

Faith's Blessings

Faith Lutheran Church

6567 Glades Pike

Somerset PA 15501

(814) 443-3179

(814) 483-3097 Pastor Kathy

March 2026



The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." – John 21:17

"When Everything Stops, Love Keeps Moving"

The recent snowstorm that dropped 20+ inches of the white stuff in and around our communities stopped us all in our tracks. Schools closed. Businesses shut down or opened only halfway. Even Sunday worship had to pause. The whole world felt muffled, as if someone had thrown a thick white blanket over the noise and hurry of our days. Most of us stayed home, grateful for warm houses, stocked cupboards, and the chance to

wait it out. But not everyone had that luxury. Some still had

to drive to work on icy roads. Some had to shovel out before dawn because a shift couldn't be missed. Some had to figure out how to feed their families when the paycheck was delayed or the pantry was already thin...

Storms have a way of revealing the unevenness of life.

On a recent trip to the grocery store, I saw a little girl walking ahead of her mother, doing her very best to "help." The mother pushed the cart, calling out and pointing to items as they moved down the aisles: "carrots...peanut butter...spaghetti noodles..." and each time, the little girl would grab it with both hands and drop it into the cart with a thud that made the cans rattle. At one point she looked up and declared, "I'm helping! I'm really helping!" And the mother smiled that proud smile that every parent knows — the one that says, Yes. You are.

Something about those moments felt like a little parable. Lent can sound heavy — all the talk of repentance and sacrifice. But around here, Lent doesn't usually look like fasting in the traditional sense. Some might give something up. Some might try. Some of us will find ourselves at the Friday fish fries that pop up in social clubs, fire halls and churches across the county.

And honestly, that's its own kind of Lenten rhythm — gathering around tables, sharing a meal, remembering that food is one of the most ordinary ways God cares for us.

Viewing the season from this perspective, Lent isn't about what we give up as much as what we take on. Maybe it's about listening for God's voice naming the needs of the world — and then doing what we can, with joy, with our own small part, saying, "I'm helping." That's why the trip to the grocery-store stayed with me. It made me think: every time we put something in our own cart, we could put something else in our hearts — a prayer. A small one. A quiet one. Something like:

"God, feed those who are hungry."

"God, steady the families who are stretched thin."

"God, make me generous."

And then maybe, just maybe, we place one extra item in the cart. Not for us, but for someone who is weathering their own type of storm. This March and April we have a chance to live that out through our outreach ministry for Lazarus Gate Food Pantry. As part of our Lenten journey and Easter celebration, we will collect these items noted by the Pantry (a collection area will be set up in the sanctuary):

- Green Beans (Pastor's favorite 😊)
- Peanut Butter
- Tuna
- Mac n Cheese
- Applesauce

Isaiah 58 asks plainly what kind of fast God desires. The answer is not abstract: "Is it not to share your bread with the hungry...?" Real food. Real help. And in John's Gospel, the risen Jesus tells Peter, "Feed my sheep." Not metaphorically — but in the gritty, everyday ways that keep people alive and remind them they are seen.

The snowstorm reminded us how quickly life can grind to a halt. Lent reminds us that God's mercy never does. Even when everything else stops, love keeps moving. Compassion keeps moving. The ministry of feeding keeps moving.

So as you shop this month, picture that young girl placing items into her mother's cart with all the determination in the world and let your own grocery cart become a Lenten prayer — a simple, steady way of saying to God and to your neighbors, "I'm helping. I'm really helping!"

Grace and peace as we walk this Lenten road together.

Pastor Kathy +



During the month of February we lifted the following in prayer: Karen Helmick, Max Trimpey, The family & friends of Mary Phyllis Beal, 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 \$74.00 in February for the Casselman Valley Helper Community Food Pantry.

The March 2026 offering is designated for American Cancer Society. This offering will be collected March 8.

Faith Formation

Adult Sunday School weekly at 10:30 am following worship service.

Midweek Lent Services, Word & Soup & Bread at 6:30 pm

March 1 - Kids Kingdom during Fellowship.

March 15 - Catechism, 4-6 pm at St. Mark

March 29 - Palm Sunday, Youth In Action, 4 - 6 pm; Fifth Sunday Offering (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

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

March 1

Altar Guild	Dawn Will	Reader	Brock Bowers
Assisting Minister	Bob Duppstadt	Acolyte	Lane Gilbert
Greeters	Randy Fieg & Steve Will		
Council Person	Bob Duppstadt		

March 8

Altar Guild	Gennette Swank	Reader	Bob Thomas
Assisting Minister	Jane Pugh	Acolyte	Kaden George
Greeters	Lee & Jean Shaffer		

March 15

Altar Guild	Dawn Will	Reader	Brenda Maust
Assisting Minister	Brenda Maust	Acolyte	Nolan Pyle
Greeters	Bob & Judy Thomas		

March 22

Altar Guild	Gennette Swank	Reader	Flor Hernandez
Assisting Minister	Randy Fieg	Acolyte	Darren Walker
Greeters	Ryan & Brenda Maust		

March 29 Palm Sunday

Altar Guild	Dawn Will	Reader	Laura Miller
Assisting Minister	Dave Pugh	Acolyte	Evelyn Rhoads
Greeters	Bridget Barndt Family		



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

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 9 a.m. Donut Sunday SCS 10:30 a.m. Kid's Kingdom			4 Midweek Lent Service of Word & Table 6:30 p.m. w/ Soup & Bread	5 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.		
8 Worship 9 a.m. 2nd Offering (American Cancer Society) SCS 10:30 a.m.			11 Midweek Lent Service of Word & Table 6:30 p.m. w/ Soup & Bread	12 Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Council 7 p.m. LAST DAY TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS		
15 Worship 9 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. Confirmation 4—6 p.m. @ St. Mark			18 Midweek Lent Service of Word & Table 6:30 p.m. w/ Soup & Bread	19 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.		
22 Worship 9 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m.			25 Midweek Lent Service of Word & Table 6:30 p.m. w/ Soup & Bread	26 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.		28 Creative Crafters 1 p.m.
29 Palm Sunday Worship 9 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. YIA— 4—6 p.m. Fifth Sunday Offering - Pastor Disc. Fund	30 Holy Monday Service 7 p.m. Faith hosting Ministerium	31 Holy Tuesday Service at St. Mark 7 p.m. Pastor Kathy presiding				
	Second offering for March is the American Cancer Society					



**Easter Flowers
to Celebrate
Our Risen Savior**



**Flower order forms are
Available on the table in the narthex**

**Flowers may be purchased:
In Memory of, In Honor of, and to the
Glory of God & Our Risen Savior**

Lilies, Tulips, Hyacinth & Mums are \$13/each

Please make checks payable to:

Faith Lutheran Church

**ORDERS ARE DUE BY:
THURS., MARCH 12TH**





How Sweet It Is!

Easter Candy Collection

We are collecting individually wrapped nut-free candies or trinkets to fill eggs as we prepare giftbags for the children and youth on Easter Sunday morning. A collection box has been placed in the lobby. Items are needed by **Sunday, March 15th**.

Thank you for being one of their peeps!





HOLY WEEK

7:00 P.M. each evening

Faith Lutheran is a member of the Shanksville Ministerium, serving Christ and community in community with one another. Faith Lutheran Church will again be joining with the Shanksville Ministerium as we journey to the cross through Holy Week. These ecumenical services include seven (7) churches. Each year the churches share in hosting and speakers.

Date	Church, Hosting Pastor and Congregations	Speaker
Monday March 30 th	Faith Lutheran Pastor Stump	Pastor Smith
Tuesday March 31 st	St. Mark Pastor Stump	Pastor Creamer
Wednesday April 1 st	St. Paul Pastor Bassette	Pastor Nancarvis

Shanksville Ministerium:

- Shanksville United Methodist Church
- Roxbury United Church of Christ
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church
- Unity United Church of Christ
- Shanksville Assembly of God
- St. Mark Lutheran Church
- Faith Lutheran Church

Maundy THURSDAY

*For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

1 Corinthians 11:26



**Thursday, April 2nd,
7:00 p.m.**

**Service with Holy Communion
and Stripping of the Altar.**



**Friday, April 3rd Passion of Our Lord
Service at 7:00 p.m.**

A sunrise scene with a cross and palm trees. The sky is a mix of blue, orange, and yellow. Two birds are flying in the upper left. The text 'Easter Sunday' is written in a large, elegant cursive font, with 'HE IS RISEN' in a smaller, sans-serif font below it. A white cross is visible in the background, partially obscured by the sun and palm trees.

Easter Sunday

HE IS RISEN

Sunrise Service (Indoors)

6:30 A.M. with Holy Communion

EASTER BREAKFAST

7:30 A.M.

Christ is Risen!

9:00 A.M. Service with Holy Communion,

Children & Youth:

Joyful Bell Processional



**FAITH'S
HEARTSTRINGS MINISTRY
LENT & EASTER**

**Serving Christ and Community
In Community with One Another**

Lent isn't about what we give up as much as what we take on. Maybe it's about listening for God's voice naming the needs of the world — and then doing what we can, with joy, with our own small part, saying, "I'm helping." (from Pastor Kathy's newsletter message)

This March and April we have a chance to live that out through our Heartstrings Outreach Ministry for Lazarus Gate Food Pantry. As part of our Lenten journey and Easter celebration, we will collect these items noted in need by the Pantry (a collection area will be set up in the sanctuary):

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Koltin McClellan	Mar. 3	Denise Custer	Mar. 23
Dawn Will	Mar. 4	Robert Thomas	Mar. 23
Tyler Will	Mar. 5	Jeb Friedline	Mar. 28
Nancy Walker	Mar. 11	Melissa Lenart	Mar. 28
Darlene Zerfoss	Mar. 16	Dean Nist	Mar. 31
Evelyn Brant	Mar. 22	Michaela Ann Shaffer	Mar. 31
Brandi Rhoads	Mar. 22		



William & Janice Hoffman 16 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 10:30 am

Youth in Action! Last Sunday of the Month