

Faith's Blessings

Faith Lutheran Church

6567 Glades Pike

Somerset PA 15501

(814) 443-3179

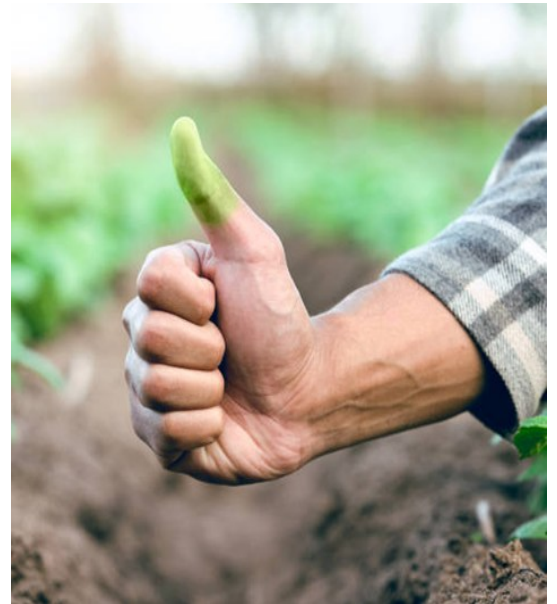
(814) 483-3097 Pastor Kathy

September 2025

"I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit..." John 15:5

As summer begins to loosen its grip and fall whispers its arrival—not through turning leaves just yet, but in subtler signs: yellow school buses rumbling down the street, street-lights flickering on a bit earlier, night sounds shifting to their cooler cadence. County fairs and firemen's carnivals dotting the calendar, farmstands brimming with late-summer squash and field-fresh tomatoes ready for canning (or between two slices of bread slathered with mayo!), and the fields themselves begin offering up their gifts. In these gentle signs, something stirs the senses—and I find myself remembering the garden my father planted behind our house on Avenue B in Latrobe...a stretch of soil filled with the treasures of the season: onions, peppers, tomatoes, and squash. Dad hadn't grown up on a farm, but he loved digging into the earth. After long hours working in the melt shop at Teledyne Vasco—his clothes dusted in black from the hot furnaces and the smell of hot metal—he'd return to the garden. It was his pause, his place of wonder. A quiet connection to the rhythms of life and something sacred in the cycle of planting and harvesting.



Dad welcomed us into that rhythm. He'd fertilize the garden with fish we caught at Keystone Lake—always of legal size, of course—one day's catch nourishing the next day's growth. My siblings and I marched like tiny ants with watering cans in hand—trekking back and forth across the yard to the hose tucked on the far side of the house, making sure every plant had a drink.

And then, when the fruit came, we bore witness to the harvest: the heavy tomato vines drooping with ripeness, squash tucked beneath broad leaves, peppers turning from green to fire engine red. There was something holy in those quiet summer evenings—hands deep in the dirt, the squealing at the sight of a wiggling worm, giggles as water splashed from the watering cans baptizing our toes, and eyes wide as we lifted our T-shirts to gather whatever was ready.

After I was married, I started my own garden, and Dad became my living encyclopedia—full of advice, delight, and the occasional cautionary tale (“Don’t plant that there. Trust me!”). I’ve followed in his footsteps with muddy knees and a curious heart, experimenting with new seeds, trying my hand at plants I’d never grown before. Gardening makes you brave in quiet ways. It teaches hope. Patience. The belief that growth can happen in places you’ve never tried before.

Jesus often used the language of gardens to speak of God’s kingdom: seeds falling on good soil, weeds pulled from among wheat, branches bearing fruit. These weren’t just metaphors—they were invitations. To participate in renewal. To trust the unseen work of God. To believe that something small—do I dare say as small as a mustard seed? - something ordinary—can be multiplied into abundance.

In just a few weeks, Faith Lutheran begins its fall faith formation: a season of growth, gathering, and spiritual tending. As we study, reflect, and explore together, we’ll be planting seeds of grace and nurturing the soil of our shared life. This is where faith grows—sometimes with bold blooms, sometimes with slow unfolding leaves. Sometimes through laughter. Sometimes through listening.

So as we step into this season, may we carry gratitude for the gardens of our past and courage for the seeds we’ve yet to plant. May we dig deep in trust, share generously in love, and believe that God is growing something good in each of us.

And may we do it all—

Learning. Living. Laughing. Listening.

All in God's love.

Pastor Kathy +





During the month of August we lifted the following in prayer: Sherri Will, Owen Jones, Jan Fochtman, Family and friends of Deb Kolb and Janet Anderson and Faith's Homebound 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

We collected \$200 in August for the Somerset Military Family Support Group.

The 2nd Offering in September has been designated for "Shop with a Cop". This outreach program pairs a law enforcement officer with a underprivileged child to Christmas shop.

Thank you for continuing to support these outreach programs!



Faith Formation

Adult Sunday School—weekly following worship service.

Kid's Kingdom & Youth in Action are on summer break, here is the upcoming schedule:

Sept. 28—Catechism 4-6 PM
(Confirmation Group)

Oct. 5— Kids Kingdom during Fellowship.

Oct. 5— Youth in Actions 4-6PM

Watch for Details!!

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

September 7

Altar Guild	Genette Swank	Reader	Cindy Miller
Assisting Minister	Brock Bowers	Acolyte	Anders Barndt
Greeters	Dave & Jane Pugh		
Council Person	Bob Duppstadt		

September 14

Altar Guild	Genette Swank	Reader	Ryan Maust
Assisting Minister	Brenda Maust	Acolyte	Lane Gilbert
Greeters	Randy Berkey & Joe Swank Sr.		

September 21

Altar Guild	Genette Swank	Reader	Jane Pugh
Assisting Minister	Jane Pugh	Acolyte	Ari Ohler
Greeters	Cindy Miller & Jean Shaffer		

September 28

Altar Guild	Genette Swank	Reader	Rich Walker
Assisting Minister	Darren Walker	Acolyte	Kolton George
Greeters	Rich & Darren Walker		

**Please remember, that if you have a “job” and can’t be here, you must
find a replacement and notify the office!**

September 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3	4 Bible Study 10:30 am	5	6
7 Worship 9 am SCS 10:30 am Donut Sunday	8	9	10	11 Bible Study 10:30 am Council Mtg. 7 pm	12	13
14 Worship 9 am SCS 10:30 am 2nd Sun. Offering is for Shop with a Cop	15 Bishop's Convo →	16	17	18 Bible Study 10:30 am Laurel Highlands Conference 7 pm	19	20
21 Worship 10 am 3rd Grade Bibles Annual Family Banquet	22 MEALS ON WHEELS ALL WEEK →	23	24	25 Bible Study 10:30 am	26	27
28 Worship 9 am SCS 10:30 am Catechism Class 4 pm-6 pm	29	30				
			September's Second Offering is for Shop with a Cop!			



Family Banquet September 21

Join us for the banquet immediately after **10 am worship**. Menu includes roast beef, roasted pork loin, mashed potatoes with gravy, stuffing balls, fresh garden salad, beverages and dessert.

Golden Club members' meals are compliments of the church.

Adult tickets \$15, children 15 and under are free. Checks can be made payable to Faith Lutheran Church and put in the offering plate (indicating how many reservations you need) or left on the desk in the office. Reservations due September 7.



MEALS ON WHEELS

LET'S BAKE!

Faith will again be providing desserts for the Meals on Wheels Program as part of its community outreach ministry. Many of Faith's own members benefit from this program and we are happy to do our part during the Week of September 22nd thru the 26th. Sign-up sheet will be passed around on Sundays – or call the office and let us know what you would like to bake. No Icing is the only restriction; chocolate is now allowed. Let's bake for our friends and neighbors! Bring your bake goods to church Sunday morning, September 21st, and we will deliver them!

Do you sing in the shower? Come join the choir!

Do you sing in the car? Come join the choir!

Do you sing happy birthday? Come join the choir!!!!

All voices are welcome and needed to help lift up our thanks to the Lord our God! Come join the choir!

Church choir will start back up in September-watch for more details.

Sing
TO THE
Lord,
FOR HE HAS BEEN
Good
TO ME.





Rodney Will	Sept. 2	Charles Brant	Sept. 19	91 yrs
Dylan Pyle	Sept. 3	Lindsey Shaffer	Sept. 20	
Carl Schrock	Sept. 4	Dakota Wyant	Sept. 21	87 yrs
Jack Loeffert	Sept. 6	Shawn Shaffer	Sept. 22	
Doris Lehman	Sept. 8	Jane Pugh	Sept. 23	85 yrs
Judy Thomas	Sept. 11	Paul Will	Sept. 23	80 yrs
Oakleigh Breegle	Sept. 13			
Lily Walker	Sept. 13			



Clarence & Joan Walker	September 3	54 yrs
Michael & Kaitlyn Sulkowski	September 6	11 yrs
Bradley & Melissa Lenart	September 10	20 yrs
Irma & Blair Walker	September 11	54 yrs
Clair & Loretta Weyant	September 20	16 yrs
Zach & Brittany McClellan	September 30	2 yrs



Faith Formation at Faith

Learning. Living. Laughing.
Listening. All in God's love.

Faith Formation – Fall 2025

Whether you're brand-new or a familiar face, there's a place for you to grow, learn, and connect this fall:

Adult Sunday School

Join us each Sunday following worship for thoughtful conversation and spiritual growth. No homework required—just bring yourself.

Adult Bible Study

Thursdays from **10:30–11:30 AM** (or as long as the Spirit stirs the conversation). Come for the coffee, stay for the laughter, learning, and heartfelt reflections as we dig into God's Word with Pastor Kathy.

Kids' Kingdom Sunday School

Begins **October 5th**, during Doughnut Sunday fellowship. Open to children of all ages—featuring Bible stories and themed-activities to make faith come alive.

Youth in Action

First gathering of the season will be held on **Sunday, October 5th, 4–6 PM**. (Note: This is a shift from our usual last-Sunday rhythm for September due to scheduling and vacations.) Open to children and youth of all ages—a space to share a meal, explore our faith, and live it out through community service and fun. Bring a friend or two!

Catechism for Confirmation

First gathering is **Sunday, September 28th, from 4–6 PM** here at Faith, with a light supper included. Designed for youth in **grades 7–12**. We'll meet monthly on the **third Sunday of each month**, together with confirmands from St. Mark, alternating locations. Attendance is required in order to be confirmed. Letters/registration forms will be sent via snail mail.

Faith Formation is more than a program—it's a shared journey. Come walk with us as we listen, learn, and live God's love together.



Bring Your Bibles to Church Sunday
A Blessing of the Bibles
Sunday, October 5th

We invite you to bring your Bibles with you to church—family heirlooms, well-worn study companions, children's story Bibles, or the one tucked beside your favorite chair—

for a special moment of blessing during worship.

Whether your Bible is held together with duct tape and love, or still smells like fresh pages, we'll honor the stories it carries and the hands that have turned its pages. Together, we'll give thanks for the Word that shapes us, comforts us, and calls us deeper into God's love.

All ages welcome. All Bibles welcome.

You're welcome to bring as many Bibles as you own—each one tells a story, and we'd love to bless them all.

A special table near the altar will be set up to receive your Bibles before worship begins.

If you don't have your own bible, we'll have one ready for you to take home—our gift to you.

Let's celebrate the living Word in our lives and homes.



SOMERSET COUNTY MOBILE FOOD BANK

2025 Food Distributions— Receive food 2x a month from SCMFB. Each family that qualifies can receive food both at a Saturday distribution and at one of the weekday distributions. Families will receive a mixture of vegetables, fruits, frozen meats, and our dry goods items totaling around 45lbs at each distribution. If you are already registered at SCMFB, Take your current Food Bank ID card, or if you are not, you can sign up at any location that same day (take an item providing your address).

Saturdays, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 1, Dec. 6

9 am—9:45 am Conemaugh Township High School: (300 W. Campus Ave.
Davidsville)

10:45 am—11:45 am Meyersdale: (Church of the brethren, 9 Beachley St.,
Meyersdale)

12:45 pm—2 pm Somerset County Education Center: (6024 Glades Pike,
Somerset)

Weekday Distributions

Tuesdays, Sept. 23, Oct. 21., Nov. 18, Dec. 16

11 am—11:30 am Central City: Shade Recreation Park, Chestnut St.

12:30 pm—1 pm Berlin: Brethren Church, Main Street.

1:45 pm—2:30 pm: Meyersdale: Church of the Brethren, 9 Beachley St.,
Meyersdale

Wednesdays, Sept. 24, Oct. 22, Nov. 19, Dec. 17

11 am—11:30 am Boswell: Merchants Ave—Beside St. Andrew Lutheran
Church

12:15 pm—12:45 pm Hollsopple: St. Anne's Catholic Church, exit 219
Davidsville

1:30 pm—2:15 pm Windber: Calvary United Methodist Church,
1800 Stockholm Ave.

Thursdays, Sept. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 20, Dec. 18

12:15 pm—12:45 pm Rockwood: Across from Rockwood Church of the Brethren, 600 Main St.

1:45 pm—2:15 pm Confluence: Confluence Borough Building, 711 Logan Place

4:15 pm—5 pm Somerset: Somerset Alliance Church, 708 Stoystown Road,
Somerset (Do not arrive at the somerset location before 4pm).

Income Guidelines July 2025-June 30, 2026

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Weekly</u>
1	\$28,953	\$2,413	\$557
2	\$39,128	\$3,261	\$753
3	\$49,303	\$4,109	\$949
4	\$59,478	\$4,957	\$1,144
5	\$69,653	\$5,805	\$1,340
6	\$79,828	\$6,653	\$1,536
7	\$90,003	\$7,501	\$1,731
8	\$100,178	\$8,349	\$1,927

Each additional family member adds \$10,175 annually, \$848 monthly or \$196 monthly.

For further information or questions, contact SCMFB at 814-443-6574 ext. 3, visit scmfb.org, email mobilefoodbank11@verizon.net or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SomersetCountyMobileFoodBank.



Faith Makes a Difference

Faith has been blessed by several estate gifts from members, which have been placed into a 9-month Flex CD at FNB. These funds are designated for *Capital Improvements*—building needs that go beyond everyday upkeep.

When emergency repairs arise, this account allows us to respond promptly and wisely. Importantly, these funds do not replace our regular Building/Maintenance contributions. Those routine gifts remain vital to the daily care of our church space—supporting tasks like fixing leaky faucets, replacing lightbulbs, and keeping the heat running.

If you'd like to support capital improvements, just use the fourth line of your giving envelope and write “Capital Imp.” And thank you for continuing to give faithfully toward our regular building maintenance—your generosity helps keep our church home strong, welcoming, and well-cared for.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

6567 Glades Pike

Somerset, PA 15501

Reverend Kathleen Stump

www.faithlutheransomerset.org

flc15501@gmail.com

Sunday Worship 9 am

Sunday Church School 10:30 am

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

Youth in Action! Last Sunday of the Month