

Beacon of Faith

Worship God. Grow in faith. Offer hope.

Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool

May 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.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO'VE SACRIFICED



MEMORIAL DAY
May 26

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Holy Land Christians to Visit on May 11 Share Story, Sell Olive Wood Items

On May 11 we will be hearing about the Christians of the Holy Land during a "Temple Talk" at both services by the Holy Land Christian Solidarity Cooperative (HLCSC). After each service, in the Welcome Center, there will be a display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem available for purchase. These carvings include olivewood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels and many other religious crafts. The carvings are handmade by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on it for their daily bread.

More than 70% of the Christian community in the Holy Land depend upon tourism as their only source of income. For decades those Christians have been enduring many hardships as tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted and access to other sources of income has been sharply restricted due to the ongoing war. The Christian population of the Holy Land was 30% in the last century, today it is less than 1%. The HLCSC encourages your help in supporting our Christian brothers and sisters in the town of Bethlehem where Christ was born.



Northeastern
Ohio Synod, ELCA

Northeastern Ohio Synod On-line Assembly

The Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly will be held **online** on **Saturday, May 17, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.** This business meeting will give voting members the opportunity to engage in important synod decisions, participate in discussions, and connect with fellow members across the synod. Faith's voting members are Pastor Tim and Martha Keeler.

Visitors are also welcome and may choose to register for a Watch Party (\$25 fee) or watch the free livestream at home. Please register on the Synod website to receive a visitor's link to the ZOOM meeting. **IF** you plan to attend a watch party, one will be hosted at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Stow. Please select your watch party location when registering.



Pastor's Pondering
Pastor Jean M. Hansen



As a citizen and a Christian, I've been pondering the topic of free speech lately.

Recently, I read an article from the Ford Foundation in which a speech from 1860 by former slave Frederick Douglass was cited. The speech was titled, "A Plea for Free Speech in Boston" and was given after a meeting in Boston to discuss abolishing slavery was cancelled because of an unruly mob that sought to silence the abolitionists. The mayor refused to protect the meeting or the free speech of the abolitionists. The real danger, Darren Walker, the article's author, wrote was not the disorder, but denying fellow citizens the right to free speech.

Quoting Douglass, "No right was deemed by the fathers of the Government more sacred than the right of speech. It was in their eyes, as in the eyes of all thoughtful men, the great moral renovator of society and government." As Walker noted, the power to remake ourselves is partially why the freedom of speech is enshrined in the very first amendment of the constitution. "Without freedom of speech, there is no preacher in the pulpit, no defense at a trial. Without freedom of speech, there is no women's suffrage or March on Washington, no marriage equality or Black Lives Matter or #MeTooMovement."

And therein lies a challenge; free speech means that both those who support an issue and those who do not have the right to say so. Additionally, free speech in 2025 involves the internet, which allows people to speak to a large audience, even worldwide, anywhere, anytime, sharing opinions with which many may not agree. When there's free speech, we will always struggle with the question of where free speech ends and hate speech begins, and will deal with issues of speech perpetuating injustice and harm.

Even with these challenges, though, I feel free speech must be carefully guarded. That's why the recent revoking of visas of international students is of particular concern to me, especially when the reason for doing so is their participation in social activism that is contrary to the stated policy of the United States government. (Largely, pro-Palestinian support related to the recent war in Gaza.)

Let's put this in context. Those being targeted are non-citizens who are full-time students at accredited education institutions who have been approved by ICE, are proficient in English and have sufficient funds to support themselves during their course of study. There also are visas available to students, teachers and researchers who are participating in approved programs and return to their countries 30 days after those programs are complete. Not all those being detained have engaged in political activism; sometimes the reasons are unclear.

All this is possible because of a provision in the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 which allows the secretary of state to deport noncitizens if the secretary determines their presence in the country would result in, "potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences for the United States." For these situations to cause "serious adverse foreign policy consequences" seems unlikely to me.

(Continued on next page.)

My concern for today is that our country is moving toward a situation in which any speech that is not consistent with a particular point-of-view will be silenced. I'm worried about this as a citizen, as a Christian and as an ELCA Lutheran Christian. I am thankful for the freedom to share my faith, and that I can do so from the perspective of a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

Other Christians (or people of other faiths or no faith) may not agree with my understanding of and living out of my faith in Jesus. They don't have to, and I am not compelled to agree with them. We both have the right to speak what we have come to believe. As a follower of Jesus, doing so with respect and being willing to listen respectfully should be a given. Free speech can improve our society ... or not ... and to a large degree we each are responsible for which is the case.

Free speech is essential in a free society and is a cornerstone of freedom of religion.

Sources:

"With the Freedom of Speech, the Responsibility to Listen" by Darren Walker, www.fordfoundation.org

"The Trump Administration Revoked 800 Student Visas" by Kate Selig and Halina Bennet, April 11, 2025, www.nytimes.com

"Student Visa Terminations have Quickly Hit Over Half of All States" by Kimmy Yam, April 16, 2025, www.nbcnews.com



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 Vice President, Lori Ashenfelter.**



What is your role on Council:

Vice President
Preschool liaison

Who are your family members:

Husband Adam and daughter Zoe who is attending the University of Akron.

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

We began attending in 2001 when we moved to Fairlawn. We became members in 2002. I originally attended the 8 a.m. service on my way home from working the night shift at St. Thomas hospital.

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

After retiring from nursing, I have held a few odd jobs and seasonal work. I am currently at Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens. I enjoy walking and hiking with my family. I enjoy my yoga practice and reading.

What is one way Faith Lutheran Church impacts your life?

Faith Lutheran Church is a place where I can feel comfortable and enjoy my time in worship without judgement. I look forward to the fellowship events because they are fun way to get to know other members.

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!

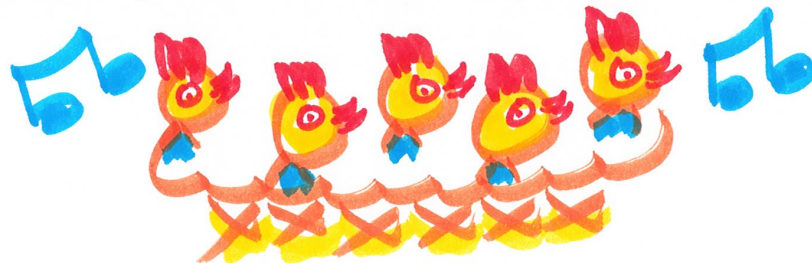
6:00 Dinner --“Personally Prepared Salads” (by Daughters of Faith)

& 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!!



Key Dates



The Gardeners of Greater Akron Annual Geranium Sale

Friday, May 9, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday, May 10, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The sale will be held on the
north side of the church.

The proceeds provide for scholarships and volunteer efforts, such as Habitat for Humanity, and youth gardening.

Wanted



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

Thank you

Dear Penny,

Thank you so much again for your very generous donation of 126 books to the Berry Good Reading Program at Akron Children's Hospital.

Your donation supports the Berry Good Reading Program's mission of helping children develop a love of reading at an early age and giving books to children who need them the most. We are so grateful and appreciative.

Warmest regards,
Nancy Blanchard (and Lindsay Riley, too!)
Regional Advocacy Reach Out and Read Program Coordinator

Outreach



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



AKRON AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL – HUNGER WALK

The Hunger Walk will be on May 4. It starts and finishes at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron, 3300 Morewood Road in Fairlawn. Registration begins at 2 p.m. and the Walk begins at 3 p.m. It will be followed with food & fellowship afterwards. The turn-around point is here at Faith Lutheran Church where our RIC Team will be providing a water station for the walkers, both human and canine. Volunteers are welcome to participate. Donations are welcome and can be made here at Faith Lutheran Church, online at <https://donate.fundhero.io/aaic/hungerwalk> or in person on the day of the walk. Please see Marilyn Wilson or David Simpson if you have any questions or would like to assist. A video of last year's walk can be viewed by clicking the link, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=httASFpcAV0>

MITZVAH DAY – JUNE 7 & 8

The website mitzvahdayakron.com is now ready for people to sign up for any of the several project opportunities. Below are a few highlights:

- **Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Spring Cleaning” at DLM** The Dare to Love More Food and Resource Center Spring Cleaning and more! Help us spruce up our facilities by cleaning and disinfecting the kitchen, social hall, folding chairs and tables. Help with sorting clothing, disinfecting shoes and organizing clothing rooms. Weather permitting, a group will go outside to pull weeds pick up trash in the playground area as well as doing general maintenance, painting and minor repairs of the equipment. DLM will provide work gloves, garbage bags and cleaning supplies. Lunch will be provided!”
- **Saturday 1 – 2:30 p.m. Brown Bag Blessings** – Brown Bag Blessings will provide a brown bag lunch or dinner for those at the Haven of Rest. We will meet at New Hope Baptist Church located at 1706 S. Hawkins Avenue, Akron to pack the bags. We will deliver them to the Haven of Rest around 2 – 2:30 pm. Please note, we will not serve, we will only drop off. Bring empty boxes to carry the bags. **Family Friendly – all ages. Volunteers Needed: 15.**
- **Sunday at 3:30 p.m. Teen Discussion on Gun Violence** - We will have a session in the sanctuary at Temple with teens talking about their own experiences with gun violence. They will also be talking about their perspective on the most recent elections. They will start with a panel discussion and then break out into smaller groups that will each be led by one teen.

At 5 p.m. on Sunday, Mitzvah Day there will be a Swenson's dinner and participants will be encouraged to talk about their project experiences from the two days of service.

GRACE HOUSE AKRON

Representatives from Grace House Akron will be here sharing information about the organization on May 18, during the time between our two services (10 - 10:30 a.m.) in the library. Grace House Akron provides a caring environment for hospice enrolled individuals who are without a home or a caregiver. The organization is grounded in the knowledge that there are too many individuals in our community, who are at the end of life, with nowhere to go, and no one to care for them. It is their believe that everyone deserves to die in the presence of care, compassion, and dignity, and that no one should die alone. Volunteers serving there are Pastor Jean, Lorelee Daily and David Simpson. Please consider joining in for this informative and inspiring presentation in the library immediately following the first service.

Outreach

ELCA DAY OF SERVICE



This year marks the **12th anniversary of our annual Day of Service**. Although September may seem far off, now is a good time to identify possible service projects that we will accomplish. Here is a list of projects from other ELCA congregations that may give some ideas for us to ponder:

- Plan a work day at with a local organization.
- Conduct a sewing project.
- Prepare health kits.
- Harvest produce for local food pantries.
- Bake cookies and deliver them to police, fire or healthcare personnel.
- Visit people in a nursing home.
- Youth could hold a benefit carwash.
- Host a blood drive.
- Send cards with personal messages to shut-ins.
- Send notes of appreciation to first responders, teachers, nursing home residents.
- Take someone who needs a ride for errands.
- Do grass mowing, weed pulling, brush trimming for someone who can't do it.
- Babysit for someone who needs a little personal time (single parent, grandparents).
- Work at an animal shelter for the day.
- Help a neighbor with a painting project.
- Send someone an anonymous note listing qualities you admire in that person.

INTERFAITH JUSTICE ALLIANCE

Highlights from the first session, held at Faith on March 12, was covered on pages 7 & 8, in the April newsletter. The focus of the second week in the series was managing different points of view within one's own family. Valerie Palunis, the facilitator, described the following roles that sometimes emerge within families:

- The Gladiator: do battle for your side against your wrong-headed relatives!
- The Defender: beat back attacks on your side.
- The Sniper: get in digs, but don't engage.
- The Peace Keeper: intervene to stop political disagreements.
- The Bystander: keep your mouth shut and your head down.
- The Engager: try to have respectful conversations across differences.

Continues on the next page.

Outreach

She offered the following approaches when engaging with people in such roles:

- **For the Gladiator:** if someone usually comes ready to start a political fight, don't engage them in front of an audience, try one on one. Start by asking for their thoughts on something and be prepared to listen for a while before sharing yours. When you do, begin with something that you agree on. Be prepared to disengage if things start to go badly. ("Okay, it looks like we're on opposite sides on this one. Maybe we should leave it at that for now.")
- **For the Defender:** if someone sees you as unfair and nasty to their side (and you haven't been), calmly clarify the meaning of what you've been saying ("It sounds like you think I was saying X. What I am saying is Y.") If the other person does not shift based on your clarification but instead keeps attacking what they think you mean, don't defend your point—just state it one more time and disengage. ("I realize you think I am saying that everyone on your side is bigoted or stupid. What I am saying is that a lot of them are getting their information from biased sources.") If the other repeats, "You're looking down on all of us", then push back: "That's not where I'm coming from, so let's stop arguing about something I don't believe." Then move on.
- **For the Sniper:** if someone gets in a dig about your politics to get a rise out of you, but doesn't want to express their own views, try to deflect with humor rather than giving a serious response and sound like the "heavy." (Sniper: "How's the feminist/redneck in the family going to respond to that one?" You: "This feminist/redneck is going to keep enjoying this delicious food.") If the sniper keeps going, ["Aw, come on."], push back: "If you want to make a point right now, Jason, go for it. Otherwise I'm going to keep enjoying my food."
- **For the Peace Keeper:** if someone nervously tries to stop a reasonably constructive political conversation that most others seem to be appreciating, you can try to reassure them. ("I think we're all handling this pretty well, and I hope we can finish this part of the conversation.") But if others seems to agree it's time to stop, then pick up the conversation later with individual family members.
- **For the Bystander:** check out the non-verbal signals of those not engaging in the conversation. If they are quiet but seem interested, keep going. If they look distressed, move to end the group conversation and take it up individually later on. If they are just bored, well, feel free to keep going as long as most others are engaged.

During the third and fourth sessions guidance was offered on how we can reduce our own polarization escalation. When we talk with those whose views we share, and like-minded people, first ask "How badly do I want to DEPOLARIZE MY-SELF?"

1. Notice how we feel about the other side.
2. Recognize our stereotypes and implicit bias.
3. Acknowledge the variation and complexity in the other side.
4. Avoid pejorative labels, "They all...."
5. Criticize policies/ideas, not motives
6. Criticize our own side too.
7. Find something positive about the other side.
8. Read/listen to respected commentators on the other side.
9. Remember the 'eavesdropper' thought exercise.

Consider that the source of our news in some ways forms and hardens our opinions. If we are consuming media from one side of the aisle, we may be contributing more to the problem. Here are some balanced news sources, all with intentions of fostering a more perfect union.

- <https://www.allsides.com/unbiased-balanced-news> (also a phone app)
- <https://www.theflipside.io/> (also a valued weekly summary)
- <https://ground.news/> (also a phone app)
- The Wall Street Journal is credited for being overt about their bias.
- Mo News, Podcast - a daily morning summary of the headline news from both sides.
- The Tangle, Podcast - 4 days a week, 20-min dive into one issue.

The fifth and final session at Temple Israel was structured around the "Dinner and ~~Fight~~ Dialogue" program facilitated by Ted Wetzel. It provided an opportunity to have conversation around the issue of abortion and provided an opportunity to practice the lessons from the previous four sessions. Rather than role playing about a topic, actual opinions and feelings were expressed demonstrating how civil dialogue may be achieved even where sharp division exists.

Outreach

IN THE COMMUNITY

SOMETHING NEW – AN INVITATION

If you are asking yourself *"What's Next?"* we invite you to join a new group of everyday citizens who support and encourage the rebirth of civic consciousness and moral fiber into our communities. Composed of community activists from throughout our area, we look at this through many different lenses and offer a wide variety of ways to get involved. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. The only qualification is compassion for your fellow citizens. We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at St. Hilary Church, 2750 W. Market St, Fairlawn. You are welcome to just drop in or contact Mickey Rhoades at mlrhoades1012@gmail.com or 234-238-3131 for further information.

WEAVING PROJECT



You are invited to an event of Faith, Collaboration and Creation

Hosted by Women's Interfaith Spiritual Heritage (WISH) and Akron Area Interfaith Council, this unique project of community-activated art fosters connections among diverse faith groups. Join in the weaving process to help create a unique tapestry. Bring a dish to share and talk about your faith experience. Participants may bring fabrics/textiles that have personal meaning and turn them into strips for the six-foot loom. Prayers, poems, spiritual expressions from every faith will be written on the strips and then woven into the single tapestry -- a tapestry of unity.

Just as weaving has been an art and craft form that has spanned thousands of years across all cultures, prayer also is woven into the lives of all people of faiths and uniquely connects our faith traditions. The tapestry will become a symbolic representation of the interfaith work and relationships that exist in our community. The last event date is **Thursday, May 8, 6-8 p.m. at Summit Artspace, 140 E. Market St., Akron**

Registration is through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1146440858469?aff=oddtcreator>

Contact for more information see: <http://www.neowish.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/womensinterfaithspiritualheritage>, <https://www.facebook.com/AAICOH>

IN THE COMMUNITY CONTINUED...

LOVE AKRON ANNOUNCEMENT

Love Akron is **celebrating 30 years of Loving Greater Akron!** Because of God's grace and your support, we have spent three decades bringing people, churches, and organizations together, building relationships that strengthen our community. This anniversary isn't just about looking back—it's about continuing the work of loving others in all we do.

We invite you to be part of our 30th anniversary celebration on September 30, at 11 a.m. at the John S. Knight Center in downtown Akron. Whether you've been with us from the beginning, are reconnecting or are new, your support helps us continue connecting, convening, and collaborating to Love Akron. Come, join us. Registration information will be posted later on the Love Akron website: <https://www.loveakron.org>

IMMIGRATION: WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON IN OUR COMMUNITY?

A special presentation by a panel of experts will be offered on to educate interfaith leaders on how to support immigrant families and friends who may have concerns about their rights. Panelists will be:

Deb Kline has over 38 years of experience as a national community organizer and activist on issues affecting both the low-income and labor communities. Currently, she serves as the Director of Cleveland Jobs with Justice, a coalition of labor, faith, and community organizations joining together for worker justice. Deb is also very active in her neighborhood and community and is currently in her third term as the President of OPEIU Local 1794.

Brian Hoffman is an attorney specializing in immigration matters. His work has been featured in The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, CNN, NPR, and a variety of other media outlets, and Brian has appeared on local and national TV and radio programs discussing a variety of legal issues involving immigrants.

Steve Volk is Professor of History Emeritus at Oberlin College. He has worked on immigration issues for more than 20 years, both as an academic and an activist.

Tania Nemer is a seasoned legal professional with extensive experience in immigration law, including serving as an Immigration Judge with the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR).

IN THE COUNTRY...

Excerpts from a STATEMENT FROM THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

The Central Conference of American Rabbis, CCAR is deeply concerned about the welfare of its members, its members' families, and members of the communities we serve whose lives, health, homes, and livelihoods have been placed at risk by executive orders and proclamations issued by the current administration since it took office in January 2025. Our Talmudic sages taught that the needs of one's own community take precedence over the needs of those who are more distant. We therefore begin by addressing needs in our own community. Awareness of risk to members of our own communities enhances our consciousness of and sensitivity to similar concerns throughout American society.

Some CCAR members and their immediate family members are foreign citizens who are living, working, and going to school in the United States, legally. In addition, the communities we serve include immigrants and refugees who possess a wide variety of legal statuses, including some whose immigration status is undocumented. All of these CCAR members and members of our communities are living in fear. Rabbis are often outspoken about a variety of issues, not always in ways that align with the current government or any that came before it. When immigrants who are in the United States legally are detained and threatened with deportation because of unpopular public advocacy, even advocacy we abhor, we fear for the rights of our immigrant colleagues. Can they continue exercising the American right of free speech without risking deportation, separation from their families, and loss of livelihood? The communities we serve may also include immigrants who have committed minor infractions that make them vulnerable to deportation, even if the offense is not punishable by incarceration. We are concerned for them all—and for millions more like them, beyond our immediate sphere.

Continued on the next page.

Outreach

Some CCAR members are transgender or nonbinary. Still more are parents of transgender and nonbinary children. The communities we serve embrace transgender and nonbinary people of all ages, including children who are receiving life-saving, gender affirming medical care under the care of their physicians and their parents.... Now, in the Proclamation of Child Abuse Prevention Month ... gender affirming care as child abuse. With this proclamation ... the removal of children from the parents who love them and parents from the children upon whom they lavish their loving care (has been threatened.) (This) may even be understood to threaten the prosecution and incarceration of parents and healthcare professionals who are providing that lifesaving care to children entrusted to their care.

Some CCAR members, members of their families, and the communities we serve are Jews of Color. (Concerning the end of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts within, and well beyond, the United States government.) In the span of these three months, the horrific experience of Black Americans from the time their ancestors were first brought to these shores is being denied or minimized, and fewer People of Color are being represented in the leadership fabric of American life. Jews of Color legitimately fear resurging segregation and discrimination. Moreover, as with all People of Color in the United States, Jews of Color, are increasingly suspected of being immigrants and refugees, potentially subject to deportation.

While few CCAR members are federal civil servants, some have spouses or other family members who are. So, too, are a significant number of members of the communities we serve, heavily concentrated in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area but spread across the nation. The lives of federal civil servants and their families have been cast into chaos, with more than a quarter million having lost their jobs in the first quarter of 2025, and many more legitimately fearing that they could be next. People of Color, including Jews of Color in our communities, are disproportionately affected by these draconian and often arbitrary reductions in the federal workforce, having long been overrepresented among federal civil servants, because they have faced less workplace racial discrimination in government than in the private sector.

Some CCAR members are disabled, are immunocompromised, are gay men or lesbians, and/or are members of other vulnerable minorities who have reason to feel threatened by (recent) actions or (that) have (been) suggested as forthcoming. Members of Reform rabbis' families and the communities we serve, which includes Jews and people with other identities, are equally vulnerable. Our history has taught us that whenever vulnerable minorities are attacked, Jews will ultimately be vulnerable because we are Jewish.

Attacking members of vulnerable minority communities betrays the promise of America. As President and Chief Executive of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, we call upon President Trump and his administration to stop harming our colleagues, members of their families, and members of the communities we serve, among all Americans whose identities make them vulnerable. In the meantime, Reform rabbis urgently call upon Congress and our courts to uphold American values, respect each unique American identity, and protect all law-abiding citizens of this great nation, especially those who are most vulnerable.



FaithKids & Junior Youth Group



MAY CLASS LESSONS

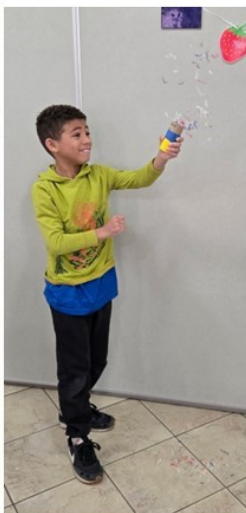
- 4- Jesus Appears to the Disciples
 - 11- My Sheep Hear My Voice
 - 18- LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL
- Review & Party



- May 18– Last Day of Sunday School
- June 16-20 Vacation Bible School

**WE HAD A GREAT TIME AT THIS YEAR'S
"FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT"
GOOD FRIDAY PROGRAM!**

**Thank you to all who helped put it together and
to those children who participated!**



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 faith-kids@faithlutheranchurch.org.**



Growth & Learning



We are winding down the 2024-2025 school year! Students are finishing their lessons and preparing to segue into the next phase of early learning. Some will be moving on to Kindergarten, some will move upstairs into the older kids classes, and some will start fresh in the fall. God goes with each one!



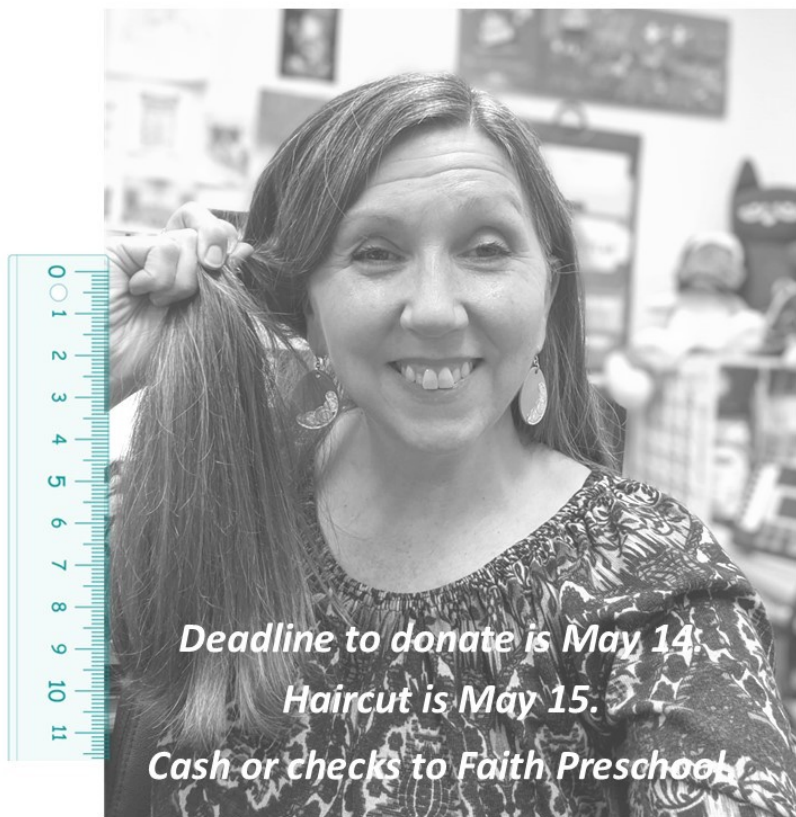
Closing events of the year during this month of May include:

- an all school trip to the Akron Zoo on May 12
- a Haircut fundraiser (see details below!) on May 15
- an End-of-Year program and annual Art Show by the older classes on May 16
- Many of our preschool students and their siblings plan to attend VBS June 16-20

The Preschool Board will celebrate the year's end with a Luncheon for Staff on Wednesday, May 21, in the courtyard, weather permitting. At that time, we will celebrate another successful year AND the 10 year anniversary of one of our staff members, Jill Ickes.

Faith Preschool is dedicated to serving children ages 2-5 as they begin to explore and become early learners! While we are all about preparing them for the next stage of learning - with our main focus on kindergarten readiness - we recognize that we also meet them where they are and serve them in this moment in their lives. Some of our students come ready to learn, some need help getting ready to learn. All of them are little children of God, deserving of our love, care and respect. We see incredible growth over the course of 9 months! We encourage and celebrate each one's progress. We are privileged to be a part of this important time in a child's life.

If you wish to support this valuable ministry of Faith Lutheran Church, speak with Director Dineen Dowling. There are many ways to be involved! One way is to donate your financial resources. Our final fundraiser of this school year is a unique one: a haircut for Miss Dineen, who would do anything for this preschool! See info below:



Help Dineen get a Haircut for Faith!



For every \$100 raised,
Dineen will get 1 inch cut off!
The goal is at least 10 inches.

Your donation supports
2 important causes:
Faith Preschool and
Children with Hair Loss!

Growth & Learning

The logo for fleyou(th) is displayed in white lowercase letters on a solid blue rectangular background.

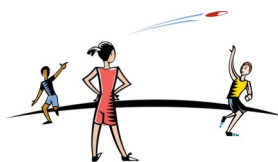
Eric & Abby Jezewski
Youth Leader & Co-leader
330-836-8811/
faithlcyouth@gmail.com



Thank you to all youth and parents for your help and donations for Easter breakfast.

Thanks to everyone who turned in their **Acme receipts** for the Community Cashback program. The Youth fund received **\$310.27** from Acme.

Thank you to the youth and parents that have made Confirmation a priority this year. We look forward to the retreats and events ahead!



As the craziness of academic year comes to a close please keep an eye out for invites to our upcoming events and summer acolyte/communion schedule.

May 18 Youth Meal & More.

May 25 will be our end of the school year celebration! All youth and friends are invited! Invites will be sent out closer to the date, so please don't forget to rsvp!



Growth & Learning

Devotions, Bible Study & Book Club Groups

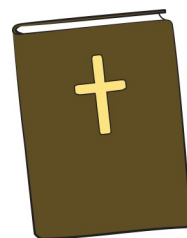


Morning Devotions on Facebook Every Wednesday

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. - May 17 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.



Faith Book Club 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 20 In the Youth Room

Faith's Book Club ends its regular monthly season with a get together on May 20, 2025 at 2 p.m. in the Youth Room. The occasion is Dessert and Decisions, when we'll choose titles of books to read in the 2025-26 season of Book Club; at the same time we'll enjoy a sweet treat to celebrate another year of fun and fellowship.

Third Thursday Women's Bible Study Thursday, May 29 10 a.m. in the Youth Room

Mark calendars because Bible Study will be meeting in May and June on dates other than the third Thursday: May - May 29; June - June 12



Join us for an additional discussion on the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The discussion topic, "Jesus and the Dead Sea Scroll Part Three: Baptism and the Scrolls" 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



In Our Prayers:

Health Concerns:

Tommy Gorman
Faith member Pastor Tim Keeler
Faith member Betty Kesti
Faith member Linda Lewis
Faith member Shirley Pope
Faith member Sara Shook
Faith member Paul Skerlong
Faith member Terry Vernon

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

In Times of Loss:

For Faith members, the Solberg family, upon the death of Seth's father on April 7, that they may be comforted.

For Faith member Carole Lintner, and family, upon the death of her husband, Skip, on April 24, that they may be comforted. A Memorial Service for Skip will be held at Noon on Monday, April 28, at Faith Lutheran Church.

Special Prayers:

For Catholics around the world as they grieve the death of Pope Francis, that they may be comforted, and for those who are electing a new Pope, that they would be guided by the Holy Spirit.

With Thanksgiving:

For the marriage of Krista Lewis, daughter of Faith members Tim and Linda Lewis, and Pete Young at the Lewis' home on April 27, that they may grow in love and commitment each day.

QR Code Prayer Requests:





Schedule to Serve

Date	Service	Altar	Communion	Altar Flowers	Lay Reader	Ushers	Youth
4	9 a.m.	Kit Scheetz	Judy Harrison - SE Corie Miller - SE Deb Gottas -SP Denise Henkel- B	John Grigas	Denise Henkel	John Knops John Weisend	Acolyte: Elyse Vincent Assistant: Treader Anderson
	10:30 a.m.	Nancy Hooper	Nancy Hooper			Ed Pleasant	
11	9 a.m.	Kit Scheetz		Ann & Gary Hagan	Terry Vernon	John Knops John Weisend	
	10:30 a.m.	Nancy Hooper	Nancy Hooper			Ed Pleasant	
18	9 a.m.	Kit Scheetz	Deb Gottas - SE Denise Henkel- SE Linda Weigand -SP Judy Harrison - B	Eric & Denise Henkel	Judy Harrison	John Knops John Weisend	Acolyte: Cyrus Jezewski Assistant: Matthew Bauer
	10:30 a.m.	Tana Fligor	Tana Fligor			Nancy Hooper	
25	9 a.m.	Kit Scheetz		Dana Singer	Christy Bauer	John Knops John Weisend	
	10:30 a.m.	Deb Allen	Deb Allen			Nancy Tobar	



Calendar of Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl	2	3
4 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Education 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 2 AAIC Hunger Walk 7 Scouts 7:30 AA	5 10 a.m. St. Cecelia Rehearsal 8 p.m. AA	6 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 7 p.m. Scouts AI-Anon SJSP Endowment	7 9 a.m. FB Devotions 7:30 p.m. AA	8 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	9 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Gardeners of Greater Akron Flower Sale	10 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Gardeners of Greater Akron Flower Sale 10:30 a.m. DLM at Holy Trinity
11 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Education 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 7:30 AA	12 11 a.m. St. Cecelia Concert & Lunch 8 p.m. AA	13 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 7 p.m. Scouts AI-Anon	14 9 a.m. FB Devotions 7:30 p.m. AA	15 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 5:30 p.m. Daughters of Faith Banquet	16 6 p.m. Preschool Art Show	17 9 a.m. Men of Faith Synod Assembly on Zoom
18 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Education 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound Youth Meal & More 7:30 AA	19 7 p.m. Council 8 p.m. AA	20 Last Day of Preschool 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 2 p.m. Faith Book Club 7 p.m. Scouts AI-Anon	21 9 a.m. FB Devotions 12 Noon Preschool Staff Lunch 7:30 p.m. AA	22 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 6 p.m. Finance Committee	23	24
25 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Youth Year-end Celebration Grades 6-12 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 7:30 AA	26 7 p.m. Gardeners of Greater Akron 8 p.m. AA	27 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 7 p.m. Scouts AI-Anon	28 9 a.m. FB Devotions 5 p.m. Loads of Faith Laundry Ministry 7:30 p.m. AA	29 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl Third Thursday Women's Bible Study	30	31 8 a.m. Scouts 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Buy Nothing Event



Please visit our website.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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www.faithlutheranchurch.org

Worship God. Grow in faith. Offer hope.