

Beacon of Faith

Worship God. Grow in faith. Offer hope.

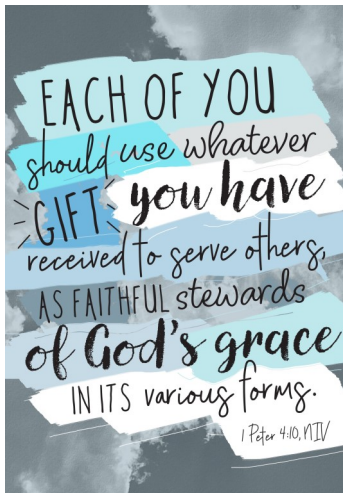
Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool

April 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.



Turn to page 7 to learn where you can share your gifts.

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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

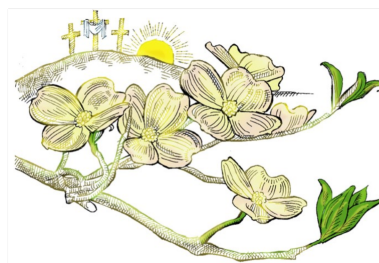
7 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church

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.





Pastor's Pondering
Pastor Jean M. Hansen



Life is fragile.

By now, the congregation is aware of the sad situation with my friend Anne in St. Louis. I went to visit her and her husband Ed on February 27, for a vacation weekend before Lent began. That night, she tripped on a table leg and fell in such a way that she broke her neck and was paralyzed from mid-chest down. After it became clear that she would need a permanent breathing tube and would not recover use of her limbs even after surgery, she made the decision to go into hospice care. She had been the caregiver for her husband, who has various health issues. So, I stayed five more days than I had planned to be with her and support Ed and their daughters. Anne died on Wednesday morning, March 12. As I write this, I am making plans to attend the funeral on March 23.

I met Ed, Anne and their daughters, who were from North Carolina, in 1985 when Ed and I were seminary students and were in a Greek study group together. As we strove to learn ancient Greek, and survive that class, Ed decided that I would be a good friend for Anne. They invited me over for supper and it turned out he was right, even though she was 10 years my senior. We lived in the same location only once, for a few months, but our friendship thrived over the 40 years that followed. The girls, Susan, Marian and Elizabeth, who were 2, 5 and 7 years old when we met, called me Aunt Jean. Anne and I became "chosen sisters". We occasionally traveled together, visited one another often and shared long phone conversations, but mostly we gave one another unconditional love and support as we faced the ups and downs of our lives. She was especially there for me during the down times, and as I made life-changing decisions.

We all know that our lives can change in the blink of an eye, which is exactly what happened that Thursday night. The irony is that Anne was intentional about maintaining good health and was physically fit. She deftly managed the details of their lives and was safety-conscious lest an accident occurred that would impact her ability to do so. In addition to that, during the three years they had been in St. Louis (having moved there to be close to their daughter), she had not only made friends in her neighborhood but was credited for bringing people together and creating a caring community. She was active in her Lutheran church, a true devotee of Sunday worship, and had developed close friendships there. She continued to be politically astute, advocating for justice and inclusion, as she had always done, particularly in her last job as an Immigration Attorney. Whether it was the grocery store, the pharmacy, the doctor's office or the YMCA, people knew and loved Anne because of the extra effort she took to learn about their lives and encourage them in their work. Even in the hospital and hospice center, she focused on others in the midst of her devastating circumstances. She no doubt offered more thanks and supportive comments, with her distinctive southern accent, than those who cared for her had received in the past month or even year.

As death approached, Anne was Anne - determined, compassionate, intelligent, analytical, quirky, humorous and devoted to those she loved, including me. The trauma of those days was lessened for us all as she thanked us for being in her life, spoke of a good death, was strong in faith, and confident that the decision she had made was the right one, and that we all would make our way without her.

We will...but it won't be easy. I hope not to forget that life is fragile.

Congregation Council

Your Congregation Council members meet once a month to oversee and guide the church's mission and ministry. There are nine members who are serving 3-year elected terms. This month we introduce **Congregation Council President, Darryl Anderson.**



What is your role on Council:

President
Financial Operations Liaison
Council Representative on the Finance and Faith Endowment Committees

Who are your family members:

Wife Evie, daughters Vienne, Sandrine and son Treader

How long have you been a member of Faith Lutheran Church?

We began attending in 2018 and joined in 2020.

What occupies your time? (types of employment, volunteering, hobbies and/or other responsibilities)

I'm a physician in private practice. I enjoy watching anime, TV and movies with Sandrine (and Vienne when home from college) and sports with Treader. I like to read and I'm an avid collector of vintage Star Wars (1977-85) toys and licensed merchandise.

What is one way Faith Lutheran Church impacts your life?

Faith has provided me avenues to show God's love in service - we participate in the ELCA Day of Service, Mitzvah Day, and volunteer in Faith's tent at Akron's Pride Festival.

Key Dates



Lent Reflection and Journaling Class

Final Class, Thursday, April 3 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 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.

Join the choir for Easter!



This is a cordial invitation for anyone who enjoys singing to **join** with the **Faith Celebration Choir on Easter** for some very special music making!

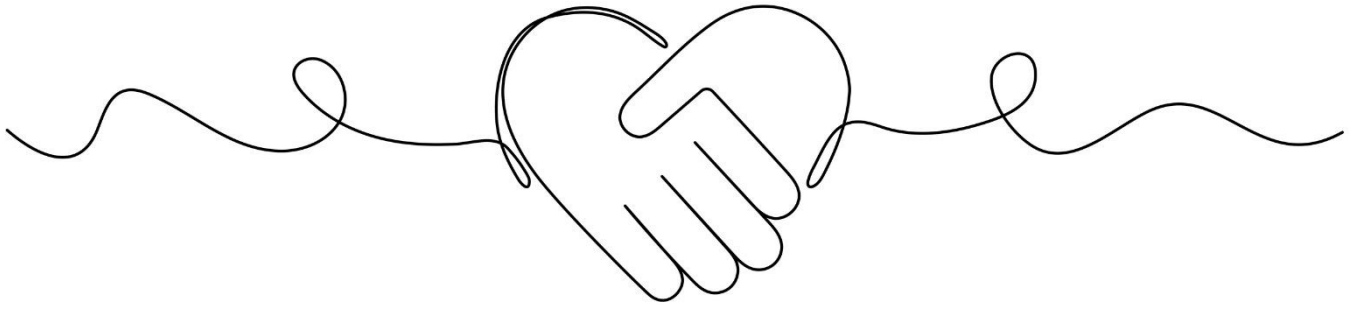
Rehearsal:

Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m. to Noon

Services:

Easter Sunday, April 20: 9 and 11 a.m.

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



Spring Banquet

Hosted by Daughters of Faith

A Joyful Heart is GOOD MEDICINE! (Proverbs 17:22)

Thursday, May 15
5:30 p.m.



5:30 Punch Bowl!

6:00 Dinner --“Personally Prepared Salads” (by Daughters of Faith)

& Croissants, Beverages, Cupcakes!

7:00 -- Entertainment: The Chickendales!



Preceded by: The CHICKLETES (Children’s Choir!)



\$5/person – Payable at the Door – Children under 5 years “free”

Sign-up -- RESERVATIONS due by May 11th – Mothers’ Day!

And Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; Everyone who hears will laugh over me.” (Genesis 21:6)

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE for FUN & FELLOWSHIP!!



Outreach



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



INTERFAITH JUSTICE ALLIANCE -- SAVE THE REMAINING DATES

Please attend and encourage other congregation members to participate.

The first presentation was held at our church and was very well attended with about 150 participants. The following Braver Angels principles (identified in the acronym iLAPP) for navigating difficult conversations were reviewed and attendees were provided a role-play experience to practice them.

***Invite:** (a conversation): "Would you like to talk about this? Is now a good time?"

***Listen:** "Help me understand more about how...." or "I'm curious about...."

Turn off your 'inner debater' and 'rebuttal listening'.

***Acknowledge:** "What I hear you saying is..." (paraphrase: content and emotion)

Ask, "Did I get that right?"

***Pivot:** "I can agree with you that...." or "I'm with you on..." (Find something!) Ask, "Are you willing to hear a different Point of View (POV)?"

***Perspective:** Tell your story /experience. Learn theirs.

The audience was actively engaged with enthusiastic participation. Comments shared demonstrated appreciation for the session.



Pastor Jean - opening service



David Weida and Marty Hall, were also greeters for the evening.

Outreach



Various participants

The series continues and each program will be scheduled from 6 to 8:45 PM including a meal. The theme of Restoring Civility, Healing Divisions continues on April 2 and concludes on April 9. See flier on page 5 of this newsletter.

AKRON AREA INTERFAITH HUNGER WALK

It is coming soon. The 16th annual Hunger Walk will be May 4. It will start at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron on 3300 Morewood Road, Fairlawn. Registration starts at 2 p.m. and the Walk begins at 3. It will be followed with Food & Fellowship. The turn-around point is here at Faith Lutheran Church where our Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Team will be staffing a water station and providing water for the walkers. Volunteers are welcome to help out at the water station. Faith would also like to have a large number of walkers participate. Please see Marilyn Wilson or David Simpson if you would like to assist or to walk.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

This is the time to begin the gardening season. Please contact Molly Donohue, 419-989-0133 or donohuem0816@yahoo.com or Nicole Vincent, 330-606-5869 or nicole@thesoupersisters.com if you would like to participate or if you just want to learn more about this ministry.

LOADS OF FAITH (LOF)

The LoF ministry has received the \$1,500 grant funds from the Akron Community Foundation completing the successful grant application process for which Dana Singer devoted much time. Additional contributions have been offered by generous individuals to support this ministry. The grant and these contributions provide encouragement for the future program sustainability and attest to its merits and worthiness.



Photos from a recent evening at Laundry Time laundromat in North Hill

Outreach

ELCA DAY OF SERVICE

David Johnson and David Simpson will be meeting with Zac Kohl, Executive Director of the Middlebury Development Corporation, and Reuben Auck, Housing Manager, to explore a possible service project for the “God's Work Our Hands” Sunday on *September 7* this year.

COMMUNITY AGENCIES NETWORKING – HAVEN OF REST SITE VISIT

Responding to an invitation from Haven of Rest's Rev. Ron Regas, on March 11, Dana Singer, Deb Gottas and David Simpson were provided a comprehensive tour of the organization's three facilities situated immediately across the street from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. The 90-minute tour was guided by Michael Solosky, Development Officer. The organization provides

- intense residential services for men
- emergency shelter for women and children
- education and career development
- job training
- overnight shelter
- recovery programs
- a large community clothing resource

Founded in 1943 with a small storefront on North Howard Street, the organization has grown in size, scope of service, number of facilities and budget which is now at \$14M.

MITZVAH DAY

Deb Gottas and Darlene Anderson are developing a project for this service day which will be on June 7 and 8. The proposed activity will address clothing sorting and organizing at the DLM office. Some of the other projects and/or organizations already identified as participating include:

Akron Canton Foodbank
Habitat Restore
Battered Women's Shelter
Cuyahoga Falls Cancer Club
Activities at the Village of St. Edward
Ronald McDonald House

Red Oak Behavioral Health
Project Linus
Harmony House
Juvenile Detention
OPEN M

As in past years the entire program will culminate with a project feedback/sharing time and a pot luck dinner at Temple Israel.

WEBSITE

Content review of the outreach ministries continues. Recommendations for edits, changes or additions are welcome.

OUTREACH ADVISORY TEAM

The Advisory Team's schedule for the remainder of this year is:

April 8
July 8
October 14

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

Outreach

Are you passionate about a particular social justice issue? God calls us to care for others.

If you feel the tug to get involved and make a difference, we have opportunities for you!

Please consider joining one of these groups:



Concerned about equity and inclusion at Faith Lutheran Church? We are an RIC (Reconciling in Christ) congregation and uphold a welcoming statement and attitude towards all people, regardless of social economic background, physical and intellectual abilities, age, race, sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions. Join a team that gathers to plan events and consider issues that maintain our church's mission to be open and affirming. Includes planning for Faith's participation in Akron's annual Pride events. Next meeting is in May. Contact Marilyn Wilson (330-608-8817) if interested!



Value interfaith efforts around justice issues? Join a team that includes members from St Hilary Catholic, New Hope Baptist, Prince of Peace Baptist, Temple Israel Synagogue, and Faith Lutheran who meet to plan a 5-week series on a particular social justice issue. Meets as needed to coordinate the series. Contact Pastor Jean (330-836-8811) if interested.



Just want to serve people in need? Look at our Outreach options and consider trying out one of our regular monthly service projects:

- + Serve meals and help distribute clothes and groceries at DLM/Holy Trinity, Akron.
- + Pay for people's laundry at two locations in Akron.

Anytime you can donate needed items as listed on the baskets in the Fellowship Hall hallway.

Contact David Simpson (330-836-8811) if interested in joining an outreach event.

DLM SCHEDULE FOR 2025:

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:

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE LAUNDRY

The City Of Akron hosted "Free Tumble Together Washing And Drying Event" on March 5, at the West Side Laundromat at 853 Copley Rd. The city provided free washing and drying for up to three (3) loads of laundry per household. The event was only open to City of Akron residents. This program was made possible through grant funding from ServeOhio, the state's Commission on Service and Volunteerism and the City of Akron. "I believe everyone deserves the dignity of clean clothing," said Mayor Malik. "The feedback from these events last year was so positive and expressed a continued need for free washing and drying events to help those without access to a washer or dryer in their home. When times are hard, clean laundry can sometimes become a luxury and we're proud to step in to help provide this small dignity to folks in need."

Outreach

SUMMIT FRESH MOBILE MARKET OFFERS GROCERIES TO UNDERSERVED AREAS

Published: Jan. 27, 2025,

By Megan Becka, special to cleveland.com

The Summit Fresh Mobile Market will officially launch this summer. The mobile market is a converted bus packed with produce, dairy products, meat and shelf-stable items that travels to various areas around Akron to offer residents access to fresh groceries. Funding for the project will come from a \$175,000 grant from the American Beverage Foundation for a Healthy America and the United States Conference of Mayors. Local support was provided by the Church of Our Saviour, Open M, Crown Point Ecology Center and United Disability Services. “As a community, when we hear of an issue, we pull together to address it, and that’s what is happening here,” Executive Director of Summit Fresh Mobile Market Ebony Yeboah-Amankwah said in a news release. “We have learned that there are pockets that do not have reasonable access to fresh, healthy, affordable foods and that is creating adverse impacts to the health of our neighbors in these communities.”



Picture courtesy of Hal Stata, Stata Productions

FYI FROM SUE WIMER AT FIRST SERVE

North HS Food Pantry, Clothing Room Volunteers Needed

Each week First Serve helps North High School students secure basic needs through the Food Pantry and a Clothing Room. These two rooms provide essential items that directly impact students ability to be successful at school by making sure they have food, hygiene products and clothing. Volunteers are welcome. For information, contact Kris Stoehr at kstoehr@hudsonucc.org

FROM AKRON AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL (AAIC)

Weaving Project – AAIC is collaborating with WISH (Women’s Interfaith Spiritual Heritage) to create a “symbolic tapestry of unity” which is a message that “we are all one”. There is a need for volunteers to assist. For more information contact Susan Gallagher at akronaaic@gmail.com or go to akroninterfaith.org and click on events to register. See brochure on the Outreach bulletin board.



Weaving Project

Immigration Committee – AAIC is participating with various community groups that are serving local immigrant families by providing information, such as “know your rights”, helping them get powers of attorney and passports. Faith groups have come forward to help with such things as printing Know Your Rights Cards, POA paperwork and other needed items.



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 and follow the prompts.



FaithKids & Junior Youth Group

IMPORTANT UPDATE!

First Communion Class is now open to all children ages 7-10 who would like to receive their First Communion on Sunday, April 6.

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



All children who are 7 to 10 year's old, 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.**



- **March 30, 4-6 p.m.** 1st Communion Class
- **April 6** First Communion Sunday
- **April 18** Good Friday Program
- **May 18-** Last Day of Sunday School
- **June 16-20** Vacation Bible School

Fruits of the Spirit Good Friday Retreat 2025

For FaithKids and Junior Youth

Friday, April 18

10 a.m.- 12 NOON

Preschool 4s/5s through 5th
Graders

Come learn about the Fruits of the Spirit as we discover how to live out love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5) in our daily lives.

RSVP to Pastor Sarah (so we can plan) at (860) 993-2094 or tell Dineen or Sarah.

Kids are presumably off school. Why not hang out at church and grow in our faith as we prepare for Easter and welcoming the Risen Christ into our lives?

🍏 It is sure to be a *sweet* time! 🍏



APRIL CLASS LESSONS

- 6- Prayer, Last Supper, Communion
- 13- Palm Sunday/Holy Week
- 20- EASTER- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 27- Thomas Believes



FaithKids and
Junior Youth Group
Sunday School Classes

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.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

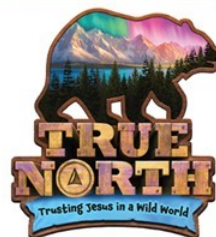
JUNE 16-20, 2025

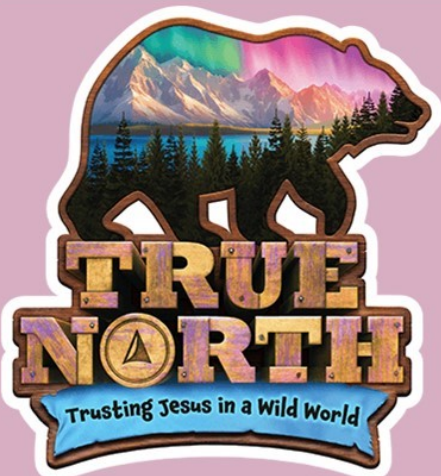
9 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.

Faith's **Vacation Bible Schools** have been incredible and meaningful weeks for the children AND volunteers! It has become a beloved ministry for those we serve. This year the theme is called "TRUE NORTH: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World."

We can't offer this amazing ministry without the help of many people, adults and youth, members and friends and family! Please consider this a "service project" or a way to do ministry for one week this summer. It is fun and meaningful.

Roles needed include: station leaders (work a station where each crew visits), station helpers, crew leader (walk around a crew of kids to each station), registration, greeters, dismissal, photographer, opening program, skit, and more! **Please consider helping by contacting the Pastor Sarah at (860) 993-2094 or faithkids@faithlutheranchurch.org**





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



Director Dineen Dowling and PreK Teachers Katie Frank and Sara Molnar (pictured at right) worked the Copley-Fairlawn School district's "Kindergarten Readiness Night" at Arrowhead Elementary School on March 12. This event shows parents what skills are needed to successfully prepare their child for a smooth transition to kindergarten.

There were sixteen stations, each offering an interactive activity to work on skills. Children who display confidence in these skills are ready for success in kindergarten!

Faith Preschool worked the station that talked about **Properties/Qualities** of objects - descriptive words like smooth, rough, salty, sweet, etc. Several of our preschool families who will be attending Copley-Fairlawn Schools stopped by our table!

We love representing Faith Preschool in the community!

All Preschool Staff will have an opportunity to participate in **Professional Development** at the Ohio Early Childhood Conference in Sandusky on April 24, during our Spring Break. The keynote speaker is Dr. Becky Bailey, creator of Conscious Discipline, a classroom behavior management program that we implement at Faith Preschool. Our staff is excited to hear from her and attend breakout sessions. It is an opportunity to grow as early childhood professionals!



Last Day for Crayons Thurs, April 17

Our last day to collect used/broken crayons is Thursday, April 17. Place your donations in the box in the Welcome Center by then.

Our preschool students have been sorting crayons by color and will box up to send to the National Crayon Recycling in Arizona, where they will be melted down into molds of new crayons for Children's Hospitals all around the country! See CrazyCrayons.com for what they will look like! Dineen will be ordering some for the preschoolers as an end-of-year gift!



Shout outs to the following church members who support our preschool:

Nicole Vincent and her Souper Soups! We enjoyed sharing this delicious fundraiser with the preschool and church families.

Curtis Thorkelson for donating a new refrigerator for one of our classrooms.

Debbie Gottas for donating scarves for gross motor play in the Big Room (Fellowship Hall).



WANTED.... Summer Babysitters!

Are you available for Babysitting Jobs this summer?

Every year, Preschool parents ask Dineen for recommendations of responsible and reliable babysitters. Dineen is ready to compile that list for summer 2025! If you are a youth, college student, or adult who is available to babysit, let her know!

If YOU are interested (or if your college age child will be home this summer and may want babysitting work), please forward to Dineen the following information: *Name, Age, Grade, School, Best way to Contact (phone/text/email), Do you Drive?* If you are interested or have questions, contact Dineen at 330-836-8827 or preschool@faithlutheranchurch.org

Growth & Learning



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

Thank you to all of the youth and parents who attended the Listening Session on Sunday, March 2. Your participation and input were fantastic and we are grateful that you chose to be engaged in this conversation!

The **Tournament of FLChampions** was so much fun! Thank you to all of the youth who participated and congratulations to **Matthew Bauer** who won the tournament and went home with the GOAT trophy!



We have officially wrapped up our Confirmation Learning Saturdays on March 15, but have one more learning event this school year. **It will be 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 27 in the Youth Room, and will be for both youth and parents. Lunch will be provided. The topic is: the Bible!** To all youth who participate in these learning experience, thank you! We enjoy learning with you! To all of the parents who make it a priority to get your youth to the learning events, THANK YOU! We truly appreciate you making this a priority!



Easter and the Easter Breakfast are once again upon us! **FLCYOUTH will again host the breakfast** as grab and go style again this year. We will have food stations setup in the Kinship area, as well as extra room in the Youth Room. Youth and parents will provide fruit this year, with everything else being taken care of by Carla and the Jezewskis'. Youth/parents we **NEED** you to be present on Saturday, April 19, at 9 a.m. to help prep and setup for the breakfast. Last year, with the amount of help we had, we were able to knock everything out in about an hour! Let's do it again this year! On Easter Sunday morning the youth will help refresh the food and beverage stations during the breakfast. We will **ALL** also be cleaning up afterwards (unless you are serving at second service). Every year the cleanup always falls on a few people. Everyone is busy that day with Easter plans and meals, but with the more people we have, the quicker cleanup goes! Please keep an eye on your email for a signup sheet for fruit. Even if you are travelling out of town, we ask that you provide a fruit donation to help with the breakfast. Thanks!

Growth & Learning

Devotions, Bible Study & Book Club Groups

Third Thursday Women's Bible Study Thursday, April 17 10 a.m. Youth Room

Join us for a continuation of discussion on the Dead Sea Scrolls. Third Thursday Bible Study will meet on Thursday, April 17, at 10 a.m. in the Youth Room. The discussion will be centered around video content based on the book, *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

For a Zoom invitation contact Dana Singer at 330.697.8514 or dasinger12@gmail.com



Faith Book Club April Selection Run by Ann Patchett

Join us on Tues., April 15

It's a winter evening in Boston and the temperature has drastically dropped as a blizzard approaches the city. On this fateful night, Bernard Doyle plans to meet his two adopted sons, Tip the older, and more serious and Teddy, the affectionate dreamer, at a Harvard auditorium to hear a speech given by Jesse Jackson. Doyle, an Irish Catholic and former Boston mayor, has done his best to keep his two sons interested in politics, from the day he and his now deceased wife became their parents, through their childhoods, and now in their lives as college students. Though the two boys are African-American, the bonds of the family's love have never been tested. But as the snow begins to fall, an accident triggers into motion a series of events that will forever change their lives.

Run is at its very center, is a novel about what truly defines family and the lengths we will go to protect our children. We will be meeting on **Tuesday, April 15, 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.

Men of Faith Bible Study and Discussion Group 9 a.m. - April 19 Youth Room

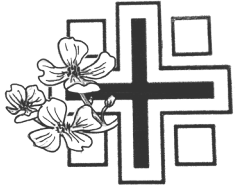
Men of Faith, a Bible study and discussion group meets the third Saturday of each month in the Youth Room. For more information contact Geoff Whidden, geoffrey.whidden@gmail.com or Karl Demuth, karldemuth@gmail.com.



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>.

Operations



Celebration and Memorial Courtyard



What's Happening in the Celebration and Memorial Courtyard?

The Celebration and Memorial Courtyard, surrounded by our building, is a place for celebration, reflection, and for remembering departed loved ones, both those whose ashes are interred in the courtyard and those buried elsewhere.

Some activities and projects from the Courtyard Team last year were:

- Two interments, one remembrance nameplate posted, four contracts signed for future interments
- Outdoor Kinship Café between Sunday services in July
- Temple talk describing our mission
- New full color brochure (available near all church entrances)
- Workshop on “Getting Your Affairs in Order,” with 22 attendees (to be repeated next fall)

Taking care of the Celebration and Memorial Courtyard is also our responsibility. In addition to some paid maintenance and improvements, we have had many volunteer hours given by both Team members and others who have worked with us. Recent volunteer projects include:

- With assistance from two Scouts from Troop 390, removing weeds and moss between pavers
- Installing polymeric sand between pavers to prevent growth of moss and weeds
- Removing irrigation system damaged by freezing and thawing
- Securing the blocks in the seating wall

This year we plan to apply mulch, replace the irrigation system, and address health of the trees and shrubs.

We urge you to visit the Courtyard and enjoy it for celebration, remembrance, and meditation. As you think about life's milestones, we also encourage you to consider it for interment and memorial planning.

If you have any interest in the care and future of the Celebration and Memorial Courtyard, or in making a cash gift, please contact any of the team members to volunteer your time or to ask any questions. Team members are Martha and Tim Keeler, Lynne Poulton, Sue Harman, Carla Ringer, Beth Brumbaugh, and Susan Thorkelson.





In Our Prayers:

Health Concerns:

Faith member Mary Brandt
Faith member Don Dillahun
Tommy Gorman
Faith member Pastor Tim Keeler
Faith member Betty Kesti
Faith member Linda Lewis
Skip Lintner
Faith member Terry Vernon

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

In Times of Loss:

For the family and friends of Faith member Donna Manning upon her death on March 9, that they may be comforted.

For the family and friends of Faith member Virginia (Ginny) Greenawalt upon her death on March 12, that they may be comforted. Ginny's Memorial Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, March 28, at Faith Lutheran Church, with calling hours beginning at 9:30 a.m.

For the family and friends of Anne Crotty upon her death on March 12, that they may be comforted. She is the long-time friend, and chosen sister, of Pastor Jean.

Special Prayers:

For all Christians during the season of Lent, that they may grow in faith and sacrificial service, and for the Interfaith Justice Series, that all who participate will strengthen their relationships with one another, and gain communication skills.

With Thanksgiving:

For the support of this Faith family as its members face challenges, and for the revealing of God's grace in each word and kind act.

QR Code Prayer Requests:



Schedule to Serve

Date	Service	Altar	Communion	Lay Reader	Ushers	Youth
6	9 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Kit Scheetz Dana Singer	Kit Scheetz - SE Emily Solberg - SE Cora Solberg -SP Corie Miller - B	Corie Miller	Seth Solberg Mason Solberg Hayden Solberg Geoff Whidden	Acolyte: Matthew Bauer Assistant: Elyse Vincent
13 Palm Sunday	9 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Kit Scheetz Dana Singer	Emily Solberg - SE Debbie Gottas - SE Cora Solberg -SP Fedearia Sweval - B	Fedearia Sweval	Seth Solberg Mason Solberg Hayden Solberg Cathy Medlen	Acolyte: Cayden Cloninger Assistant: Cyrus Jezewski
17 Maudy Thursday	7 p.m.	Kit Scheetz Dana Singer	Dineen Dowling	Gabe Hyter		Acolyte: Treader Anderson Assistant:
18 Good Friday	7 p.m..	Kit Scheetz Dana Singer		Em Antal Joe Antal Pastor Richard Weaver		
20 Easter	9 a.m. 11 a.m.	Kit Scheetz Dana Singer	Judy Harrison - SE Emily Solberg - SE Cora Solberg -SP Dana Singer - B	Dana Singer	Ed Pleasant Ed Pleasant	Acolyte: Adam Schafer Assistant: Cyrus Jezewski Acolyte: Matthew Bauer Assistant: Cayden Cloninger
27	9 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Kit Scheetz Dana Singer Deb Allen	 Deb Allen	Jerry Allen	Seth Solberg Mason Solberg Hayden Solberg Nancy Hooper	



Calendar of Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	2 9 a.m. FB Devotions 6:15 p.m. IFJS - St. Hilary 7:30 p.m. AA	3 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 12 p.m. Lent Reflection & Journal Class 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	4 6 p.m. Preschool PJ Party	5
6 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Education 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 2:30 Scouts 7 Concert Scouts 7:30 AA	7 10 a.m. St. Cecelia Rehearsal 6 p.m. Preschool Bd. 8 p.m. AA	8 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 5 p.m. Outreach Advisory Team 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	9 9 a.m. FB Devotions 11:45 a.m. Preschool Staff Mtg. 6 p.m. IFJS - Temple Israel 7:30 p.m. AA	10 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 12 p.m. Faith Family Fellowship Team Mtg.	11	12 10:30 a.m. DLM at Holy Trinity
13 Palm Sun. 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Education 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 7 Scouts 7:30 AA	14 1 p.m. Memorial Courtyard Team 8 p.m. AA	15 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 2 p.m. Book Club 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	16 9 a.m. FB Devotions 7:30 p.m. AA	17 Maundy Thursday 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 3rd Thursday Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Worship	18 Good Friday 9 a.m. FaithKids Good Friday Event 7 p.m. Worship	19 9 a.m. Youth & Parents Easter Breakfast Setup Men of Faith 10 a.m. Easter Celebration Choir Rehearsal
20 Easter 9 & 11 a.m. Easter Worship 10 - 10:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast 7:30 AA	21 10 a.m. St. Cecelia Rehearsal 8 p.m. AA	22 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	23 9 a.m. FB Devotions 7:30 p.m. AA	24 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	25	26
27 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Education 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound Confirmation Learning Event 2 Scouts 7:30 AA	28 7 p.m. Council Gardeners of Greater Akron 8 p.m. AA	29 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 5 p.m. Faith Family Fellowship Event - Sarah's Vineyard 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	30 9 a.m. FB Devotions 5 p.m. Loads of Faith Laundry Ministry 7:30 p.m. AA			



Please visit our website.

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www.faithlutheranchurch.org

Worship God. Grow in faith. Offer hope.