

Faith's Blessings

Faith Lutheran Church

6567 Glades Pike

Somerset PA 15501

(814) 443-3179

(814) 483-3097 Pastor Kathy

February 2026

As we look towards Ash Wednesday and step into Lent, I find myself thinking about how this season meets us right where we are. Not with pressure or perfection, but with an invitation — a quiet one — to slow down and pay attention to the life we're living. Many wonder each year what Lent is really about, or why we mark our foreheads with ashes, or what the church hopes for us in these weeks. Those questions are part of the journey, and Lent gives us the space to ask them honestly.

When I was a child, Ash Wednesday felt almost mysterious — and if I'm honest, a little frightening. The sanctuary was so still it felt like even the pews were holding their breath. The adults wore expressions I didn't see any other time of year: solemn, serious, deeply focused. I remember sitting there thinking, *"Whatever is happening right now must be the most important thing ever!"* I was afraid to move, afraid to cough, afraid to drop my hymnal — afraid, really, that God might be watching extra closely that night.

And then there were the ashes themselves. I held perfectly still as the cross was traced on my forehead, but the moment I sat down, a few loose flecks drifted right down the bridge of my nose. They tickled terribly. I tried so hard not to scratch or sneeze — partly because I didn't want to smudge the cross, and partly because I was convinced any sudden movement would get me in trouble. It took me years to realize that what I was seeing wasn't meant to scare me. It was simply a room full of people telling the truth about life and about God, even without saying a word.



Lent has always been a season of turning — forty days shaped by prayer, reflection, and generosity. Not to prove anything to God, but to make room for God’s work in us. Those forty days echo Jesus’ time in the wilderness, where he faced temptation and leaned fully into God’s strength. His wilderness reminds us that growth often happens in the quieter, stripped-down places of our own lives.

And as Lent unfolds, it carries us toward the heart of the story we tell every year. Palm Sunday arrives first, with its mix of celebration and tension —waving palms, shouts of “Hosanna,” and Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey. It’s joyful, yes, but there’s an undercurrent we can feel even now: the crowd doesn’t yet understand the kind of king Jesus is.

From there we move to Maundy Thursday, a night of tenderness and teaching. Jesus kneels to wash dusty feet, breaks bread, pours wine, and gives us a commandment that still challenges us: “Love one another as I have loved you.” It’s a night of intimacy and betrayal, of a table set with both grace and grief.

Then comes Good Friday, stark and honest. A day when we stand at the foot of the cross and face the depth of God’s love — a love willing to enter suffering and death itself. It is not an easy day, but it is a necessary one, because it tells the truth about the world and about the God who refuses to abandon it.

And after all of that — after palms and bread and shadows and silence — comes the joy of Easter morning. The stone rolled away. The women running from the tomb. The risen Christ calling people by name. It is the surprise that changes everything: life stronger than death, hope stronger than despair, love stronger than anything that tries to undo it. So as we enter this season, we do so not with dread, but with a kind of quiet courage — trusting that God will meet us in the turning.

Before we begin this Lenten journey, we’ll gather for Faith’s annual Pancake & Sausage Supper on the evening before Ash Wednesday — a warm, joy-filled tradition that lets us share a meal, King Cakes and each other’s company before stepping into the quieter days ahead. Then, throughout Lent, we’ll continue gathering for our midweek soup suppers and brief services, simple moments of community and reflection that help carry us through the season. You are warmly invited to all of it; these shared tables and shared prayers are part of how we walk this road together.

In grace and peace,

Pastor Kathy †



During the month of January we lifted the following in prayer: Family & friends of Shirley Trent 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 \$243 in January for the Next Step Center.

The February 2026 offering is designated for Casselman Food Pantry. This offering will be collected February 8.

Faith Formation

Adult Sunday School weekly following worship service.

February 1 - Kids Kingdom during Fellowship.

February 15 - Catechism 4-6 pm at Faith

February 22 - Youth In Action
4 - 6 pm, "It's Snow Time!"

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

February 1

Altar Guild	Laura Miller	Reader	Ryan Maust
Assisting Minister	Brenda Maust	Acolyte	Olivia George
Greeters	Ryan & Brenda Maust		
Council Person	Steve Will		

February 8

Altar Guild	Laura Miller	Reader	Jane Pugh
Assisting Minister	Dave Pugh	Acolyte	Dylan Pyle
Greeters	Dan & Dawn Walker		

February 15

Altar Guild	Laura Miller	Reader	Genevieve Spade
Assisting Minister	Bob Dupstadt	Acolyte	Darren Walker
Greeters	Bob D & Karen Shaffer		

February 18 A WED 12:30

Altar Guild	Laura Miller	Reader	Laura Miller
Assisting Minister	Darren Walker		
Greeters	Randy Fieg		

February 18 A WED 7:00

Altar Guild	Laura Miller	Reader	Sandy Pyle
Assisting Minister	Brenda Maust	Acolyte	Colleen Barndt
Greeters	Ryan & Brenda Maust		

February 22

Altar Guild	Laura Miller	Reader	Randy Fieg
Assisting Minister	Randy Fieg	Acolyte	Kohen Breegle
Greeters	Randy Fieg & Rodney Will		

Please remember, that if you have a "job" and can't be here, you must find a replacement and notify the office!

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1 Worship 9 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. Donut Sunday Kid's Kingdom				5 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.			
8 Worship 9 a.m. 2nd Offering (Casselman Food Pantry) Scout Sunday SCS 10:30 a.m.				12 Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Council 7 p.m.			
15 Worship 9 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. Confirmation 4—6 p.m. @ Faith		17 Pancake Supper 4:30 -7 p.m.	18 Ash Wed. Worship 12:30 p.m. 7 p.m.	19 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.			
22 Worship 9 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. YIA— "It's Snow Time" 4—6 p.m.			25 Midweek Lent Service of Word & Table 6:30 p.m. w/ Soup & Bread	26 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.			
	Second offering for February is Casselman Food Pantry						



Sunday

February 8, 2026

On Scout Sunday we take time to recognize and bless the Scouts
connected to our congregation.

These young people embody values of service, leadership, and community—
qualities that reflect our shared call to love God and neighbor.

During worship, each Scout will receive a badge in gratitude for their
service and as a reminder that their gifts make a difference here.

We give thanks for our Scouts, their families, and their leaders,
and we pray that God continues to guide them as they grow
in courage, compassion, and faith.

All are invited to join us for this joyful moment
of recognition and blessing.



Annual Pancake and Sausage Supper

February 17, 4:30 – 7 p.m.

Don't worry about supper!

Come pull up a seat and join us for hot-off-the-griddle pancakes and sausage complete with butter and maple syrup - if that's your style or bring your favorite topping along to share.

Hope to see you all then!

All are welcome!

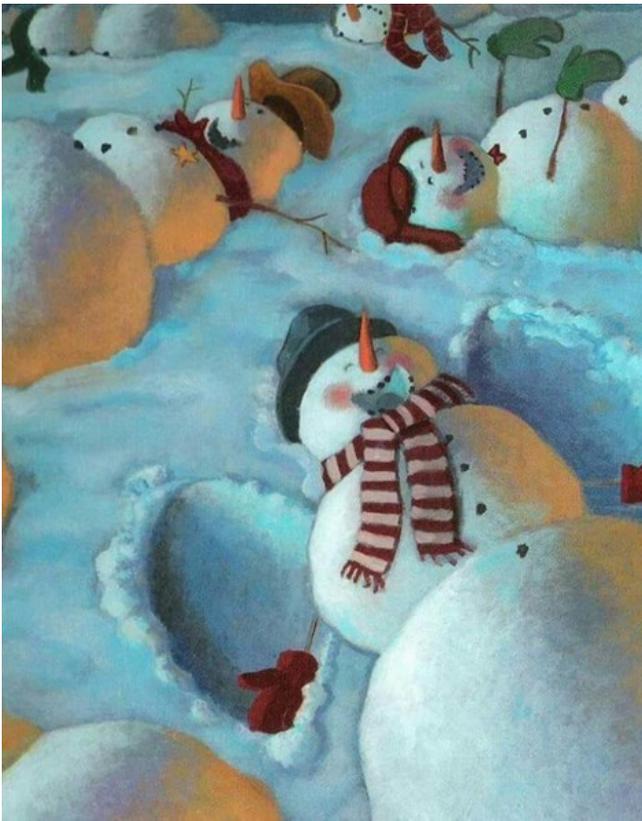


February 18, 2026

An afternoon 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.

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6567 Glades Pike
Somerset, PA 15501
(814) 443-3179
The Reverend Kathleen L. Stump, Pastor



Youth in Action

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

"IT'S SNOW TIME!"

Sunday, February 22nd

4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Snowballs are flying again!

We toss them in games, stack them in towers, race with them across the room...

and in the middle of all that fun,

we remember that God meets us in every season—even the cold ones.

How does God warm our hearts

and remind us that each of us is wonderfully made?

Come and see!

Join us for our February gathering filled with "snow much fun" you'll forget it's cold outside—no mittens or hats required. We'll share a meal, enjoy simple fellowship, and take a moment to reflect on how God brings light, love, and belonging even in the chilliest days.

Come for the food, the snowballs, the ice cream and the joy of being together.

There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby at church

or just give us a call at 443-3179

and let us "snow" you'll be here!

Lenten Midweek
Service of Word and Table
February 25 thru March 25 at 6:30 p.m.

The table set with bread and wine —



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.

May these suppers offer a quiet moment to breathe
and to taste God's goodness.

Come as you are;

the table is ready for the journey Lent invites us to make together.

There is a sign up in the church lobby to share your favorite soup or bread.

"Come, taste and see that the Lord is good!"



Christina Brougher	Feb. 2	Levi Friedline	Feb. 13	
Thomas Walker	Feb. 2	Katelyn Judy	Feb. 13	
Jean Shaffer	Feb. 6	Tara Tweardy	Feb. 13	
Kathleen Stump	Feb. 6	Patti Trent	Feb. 14	84 yrs
Kaden George	Feb. 11	William Bowers III	Feb. 17	
Kathy Trimpey	Feb. 12	Shirley Weimer	Feb. 19	88 yrs
		Nancy Heil	Feb. 27	86 yrs



Randy & Rheta Berkey	Feb. 14	37 years
Joshua & Stephanie Walker	Feb. 18	14 years
Bob & Carol Kemerer	Feb. 28	56 years



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