

Faith's Blessings

Faith Lutheran Church

6567 Glades Pike

Somerset PA 15501

(814) 443-3179

(814) 483-3097 Pastor Kathy

August 2026



"The master of a household brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old." Matthew 13:52

August sits right in the middle of the season when Jesus keeps giving us parables—one after another—each beginning with the same line: "The kingdom of heaven is like..." It's almost as if Jesus is answering what we might call the million-dollar question: What exactly is God's kingdom like?

People asked Jesus that in all sorts of ways. Some wanted to know when the kingdom would arrive. Some wanted to know who would be part of it. Some wanted to know what signs to look for. Instead of giving them a long explanation, Jesus gave them stories—pictures drawn from everyday life. Things people saw every day. Things they could hold in their hands. Things they walked past on their way to work. A mustard seed. Yeast in dough. Treasure hidden in a field. A pearl worth everything. A net full of fish.

Each one answers the million-dollar question from a different angle. Jesus knew that one picture wouldn't be enough. The kingdom is too rich, too wide, too full of God's grace to be captured in a single image. So He kept teaching. He kept saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like..." because He knew our hearts need more than one doorway into understanding God's work. So how do we understand these parables today? We understand them the same way Jesus' first listeners did—by seeing what each picture tells us about God:

The kingdom grows. Seeds scattered sprout. God's work doesn't stay small; it grows in unexpected places. The kingdom is worth everything. Treasure in a field. A pearl of great value. God's presence is priceless. The kingdom gathers widely. A net full of fish. God's grace reaches farther than we expect. The kingdom works even when we don't see it. Seeds in the soil. Yeast in dough. God's work continues quietly and faithfully. Jesus uses these pictures because the kingdom isn't just one thing, it's many things.

It's God's work breaking into real life in ways we can understand. This is why Matthew 13:52 fits so well: "The master of a household brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.": Jesus gives us both—old truths we've carried for years and new insights that meet us right where we are. And as we move toward fall, we carry both with us: the faith that has held us steady through many seasons, and the new things God is teaching us right now.

August is a good month for that reminder. We're getting ready for a new season—Sunday school, choir, Bible study, fall ministries—but we're also carrying the faith that has shaped us through countless seasons before this one. Jesus doesn't ask us to choose between the old and the new. He gives us both. He teaches us again and again what the kingdom is like, because He knows we need all those pictures to understand the fullness of God's grace. As we step toward fall, may Jesus continue to open our hearts to the treasures He gives—some familiar, some brand-new, all pointing us toward the kingdom He invites us to share.

In grace and peace,

Pastor Kathy †





During the month of June we lifted the following in prayer: Our military personnel and families, travel mercies, Clifford & Louise Spangler, Maxine Temple, Symanthia Temple, Dee Custer, Nancy Walker, Rhonda Henry, 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 Sunday Offering

The August 2026 offering is designated for the **Somerset Volunteer Fire Department**. This offering will be collected August 9th. Quarterly Report for 2nd Sunday Offering: **April** - Salvation Army - \$137; **May** Birthright - \$105; **June** - Hooversville Food Pantry - \$164. Thank you for supporting these organizations that help our communities.

Faith Formation

- ♦ **Worship service** at 9:00 a.m.; **Adult Sunday School** at 10:30 a.m.
- ♦ **Bible Study** on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.
- ♦ **Sunday, August 2 - Donut Sunday!** following worship service at 9 a.m. - Join us for Adult Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.
- ♦ **Wednesday, August 5** - Hosting Laurel Highlands Rostered Leaders meeting at 10 a.m.
- ♦ **Thursday, August 6** - Bible Study 10:30 a.m.
- ♦ **Sunday, August 9** - Worship at 9:00 a.m. ; 2nd Sunday Offering is for Somerset Vol. Fire Dept.; Adult Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.
- ♦ **Thursday, August 13** - Bible Study at 10:30 a.m.; Council meeting at 7 p.m.
- ♦ **Saturday, August 15** - Creative Crafters at 1 p.m.
- ♦ **Wednesday, August 19** - Newsletter Articles due
- ♦ **Thursday, August 20** - Bible Study 10:30 a.m.
- ♦ **Sunday, August 23 - WORSHIP at 10 a.m. Followed by "BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ"**
- ♦ **Monday, August 24 - "Feed my Sheep"** meeting at 9:00 a.m.
- ♦ **Thursday, August 27** - Bible Study at 10:30 a.m.; Newsletter Assembly at 9:30 a.m.
- ♦ **Sunday, August 30** - Worship service at 9 a.m. - Fifth Sunday Offering is for Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

AUGUST 2 **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ARE HELPING WITH THE WORSHIP SERVICE.** **Revised 8-3-26**

ALTAR GUILD	Gennette Swank
ASSIST. MINISTER	Dave Pugh
GREETERS	Ryan & Brenda Maust
LECTOR/READER	Steve Will
ACOLYTE	Kolton George
COUNCIL PERSON(s)	Steve Will & Cindy Miller
COMMUNION BREAD	Gennette Swank

August 9 **2nd Sunday Offering / Somerset Volunteer Fire Company**

ALTAR GUILD	Gennette Swank & Dawn Will
ASSIST. MINISTER	Brenda Maust
GREETERS	Justin Rhoads family
LECTOR/READER	Sandy Pyle
ACOLYTE	Evelyn Rhoads
COUNCIL PERSON(s)	Steve Will & Cindy Miller
COMMUNION BREAD	Ken Will

August 16

ALTAR GUILD	Dawn Will
ASSIST. MINISTER	Jane Pugh
GREETERS	Bob Duppstadt & Karen Shaffer
LECTOR/READER	Rich Walker
ACOLYTE	Anders Barndt
COUNCIL PERSON (s)	Steve Will & Cindy Miller
COMMUNION BREAD	Flor & Alex

August 23 **WORSHIP AT 10 A.M. - BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ**

ALTAR GUILD	Dawn Will
ASSIST. MINISTER	Bob Duppstadt
GREETERS	Bob Duppstadt & Rodney Will
LECTOR/READER	Bob Duppstadt
ACOLYTE	Olivia George
COUNCIL PERSON(s)	Steve Will & Cindy Miller
COMMUNION BREAD	Dawn Will

August 30 **- Fifth Sunday Offering / Pastor's Discretionary Fund**

ALTAR GUILD	Gennette Swank
ASSISTING MINISTER	Genevieve Spade
LECTOR/READER	Sammy Swank
ACOLYTE	Dylan Pyle
GREETERS	Sammy & Gennette Swank
COUNCIL PERSON (s)	Steve Will & Cindy Miller
COMMUNION BREAD	???

AUGUST 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 Worship 9 a.m. Donut Sunday; SCS 10:30 a.m.	3 Social Com. Mtg. 6 p.m.	4	5 Hosting Laurel Highlands Rostered Leaders Meeting 10 a.m.	6 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	7	8
9 Worship 9 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. 2 nd Sunday Offering - Somerset Vol. Fire Co.	10	11	12	13 Bible Study 10:30 am Council Meeting 7 pm	14	15 Creative Crafters meeting at 1pm
16 Worship 9 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m.	17	18	19 Newsletter Articles Due	20 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	21	22
23 Worship 10 a.m. *Back 2 School BBQ following service	24 Feed My Flock mtg. at 9 a.m.	25	26	27 Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Newsletter Assembly 9:30 a.m.	28	29
30 Worship 9 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. 5th Sunday Offering/ Pastor's Discretionary Fund	31 Pastor away vacation Watch out for School Bus STOPS!				2 nd Sunday Offering - Somerset Vol. Fire Co.	



Steve Will	August 2	Kohen Breegle	August 20
Lee Shaffer	August 3	David Pugh	August 21
Susan Friedline-Shaffer	August 7	Sandra Pyle	August 23
Brittany McClellan	August 10	Ryan Maust	August 27
Matthew Pyle	August 12	Quinn Walker	August 27
Kenneth Will	August 12	Dylan Everett	August 28
Clifford Spangler	August 15	Judith Glessner	August 29
Louise Spangler	August 16	Kolton George	August 30
Flor Hernandez	August 18	Randy Berkey	August 31
		Alexandra Custer	August 31



Champ & Suzanne Slayton	August 12	20 years
Austin & Alexandra Custer	August 21	5 years
Justin & Brandi Rhoads	August 31	13 years

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Feeding the Flock!

August 24th, beginning at 9 a.m.,

We will get together to replenish our meals for “Feeding the Flock!”.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to help with this vital ministry that feeds those in our faith community, and beyond, experiencing medical emergencies, surgeries, extended medical procedures, and other emergency issues.

We will gather to cook meals for each family/individual as the need arises: soup, meatloaf, stuffing balls, mac n’ cheese and more!

A sign-up sheet for donations will be available over the next few Sundays.

Come join the fun and fellowship and be a part of this outreach.





Sunday, August 23rd

We're gathering for one last summertime hooray — complete with lunch, laughter, and a table full of school supplies.

Our Back to School BBQ will be held on **Sunday, August 23rd**, and worship will begin at **10:00 AM** so we can head straight into lunch together.

We'll also be giving away school supplies to help our children and youth start the year strong — donations welcome!

Because we're ordering the chicken ahead of time,
everyone who plans to join us must sign up.

bring your favorite dessert to share!

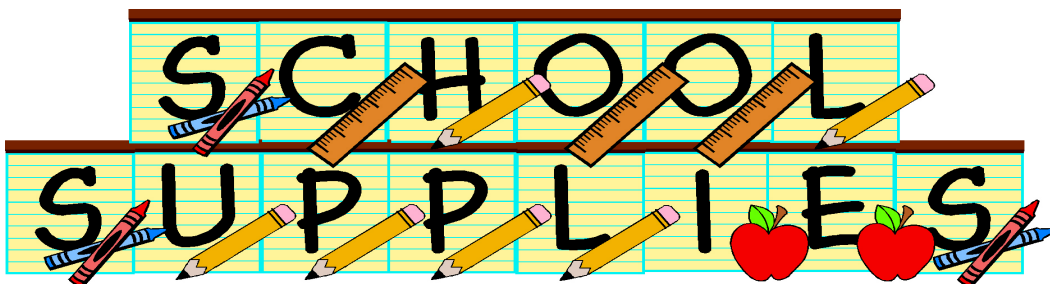


Join us on Sunday, August 23rd,

as we bless every heart stepping into a brand-new school year.

Children and youth are invited to pick up donated school supplies and receive a special blessing as they begin their year. Don't forget to add your name for a chance to win a backpack filled with surprises. Sign up on bulletin board.

We'll lift up students, teachers, staff, and families in prayer—standing together as a community that learns, grows, and serves in Christ's love. Whether you're starting preschool, heading back to high school, or moving into college life, come celebrate this hopeful beginning with us.





If your children or grandchildren will be entering the 3rd grade this coming school year, please make sure to let Pastor Kathy or Ruth in the office know so we can be sure they receive their Bible. Bibles will be presented to the children on Sunday, September 20th, during worship.

Faith's Family Banquet

Our annual family banquet will be held Sunday, September 20th, immediately after 10 a.m. worship. We will also be honoring our 80 and over "Golden Club" members. Make sure to watch for details in the worship bulletins for more info. Hope to see everyone there!



Come join the choir!

All voices are welcome and needed to help lift up our thanks to the Lord our God! Come join the choir! Do you sing happy birthday? Come join the choir!!!! Do you sing in the car? Come join the choir! Do you sing in the shower? Come join the choir! Church choir will start back up on September 13th following worship.





Faith Formation at Faith

Learning. Living. Laughing.
Listening. All in God's love.

**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

Begins **September 6th**, during Doughnut Sunday fellowship. Open to children of all ages; featuring Bible stories & themed-activities to make faith come alive.

NEW!!! Youth Choir – Begins, **September 6th**, immediately following worship. Open to children, youth and young adults.

Youth in Action

First gathering of the season will be held on **Sunday, October 4th, 4–6 PM**. (Note: This is a shift from our usual last-Sunday rhythm for September due to scheduling and vacations.) 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

First gathering is **Sunday, September 27th, from 4–6 PM** here at Faith, with a light supper included. Designed for youth in **grades 6–12**. We'll meet monthly on the **third Sunday of each month**. Attendance is required in order to be confirmed. Letters/registration forms will be sent via snail mail.

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.



Our children and youth discovered something wonderful at Kids' Kamp: they love singing together. It brought out joy, confidence, and a sense of belonging. Soooooo... we're starting something new this year. Beginning September 6th, Cindy Miller, together with Genevieve Spade and Pastor Kathy, will be leading a Youth Choir.

We will practice immediately following worship before we begin Kids' Kingdom. Doughnut fellowship will be brought into the classroom for our young members to enjoy together.

We celebrate with joy the newest and youngest member of Faith Lutheran Church!

On August 2nd, we welcomed Austin Alan McClellan into the family of God through the waters of baptism.

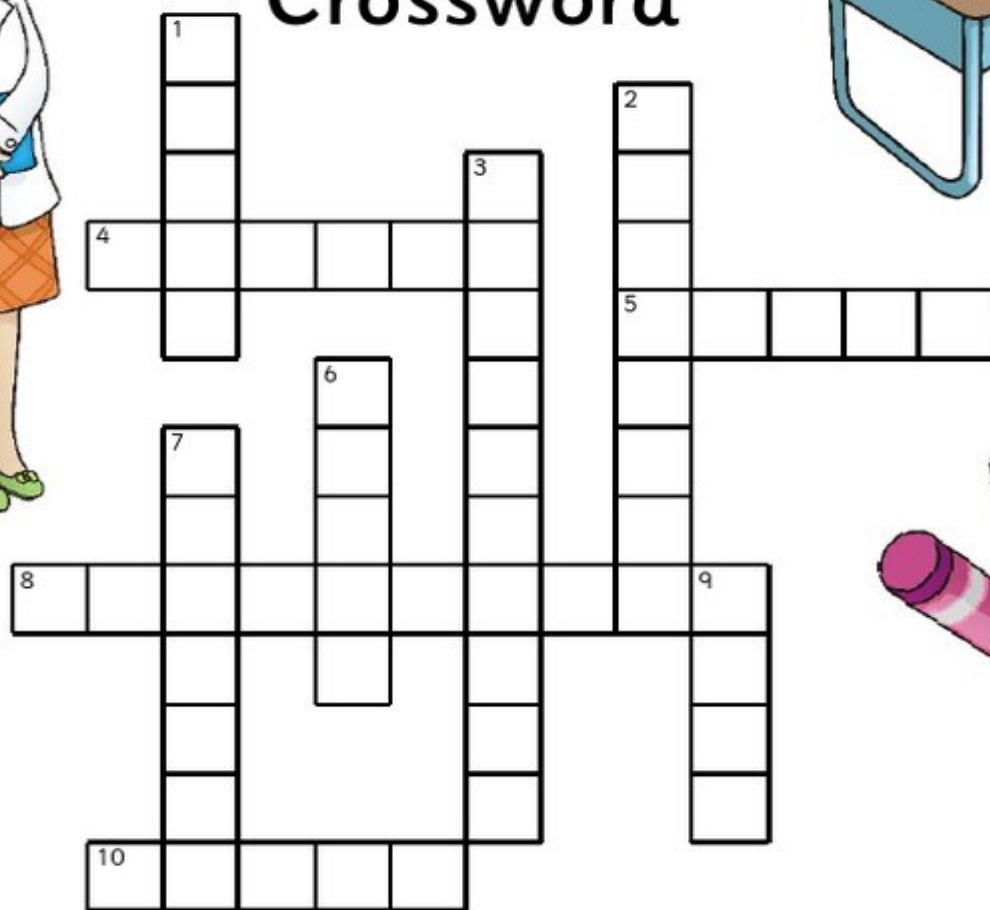
We give thanks with his parents, Zac and Brittany, his grandparents, Steve and Dawn Will, and his big brother, Kolt, who now has an official little partner in adventure.

May Austin grow in grace, in wonder, and in the love that surrounds him today and always.





Back to School Crossword



Across

4. Do you need to sharpen yours?
5. Write or draw on this.
8. You write on this with chalk.
10. Please _____ your name on your work.

Down

1. Draw straight lines with this.
2. It has a keyboard and a screen.
3. Where you go to play at break (recess)
6. Read these at home or school.
7. They help you learn new things.
9. The teacher sits here.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

6567 Glades Pike

Somerset, PA 15501

Reverend Kathleen Stump

www.faithlutheransomerset.org

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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

