

Beacon of Faith

Worship God. Grow in faith. Offer hope.

Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool

October 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.



Altar Flowers are needed for the following dates:

Altar Flowers

- October 26
- November 2
- December 28

Cost is \$60 payable to the church. Payment may be placed in the offering plate, mailed or dropped off to the church office. Contact the church office with any questions.

The 2026 Flower Chart is now available in the office. Please call to select your Sunday.

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Stewardship Empasis 2025 Set Sail on the Steward-SHIP: We're Stronger Together!

"Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in Spirit, serve the Lord!" Romans 12:11

October 5

- The stewardship theme will be creatively introduced at both services.
- What better place to collect your treasures than a treasure chest? Children will receive one to decorate, fill with coins and acts of service at home, and return the contents on Commitment Sunday.

October 12

- Everyone can set sail on the Steward-SHIP! Look forward to receiving a boat and special instructions during worship and then launch your vessel afterward. If you're asking, "What??", come to worship on October 12 and find out!

October 19 – Commitment Sunday

- Prayerfully consider how you will financially support the ministry of Jesus at Faith Lutheran Church in 2026 and bring your completed Estimate of Giving cards to return as an act of worship at both services.
- Look for the boat display!
- Children will empty their treasure chests!
- Donut Sunday in the Kinship Café.

This is the time for NOT lagging in zeal, to be ardent in Spirit and to serve the Lord!





Pastor's Pondering
Pastor Jean M. Hansen



One of the topics I've been contemplating recently is the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in ministry. I'll admit, though, that my reflection on this topic is limited because my knowledge of AI is limited. Still, I know that AI can be used to summarize notes from a meeting, gather information, analyze trends, create documents and, also to write eulogies, prayers and sermons. These latter two uses of AI are the ones that make me uncomfortable, but I find it difficult to explain why, other than that doing so seems like cheating. And, I worry that the "craft" of writing and editing will soon be skills of the past.

Then, I read an excellent article in the September 2025 edition of "The Christian Century" that perfectly summarizes my concerns. Titled, "The Priesthood of all Chatbots?", the Rev. Zac Koons, an Episcopal priest, reflected my feelings when he wrote, "I'm sure there are good uses for AI in our churches. Prayer and preaching aren't among them." I'll share some of his reasoning but encourage reading the entire article.

First, concerning prayer, what is actually happening when we pray? Quoting Father Koons, "Prayer is, theologically speaking, always co-authored by the Holy Spirit. Is a prayer written by AI coauthored by the Spirit? Instead of spending a few minutes of silence for the Spirit to search the intricacies of the human heart, a super-computer combs through terabytes of internet cave scrawl." Now, obviously, the Spirit is free to work through AI-generated prayer as it chooses, "but there's a difference between what the Spirit is free to do and what God promises the Spirit does in fact do." It is, after all, within the human heart that the Spirit of God is pleased to dwell.

But, how is using an AI prayer different from using a prayer written by another person, like those we find in the ELW hymnal? The difference is being a part of the Communion of Saints; the prayer-writers humanity matters. "Their humanity matters not only because of the Spirit's presence in their hearts in the original composition of their prayers, but also because in adopting their words as our own, we are communing with siblings in Christ across time and space. The same Spirit indwells us and binds us together within the same Body of Christ." In contrast, AI is precisely nobody; it increases isolation and loneliness in the modern world.

As for sermons, in my opinion, preachers should view themselves as scholars, writers, participants in the world in which they live, public speakers and people who are guided by the Holy Spirit. Discerning that guidance is an important part of the sermon's composition. After 38 years of sermon-writing, I feel strongly that each of the aspects listed above are important and deserve time and attention, but the Spirit's presence in both composing and presenting the sermon is essential. That's because, quoting Father Koons, "...preaching is an intimate space of mutual trust. Where else do people choose to submit their attention span for ten minutes or more to another person, who can say whatever they want? How dare we discharge this precious opportunity to a robot!"

I'll end my "Pondering" with this interesting reflection from the article's author, "The rapid growth of AI into every nook and cranny of life represents a golden opportunity for churches to grow and flourish. **All we have to do is NOT use it!**"

I challenge you to give why that might be the case some thought.

Business

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 **Nancy Hooper**.



What is your role on Council?

I am the liaison for the Growth & Learning Teams.

Who are your family members?

I have a brother David and twin sister Susan who live in the Akron area. I share my home with cats Ruby and Rascal and birds Zeke and Ziggy.

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

I have been a member of Faith for 14 years.

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

I have worked at Cleveland Clinic Akron General for 39 years, currently in Medical Staff Services. When I'm not working, I enjoy outdoor activities such as golfing, kayaking, biking, hiking and bird-watching.

What is one way Faith Lutheran Church impacts your life?

Being a member of Faith gives me many wonderful opportunities to share God's love with others while growing in my own faith. I am happy to be a member of the Faith family!

Business - Call Process

This letter was mailed to Faith members and friends on September 22.

September 18, 2025

Dear members and friends of Faith Lutheran Church,

As you are aware, Pastor Jean has notified us of her intention to retire on January 31, 2026, after nearly 25 years of spiritual leadership and pastoral care at Faith. On behalf of the Congregation Council, I wanted to provide you with a brief outline of the transition process, update you on the steps the Council has taken so far, and inform you of our plans for the first phase of transition. Our goal is to provide regular communication through monthly announcements and by letter when reaching major milestones in the transition process.

On August 25, the Council met with Bishop Laura Barbins who provided an overview of the steps to take when a pastor completes their service and the search for a new call is begun. This process is based on best practices and is used throughout the ELCA; a similar process is followed by our full communion partners. The Synod will provide guidance and assistance throughout these phases.

- **Phase 1: Saying Farewell (current) – began with the announcement of Pastor Jean’s retirement. The Council has met with the bishop and has begun planning for transitional leadership. This phase will end with the conclusion of Pastor Jean’s ministry in January.**
- Phase 2: Congregation Health & Identity – begins February 1, 2026. A transition team is formed to evaluate the congregation’s sustainability and vitality. The team reviews our current mission and assists with discerning a vision for the future, while determining the staffing needed to meet those goals.
- Phase 3: Entering the Call process – a formal Call Committee (elected by Council) is formed. With the information gleaned from Phase 2, a Ministry Site Profile is created. The Committee receives and interviews candidates.
- Phase 4: Primary Candidate – the Call Committee recommends a candidate to Council. The congregation is introduced to the candidate. A Congregation Meeting is held with a call vote.
- Phase 5: Welcoming & Celebrating – rostered minister’s move and start date are arranged. An installation service is scheduled.

There is no set time for this transition process to be completed but it is likely to take somewhere between 8 and 18 months following the start of Phase 2—although it may take longer. To temporarily fill our upcoming pastoral vacancy, Council has elected to seek a full-time interim pastor. On September 16, a formal request was sent to the Office of the Bishop who, in consultation with the Congregation Council, will make this appointment.

For the next few months, we encourage the congregation to remain focused on thanking and celebrating Pastor Jean for her many years of faithful dedication and guidance. Let us be sure to provide her with the farewell that she deserves.

Included are some recommended prayers and biblical texts provided by the Synod.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact a Council member.

Darryl P. Anderson
President, FLC Congregation Council

Business - Call Process

Suggested Biblical Texts

The following are just a few texts that may be used for devotions or bible study during the Call Process. The lessons for each Sunday may also be used for your study.

Matthew 28:16-20
The Call of Matthew: Matthew 9:9-13
Call of the first Disciples: Luke 5:1-11
Romans 12:1-8 (9-21)
I Corinthians 3:1-9
Ephesians 6:10-18

Philippians 2:1-11
I Timothy 2: Instructions concerning Prayer
I Timothy 3:1-7 Qualifications of Bishops
I Timothy 3:8-13 Qualifications of Deacons
I Timothy 4:6-16 a Good Minister of Jesus Christ

Reflections on God's Call:

- Call of young people:
Samuel: 1 Samuel 2:1-3:18
Mary: Luke 1:26-38
- Call of the Disciples:
Follow Me: Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11
- Call of Elderly:
Elizabeth and Zechariah : Luke 1
Abraham and Samuel: Genesis 18:9:15
Simeon and Anna: Luke 2:22-38

Reflections on being the Church:

- Read the Book of Acts together. Read one chapter a week and begin meetings by reflecting on recent readings and the ministry of your congregation.

Reflections on "Wilderness Wandering":

- God's People waiting for clarity: Numbers 9:15-23
- God's people grumbling in the wilderness - and God providing: Exodus 16:1-7

Bible Study

Open with Prayer

Suggestion: Almighty God, we look to your Word for guidance and hope. Open our hearts and our minds that we may hear your word for us. Guide us through your Word to hear the good news for our lives together through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

One person reads the lesson:

- In silence, each person writes one word or phrase from the lesson that seems significant.
- Each person shares their word or phrase without additional comment.

A second person reads the lesson:

- In silence, reflect on what this passage is saying to you.
- Each person *may* share their reflection without additional comment.

A third person reads the lesson:

- In silence, reflect on what this passage is saying to the congregation in this time of transition while you are in the Call Process.
- Each person *may* share their reflection without additional comment.
- If time allows, a 10-20 minute open discussion may be included at this time.

Close with Prayer

Someone may say a closing prayer for the whole group; or do a circle or popcorn prayer with each person contributing if they wish; or close with the Lord's Prayer.

Business - Call Process

Prayers

For the work of the Call Committee

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts: Look on your Church with grace and guide the minds of those who shall choose a pastor/deacon for this congregation, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the departing leader

Gracious God, you have united us all in one body. We give you thanks for the work of Pastor Jean among us. As she leaves for retirement surround her with your Spirit. Give us the courage to release her to a new call and bless our remembering of the work that has been done among us. Guide Pastor Jean and us as we continue to seek to share the Good News of salvation and grace through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

During the transition time

Loving God, be with us and guide us during this time of discernment. Fill our leaders with your wisdom. Keep us mindful of the work you would have us do. Lead us and guide us, O Lord, to be about the work of your kingdom even as the search for a new pastor/deacon continues. Bless all who have taken on extra responsibility and fill them with a sense of your love and presence. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

During interviews

God, keep us mindful of your presence among us as we seek to discern your will for us. We pray that you will help us see beyond our own needs to the needs of your gospel, your Church and your world. We pray that you will open our eyes to new possibilities and opportunities of being your people. Guide us and lead us, O Lord. Amen.

At meetings

Life-giving God, create among us a desire to do your will. Open our hearts to your Word. Lead us as we seek to lead. Guide us as we seek to guide. God, we seek a new pastor/deacon to be among us to lead us and walk with us into future ministry. Direct and sustain us as we wait. Bless all who serve in the congregation, especially those who have the responsibility to lead us during the Call Process. Bless us, Lord Jesus. Amen.



Visitation Team Considered Interested? Please contact Pastor Jean

Visiting and taking communion to members who no longer attend worship in person is an important ministry of the congregation that Pastor Jean currently performs. During the pastoral vacancy, it is important that connecting with these members continues. Anyone who is interested in learning more should contact Pastor Jean by **October 16**. Depending on the number interested, participants would be committing to making two or three visits each month. A gathering will be held to prepare visitors for this ministry. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of meeting this need.

Business

Nominating Team Highlights Committees



This month we are spotlighting our **Faith Endowment Committee** members, who are elected for three-year terms at our Annual Meeting in November. The members on this committee oversee the **Faith Endowment Fund**, meeting quarterly to discuss the requests for money from the fund, and determining if the requests meet the qualifications for approval. Having a good understanding of finance and a commitment to good stewardship of the resources God gives us are helpful traits to have as a member of this committee.

Members of this year's Faith Endowment Committee are (left to right): Steve Thompson, Darryl Anderson (council representative), Kyle Daily, president and Carol Whidden (finance representative). Missing from picture is Linda Weigand.

Key Dates

It's Soup Supper Time!



**Friday, October 18
5:30 - 7 p.m.**

- All the soup you can eat (plus dessert too)!
- \$7.50 Adult; \$5 Child
- All proceeds benefit local food pantries!

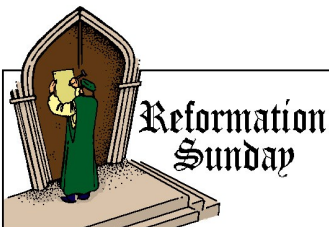


Get your flu shot!

Sunday, October 19
in the library
10 a.m. – Noon

Provided by Sand Run Pharmacy

Reformation Sunday October 26, 2025



Remember the day Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517 to spark the Reformation and the birth of the Lutheran Church.

It's traditional to wear red to worship on Reformation Sunday!

Outreach



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



Loads of Faith

S-P-E-C-I-A-L A-W-A-R-D for LOADS OF FAITH (LoF)

The following special message was received on September 16:

*The North Hill Community Development Corporation's **International Day of Peace** is an event that occurs annually in North Hill to celebrate and honor local residents and their commitment to unity and peace. A community member has nominated **Dana Singer** to receive a **True North Award** as a Community Leader, for her outstanding work with the free laundry service, that she hosts on behalf of Faith Lutheran Church, at Laundry Time, on the last Wednesday of each month. While Dana is not a resident of North Hill, her passion to help the North Hill neighbors is demonstrated by her dedication to the monthly service, her patience with the needs of others, and her ability to juggle the rush of people into the laundromat each and every time.*

Thanks to Nancy Tobar for graciously stepping in to accept the award on September 20, on behalf of Faith Lutheran Church and Dana, who was unavailable to attend the event.



Special soda for the event.



Nancy Tobar receiving award.



Aug. 27 Laundry Time in North Hill

OTHER LOADS (LoF) OF FAITH NEWS

A second year of funding is being requested from the Akron Community Foundation. The proposal being submitted is for \$8K. The number of volunteers continues to rise as does the potential for additional funding beyond current sources. Evaluation will be taking place for possible expansion to a third laundromat. This will require 6 to 8 volunteers as well as a team leader. Currently, there are more than 20 volunteers serving both Laundry Time in North Hill and City Laundry in Wallhaven. The following excerpt from the Akron Community Foundation grant application cover letter highlights both the importance and value of volunteers as well as our impact in the broader community.

Loads of Faith continues on the next page.

Outreach

This program is staffed by an extraordinary team of volunteers. Their consistent and faithful presence at the two laundromats each month makes this program possible. Because funds are dedicated exclusively to covering laundry expenses, the generosity of our volunteers is essential to sustaining this work. During the past year the number of volunteer hours totaled 600. The impact of Loads of Faith has grown beyond our original vision. Since we started other congregations and even the Mayor's office have consulted with us to explore how they might replicate this model. We are honored that our program is serving as an example and catalyst for broader efforts to meet this basic but critical need.



Anthony's Birthday



Jim Woodrum, Joyce Lange

FAMILY PROMISE

Our condiment supply needs replenishing for the following items:



Please note that we are no longer the supplier of hot sauce.



We will soon be bringing our second batch of soup to Family Promise. Thanks to the Soup Ministry Team for including these families in their culinary endeavors. Also, thanks for their thoughtfulness in adapting the soup container sizes to better fit the individual family apartment kitchens.

The following **2025 statistics** were recently shared by Family Promise:

- 25 families served
- 15 families achieved permanent housing
- 109 individuals within the families
- 85% success rate

Outreach

OASIS

OASIS is requesting a special collection in October to assist with its **After School Program** which now has 122 registered students from K-6. The service permits working parents to pick up their child between 5:30 and 6 p.m. and thus not have to miss or leave work early. There is no cost to the parents for this program. It has proven to be an immense help for the participating families. A bin for donations is in the Welcome Center. Requested items are:

FOOD/SNACKS*

Individual bags of chips
Pretzels, cookies
Goldfish crackers
Fruit snacks
Applesauce cups or squeeze packs
Nutrigrain bars
Plastic spoons

**All items must be nut-free!*

ART SUPPLIES

Sharpened pencils
Crayons, markers, colored pencils
Coloring books/sheets
Loose notebook paper
Plain and construction paper
Stickers

HYGIENE & PERSONAL ITEMS

Deodorant
Hair scrunchies
Socks (youth sizes)
Lip balm (unscented)
Toothbrushes & toothpaste
Body wash
Gentle face wash
Hand sanitizer
Tissues
Cocoa butter lotion
Individual packets of A&D ointment
or petroleum jelly
Girls underwear
(4t, 5t, youths S(5-6) and M(7-8))

For additional information, you may talk with Carol Whidden who serves on the OASIS Board.

ELCA DAY OF SERVICE - SEPTEMBER 7



Volunteers took part in several activities on this special day of service.

Thanks to Pastor Sarah Courtney for coordinating three projects that took place in Fellowship Hall:

1. Care kits for college students
2. Copley Outreach Center bag decorating
3. Fellowship Hall bulletin board redesigning

Written notes of encouragement and inspiration and 34 beautifully decorated cookies were prepared for college students. These were wrapped in decorated paper for a fun surprise for students living both at home and away in dorms.



Outreach



A group decorated 9 bags for Copley Outreach Center which is a volunteer-driven service to assist families who find themselves unable to provide basic needs such as food or shelter. Through the schools, students are identified and can opt into the program. The Center provides a weekend bag of food two times a month to K-12 students during the school year.

The third project was redecoration of the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

ELCA Day of Service continues on the next page.



Outreach

Another activity also in the Fellowship Hall was the assembly of 82 personal health kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) which will become part of a national ELCA effort to serve people through their global ministry.



Outreach

One other project was at the home of congregation members in Richfield and consisted of outside yard clean up. Eric Jezewski coordinated this effort along with 14 other volunteers.



Outreach

COMMUNITY GARDEN

As of September our community garden had harvested nearly 2,500 pounds of produce, all of which has been donated to OPEN M.

COMMUNITY GARDEN 2025	
DATE	POUNDS
29-Jun	10.60
6-Jul	25.10
13-Jul	158.80
20-Jul	155.50
27-Jul	191.00
3-Aug	232.94
10-Aug	207.80
17-Aug	297.50
24-Aug	357.70
31-Aug	224.20
1-Sep	98.00
7-Sep	154.30
14-Sep	165.74
21-Sep	218.44
	2497.62



OPEN M receiving our garden produce.

RIC

Here is a little more follow-up information regarding our Pride Festival Participation.

Faith volunteers numbered 15; 12 people marched in the parade. Nearly 40,000 people were expected to attend in 2025 making it the largest Akron festival. Our booth/table set-up encouraged more traffic than in previous years. Our swag items of tie-dye scarves and decorated clothes pins were a huge hit along with the beaded key chains.

For next year, consideration will be given to offering swag items that have Faith's name, QR code, and/or our website printed or stamped on it for future reference.

AKRON AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL (AAIC)

Special thanks to Bob Radl for serving as one of our representatives to AAIC for the past two years. Our membership permits us to have two members, both of which are now open. Please contact David Simpson if you would like to learn more about the AAIC and/or the representative's role. The AAIC'S website is <https://www.akroninterfaith.org>

Outreach

UPCOMING EVENTS

DLM SCHEDULE FOR 2025

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

October 29
November 19
December 17

OTHER NEWS OF INTEREST

PROJECT AKIN TO OUR LAST INTERFAITH JUSTICE SERIES – FROM PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Bridging Divides Initiative (BDI) is a non-partisan research initiative that **tracks and mitigates political violence** in the United States. It is committed to a future where communities are:

- prepared to respond in periods of risk
- empowered to address the long-term divides we face as a society
- supported to build a pluralistic, multi-racial democracy

BDI recently hosted an on-line webinar designed to address community safety and de-escalation approaches to mitigating political violence. The event was described as follows:

At a time of heightened political violence risk, communities need practical tools that can address immediate harm and contribute to a future where everyone feels safe. Over the past 10 years, the demand for community safety and de-escalation resources to mitigate this risk has surged. How has the ecosystem of practitioners evolved to take on the rise in demand? What support do they need from funders and policymakers to meet the moment and grow sustainably for the future? How can communities access their tools and training?

Thank you

To the members of Faith,

There are hardly enough words to thank you and express our gratitude for all the people who came to our home on Sunday's Day of Service. My husband put it best, as he explained to those neighbors, who stopped by to see what was going on, "you're seeing God's hands at work!"

Bless all of you for your kindness and support.
Roger and MaryAnne Pritt

Dear Faith Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous donation of soup and clothing! Veterans experiencing homelessness living in the Summit county area and across Ohio turn to Valor Home for help and we are here to give them the critical programs and support that they so desperately need.

The thoughtful donation you recently made couldn't have come at a better time. As you may know, Valor Home is the only male shelter in Summit County that provides emergency shelter and supportive programming to homeless Veterans. The demand for shelter continues to rise, and you have made it possible for us to continue to provide safety and comfort to Veterans

Your support gives Veterans opportunities to achieve their goal of having a safe place to call home.

Sincerely,
Katelyn Bell, Program Director

FAITHKIDS & JR YOUTH GROUP



FAITH FAMILIES CAMPFIRE NIGHT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025

6-8PM

Join us for an evening of fall fun around a campfire!
We will:

- Cook hotdogs over the fire
- Make s'mores
- Play games
- Have a Fall Photo spot for your family to take some seasonal pictures
- Have a mini Bible lesson
- Sing songs
- And more!

PLEASE RSVP TO PASTOR SARAH BY OCTOBER 15th

either by text message or
email at Faithkids@faithlutheranchurch.org.

**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.



HOLY HUMOR

What did Adam say the day before Christmas? It's Christmas, Eve!

Why don't they play music in skeleton church? They don't have organs!



ELCA DAY OF SERVICE RECAP

Thanks to your help we were able to:

- ♦ Decorate 9 bags for Copley Outreach
- ♦ Mail 13 care packages for a fun surprise for college students living both at home and away in dorms. They were filled with
 - ♦ 34 beautifully decorated cookies
 - ♦ Notes of encouragement
 - ♦ And wrapped in decorated paper
- ♦ And update a bulletin board in the fellowship hall with a Fall Apple theme.

*Thank you to all who helped us serve those within
and outside the walls of this church!*



Growth & Learning

Fall Fundraisers

The very popular frozen **Butterbraids** pastries and frozen **Mrs. Fields Cookie Dough** Fundraiser is back! If you enjoy these items, please consider ordering to support the preschool! Delivery at Faith is Tues, Nov. 4, plenty of time for stocking your freezer for holiday company! Order forms are in the Welcome Center and the Church Office. Or speak with Dineen!



Also available to you: frozen quarts of **homemade soup** from The Souper Sisters! Faith's very own Nicole Vincent's little company makes THE BEST soups! Purchase on the website October 6-8, and the soup will be delivered to Faith on Thurs., Oct 9. Pick up Thurs., Oct 9, Fri., Oct 10 or Sun., Oct 12. Speak with Dineen for more information!

www.thesoupersisters.com



Thank you all for the many ways you support Faith's Preschool! Our staff, students, and families are thriving because of you!



Our 2025-2026 school year is off to a great start! Students and teachers are in a rhythm and routine of the school day, and learning has begun in earnest.

Faith church member Amanda Hyter leads the Turtle Tots for Twos (a Mom, Dad, and Me class), which has grown to three classes—a Monday, Wednesday, and Friday! We are so glad to offer this introduction to the preschool experience for those 2 year olds and their grown ups! Each class could fit one more student, SO... if you know someone with a 2 year old, tell them about Faith!

Our two Three Year Old Classes (T/TH and MWF) will be heading to Nickajack farms for a field trip this month. These classes work on identifying colors and shapes, finding their name, being a good friend by sharing and taking turns, and following directions like cleaning up, lining up and sitting in a circle.

Our two older classes of Four & Five Year Olds are designed as "Kindergarten Readiness" classes. These students work on writing their name correctly (first letter capital and the rest lower case), counting, and lots of pre-reading activities. We use Zoo-phonics and Heggerty Phonemic Awareness programs in the classes.

All teachers create activities that will build fine motor strength (like playdough and LEGO building) so small hands are ready to hold and manipulate pencils and markers! Working on that pincer grasp is an important skill we incorporate every day!

All teachers carve out time for music, movement, and gross motor play, so those little bodies can run and move and grow stronger every day!

All teachers see each student as a child of God, deserving of love and respect! We speak with kind voices with the goal of helping the children in our care navigate this amazing time of growth in their little lives! We celebrate each bit of progress made! It is a joy and honor to be in the presence of these gifts of God!

Dineen Dowling



Fall student portraits were taken in the lovely Courtyard. Our students brought their smiles!





Please plan to eat out on

Monday

Oct. 27

at the Dewey's Pizza at Summit Mall! Dine in or carry out and tell the cashier you are supporting Faith Preschool. We receive a portion of the proceeds. It is so fun to see our Faith family and friends and enjoy some good food! Thank you for eating

pizza for the preschool!

Growth & Learning



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

We are off to the start of another year of FLCYouth with a few new faces! It's been great getting to know our new kids and connecting with all of our returning youth!

Our first **Meal and More** (confirmation class) was full of food, inside jokes, and lots of laughs! A big thank you to our older class for bringing the younger youth into the fold, letting them in on the jokes, teaching them all of the goofy games. We never seem to get sick of the great discussions!

We will be having our **Back to School Blast on October 12**, following the second service. Please make sure you RSVP via evite! As always, friends are welcome to join us!

Our first service project will be our annual garden clean up. We will pull up the old plants, fabric and staples and get ready for winter. We are aiming for late October and will work with the garden crew to nail down the date.

A new **acolyte schedule** is out! Please pay attention to the dates that you are scheduled to acolyte or assist!



ACME RECEIPTS = CASH FOR OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS

It's that time of the year again; the **Acme Community Cashback** program is now in full swing (**receipts dated 8/1/25- 2/15/26**). Please save your Acme receipts to benefit our youth programs! Drop off your receipts in the collection boxes in the Welcome Center, Narthex, or the counter outside of the Fellowship Hall.

Growth & Learning



Men of Faith Bible Study and Discussion Group **9 a.m. in the Youth Room** **Saturday, October 18**

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.

3rd Thursday Women's Bible Study **Thursday, October 16** **10 a.m. in the Youth Room**



Ephesians, Chapter 3, verses 1-13 is the topic of discussion during Third Thursday Bible Study when we meet on Thursday, October 16, at 10 a.m. in the Youth Room at Faith.

The first three chapters of Ephesians are jam packed with Paul's energy and zeal for Jesus Christ. After the first two chapters of Ephesians, where Paul continually praises God, he now tells of his personal journey in Chapter 3.

A video series which is companion to the book, *A Study of Faith and Practice Ephesians* by Jackie Hill Perry, Jasmine Holmes, and Melissa Kruger will be shown. Discussion will follow. Attendance is not contingent on previous session attendance.

All women are welcome to attend. For more information contact Bonnie at 330-606-3230 or janel-lebonnie@gmail.com. For a Zoom invitation contact Dana Singer at 330-697-8514 or danasinger12@gmail.com.



Faith Book Club **October Choice** ***The Last Castle* by Denise Kiernan**

This engaging narrative is the untold, true story behind the Biltmore Estate—the largest, grandest private residence in North America, which has seen more than 120 years of history pass by its front door.

The story of Biltmore spans World Wars, the Jazz Age, the Depression, and generations of the famous Vanderbilt family, and features a captivating cast of real-life characters.

Orphaned at a young age, Edith Stuyvesant Dresser claimed lineage from one of New York's best-known families. She grew up in Newport and Paris, and her engagement and marriage to George Vanderbilt was one of the most watched events of Gilded Age society. But none of this prepared her to be mistress of Biltmore House.

Before their marriage, the wealthy and bookish Vanderbilt had dedicated his life to creating a spectacular European-style estate on 125,000 acres of North Carolina wilderness. He summoned the famous landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted to tame the grounds, collaborated with celebrated architect Richard Morris Hunt to build a 175,000-square-foot chateau, filled it with priceless art and antiques, and erected a charming village beyond the gates. Newlywed Edith was now mistress of an estate nearly three times the size of Washington, DC and benefactress of the village and surrounding rural area. When fortunes shifted and changing times threatened her family, her home, and her community, it was up to Edith to save Biltmore—and secure the future of the region and her husband's legacy.

This is the fascinating story of how the largest house in America flourished, faltered, and ultimately endured to this day.

Come and join the lively discussion on Tuesday, October 21, at 2 p.m. in the Youth Room at Faith. If you haven't read the book, come anyway and meet the group and perhaps make new friends. If you have any questions, contact Steve Thompson or Marilyn Wilson. We hope to see you there.



In Our Prayers:

Health Concerns:

Faith member Pastor Rick Gordon
Faith member Bev Gorman
Tommy Gorman
Faith member Pastor Tim Keeler
Faith member Betty Kesti
Faith member Linda Lewis
Faith member Lucy Kmet
Faith member Judy Vernon
Faith member Terry Vernon

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

In Times of Loss:

For Pastor Becki Verbridge and family upon the death of her husband, Jim, that they may be comforted. Pastor Becki is the Interim Pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Akron.

For the family and friends of Jake Young, cousin of Faith Youth Co-Director Abby Jezewski, upon his violent death, that they may be comforted.

For the family and friends of Harold Smith, brother-in-law of Faith's Financial Manager, Rebecca Shull, upon his death, that they may be comforted.

Special Prayers

With Thanksgiving:

For the baptisms of Charlotte Brooklyn and Vivienne Drew Kennedy on September 14. They are the daughters of Andrew Grega and Chelsea Kennedy. May they grow in faith each day of the years to come.

QR Code Prayer Requests:



Schedule to Serve

Date	Service	Altar	Communion	Flowers	Lay Reader	Ushers	Youth
5	9 a.m.	Ann Hagen	Judy Harrison - SE John Weisend - SE Kit Scheetz -SP Dana Singer - B	Curtis & Susan Thorkelson	Dana Singer	Tim Lewis Art Kaufman	Acolyte: Crosby Jezewski Assistant: Cyrus Jezewski
	10:30 a.m.	Bonnie Janelle	Bonnie Janelle			Ed Pleasant Charles Michael	
12	9 a.m.	Ann Hagen		Mark & Candice Watkins	Terry Vernon	Tim Lewis John Knops	
	10:30 a.m.	Nancy Hooper	Nancy Hooper			Alice Gilmore Becky Kuhar	
19	9 a.m.	Ann Hagen	Judy Harrison - SE Corie Miller - SE Kit Scheetz -SP Fedearia Sweval - B	Elinore Cooper	Jerry Allen	Tim Lewis Ben Woods	Acolyte: Hannah Williams Assistant: Treader Anderson
	10:30 a.m.	Tana Fligor	Tana Fligor			Kim Kennedy	
26	9 a.m.	Ann Hagen	Fedearia Sweval - SE Loralee Daily - SE Kit Scheetz - SP Judy Harrison - B		Sue Harman	Tim Lewis Ben Woods Nathan Woods	Acolyte: Crosby Jezewski Assistant: Cyrus Jezewski
	10:30 a.m.	Deb Allen	Deb Allen			Paula & Bob Lundell	

SE - Server
SP - Supplier
B - Bread



Calendar of Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl	3	4
5 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Education 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 1 Scouts 7:30 AA	6 10 a.m. St. Cecelia 11:45 Preschool Staff Meeting 6 p.m. Preschool Bd. 6:30 p.m. IFJS 8 p.m. AA	7 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 5 p.m. Outreach Advisory 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	8	9 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	10	11 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. DLM @ Holy Trinity
12 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Education 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 4 John Saks - Piano Concert 7:30 AA	13 8 p.m. AA	14 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	15	16 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 3rd Thursday Women's Bible Study	17 5:30 p.m. Soup Supper	18 9 a.m. Men of Faith 6 p.m. Faith Families Campfire Night
19 Newsletter Deadline 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Education 10 Kinship Café 10 - Noon Flu Vaccine Clinic 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound Worship Team 7:30 AA	20 10 a.m. St. Cecelia 7 p.m. Congregation Council 8 p.m. AA	21 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 2 p.m. FLC Book Club 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	22	23 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	24	25
26 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Education 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 7:30 AA	27 7 p.m. Gardeners of Greater Akron 8 p.m. AA	28 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	29 5 p.m. Loads of Faith Laundry Ministry	30 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl	31	



Please visit our website.

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Worship God. Grow in faith. Offer hope.