

Faith's Blessings

Faith Lutheran Church

6567 Glades Pike


Somerset PA 15501

(814) 443-3179

(814) 483-3097 Pastor Kathy

November 2025

November invites us to notice. To name the goodness of God not just in grand gestures, but in coffee and doughnuts shared after worship, in soup ladled with love, in leaves crunching underfoot, and in quiet prayers before a meal. Even the pumpkins—resting along our landscape, tucked beside the altar, and lining the sanctuary windows—seem to join in the season's invitation: slow down, give thanks, remember.

A photograph of a white pumpkin and a yellow flower. The pumpkin is on the left, and the flower is on the right. The background is blurred.

*Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love,
for His wondrous works to the children of man!
For He satisfies the longing soul,
and the hungry soul He fills with good things.*

Psalms 107:8-9

Thanksgiving may not be a liturgical holiday, but it's a deeply Christian posture. Scripture is full of thanksgiving—not just as a response to abundance, but as a way of life. We give thanks in worship, in prayer, in the breaking of bread. We give thanks not because everything is perfect, but because God is present.

Growing up, my family called that prayer “Grace.” Others might call it “the blessing.” It was simple, often memorized, sometimes mumbled—but it was sacred. Saying grace wasn’t just about blessing the food, it was about recognizing that what sat before us—warm rolls, chipped plates, the presence of one another—was a gift. Grace reminded us that we didn’t

earn the feast, and we didn’t dine alone. God was at the table, too.

Over time, I’ve come to cherish both the memorized words of grace I grew up with and the blessing that rises from my heart in the moment—shaped by what’s unfolding that day. At church fellowship meals, I often speak the blessing aloud, naming the joy of gathering and the hands that prepared the food. At funerals, the prayer leans tender, holding grief and hope together; I often recognize the spirit of the departed loved one in our mealtime conversations. During Vacation Bible School, we do the “Superman” blessing—arms outstretched, voices lifted, joy uncontained. In Kids’ Kingdom and Catechism, I invite our young members to say the prayers themselves, so they know that the words they speak are important too. What a blessing it is to hear their voices—sometimes shy, sometimes bold—as they learn about prayer, learn prayers, and say or sing them aloud. These moments remind me that prayer isn’t just taught; it’s shared. And when our youngest members speak to God, the whole church listens.

In Christian tradition, grace is more than a mealtime ritual. It's the unearned, unending love of God. It's the reason we can give thanks even when the pantry is sparse or the heart is heavy. Grace is what holds us when we're grieving, what nudges us toward generosity, what fills our lungs with breath and our prayers with hope. Scripture reminds us to "give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Not just when the table is full or the calendar says "Thanksgiving," but in the everyday moments where grace shows up unannounced.

Gratitude isn't reserved for the highlight reel. It lives in the cracks. In the covered dishes shared and baked goods dropped off for our neighbors without fanfare. In the quiet visit. In the child who says "thank you". In the person who shows up early to make coffee and or stays after to move tables and chairs. This year, I'm especially thankful for the quiet saints of our church. The ones who pray behind the scenes. Who offer hospitality with a smile. Who carry casseroles, communion trays, and stories of grace. You are the heartbeat of this place.

This month, we lean into gratitude—not as a performance, but as a practice. Not just on one Thursday, but in every ordinary moment where grace meets us. Whether you're hosting a feast or eating leftovers, whether you're surrounded by family or holding space for grief, you are not alone. God is with you. And that is reason enough to give thanks.

As we give thanks this season, I invite you to share your own blessings. What prayer do you say before a meal? What moment of grace surprised you this year? What words of thanks have you heard from a child, a neighbor, or a stranger? You're welcome to jot a note, send an email, or simply speak your gratitude aloud. Your words matter. Your stories nourish. And your voice is part of the blessing.

Thank you for your prayers. For your presence. For your steady faith and generous hearts. You remind me, again and again, that God's grace shows up in ordinary ways—and that's worth giving thanks for.

With love and deep gratitude,
Pastor Kathy +

pastorkathystump@gmail.com
814-483-3097



During the month of October we lifted the following in prayer: Jody Ferguson, Stephanie Ream, Shirley Oline 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 \$137 in October for the Somerset Fire Department.

The November 2nd offering to be collected November 9 has been designated for the Shanksville Fire Department.

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

Faith Formation

Adult Sunday School—weekly following worship service.

Nov. 2– Kids Kingdom during Fellowship.

Nov. 16- Catechism 4-6 pm at St. Marks this month.

Nov. 30– YIA “Turkey Bowl” 5-7 pm at Terrace Lanes, Somerset.

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

November 2

Altar Guild	Gennette Swank	Reader	Jane Pugh
Assisting Minister	Jane Pugh	Acolyte	Kaden George
Greeters	Dave & Sandy Pyle		
Council Person	Steve Will		

November 9

Altar Guild	Gennette	Reader	Kate Judy
Assisting Minister	Darren Walker	Acolyte	Nolan Pyle
Greeters	Laura Miller & Genevieve Spade		

November 16

Altar Guild	Gennette	Reader	Sammy Swank
Assisting Minister	Brenda Maust	Acolyte	Anders Barndt
Greeters	Dan & Dawn Walker		

November 23

Altar Guild	Gennette	Reader	Brenda Maust
Assisting Minister	Randy Fieg	Acolyte	Lane Gilbert
Greeters	Justin Rhoads Family		

November 30

Altar Guild	Gennette	Reader	Bob Duppstadt
Assisting Minister	Brock Bowers	Acolyte	Kohen Breegle
Greeters	Keith & Kathy Rhoads		

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

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship 9 am SCS 10:30 am Kid's Kingdom Donut Sunday	3	4	5	6 Bible Study 10:30 am	7	8
9 Worship 10 am Baptism Veterans Dinner 2nd Sun. Offering is for Shanksville VFD	10	11	12	13 Bible Study 10:30 am Council 7pm	14	15
16 Worship 9 am SCS 10:30 am Catechism Class 4-6 @ St. Marks	17	18	19	20 Bible Study 10:30 am	21	22
23 Worship 9 am SCS 10:30 am Community Thanksgiving Service 7 pm Roxbury UCC	24	25	26	27 Happy Thanksgiving	28	29
30 Worship 9am SCS 10:30 am YIA, family & friends "Turkey Bowl" 5-7 pm Terrace Lanes			November's Second Offering is for Shanksville Volunteer Fire Department			

THE FESTIVAL OF ALL SAINTS



A Liturgy of Remembrance Sunday, November 2nd 9:00 A.M.

November is a season of remembering.

As the days grow shorter and the porch lights glow a little longer,
we gather to honor the saints—
those who have gone before us, those who walk beside us, and those whose stories are still unfolding.

Faith's Festival of All Saints offers sacred space to speak the names of loved ones, light candles in their memory,
and pray for the great cloud of witnesses that surrounds us.

Together, we'll remember.
Together, we'll give thanks.

Operation Christmas Spirit:

Angel Tree Blessings



This year Faith will once begin to get into the “Christmas Spirit” as part of its Heart Strings Ministry by adopting the residents of Martins Personal Care Home in Rockwood and also the residents at Countryside Personal Care Home in Friedens for Christmas.

Pick an angel gift tag from the Christmas tree in back of the sanctuary and help make a difference:

November 2 through November 30

Each gift tag is a smile that you can make come true.

Take one. Shop. Return. That is all one must do.

Pick a tag and sign it out.

Return the gift with tag attached by November 30. Do not wrap the gifts; we will do so as a community of faith the first Sunday in December during our Doughnut Fellowship/Kids Kingdom.

Later in December, we will carpool to Martins and Countryside to hand-deliver the gifts along with some other goodies and sing a few favorite Christmas carols. Date to be announced.

Unable to shop? Monetary gifts are welcome to assist in providing the home with additional blessings for this wonderful group of folks – just place them in the collection giftbox near the tree.

HONORING ALL THOSE WHO SERVE



**Sunday,
November 9TH**

“WE SALUTE YOU!”

Join us in worship at 10:00 a.m. as we recognize, honor, and give heartfelt thanks to all who have served and continue to serve in our armed forces. This is a sacred time to lift up the courage, sacrifice, and steadfast spirit of our veterans.

Following worship, we’ll gather for a spaghetti dinner in celebration of Faith’s veterans and their families.

Let’s share a meal and say together:
“Thank you—we salute you!”

All are welcome. Come be part of this moment of gratitude and community.

(Volunteers are needed – contact office and/or let Pastor Kathy know you are able to lend a hand.)



Nolan Pyle Nov. 3
 Joe Swank, Jr. Nov. 10
 Mark Nist Nov. 11
 Yvonne Rhoads Nov. 12
 Dan Walker Nov. 18
 Kevin Foster Nov. 19

Bob Wiltrout Nov. 19
 Jim Rayman Nov. 22
 Ari Ohler Nov. 24
 Byron Glessner Nov. 28
 Erika Fender Nov. 30

97 yrs.

83 yrs.



Carol & Carl Schrock

November 28

67 yrs.



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. The information is found in the following pages of this newsletter. Hope to see you all at the meeting!

FALL HARVEST TURKEY BOWL!!!



**Sunday, November
30th
5 pm - 7 pm at
Terrace Bowling Lanes
194 Revco Rd,
Somerset**

All children, youth and teens are invited.
You can also bring a friend!

Bowling shoes, two games of bowling, pizza and drinks (and, of course, a chance to win one of Pastor Kathy's harvest of "fabulous prizes"!) are included - sponsored by the generous support of our church members through Youth in Action.



Grown-ups are invited to join in the fun too!
The cost is \$12 per adult which includes all of the above.

So let's have some fun...and a laugh or two...
get those arms warmed up for some strikes and
some spares...
and join in an afternoon of family fellowship.

There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby at church
or just give us a call at 814 443-3179 and let us know you'll be here!
Grown-ups, please pay in advance.

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.

Faith Lutheran Church

6567 Glades Pike, Somerset PA 15501

WATCH FOR DETAILS!!!
PARTICIPATE...CONNECT... SERVE...
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
IT'S COMING....



- ♦ Community Thanksgiving Service – November 23rd, 7:00 p.m.
 - ♦ Angel Tree – It's a Wrap! – December 7th
- ♦ Community Cookie Walk – December 13th at 9:00 a.m.
benefits Ramps-R-Us and Salvation Army
 - ♦ Congregational Meeting – December 14th
- ♦ Mingle & Jingle – Annual Christmas Covered Dish
Decorate for Christmas, December 14th

AGENDA

2025 Annual Congregational Meeting

Opening Prayer

Call to Order

Purpose of Meeting

Review and approval of 2024 Congregational Meeting Minutes

Vote on new Council Members (3)

Bob Duppstadt

Review, discussion and vote on 2026 Ministry Proposal

Adjournment

Congregational Meeting Minutes

Dec. 8, 2024

Pastor Kathy offered an opening prayer and Sandy Pyle then called the meeting to order. Purpose of the meeting was to review and approve the minutes from the 2023 Congregational Meeting, vote on three (3) new council members and review, discuss and vote on the Ministry Proposal for 2025.

A motion was made, 2nd and approved to accept the 2023 meeting minutes.

There were 4 names submitted on the ballot for new council members; Cindy Miller, Randy Berkey, David Pyle and Steve Will. No nominations from the floor were submitted, and a motion was made to close the nominations and vote. Motion 2nd and approved. Ballots were passed and counted while

Pr. Kathy talked about her Pastors Report for the year. New council members for 2025 are Cindy Miller, Randy Berkey and Steve Will.

Ministry Proposal was reviewed with no discussion. Motion made to vote on the proposal, 2nd and approved. Ballots passed and counted while Sandy Pyle gave a brief report on WELCA and the Social Committee. There was no report from property.

Ministry Proposal votes were 43 YES and 2 NO. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, 2nd and approved.

Brenda Maust

Council Secretary

2026 Ministry Proposal

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
<u>Ministries</u>			
Worship	2545.	2000.	2300. **
Education	1403.	1000.	1000.
Camp Scholarship	1305.	0.	0.
Evangelism	69.	500.	200. **
Stewardship	0.	100.	100.
Support/Social	<u>384.</u>	<u>1000.</u>	<u>1000.</u>
Total	5400.	4600.	4600.
<u>Operating</u>	11,189.	14,000.	14,000.
<u>Payroll</u>			
Salaries	50,413.	72,687.	72,687.
Pr. Social Security	0.	0.	0.
Pension/Benefits	11,891.	30,000.	30,000.
Travel	197.	1500.	1500.
Continuing Education	402.	600.	600.
Housing Equity	0.	0.	0.
Medical Reimb.	1199.	1800.	1800.
Taxes	<u>4144.</u>	<u>5700.</u>	<u>5700.</u>
Totals	68,247.	122,287.	122,287.
<u>Outreach</u>			
Benevolence	1530.	6000.	6000.
World Hunger	0.	0.	0.
Missionary Support	0.	0.	0.
2 nd Offerings	1116.	0.	0.
Other	<u>2754.</u>	<u>2500.</u>	<u>2500.</u>
Total	5400.	8500.	8500.
<u>Maintenance</u>	31,556.	19,000.	19,000.
<u>Memorial Fund</u>	647.	0.	0.
<u>Misc. Out</u>	<u>2356.</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>0.</u>
TOTALS	125,101.	168,387.	168,387.

**** Denotes a change from 2025**

Council also voted to approve a 2% pay increase for staff



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

First Sunday of each month during Doughnut Sunday fellowship. Open to children of all ages—featuring Bible stories and themed-activities to make faith come alive.

Youth in Action

Meets the last Sunday of the month. 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

Meets the third Sunday each month **from 4–6 PM** here at Faith or St. Marks, with a light supper included.

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.



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