

# Beacon of Faith

Worship God. Grow in faith. Offer hope.

Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool

March 2025



## Welcome Statement

In response to God's unconditional love and grace, the people of Faith Lutheran Church seek to follow Jesus' commandment to love God, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. We express that love in our commitment to racial equity, and in our welcome of people of all ages, races, economic status, intellectual and physical abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, along with their families and friends, to join with us as we worship God, grow in faith, and offer hope.



Time to  
Spring Ahead

**March 9**  
**Daylight Savings Time**  
**Begins**

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## Holy Week Begins on April 13

### **Palm Sunday, April 13**

Worship at 9 and 10:30 a.m.  
Blessing of the Palms

### **Maundy Thursday, April 17**

Worship at 7 p.m.  
Holy Communion  
Stripping of the Altar

### **Good Friday, April 18**

Collaborative Service with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
Tenebrae Service  
7 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church

### **Easter Sunday, April 20**

Celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus!!  
Worship at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.  
Breakfast hosted by the Youth, 10-10:45 a.m.

**Look for more details in the April Beacon of Faith!**



**Pastor's Pondering**  
**Pastor Jean M. Hansen**



Lent arrives on March 5 with Ash Wednesday, and then continues until April 13, Palm Sunday, when Holy Week begins.

Again, this year we will be participating in the Interfaith Justice Series on five Wednesdays in Lent, beginning on March 12 when our congregation is the host. Each evening there will be a worship service, meal and program. **A change this year is that for the first three weeks the evening's activities will begin with worship at 6 p.m., followed by the meal and program.**

The program this year is interactive and will focus on learning a skill – how to listen to and communicate with people with varying points of view. **The overall theme for this year's program is "How to Disagree with Love and Respect."**

Presenters on the first three Wednesdays are representatives of **Braver Angels: Ohio**; an overview of this group will be given each evening. The focus the first evening will include considering how our "stories" shape our points-of-view and learning skills to listen and connect more deeply with those we care about and with whom we disagree. The second Wednesday's program focus will be on family roles, how they influence our points-of-view and developing skills to engage with family members. Week Three will explore how we each contribute to polarization and how to avoid doing so.

The schedules for weeks four and five are different than the previous weeks. On April 2 at St. Hilary, the meal will be at 6:15 p.m., followed by worship at 7 p.m. and the presentation at 7:30 p.m. The leaders that night will be Bill Shaul from Braver Angels and Ted Wetzel from "Fighting to Understand." They will lead the group in considering how to put the tools learned in the previous weeks to use.

The series will end with "something completely different" on April 9 at Temple Israel. The program is called **"Dinner and a Fight" (Dialogue)** and is led by Ted Wetzel. This will be an experience worth having! A brief devotion and the meal will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the program at 6:45 p.m.

This series is a great opportunity to try something new, learn skills for life, as well as worship and share fellowship with people from four other faith communities. It will be especially great to welcome new participants.

(Reminder: registration is required for each night.)

## Key Dates



### First Communion Class Sunday, March 30 4-6 p.m.

All children in second and third grade, as well as those who are older who have not yet participated, are invited to join Pastor Jean and Pastor Sarah for First Communion Class from 4-6 p.m. on March 30, in the Fellowship Hall. An adult should participate in the class with each child. First Communion Sunday, when the children are introduced at the beginning of the worship service, will be on April 6 at both services. Parents of children younger than second grade, who are showing an interest in receiving Holy Communion, should talk with Pastor Jean about their child's participation in the class.

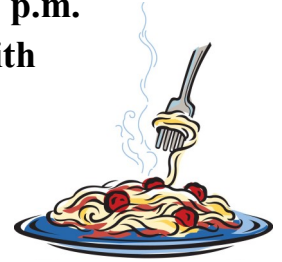
You're invited!

### Spaghetti Dinner (Dine in or Take Out)

Hosted by our Scout Troops 390 & 7390

**Sat., March 1  
4:30 - 7 p.m.  
at Faith**

Adults: \$12  
Kids: \$8  
Under 2: Free



You are invited!

### Lent Reflection and Journaling Class

**Begins Thursday, March 6 at Noon  
In Faith's Library  
Bring your lunch!  
(Journals not required; notebooks provided.)**



*Facilitated by Faith member, Kathryn Popio, former Religion Columnist for the Medina Gazette and retired professor at Kent and Akron Universities.*

Explore types of journaling with "FUN PROMPTS" helping us "into" reflection.

**WEEK 1: IS HEAVEN FAR AWAY?** Discuss journal pages for opening a way to talk to our Lord and helping ourselves accept personal guidance. (Psalm 19:2 "One day tells its tale to another . . .")

**WEEK 2: GOD'S FATHERHOOD - CONNECT THE DOTS!** Who helped us become who we are today? Are gifts ever-lasting? Move through phases of life WITH God! (John 14:26 "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit . . . he will teach you all things . . .")

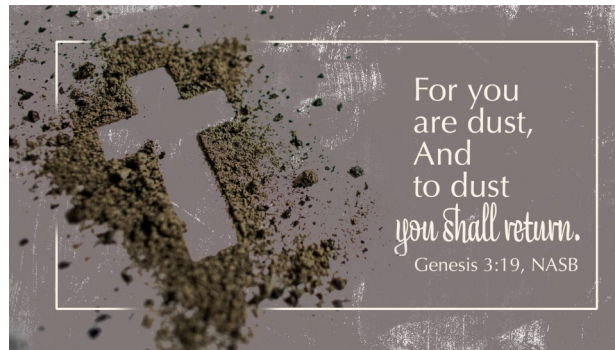
**WEEK 3: YOUR SECRET HEART.** We need to express our human feelings - not stuff them! Seek God's wisdom and guidance to contribute to our future—socially, spiritually, personally. (Psalms 51:6b "Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.")

**WEEK 4: WE'RE BLESSED - NOT LUCKY!** Share reactions from class time this month. Share experiences of your insights that encouraged hope in future goals for yourself, our church, our world. (Isaiah 49:11 "And I will make all my mountains a way . . .")

Contact Kathryn Popio with any questions, 330-334-3519.

## Key Dates

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### **Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5** **Faith and Holy Trinity Collaborate for Worship**

Imposition of Ashes at both services  
Holy Communion at 7 p.m. only

**Noon** - *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 50 N. Prospect Street*

**7 p.m.** - *Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 W. Market Street*

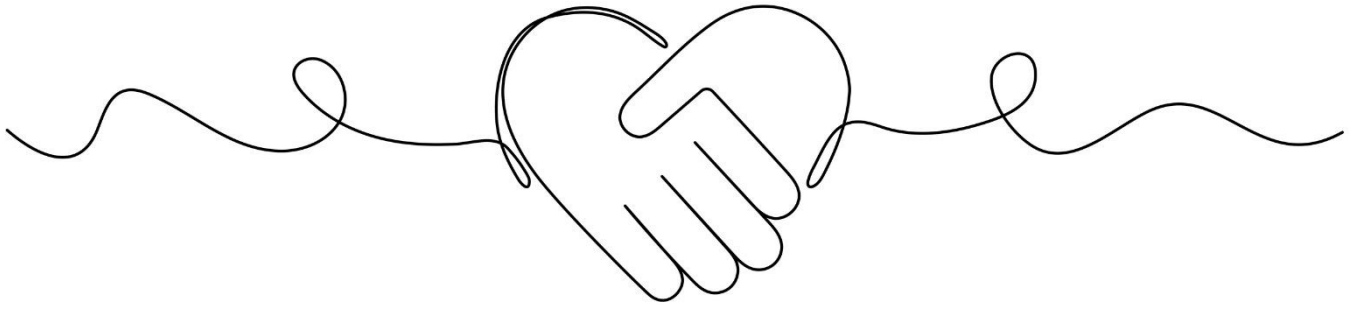


### **Interfaith Justice Alliance Series ... a message from Pastor Jean**

If you have never participated in the 5-week Interfaith Justice Alliance Series, this is the year to do so! Why? It's because the focus this year is on learning a skill that will benefit people of all ages and opinions. The skill is how to listen to and communicate with people with varying points of view. This is a great intergenerational option: parents ... come with your teen and adult children and enhance your communication skills together! Each evening will be interactive; the weeks build on one another, so attendance each week is encouraged. Remember ... registration is required. It will be great to welcome attendees new to the Series!



## Key Dates



### 2025 INTERFAITH JUSTICE ALLIANCE SERIES *How to Disagree With Love and Respect*

Join us for an interactive five-week series using the tools of Braver Angels and Dinner and a Fight (Dialogue) facilitated by Dr. Bill Shaul, Braver Angels and Ted Wetzel of Fighting to Understand.

#### March 12 - Faith Lutheran Church, Fairlawn

Navigating Difficult Conversations  
Presenter: Dr. Bill Shaul

#### March 19 - New Hope Baptist Church, Akron

Navigating Conflicts in Families  
Presenter: Valerie Palunas

#### March 26 - Prince of Peace Baptist Church, Akron

Polarizing Talk: How We Contribute to It  
Presenter: Dr. Bill Shaul

#### April 2 - St. Hilary Church, Fairlawn

Using These Tools Beyond Today  
Presenters: Dr. Bill Shaul & Ted Wetzel  
\*Meal at 6:15 PM, Worship at 7 PM,  
Presentation at 7:30 PM

#### April 9 - Temple Israel, Bath

Dinner and a "Fight" (Dialogue)  
Presenter: Ted Wetzel  
\*Meal at 6 PM, Program at 6:45 PM



#### Evening Agenda

6 p.m. – Worship Service  
6:30 p.m. – Meal  
7-8:45 p.m. – Program\*

(\*see change on April 2 & 9)

Each evening includes interaction by participants on varied topics so that they may experience using the "tools for conversation" that are presented. The weeks build on one another so attendance each week is encouraged.

**RSVP AT [STHILARYCHURCH.ORG/INTERFAITH](https://sthilarychurch.org/interfaith)**

## Key Dates

**Save This Date!**



**Women's**  
Lenten Retreat

Connection - Contemplation - Community

**Saturday, March 1**  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
50 N. Prospect Street, Akron

Cost: \$10 per person  
Materials, continental breakfast  
and soup luncheon included

Scan the QR Code to register or email Rachel Nunez, Director of Congregational Care & Connection at [rnunez@holyltrinityakron.org](mailto:rnunez@holyltrinityakron.org)



## Cookies Needed for March 12 Interfaith Justice Series

Please sign up on the sheet in the Welcome Center.

- Bring 2 doz. cookies
- Drop them off March 9 – 11
- Place on the counter in the BIG Kitchen, labeled for the Interfaith Justice Series (IFJS)

Call Penny Thompson with questions, 330-285-4207.



## Classical Piano Concert

**Sunday, March 23**  
**4 p.m.**  
**At Faith**

**Dr. John Saks will play three works by the composer Joseph Haydn.**

**Also included will be a discussion about this composer, his music, and related history.**

**Join us for this FREE concert in the sanctuary.**



## Key Dates



**March 2 - May 11**

# *Elegant* Eggs

A special photographic exhibit in the Chapel Lounge of various styles of egg artistry made by local artisans from the Ohio Egg Artist Guild.

*Join Us!*

**Sunday, April 6**  
*after worship, Chapel Lounge*

Meet some of the egg artisans and watch a demonstration of this highly-skilled artistry.

**HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Praising, Loving, Serving in Jesus' name.



## Get your Girl Scout Cookies Here!

**Sun., March 9**  
**Hannah & Alexis will be in the Welcome Center from 10 a.m. - Noon**



\$6/box

# Outreach



**David Simpson**  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
Outreach@faithlutheranchurch.org  
330-836-8811



## INTERFAITH JUSTICE ALLIANCE -- SAVE THE DATES!!!!

**Please attend and encourage other congregation members to participate.**

The programs on **March 12, 19, 26 and April 9**, begin at 6 p.m. On **April 2** it begins at 6:15 p.m. We will be hosting the first of the series here at Faith Lutheran Church and our volunteers will be preparing the meal. (See flyer on page 5 for details.)

This year's approach will incorporate principles developed in two programs. One is Braver Angels, and the other is Dinner and a Fight (Dialogue). The program will be very different this year. Instead of learning about a problem or social justice issue from experts, we will be experiencing how we may move forward from polarized sides to a place of common ground or understanding. For background in preparation for our series, please visit, [braverangels.org](https://braverangels.org) or <https://commongroundcommittee.org/local-common-ground-dinner-and-a-dialogue/>. Also, registration information will soon be available for the following event in Akron: **Thursday March 6, Dinner and a Fight/Dialogue** sponsored by First Energy, at Akron Urban League.

## OUTREACH ADVISORY TEAM

The Outreach Advisory Team met on February 4, reviewed our 2024 year's work and discussed opportunities for 2025. Our 2024 ministries were:

|                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Akron Area Interfaith Council | OASIS                     |
| Busy Fingers                  | Ohio Mission              |
| Community Garden              | OPEN M                    |
| DLM                           | Prayer Shawls             |
| ELCA Day of Service           | RIC                       |
| Family Promise                | Salvation Army Angel Tree |
| Interfaith Justice Alliance   | Soup Ministry             |
| Loads of Faith                | Thailand                  |
| Mitzvah Days                  | Wheelchair Ministry       |
| New Hope Baptist Cancer Walk  |                           |

Although the Ohio Mission has been discontinued, there was agreement to explore a similar but local project for this year. We could possibly associate this with September's ELCA "God's Work, Our Hands" Day of Service.

The Team also reviewed the enormous success of the Loads of Faith project during 2024. Not only did it receive external funding from the Akron Community Foundation, but it also experienced a significant increase in demand for service both at the Wallhaven and North Hill locations. With the growth in numbers, a decision was made to examine what changes, if any, would be beneficial to meet the expanding number of families seeking the laundry service.

Another discussion item was the descriptions of our Outreach Ministries as they appear on the website. It was decided to review these and update where needed. Suggestions are welcome, so please take a few minutes to click and read them.

Advisory Team Members are Lorelee Daily, Colleen Hruska, Pastor Jean, Thomas Peyton, Dana Singer, Mark Watkins and Nina White.



# Outreach

## DLM

Thanks to Darlene Anderson and the DLM Team for hosting an appreciation event for our DLM volunteers. About twenty people attended the brunch at Akron Family Restaurant on Saturday, February 1.



## FAMILY PROMISE

Erica Ward, social worker at Family Promise, has eliminated hot sauce from the array of condiments that we are requested to collect for that organization. We will continue with the following five:

Italian Dressing  
Ketchup  
Mayonnaise  
Mustard  
Ranch dressing



But not:



Also, new for Family Promise, will be donations from our Soup Ministry which continues to serve Valor Home.

## MITZVAH DAYS

Temple Israel's Mitzvah Days program will take place on June 7 and 8. We will be creating a specific project for this event in conjunction with DLM.

## AKRON AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL (AAIC)

In response to various government actions and statements, the AAIC has submitted the letter, copied below, for publication by the Akron Beacon Journal. The letter quotes ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton responding to a specific accusation that the ELCA was illegally taking taxpayer money for some of its humanitarian work.

### **To The Editor:**

*The first weeks of the new Trump administration have been filled with attacks on religious liberty. When Episcopal Bishop Mariann Budde asked the president during an inauguration service to “have mercy” on LGBTQ children and migrant workers it sparked criticism from numerous Trumpian pundits. The second week featured VP Vance attacking the Catholic Church for assisting immigrants and refugees and suggesting they care more about money than people.*

*Then, on February 1, disgraced former Lt. General Michael Flynn attacked the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), accusing them, without evidence, of illegally taking taxpayer money. He also used scare quotes to question the religiosity of Lutherans.*

*ELCA leaders quickly responded to the attacks. Global Refuge issued a statement condemning “in the strongest possible terms, the false accusations lodged against our humanitarian work.”*

*Similarly, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton released a video responding to “false allegations.” She accused those pushing “misinformation and baseless doubt” of violating the commandment against “bearing false witness.” She added. “Our call to love our neighbors as ourselves remains steadfast.”*

*The Department of Homeland Security announced it will no longer recognize churches as “protected areas”. Immediately Five Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) filed suit stating this directive infringes on their religious liberty.*

*Attacks on Christian groups for caring about marginalized people shows part of the danger of the Christian Nationalistic-fueled administration. But the attacks are also awakening a response. The Akron Area Interfaith Council supports the efforts of those like the Quakers and Bishops Budde and Eaton, and hope that they inspire more among the faith community to speak out against policies that are contrary to our moral and spiritual values.*

*Susan Gallagher, President  
Akron Area Interfaith Council*

In other AAIC news, we will again be providing a water station at the turn around point for the AAIC Hunger Walk which will take place on Sunday, May 4. (See flyer on page 13.)

As a member of the AAIC, we are permitted to have two voting representatives for their meetings. Bob Radl is our sole member currently. He and David Simpson are looking for another volunteer to participate. Please reach out to David or Bob if you are interested or have questions.

AAIC members participated in the **Nepali Festival of Maghe Sankranti** celebrating their new year. This festival marks the end of winter and the beginning of longer days in the Bhutanese culture. There was much singing and dancing as well as delicious food and tea. AAIC members were each presented with a “Khada” which is a ceremonial scarf which symbolizes goodwill, auspiciousness and compassion. It is a traditional way of offering greetings and blessings to special guests. The beautiful people of Nepal clearly know how to make one feel special.



AAIC members Kathy Riss, Bob Radl and Susan Gallagher attended the Nepali Festival of Maghe Sankranti on Saturday, January 18.

# Outreach

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## WOMEN'S INTERFAITH SPIRITUAL HERITAGE (WISH)



Women's Interfaith Spiritual Heritage (WISH) is asking people to consider participating in a communal ecumenical artistic weaving project. The community activated art event is planned to bring together diverse faith groups in the Akron area. Attendees will bring a covered dish to share, and meaningful fabric scraps on which to write prayers (like dad's old shirt, grandmother's tablecloth). It will be an opportunity to share a meal, learn about other faiths and share fabric weaving into a tapestry of unity. Registration will be limited to 50 people per event.

*Events to be held at Summit Artspace  
Wednesday, April 2, 6-8 p.m.  
Saturday, April 26, 2-4 p.m.  
Thursday, May 8, 6-8 p.m.*

Contact for more information: [neowish2020@gmail.com](mailto:neowish2020@gmail.com)

## COMMUNITY AGENCIES NETWORKING

**Grace House Akron** has requested an opportunity to describe its services to our congregation. We plan on providing such an opportunity sometime after Easter on a Sunday between services.

In early February, David Simpson did a site visit of the **Peter Maurin Center** on Old South Main Street. The organization's mission is to serve *with the goal to provide* hope, strength, and resources to individuals in our community who struggle to survive on their own. The Center is open to guests on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays for meals served between 12 and 2 p.m. Every Sunday, a local church provides the guests with a prepared meal. These churches provide between 1,350 and 1,500 meals each month. Participating churches include:

- St. Paul/Akron
- St. Sebastian/Akron
- St. Hilary/Fairlawn
- St. Mary's/Hudson
- Holy Family/Stow
- Sacred Heart/Wadsworth
- Our Lady of Guadalupe/Macedonia
- St. Joseph's/Cuyahoga Falls
- Immaculate Heart of Mary/Cuyahoga Falls
- St. Vincent de Paul/Regional
- REACH Project
- Ancient Order of Hibernians

The facilities are also open after hours throughout the night whenever winter's frigid temperatures plunge to 10°F or below and accommodates between 20 and 40 people.

Other services include a food pantry, bus pass program, bike donation service and health screening as well as a community garden.

The Center's website is <https://www.petermaurincenter.com>



# Outreach

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**Haven of Rest** has extended an invitation for us to do a site visit. This has not yet been scheduled. Please contact David Simpson if you are interested in attending.

## FYI - UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST STATEMENT

The Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron shared this statement from the pulpit on January 26, 2025:

"The Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron condemns the federal government definition of two sexes only. This definition is not only scientifically false, it is divisive, hateful, and dehumanizing. We know that human gender identity is complex and ultimately up to each person to define for themselves. Unitarian Universalism affirms love for all people, especially those on the margins. We know that we are all interdependent and interconnected to each other, despite our outward differences. There is no such thing as other people's children. They are all our own. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron is a haven for those who feel unsafe in these difficult times. We are a beacon of love, justice, and freedom for all in Fairlawn, Akron, and Northeast Ohio. We welcome all, and pledge to support our beloved trans/nonbinary+ community."

## NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN TRINITY CLOTHING CLOSET AND JENNINGS CLC STUDENTS

The volunteers at Trinity Clothing Closet are embarking on a partnership with Jennings CLC seventh grade students in the Middle School Academies program. In December the students helped unload donations, sorted clothing, repacked donations going out to families working with the International Institute, and learned more about the **915 North Main Project**.

## DLM SCHEDULE FOR 2025

March 8 – Health Fair  
April 12  
May 10  
June 14  
July 12 – Christmas in July (Kids and Families)  
August 9  
September 13 – Resource Fair  
October 11 – Fall Fest (Kids and Families)  
November 22 -- Harvest Fest (Kids and Families)  
December 13 – Breakfast with Santa (Kids and Families)

## LOADS OF FAITH DATES FOR 2025

March 26  
April 30  
May 28  
June 25  
July 30  
August 27  
September 24  
October 29  
November 19\*  
December 17\*

\*One week early due to the holidays



# 16th Annual Akron Area Interfaith Council HUNGER WALK

Sunday, May 4, 2025

Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron  
3300 Morewood Road, Fairlawn, OH 44333

Registration - 2:00 pm | Walk begins at 3:00 pm  
Food & Fellowship afterwards

We are grateful for an amazing 15 years of community support.  
We ask you to join us again this year for number 16.



100% of  
ALL DONATIONS  
go directly to



## WAYS TO DONATE

- **CHECKS** payable to AAIC Hunger Walk.

Mail to: 3300 Morewood Road, Fairlawn, OH 44333

- **IN PERSON DONATIONS** on Sunday, May 4, 2025

- **DONATE ONLINE**

Click on QR code



Or go to [akroninterfaith.org](https://akroninterfaith.org) and follow the prompts.



# FaithKids & Junior Youth Group

### CALLING ALL 2nd & 3rd GRADERS!



JOIN US FOR THIS YEAR'S  
FIRST COMMUNION CLASS  
March 30, 4-6 p.m.  
in the Fellowship Hall

All children in second and third grade, as well as those who are older who have not yet participated, are invited to join Pastor Jean and Pastor Sarah for First Communion class. An adult should participate in the class with each child. First Communion Sunday, when the children are introduced at the beginning of the worship service, will be on **April 6 at both services**. Parents of children younger than second grade, who are showing an interest in receiving Holy Communion, should talk with Pastor Jean about their child's participation in the class.



### MARCH CLASS LESSONS

- 2- Transfiguration Sunday
- 9- LENT Week 1- Prayer
- 16- LENT Week 2- Prayer & St. Patrick's Day
- 23- LENT Week 3- Prayer
- 30- LENT Week 4- Prayer



- **March 5 @ 5:30 p.m.** Fat Ash Wednesday Pancakes and Games
- **March 30, 4-6 p.m.** 1st Communion Class
- **April 6** First Communion Sunday
- **April 18** Good Friday Program
- **June 16-20, 2025** Vacation Bible School

### FAT ASH WEDNESDAY PANCAKE DINNER AND GAMES



Wednesday,  
March 5  
5:30-7 p.m.



What do you get when you combine the celebration and pancake feast of Fat Tuesday with the introspective, sacrificial worship service of Ash Wednesday? **FAT ASH WEDNESDAY!** Kick off this Lenten Season by having your family come to a pancake supper followed by pancake themed games and activities. This celebration will help us feel the spiritual and emotional transition into the more somber, prayer and repentant focused season of Lent. Following the meal and games, we will all journey down the halls to the sanctuary where we will experience the Ash Wednesday Worship Service together. **PLEASE NOTE: ALL ARE WELCOME AND INVITED, BABIES TO ELDERLY, TO RECEIVE ASHES.** Please join us for this fun and meaningful dinner, games and worship as we journey into Lent.

**PLEASE RSVP to**  
**PASTOR SARAH: (Cell) 860-993-2094.**

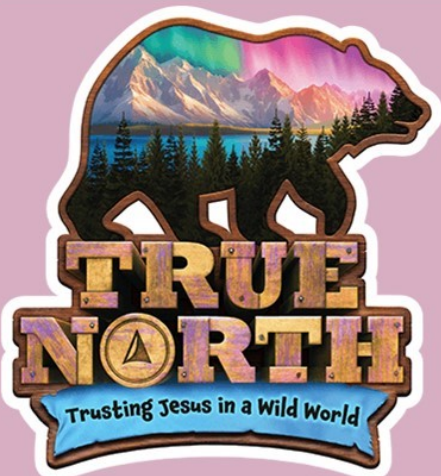
### FaithKids and Junior Youth Group

**Every Sunday from 9:50 a.m. –10:30 a.m.**

Preschool through 2nd grade children meet in the classroom upstairs, while Junior Youth Group (3rd– 5th grade) will meet in the library.

***We can't wait to GROW IN FAITH with you!***





# Vacation Bible School

June 16-20, 2025

9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Faith Lutheran Church

Participants = 4 years, potty trained, and having had one year of preschool to having completed 4th grade

Volunteers = youth having completed 5th grade, Confirmation (6th-8th), High School Youth, and Adults who want to share the Good News in an Alaskan Wilderness Wild Way!

## VOLUNTEER FORM

YES! I would like to help with Faith's TRUE NORTH Vacation Bible School in the following areas:

- ☐ **Craft Leader & Craft Assistant** - plan a week of crafts for each crew (some are ready to go!)
- ☐ **Games Assistants** - help run the daily games station
- ☐ **Snack Assistant** - assist with serving snacks to each crew
- ☐ **Imagination Station Leader or Station Assistant** - lead a hands-on, faith-building station that explores our True North Theme through experiments, activities, and unique ideas and opportunities. (some are ready to go!)
- ☐ **Registration/ Check-In** - help with registration, greeting at check in
- ☐ **Crew Leaders** - walk around a crew to all the stations each day and get to know kids
- ☐ **Crew Assistants** - assist with walking a crew of kids around each day (need 5-6 crews)
- ☐ **Decorations (think Alaskan Wilderness and constellations)** - collect and decorate the church for TRUE NORTH
- ☐ **Photographer** - take pictures of the week, portraits for frames, and create end-of-week slide show
- ☐ **Open Skit Actors** - help with skit at opening
- ☐ **Service Project Organizer** - work with the directors on ways to give
- ☐ **Donate TRUE NORTH gear (Camping, Fishing, wilderness, & night sky themed décor for the week)**
- ☐ **Prayers and more!**

Director Sarah Courtney is ready to head North! Won't you join us?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_





# Growth & Learning



Our Pre-K Staff will be participating in the Kindergarten Readiness Night for Copley-Fairlawn Schools at Arrowhead Elementary on March 12. Parents and students travel to 16 stations to assess K readiness. This is a chance for parents to witness their child's skills and know what to work on in the upcoming months.

## 16 FOR SUCCESS

CHILDREN WHO ARE READY for SUCCESS HAVE THESE SKILLS

- ✓ Point out and name at least 10 DIFFERENT COLORS
- ✓ Identify and name common SHAPES
- ✓ Recognize UPPERCASE and lowercase LETTERS
- ✓ RETELL stories or events in order (first...then...and then...)
- ✓ Use and follow LOCATION words (above, below, next to)
- ✓ Talk about QUANTITIES (many, some, full, less/more than)
- ✓ Talk about QUALITIES (hard/soft, rough, loud, dry, sweet)
- ✓ GROUP objects together based on colors, shapes or sizes
- ✓ Produce RHYMING WORDS for common pictures (hat & bat)
- ✓ Recognize when words begin with the SAME SOUND
- ✓ Hold BOOKS the proper way
- ✓ Count to TWENTY by ones (one...two...three...four)
- ✓ READ numbers 0 - 10 (whenever they are seen)
- ✓ COUNT up to 10 objects in a pile (like counting toys or candy)
- ✓ COMPARE quantities of objects (more than, less than)
- ✓ THINK ABOUT and SOLVE problems (how can we...?)

[www.summitcountyfirstthingsfirst.com](http://www.summitcountyfirstthingsfirst.com)  
[www.seisummit.org](http://www.seisummit.org)  
[www.pncgrowupgreat.com](http://www.pncgrowupgreat.com)

## FAITH PRESCHOOL

We look forward to that first sign of Spring: daffodils blooming!

Our Winter Service Project was cause for celebration! We collected **101 Birthday Bags** for our partners in ministry, OPEN M and DLM. They are always grateful to have these to give out to their clients.

Our **"Souper Sisters"** fundraiser was delicious! Thank you to Nicole Vincent and Linda Weigand for making and delivering the soup! Our families and staff thoroughly enjoyed them! We look forward to another chance at this souper fundraiser!

Faith Preschool students are having a great time **sorting crayons** into boxes based on colors. Keep your donations of broken, used or unwanted crayons coming! The kids are learning as we are doing our part to keep the crayons out of the landfills. We intend to ship them to Arizona where they will be melted down into crayon molds for children's hospitals around the country.

A **new dishwasher** has been ordered, and we await it's delivery! Our older classes use washable cups for snack time to reduce waste. Plus we use the dishwasher to quickly wash and sanitize toys.

We extend a special Preschool **thank you** this month to:

- ♥ Carla Ringer for feeding the staff and for purchasing the diversity dolls for the classroom doll houses!
- ♥ Mike Herchenroeder for repairing the dragging playground fence, so we can safely enter and exit the playground!
- ♥ Deb Gottas, Gary Steiner, and David Simpson for delivering the birthday bags to OPEN M and DLM!
- ♥ Beth Unk for repairing a broken toilet handle in one of the classrooms.



## Registration

is open for the 2025-2026 school year! If you know someone who is searching for a preschool, please recommend Faith Preschool!

Our class offerings include:

**Mom, Dad & Me for 2 year olds**

**T/Th Class for 3 year olds**

**M/W/F Class for 3 year olds**

**M-Th Class for 4s/5s FULL**

**M-Fr Class for 4s/5s**

**All Day M-Fr Class for 4s/5s**

Extended Care includes Early Drop Off, Lunch Bunch, and Kids Club. More information is available online at [www.faithlutheranchurch.org](http://www.faithlutheranchurch.org)

Email for a Registration form: [preschool@faithlutheranchurch.org](mailto:preschool@faithlutheranchurch.org)

Or call 330-836-8827 to schedule a tour! We are a wonderful, warm place to begin a lifetime of learning!



## Growth & Learning

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Eric & Abby Jezewski  
Youth Leader & Co-leader  
330-836-8811/  
faithlc youth@gmail.com

A special thank you to all congregation members who supported the Youth with our **Super Bowl Sub Fund-raiser!** We sold a total of **72 meals and extra subs**, and raised funds for our programs and events! Thank you also to the youth who helped with the pre-sale and handing out orders the day of pick-up!

**Sunday, March 9** youth and friends in grades 6-12 are invited to come and compete in the **FLChampions Tournament!** Lunch, games and lots of fun provided. Please RSVP via the email that you will receive. **Who will be crowned the G.O.A.T of 6-12 youth?!?!?**

**Saturday, March 15** is the third **Confirmation Learning Saturday** of the year! Youth in grades 6-8 should plan on joining us from 9-11:30 a.m. in the Youth Room. Light breakfast snacks provided! See you there!

Planning is already beginning for **Easter Breakfast!** **All Youth in grades 6-12** should plan to help with set-up and prep on Saturday, April 19 and serving breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 20. **Parents**, we can **ALWAYS** use the extra help with planning, execution and clean-up, so let us know how you can help! We will be breaking into teams again this year to make the day go as smoothly as possible.

As many of you are aware, we are and have been considering a collaborative ministry with Holy Trinity in Akron. A document was sent to all youth/parents to better inform them of the potential for this ministry collaboration. Don't forget, **Sunday March 2 at 10:15 a.m.** a collaborative ministry listening session will be hosted in the Youth Room. I would encourage all **parents and youth to attend** as this is an important part of our faith lives and community. We hope that you will join us and look forward to seeing you there!

It's that time of year again. The **Interfaith Justice Series** kicks off on **Wednesday, March 12 at Faith**. As it is a school night, we encourage youth and families to join us for worship and the meal, but understand if you cannot stay for the discussion afterwards. It's a great way to participate in other styles of worship and to engage with other people in our faith community! **You can find the entire schedule on Faith's website or page 5 of this newsletter.**

**Thank you** to everyone who has donated snacks to the youth! We have so appreciated your generosity! If congregation members are interested in donating snacks and drinks for programs, we are always happy to accept bottled drinks (water, Gatorade, capri sun, etc.) as well as goodies (bags of candy, little Debbie snacks, fun sized multi packs of chips/pretzels)! Donated items may be placed in the youth room with a note that reads YOUTH and who they are from. We truly appreciate it!



## Devotions, Bible Study & Book Club Groups



### Every Wednesday

Grab your morning beverage and start your **Wednesday with Devotions on Facebook**. We will rotate each week with the devotion given by Pastor Jean, and from Holy Trinity Pastor Becki Verbridge and Rachel Nunez. **The video will be posted at 9 a.m.** and will be available for viewing anytime. You don't need a Facebook account, just go to <https://www.facebook.com/faithlutheranfairlawn>.



### Men of Faith Bible Study and Discussion Group 9 a.m. - March 16 Youth Room

Men of Faith, a Bible study and discussion group meets the third Saturday of each month in the Youth Room. For more information contact Geoff Whidden, [geoffrey.whidden@gmail.com](mailto:geoffrey.whidden@gmail.com) or Karl Demuth, [karldemuth@gmail.com](mailto:karldemuth@gmail.com).



### Third Thursday Women's Bible Study Thursday, March 20 10 a.m. Youth Room

The Third Thursday Bible Study session for March will be an introduction to *Jesus and the Dead Sea Scrolls, Revealing the Jewish Roots of Christianity*. The book was written by John Bergsma, professor of Theology at Franciscan University in Steubenville. He is a specialist in the Old Testament and the Dead Sea Scrolls.

All women are welcome to attend. Linda Moore and Dana Singer will moderate.

For more information contact Bonnie at 330.606.3230 or [janellebonnie@gmail.com](mailto:janellebonnie@gmail.com)

For a Zoom invitation contact Dana Singer at 330.697.8514 or [dasinger12@gmail.com](mailto:dasinger12@gmail.com)

### Faith Book Club March Selection The First Lady by James Patterson

Join us on Tues., March 18

**One secret could bring down the government when the President's memorable affair becomes a nightmare he longs to forget in this page-turner from James Patterson that will keep you up reading all night long....**

Sally Grissom is a top Secret Service agent in charge of the Presidential Protection team. She knows that something is amiss when she's summoned to a private meeting with the President and his Chief of Staff without any witnesses. But she couldn't have predicted that she'd be forced to take on an investigation surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the First Lady -- with strict orders to keep it a secret.

The First Lady's absence comes in the wake of the scandalous, public revelation of the president's affair, so at first it seems as though she is simply cutting off all contact as she recuperates at a horse farm in Virginia. What begins as an innocent respite quickly turns into a twisted case when the White House receives a ransom note along with the First Lady's finger...

For all you James Patterson mystery fans, *The First Lady*, promises to be full of suspense and will have you sitting on the edge of your seat. We will be meeting on **Tuesday, March 18, at 2 p.m. in the Youth Room**; come and find out what the group thought about this book. Don't worry if you haven't read it, come and listen to what promises to be a lively discussion. If you have any questions, contact Steve Thompson or Marilyn Wilson.

We hope to see you soon.



## In Our Prayers:

### Health Concerns:

Faith member Tana Fligor  
Faith member Ginny Greenawalt  
Tommy Gorman  
Faith member Pastor Tim Keeler  
Faith member Betty Kesti  
Skip Lintner  
Faith member Donna Manning  
Faith member Roger Pritt  
Faith member Melinda Rinehart  
Faith member Terry Vernon  
Faith member Ellie Wilkinson

For Faith members Marian, Liane, Donna, Shirley, JoAnn and Ann who are in assisted living facilities, or receiving nursing care.

### In Times of Loss:

For the loved ones of those who died in airliner accidents in Washington DC and Philadelphia recently, that they may be comforted.

For the family and friends of Angie Hyter upon her death, especially her children, that they may be comforted; she was the former sister-in-law of Faith members Gabe and Amanda Hyter.

For the family and friends of Dave Meadows upon his death, especially his wife Tracy, that they may be comforted. They are friends of Faith members Tim and Martha Keeler.

### Special Prayers:

For the "Collaborative Ministry Listening Sessions" that are being held at Faith Lutheran Church and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in February, that participation will be positive and the conversation will be fruitful.

### With Thanksgiving:

And praise of our good Lord, for successful treatment of Sandy Dolan's husband Mike and continued prayers for the success of further treatment that is needed

### QR Code Prayer Requests:



## Schedule to Serve

| Date   | Service                    | Altar        | Communion   | Lay Reader      | Ushers                       | Youth   |
|--|----------------------------|--------------|---|-----------------|------------------------------|---|
| 2  | 9 a.m.                     | Dana Singer  | Kelly Gesaman - SE<br>Nicole Vincent - SE<br>Andrew Schafer -SP<br>Linda Weigand - B          | Carole Lintner  | Art Kaufman<br>Tim Lewis     | Acolyte:<br>Cayden Cloninger<br>Assistant:<br>Treader<br>Anderson |
|  | 10:30 a.m.                 | Nancy Hooper | Deb Allen   |                 | Geoff Whidden                |   |
| 5<br> | 12 Noon at<br>Holy Trinity |              |   |                 |                              |   |
|  | 7 p.m. at<br>Faith         | Dana Singer  | Karen Skerlong - SE<br>Dana Singer - SE<br>Linda Weigand -SP<br>Pastor Becki Verbridge<br>- B | Dana Singer     | John Knops                   | Acolyte:<br>Cyrus Jezewski<br>Assistant:<br>Crosby Jezewski       |
| 9  | 9 a.m.                     | Dana Singer  | Kelly Gesaman - SE<br>Andrew Schafer - SE<br>Deb Gottas -SP<br>Corie Miller - B               | Steve Thompson  | Art Kaufman<br>Tim Lewis     | Acolyte:<br>Elyse Vincent<br>Assistant:<br>Katie Archbold         |
|  | 10:30 a.m.                 | Nancy Hooper | Deb Allen   |                 | Becky Kuhar<br>Alice Gilmore |   |
| 16   | 9 a.m.                     | Dana Singer  | John Weisend - SE<br>Deb Gottas - SE<br>Linda Weigand -SP<br>Fedearia Sweval - B              | Fedearia Sweval | Art Kaufman<br>Tim Lewis     | Acolyte:<br>Adam Schafer<br>Assistant:<br>Matthew Bauer           |
|  | 10:30 a.m.                 | Tana Fligor  | Deb Allen   |                 | Nancy Tobar                  |   |
| 23   | 9 a.m.                     | Dana Singer  | Judy Harrison - SE<br>Kelly Gesaman - SE<br>Andrew Schafer -SP<br>Corie Miller - B            | Judy Harrison   | Art Kaufman<br>Tim Lewis     | Acolyte:<br>Treader<br>Anderson<br>Assistant:<br>Cayden Cloninger |
|  | 10:30 a.m.                 | Deb Allen    | Deb Allen   |                 | Karin Allen                  |   |
| 30   | 9 a.m.                     | Dana Singer  | Corie Miller - SE<br>Deb Gottas - SE<br>John Weisend -SP<br>Dana Singer - B                   | Dana Singer     | Art Kaufman<br>Tim Lewis     | Acolyte:<br>Katie Archbold<br>Assistant:<br>Cyrus Jezewski        |
|  | 10:30 a.m.                 | Deb Allen    | Deb Allen   |                 | Cathy Medlen                 |   |



## Calendar of Events

| SUN   | MON   | TUE  | WED   | THU   | FRI       | SAT  |
|---|---|--|---|---|-----------|--|
|   |   |  |   |   |           | <b>1</b><br>4:30 - 7 p.m.<br>Scout Spaghetti<br>Dinner                                     |
| <b>2</b><br>9 Traditional Svc.<br>9:50 Christian<br>Education<br>10 Kinship Café<br>10:15 Collabora-<br>tive Ministry<br>Listening Session<br>10:30 Informal<br>Service<br>11:30 Bound<br>7:30 AA | <b>3</b><br>8 p.m.<br>AA  | <b>4</b><br>9:30 a.m.<br>Busy Fingers<br>Yoga<br>7 p.m.<br>Scouts<br>Al-Anon                         | <b>5 ASH WED.</b><br>9 a.m.<br>FB Devotions<br>12 p.m.<br>Ash Wed.<br>Worship at Holy<br>Trinity<br>5 p.m.<br>Faith Kids Event<br>7 p.m. Ash Wed.<br>Worship at Faith<br>7:30 p.m. AA | <b>6</b><br>10 a.m.<br>Prayer Shawl<br>12 p.m.<br>Lent Reflection &<br>Journal Class<br>6:30 p.m.<br>Cub Scouts   | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b><br>8:30 a.m.<br>Music Ribbon Fest.<br>10:30 a.m.<br>DLM at Holy Trinity           |
| <b>9</b><br>9 Traditional Svc.<br>9:50 Christian<br>Education<br>10 Kinship Café<br>10:30 Informal<br>Service<br>11 FLChampi-<br>ons Youth<br>Event<br>11:30 Bound<br>7:30 AA                     | <b>10</b><br>10 a.m.<br>St. Cecelia<br>Rehearsal<br>8 p.m.<br>AA  | <b>11</b><br>9:30 a.m.<br>Busy Fingers<br>Yoga<br>7 p.m.<br>Al-Anon                                  | <b>12</b><br>9 a.m. FB Devotions<br>6 p.m. IFJS - Faith   | <b>13</b><br>10 a.m.<br>Prayer Shawl<br>12 p.m.<br>Lent Reflection &<br>Journal Class   | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b><br>9 a.m.<br>Men of Faith<br>9 - 11:30 a.m.<br>Confirmation<br>Learning Saturday |
| <b>16 Newsletter<br/>Deadline</b><br>9 Traditional Svc.<br>9:50 Christian<br>Education<br>10 Kinship Café<br>10:30 Informal<br>Service<br>11:30 Bound<br>7:30 AA                                  | <b>17</b><br>7 p.m.<br>Council<br>8 p.m.<br>AA  | <b>18</b><br>9:30 a.m.<br>Busy Fingers<br>Yoga<br>2 p.m.<br>Book Club<br>7 p.m.<br>Scouts<br>Al-Anon | <b>19</b><br>9 a.m. FB Devotions<br>6 p.m. IFJS - New<br>Hope Baptist<br>Church<br>7:30 p.m. AA   | <b>20</b><br>10 a.m.<br>Prayer Shawl<br>3rd Thursday Wom-<br>en's Bible Study<br>12 p.m.<br>Lent Reflection &<br>Journal Class<br>6:30 p.m.<br>Cub Scouts | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b>  |
| <b>23</b><br>9 Traditional Svc.<br>9:50 Christian<br>Education<br>10 Kinship Café<br>10:30 Informal<br>Service<br>11:30 Bound<br>4 Piano Concert<br>7:30 AA                                       | <b>24</b><br>10 a.m.<br>St. Cecelia<br>Rehearsal<br>7 p.m.<br>Gardeners of<br>Greater Akron<br>8 p.m.<br>AA | <b>25</b><br>9:30 a.m.<br>Busy Fingers<br>Yoga<br>7 p.m.<br>Scouts<br>Al-Anon                        | <b>26</b><br>9 a.m. FB Devotions<br>5 p.m. Loads<br>of Faith Laundry<br>Ministry<br>6 p.m. IFJS - Prince<br>of Peace Baptist<br>Church<br>7:30 p.m. AA                                | <b>27</b><br>10 a.m.<br>Prayer Shawl<br>12 p.m.<br>Lent Reflection &<br>Journal Class   | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b>  |
| <b>30</b><br>9 Traditional Svc.<br>9:50 Christian<br>Education<br>10 Kinship Café<br>10:30 Informal<br>Service<br>11:30 Bound<br>4 1st Communion<br>Class<br>7:30 AA                              | <b>31</b><br>8 p.m.<br>AA   |  |   |   |           |  |





Please visit our website.

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**Worship God. Grow in faith. Offer hope.**