

Faith's Blessings

Faith Lutheran Church

6567 Glades Pike

Somerset PA 15501

(814) 443-3179

(814) 483-3097 Pastor Kathy

December 2025

LET US LOVE TO TELL THE STORY...

As the days grow shorter and the lights begin to twinkle, I've been thinking about the stories we tell this time of year. Some are handed down through generations. Some are sparked by a single question in catechism class.



Back in October, we talked about Martin Luther—not just the 95 Theses, but the lore that credits him with adding candles to Christmas trees. Of course someone asked, “Did they catch on fire?” (A fair question.) That led to stories of big-bulb lights from my own childhood—those glass globes that got so hot we used tin star-shaped reflectors to keep the heat in check and bounce the light outward. They were beautiful, and a little dangerous.

From there, we remembered the string lights that came next, then the pre-lit trees of today. My grandparents had one of those silver trees—do you remember them? All shimmer and shine, lit by a rotating color wheel that cast red, blue, green, and gold across the branches. And my Aunt Pearl had a tree that used optical lights—fibers that changed color and pulsed gently, like the tree itself was breathing light. That, too, was part of the story.

We've lit trees in many ways over the years. Blue lights for Advent, waiting in hope. White lights for Christmas, shining with joy. Each bulb, each flicker, each glow has helped us tell the story—of longing, of arrival, of light in the darkness.

In church, we've told the Christmas story with cardboard camels and animal costumes. With little kings carrying gifts and angels with wings. With candlelight and carols, with pageants and poetry, with music that filled the sanctuary and quiet moments that filled our hearts: One year, we colored the Christmas story with a giant crayon box—and the children were the crayons. Another year, camels told the story. Another, the wood of the trees—the one that built the manger and the one that formed the cross. And one year, the story was stirred up in the making of Christmas cookies, where flour and sugar came together to remind us of God's sweet gift. Even if we don't remember every line or every costume, we remember the feeling: the joy of gathering, the warmth of welcome, the flicker of hope in the dark. We remember the stories that made us laugh, the ones that made us cry, the ones that helped us believe.

These stories matter. They shape us. They remind us who we are and where we've been. And they help us tell the deeper story—the one that never changes. The story of a baby born in Bethlehem. Of light that came into the world and didn't burn out. Of God with us, then and now.

This December, keep telling the stories. The funny ones, the tender ones, the ones that make you pause. Tell them around the tree, at the table, in the car, in the sanctuary. Because every story of love and light and belonging points us back to the manger—and the story that embraces us all.

May God continue to bless you and your families—with warmth that gathers, peace that steadies, and joy that overflows. May the stories you share this season remind you of the love that holds us together, and the light that never goes out.

I invite you to join us for our Christmas candlelight services, where we'll carry on traditions held and welcome new ones. Come sing, come listen, come gather—come help me tell the story...again...

In grace and peace, and with much love,

Pastor Kathy †



During the month of November we lifted the following in prayer: Shirley Weimer, Sandy Miller, Jan Fochtman, John Fuller, Bill Trent, Jr., Friends and family of Marion Miller 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 \$130 in November for the Shanksville Fire Department.

The December 2nd offering to be collected Dec. 14 has been designated for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Thank You for support of our outreach programs to these organizations!



Faith Formation

Adult Sunday School—weekly following worship service.

December 7 – Kids Kingdom during Fellowship.

December 14—Catechism 4-6 pm at Faith

The Laurel Highlands Chorale will present their annual Christmas concert Sun., Dec. 7 at 3:30 pm and Mon., Dec. 8 at 7 pm at the Somerset Church of the Brethren. Tickets are \$5 and will be available at the door.



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

December 7

Altar Guild	Karen, Sandy & Dawn	Reader	Brenda Maust
Assisting Minister	Brenda Maust	Acolyte	Evelyn Rhoads
Greeters	Dylan & Nolan Pyle		
Council Person	Dave Pugh		

December 14

Altar Guild	Karen, Sandy & Dawn	Reader	Ryan Maust
Assisting Minister	Jane Pugh	Acolyte	Kolton George
Greeters	Karen Shaffer & Lori Dill		

December 21

Altar Guild	Karen, Sandy & Dawn	Reader	Deanna Bowers
Assisting Minister	Brock Bowers	Acolyte	Colleen Barndt
Greeters	Laura Miller & Deanna Bowers		

December 24 1:30 pm

Altar Guild	Karen, Sandy & Dawn	Reader	Randy Fieg
Assisting Minister	Darren Walker	Acolyte	Rich Walker
Greeters	Randy Fieg & Linda Foster		

December 24 7 pm

Altar Guild	Karen, Sandy & Dawn	Reader	Jane Pugh
Assisting Minister	Dave Pugh	Acolyte	Olivia George
Greeters	Dave Pyle & Steve Will Families		

December 28

Altar Guild	Karen, Sandy & Dawn	Reader	Randy Fieg
Assisting Minister	Randy Fieg	Acolyte	Dylan Pyle
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!**

December 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3 Mid Week Advent 6 pm	4 Bible Study 10:30 am	5	6 Creative Crafters 1 pm
7 Worship 9 am Donut Sunday Kid's Kingdom Gift Wrapping	8	9	10 Mid Week Advent 6 pm	11 Bible Study 10:30 am Council 7 pm	12	13
14 Worship 9 am Cong. Meeting Jingle & Mingle 2nd Sun. Offering is for Pr. Disc. Fund Catechism 4-6 at Faith	15	16	17 Mid Week Advent 6 pm	18 Bible Study 10:30 am	19	20
21 Worship 9 am SCS 10:30 am	22	23	24 Worship 1:30 pm Worship 7 pm	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27
28 Worship 9 am SCS 10:30 am	29	30	31			
			December's 2nd Offering is for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund			



Mary Ann Long
Suzanne Slayton
Genevieve Spade
Andy Maust
Brenda Walker
Elaine Hillegas
Jan Fochtman

Dec. 2
Dec. 4
Dec. 5
Dec. 6
Dec. 6
Dec. 7
Dec. 11

Carol Kemerer
Lakin Friedline
Bob Duppstadt
Jen Ohler
Josh Walker
Allen Stump
Gracelyn Friedline
Roger Saylor

Dec. 15
Dec. 17
Dec. 20
Dec. 22
Dec. 26
Dec. 28
Dec. 31
Dec. 31



Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025

Following our 9 am Worship

You are encouraged to attend and vote on items for the 2026 calendar year. Items on the agenda include: electing 3 new council members, discuss and approve the 2026 Ministry Proposal. Information packets on the table in the narthex.

Hope to see you all at the meeting!



Join us in decorating our worship area by purchasing plants in honor or memory of your loved ones.

The poinsettia plants are \$9 each and are available in different colors; red, white, pink, marble and burgundy.

Deadline for ordering is November 30. Please contact the church office to place your order 443-3179. Checks should be made payable to Faith Lutheran Church.

PLEASE JOIN US...

**Wednesday evenings during Advent,
December 3rd, 10th, and 17th, at 6:00 p.m.**

Still They Speak



This Advent, we gather midweek to listen.
Not to the noise of the season, but to the voices that still speak—
voices of promise, preparation, anticipation, and praise.
In these quiet services of reflection and Holy Communion,
we'll hear scripture's layered perspectives on Christ's coming:
voices that prepare the way, proclaim magnificence,
and praise God when Christmas dawns.
Advent is more than waiting—it's a season of layered voices.
And if we listen carefully, we'll hear hope in every one.

Come listen with us.

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6567 Glades Pike, Somerset PA 15501



“Mingle and Jingle”

Join us on Sunday morning, December 14 following worship to help decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas!

When the decorating is complete, we will then gather in the fellowship hall for a turkey dinner and a time of fellowship. Turkey, filling and beverages will be provided. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert.

Everyone is invited to help decorate and join in the meal. Many hands make light work!

Hope to see you then.

Offering envelopes and updated directories for 2026 are on the table in the overflow. Christmas Cards may also be place on tables. **PLEASE DO NOT** leave cards for those who won't receive them, we are not forwarding any cards. Shut in cards will be delivered to those along with a Christmas Gift from the congregation.



*As we gather together
with family and friends to celebrate the season,
the sights and sounds that fill the air remind us of the reason:
The greatest gift, sent from heaven above, found sleeping in a manger.*

*With thankful hearts let us come together in joy and thanksgiving,
celebrating that night of nights...
when angels sang
shepherds gathered and Kings set off from afar
with gifts of love and adoration*

**This year we offer two opportunities for worship:
A candlelight afternoon service with Holy Communion
and children's message will begin at 1:30 pm
A candlelight evening service with Holy Communion and
children's message will begin at 6:30 p.m. with special music.**

**Please join us and start your Christmas festivities celebrating the
coming of the Christ child, our Lord and Savior!
All are welcome!**

**Wishing you and yours a Joyous Christmas filled with the love and
hope that is found in Jesus Christ,
Rev. Kathleen Stump**



Doughnut Sundays

A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex for 2026. Every first Sunday of the month, we have doughnuts in the fellowship hall following our worship. If you would like to provide doughnuts, please put your name on the Sunday you wish to bring doughnuts.

Worship

Altar Flower and Communion Bread sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex for 2026. If you can provide flowers or bread for any worship service, please put your name on the appropriate Sunday. The bread should be an unsliced loaf, or you can provide pita bread.

Somerset Floral will bill you directly for the flowers and if you want, you can choose a specific flower of your choice.

Thank you for helping with these items for our worship service.





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