

# Faith's Blessings

Faith Lutheran Church

6567 Glades Pike

Somerset PA 15501

(814) 443-3179

(814) 483-3097 Pastor Kathy

**January 2026**

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## From Hopscotch to Hope: Simplicity, Living with Grace

As we step into a new year, many of us carry memories of a childhood that unfolded before the world became digital, fast, and loud:

We remember Saturday mornings filled with cereal and cartoons like Scooby Doo, Johnny Quest, Mighty Mouse and The Flintstones, punctuated by quick lessons in math, history, science, and grammar from Schoolhouse Rock.

We recall backyards that became ball fields, driveways that turned into Hot Wheels race-tracks, porches that provided the backdrop for playing house, hosting doll-filled tea parties, or game after game of jax. We shared snacks and swapped Barbie clothes, and sidewalks became hopscotch boards as we skipped over cracks so we wouldn't "break our mothers' backs." and puddles became places to explore—little worlds of wonder waiting just beneath our feet.



We played games that required nothing more than a few friends, a patch of grass or pavement, and imagination. The streetlights were our “clocks”, not texts on cell phones or calls on “smart” watches.

Those days were not perfect, but they were simple. They taught us how to be present with one another, how to build friendships from shared snacks instead of shared Wi-Fi, and how to treasure the ordinary rhythms of family life. We didn’t realize it then, but those moments were shaping us—teaching us gratitude, patience, friendship and belonging.

Now, as the pace of life looks more like the speeds found on the Pennsylvania turnpike—fast, relentless, and exhausting—and screens of all sizes fill our days, we find ourselves remembering both worlds: the one before everything sped up, and the one we journey through now. That memory is not nostalgia alone—it is a gift. It reminds us that God’s presence is not bound to technology or trends, but is found in the ordinary, in the quiet, in the simple acts of love and faithfulness.

The psalmist declares: *“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom”* (Psalm 90:12). Wisdom comes not from clinging to the past or fearing the future, but from recognizing God’s hand in every season. And Ecclesiastes reminds us: *“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven... a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance”*. These words, often read at funerals, are not only about endings—they are about the fullness of life, about God’s presence in every rhythm of our days.

The games we played, the meals shared, the laughter echoing in driveways—all of these were glimpses of grace. And the same grace meets us now, even in a world that feels complicated and hurried, where distractions and divisions often pull us apart—but God’s love still gathers us together.

As we begin this new year, may we carry forward the lessons of simplicity; cherish the moments that do not auto-save to a cloud but live in our hearts; and raise children and grandchildren with a love for presence over distraction. May we trust that the God who was faithful in our childhood is faithful still, guiding us into a future filled with hope.

May this year bring you wisdom to see God’s hand in ordinary days, courage to embrace each season with gratitude, and joy in the simple moments that remind us we belong to one another and to Christ.

Pastor Kathy +



During the month of December we lifted the following in prayer: Judy Glessner, Debbi Mull and Faith's Homebound Members.

### **Pastoral Care**

Pastoral care visits bring 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. Hospital Chaplains do not always notify us. **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.

Pastor Kathy



### **Second Offering**

We collected \$396 in December for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

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

The January 2026 offering is designated for the Next Step Center in Somerset. Recipients for the year will be designated at the council meeting on Jan. 8. Watch the bulletin for details.

### **Faith Formation**

**Adult Sunday School** weekly following worship service.

**January 4-Kids Kingdom** during Fellowship.

**January 18-Catechism** 4-6 pm at St. Mark

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

**January 4**

Altar Guild	Brenda Maust	Reader	Rich Walker
Assisting Minister	Darren Walker	Acolyte	Nolan Pyle
Greeters	Rich & Darren Walker		
Council Person	Dave Pugh		

**January 11**

Altar Guild	Brenda	Reader	Deanna Bowers
Assisting Minister	Brock Bowers	Acolyte	Kolton George
Greeters	Deanna & Brock Bowers		

**January 18**

Altar Guild	Brenda	Reader	Dave Pugh
Assisting Minister	Jane Pugh	Acolyte	Evelyn Rhoads
Greeters	Dave & Jane Pugh		

**January 25**

Altar Guild	Brenda	Reader	Steve Will
Assisting Minister	Randy Fieg	Acolyte	Anders Barndt
Greeters	Steve & Dawn Will		

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

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<p><b>Creative Crafters; please bring a personal craft to work on and we will also be doing a “pastoral care craft”</b></p>					
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Rhonda Henry	Jan. 1	Bob Kemerer	Jan. 14	
Lane Gilbert	Jan. 5	Payson Everett	Jan. 14	
Austin Custer	Jan. 6	Shelby Ream	Jan. 15	<b>86 yrs.</b>
Tanner Friedline	Jan. 8	Brock Bowers	Jan. 26	
Brenda Shaffer	Jan. 9	Jim Long	Jan. 28	<b>82 yrs.</b>
Kristen Dively	Jan. 13	Josie Swank	Jan. 28	
		Elias Tweardy	Jan. 30	



Jeanetta and Gary Shaffer      January 8      **43 years**

# mark your Calendar

Upcoming Events here at Faith to put on your calendars:

Pancake Supper

Feb. 17

4-7 pm

Freewill offering

Ash Wednesday Worship

Feb. 18

7 pm

Holy Communion with Disposition of Ashes

Watch your bulletins for more details





## **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

6567 Glades Pike

Somerset, PA 15501

Reverend Kathleen Stump

[www.faithlutheransomerset.org](http://www.faithlutheransomerset.org)

[flc15501@gmail.com](mailto: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