.faithlutheransomerset.org

faith@faithlutheransomerset.org

Sunday Worship 9 am

Sunday Church School 10:30 am

