

Faith's Blessings

Faith Lutheran Church
6567 Glades Pike
Somerset PA 15501
(814) 443-3179
(814) 483-3097 Pastor Kathy

Jan/Feb 2023

Ask the Pastor, "Why?"

It is not uncommon for the pastor to be asked Why?"...“Why do people suffer? As I listen and reflect, I “hear” these questions not directed at me, personally, but towards God...and that is okay. It is okay to ask questions. Doing so opens our hearts and minds to God. With that, I am drawn to the thorn that Paul suffered from which he attributed to be a blessing. Paul viewed suffering as a blessing, one to boast about! It was a reminder to him that he was, in fact, human – frail – and the weakness of suffering he deemed sanctifying (to set apart to a sacred purpose). We are human, we rely on God; our suffering invites us to look to God and to know God. In 2 Cor. 4:17, Paul says, “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working in us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” Although the human body, the flesh, is dying, outwardly, it is becoming new, inwardly. For Paul, suffering strengthens faith. “Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.”

Why do people suffer? This is a question which cannot truly be answered. The depth of human suffering is multi-layered – mentally, physically, economically and socially. Looking to the apostle Paul’s life, it mirrored these multilayers of suffering in that he was imprisoned, lashed, flogged, shipwrecked, stoned, and “beaten with

rods”. He traveled through dangerous cities, seas and wildernesses. Paul went without food, clothing, water and sleep. He found himself having to defend himself against his brothers and sisters in faith. Paul also experienced the pressure and anxiety that come with the responsibility of apostleship and in his love and concern for the people of God.

For Paul, suffering is part of being human and must be endured. In our love for one another, that can be quite a challenge because we believe, in those moments, that we need to fix everything.



The truth is, however, that we can't do anything without God. Moreover, how do we endure suffering? Paul prayed to God about the pain he endured from "a thorn". God did not answer the way he expected, as God does not always seem to answer the way we expect God to, yet Paul found consolation in God and in others. He used his suffering and consolation to console others and that is what we can do in blessing others in their suffering. (2 Cor 1:3-4; 6-7).

Paul wrote: "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how fathomless his ways!" (Romans 11:33). What I believe Paul is saying is that our questions and our understandings are through the lens of human reasoning and not God's. Our human logic cannot be utilized in trying to understand God's actions; we cannot answer the "Why?". Perhaps it is the wrong question because we cannot change anything. We must never allow our questions to choke out our faith. Rather, we should look to Jesus and focus on the Lord. We must look beyond suffering in this life and seek to know "What future does God have for me?" The key is to pray ... to seek God's plan and timing ... Trust in God's plan.

Pastor Kathy +



ASH WEDNESDAY

March 22nd

This year we offer several opportunities for worship and imposition of ashes:

A service with Holy Communion and imposition of ashes will begin at 12:30 p.m.

An evening service with Holy Communion and imposition of ashes will begin at 7:00 p.m.

"Dust to Dust" packets will be provided to our homebound members including or otherwise unable to attend due to health concerns,

Should you have questions or wish to receive one of these packets for reasons noted, please contact the church office or Pastor Kathy directly at 814-483-3097.



During the months of January/February we lift the following in prayer: Dave Miller, Dolores Weimer, Kolton George Ray Flowers, Tom and Sue Bazala, Tom and Brenda Walker, and Faith's Home-bound Members.

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

Second Offering

The second offering for February will be collected for SAM Van on February 12th. We collected \$121 dollars in January for Somerset Mobile Food Pantry. THANK YOU!



2023 Flower and bread sign-ups are on the bulletin board in the hallway. If you are able, please check and see which Sundays are still available.

We will meet the first Sunday of each month.

Children are invited to join Pastor Kathy

for a lesson and snack.

Our next gathering will be on Sunday, February 5th.



Mark your calendars ...



Wednesday, March 1st—"Come to the Table" Dinner
Church - every Wednesday

Sunday, March 12th—Chili Cook-Off & Bingo
(following worship)

Saturday, April 1st—Easter is EGG-cellent - Children
and Youth - 10 am to 1 pm

Saturday, April 1st—Children's Bell Choir practice 10 a.m.

Sunday, May 7th—Sundae Sunday - following worship - Honoring Women
of Faith

Sunday, June 11th—Covered Dish Dinner Honoring Men of Faith

June 26th-30th—Kids Kamp



HEARTSTRINGS MINISTRY

Faith's "Heartstrings Ministry" was initiated in 2021 so that friends and neighbors residing in area personal care homes would know that they are thought of, prayed for and part of our community even though we cannot always physically connect with them. This ministry was borne of care and compassion for our friends and neighbors and Christ's commandment to love one another. Since 2021, Faith, through the generosity of its members, as well as community partners such as CVS and Thrivent, have provided 500 personal gift bags to residents of five area personal care and nursing homes over the Christmas holidays; adult-sized bibs; walker caddies; stationary items; approved treats; and even popsicles. Faith's Heartstrings Ministry is looking to expand its elder care by providing blankets, and/or other necessities, that might be needed as our sisters and brothers are transitioned into local care facilities.

Your helping hands are needed!! Please contact Pastor Kathy to let her know you are interested in this ministry.





CELEBRATING IN JANUARY

Rhonda Henry	Jan 1		Lane Gilbert	Jan 5	
Matthew Rody	Jan 5		Austin Custer	Jan 6	
George Lensbouer Jr.	Jan 7		Natalie Custer	Jan 8	
Tanner Friedline	Jan 8		Brenda Shaffer	Jan 9	
Douglas Custer	Jan 12		Kristen Dill	Jan 13	
Bob Kemerer	Jan 13		Jody Berkebile	Jan 14	
Payson Everett	Jan 14		Irma Walker	Jan 14	
Shelby Ream	Jan 15	83 years old	Betty Simmons	Jan 15	86 years old
Heath Shepley	Jan 16		Nash Shepley	Jan 16	
Jordan Palumbo	Jan 17		Randall Zerfoss	Jan 17	
Janet Anderson	Jan 18	87 years old	Alexis Trevarrow	Jan 18	
Rebecca Miller	Jan 21		Marge Walker	Jan 21	
Austin Latuch	Jan 25		Sean Raupach	Jan 25	
Maxwell Trevarrow	Jan 25		Brock Bowers	Jan 26	
Marc Fochtman	Jan 27		David Custer	Jan 28	
James Long	Jan 28		Josie Swank	Jan 28	
Beverly Thompson	Jan 30		Elias Tweardy	Jan 30	



CELEBRATING IN JANUARY

Gary & Jeanetta Shaffer	January 8	40 years
Paul & Betty Simmons	January 17	64 years
Fred & Kathy Rhoads	January 25	49 years



CELEBRATING IN FEBRUARY

Christina Brougher	Feb 2	Thomas Walker	Feb 2
John Fuller	Feb 3	Jean Shaffer	Feb 6
Pastor Kathy Stump	Feb 6	Dylila Weyant	Feb 6
Alexis Simmons	Feb 7	Evan Custer	Feb 9
Gavin James	Feb 9	Bradley Brant	Feb 11
Kaden George	Feb 11	Joseph Heil	Feb 11
Kristi Pessalano	Feb 11	Kathy Trimpey	Feb 12
Levi Friedline	Feb 13	Melissa Harding	Feb 13
Katelynn Judy	Feb 13	Tara Tweardy	Feb 13
Fred Gross	Feb 14	Patti Trent	Feb 14
William Bowers III	Feb 17	Shirley Weimer	Feb 19
Robert Cober Jr.	Feb 25	Audrey Hankison	Feb 27
Nancy Heil	Feb 27	Vivian Fuller	Feb 28
Craig Maurer	Feb 28		

96 years old

81 years old

85 years old



CELEBRATING IN FEBRUARY

Donald & Barbara Raupach	February 20	41 years
Bob & Carol Kemerer	February 28	53 years

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*Second Offering is for SAM Van			1	2	3	4
5 5th Sunday after Epiphany Worship 9am SCS 10:30am Choir Practice Kid's Kingdom @10:30 am Donut Sunday	6 PASTOR ON VACATION	7	8	9	10	11
12 6th Sunday after Epiphany Worship 9am SCS 10:30am Choir Practice 2nd Offering—(SAM Van)	13 WELCA-7pm	14	15	16 HeBrews Bible Study 10:30am Council Meeting 7pm	17	18
19 Transfiguration of Our Lord Worship 9am SCS 10:30am Choir Practice	20	21 PANCAKE & SAUSAGE SUPPER— 4:30pm to 7pm	22 ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP with Holy Communion & Imposition of ashes. 12:30pm & 7pm	23 HeBrews Bible Study 10:30am	24	25 Glow Bowling— 8:15pm
26 1st Sunday in Lent Worship 9am SCS 10:30am Choir Practice	27	28				

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

February 5

Altar Guild	Patti & Carol	Reader	Katelynn Judy
Assisting Minister	Brock Bowers	Acolyte	Nolan Pyle
Greeters	Kate Judy & Patti Trent		
Council Person	Dave Pyle		

February 12

Altar Guild	Patti & Carol	Reader	Jane Pugh
Assisting Minister	Randy Fieg	Acolyte	Jack Loeffert
Greeters	Jen & Ari Ohler		

February 19

Altar Guild	Patti & Carol	Reader	Randy Fieg
Assisting Minister	Jane Pugh	Acolyte	Darren Walker
Greeters	Richard & Darren Walker		

February 22-7:00pm

(Ash Wed)

Altar Guild	Patti & Carol		
Assisting Minister	Katie Hill	Reader	Katie Hill
Greeters	Ryan & Brenda Maust	Acolyte	

February 26

Altar Guild	Patti & Carol	Reader	Jack Loeffert
Assisting Minister	Darren Walker	Acolyte	Ari Ohler
Greeters	Gene & Elaine Hillegas		

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

2023 SECOND OFFERING RECIPIENTS

<u>January</u>	Somerset Mobile Food Pantry
<u>February</u>	SAM Van
<u>March</u>	Relay for Life
<u>April</u>	Faith Summer Camp
<u>May</u>	Somerset County Humane Society
<u>June</u>	Somerset Flag
<u>July</u>	Somerset Food Pantry
<u>Aug.</u>	Salvation Army Christmas Coats
<u>Sept.</u>	Camp Sequanota
<u>Oct.</u>	Shop with a Cop
<u>Nov.</u>	Berlin Food Pantry
<u>Dec.</u>	Pastor's Discretionary Fund
<u>Mid-week Advent</u>	Toys for Tots

SHROVE TUESDAY - PANCAKE 'N SAUSAGE SUPPER

MARCH 21st

4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Come pull up a seat and join us for hot-off-the-griddle pancakes and sausage with syrup, of course...



and King Cakes and desserts to bring a smile to your face!



There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby to help in our shopping order....
please let us know you are coming.

FAITH LUTHERAN'S CHURCH COUNCIL of 2023

President, Sandy Pyle
Vice President, Dave Pugh
Secretary, Karen Shaffer
Treasurer, Brenda Maust
Joe Swank Sr.
Patti Trent
Carl Schrock
Dave Pyle
Bob Duppstadt Jr.

Thank you for all for your willingness to serve!





Youth in Action

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

“Easter Is EGG-cellent!”

Saturday, April 1stth

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Come join the sights, sounds, and smells of Easter - drawing us closer to God and to each other. We will be “hands on” as we walk the walk of Holy Week with stations of learning, Easter-themed crafts and games. Lunch will be included.

Bring some-bunny with you! All children and youth are invited.

There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby at church
so “hop to it” and let us know “as quick as a bunny” that you’ll be joining us!

Youth in Action



Saturday, February 25th

8:15 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

LIGHTS DOWN AND FUN UP!!

All children, youth and teens are invited!

Bowling shoes and glow bowling fun are included –
sponsored by the generous support of our church members through Youth in Action.

Parents, grandparents and children at heart are invited to join in the fun too!
- the cost is \$15 per adult.

**SIGN UP IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO RESERVE THE CORRECT NUMBER OF
LANES – the guidelines at Terrace Lanes are different for glow bowling –
so PLEASE DO SIGN UP!**

The sign-up sheet is in the lobby at church
or give us a call at 443-3179 to let us know we'll "see" you here!

**MUST ARRIVE BETWEEN 8:15 and 8:30 P.M. so we are ready when the lights go down
and the fun volume is turned up!**

Lenten Midweek

Service of Word and Table

March 1 through 29 at 6:30 p.m.

The table set with bread and wine —

A simple setting that tells the most profound story of all time...

The story of Christ's broken body and our fragmented humanity, of God's presence, provision, and promise to heal.



On Wednesdays during Lent,
we will gather at table in Faith's Fellowship Hall for a
Service of the Word and Table.

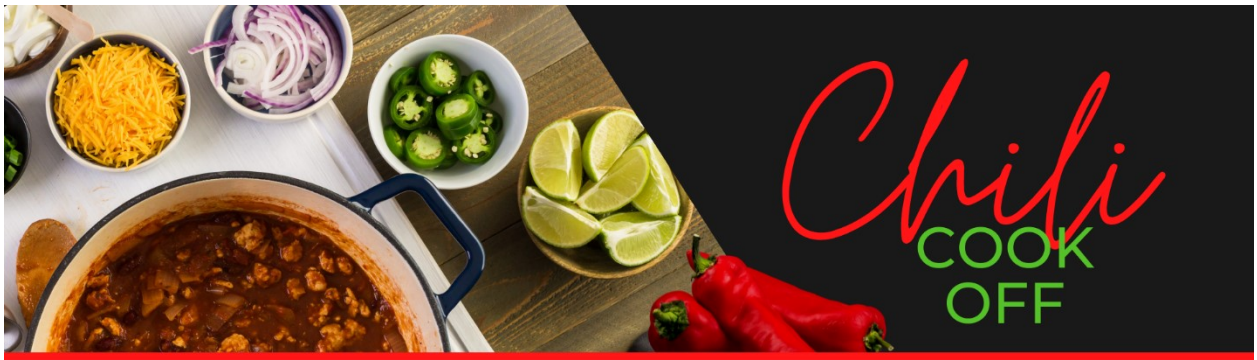
A light meal of soup, bread and beverage will be shared together with
conversation and fellowship.

Our hope is that you would “catch a glimpse of the joy, abundance, and the holy imagination of what it means to feast together,” and leave “more hopeful for a church where all are fed.”

There is a sign up in the church lobby to share your favorite soup or bread.
We will need two soups and one bread each week.

“Come, taste and see that the Lord is good!”

MARCH 12th
CHILI COOK OFF & BINGO



FOLLOWING SERVICE

Enter your BEST Chili

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED

Everyone is invited and encouraged to pull out your best recipe and join in the fun!

There will be Bingo for the adults and Bingo for the children.

Yes there will be trophies and prizes along with other fun things.

There will be chili, of course, a variety of breads, hotdogs, beverages and dessert.

Children & Youth

Upcoming Gatherings and Community Service



Please sign up in the lobby at church or contact Pastor Kathy or the Church Office to let us know you will attend and/or lend a hand:

- February 5th** **Kid's Kingdom** for children of all ages. While parents and grandparents enjoy some time of fellowship, doughnuts and coffee this Doughnut Sunday, we will take our doughnuts with us and gather with Pastor Kathy for a lesson and learning activity.
- February 21st** **Pancake and Sausage Supper** – We Need YOU!!!! This is a wonderful opportunity to help serve all those who support us – we can greet people as they come in, set tables, serve, clean away dirty dishes, thank them for coming, and the list goes on! Supper runs from 4:30-7:00 – arrive when you can and we will have something for you to do to help.
- February 22nd** **Ash Wednesday** – Service with Holy Communion and Distribution of Ashes. Service times are 12:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- February 25th** **Glo Bowling!** at Terrace Lanes – must arrive by 8:15 **p.m.** Children, Youth and Adults – Children and youth bowl for free (with many thanks to the congregation for their support); adults \$15.
- March 12th** **Chili Cook-Off and Bingo.** This is a congregational event following worship. Families are invited and encouraged to pull out their best recipe and join in the challenge. There will be Bingo for adults and Bingo for the children. and did I say prizes...yes there will be trophies and prizes along with other fun things. Our meal will include chili, of course, a variety of breads, hotdogs, beverages and dessert.
- April 1st** **Easter Is “EGGcellent”!** We will gather Saturday morning from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 to prepare for Palm Sunday and Easter. A busy morning is being planned as we walk the walk of Holy Week with stations of learning, Easter-themed crafts and games. Lunch will be included.
- April 1st** Children and Youth Bell Practice for Easter - we will practice this morning at 10 a.m. – come ring with us in celebration of Jesus resurrection on Easter morning.
- April 9th** **Easter Sunday** – Easter Breakfast will be served following the first service. Children and youth of all ages are invited to process with Pastor Kathy at the 9:00 a.m. service while ringing bells in celebration and joy. Bring your Easter Baskets and place them at God's table for a special blessing and receive a “sweet” Easter gift from the congregation
- May 7th** **Sundae Sunday!** following worship - watch for details!



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
Kid's Kingdom 1st Sunday of Each Month 10:30am