

Beacon of Faith

Worship God. Grow in faith. Offer hope.

Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool

June 2026



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

A few dates are still available to sponsor Sunday altar flowers. The cost is \$60 payable to the church. Payment may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. Contact the church office with any questions.

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Summer is a time when many of us relax and rejuvenate, schedules may slow down a bit, and we find ourselves with some time on our hands. Here are just a few ways to fill that time:

- Sign up for one of the many Mitzvah Day opportunities (see pages 10 - 12).
- Volunteer with the Loads of Faith Laundry Ministry
- Sign up for church clean up day (details on page 6).
- Help out at DLM at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Akron

Please reach out to the leader of the team in your area of interest, to sign up or get more information. The list of leaders is located on page 13.



Pastor's Pondering



Called By Name

Beloved People of God,

“What shall we call you?” That is a question I’ve received most often since I officially began serving as the Interim Pastor of Faith Lutheran.

The short answer is most people call me, “Pastor Bruce.” My former congregation called me, “Pastor Bruce,” or “PB,” for short. Others called me, “Pastor Roth,” or just, “Pastor.” If there is a formal engagement the official title is often utilized and I get called, “The Rev. Dr. Bruce R. Roth.” Friends often call me, “Rev.” When I’m in trouble my wife will say, “Reverend,” in a rather short and pointed tone.

The second question I’ve heard is, “Do you know my name?” I’m glad to say I’m learning more names and am thankful for all the name tags!

To be called by name is to be singled out and valued. To be called by name is to be given an identity and purpose. Think of preschool and elementary children who shout out, “Call me!” when a parent or teacher is choosing whom to select to do answer a question. Children instinctively know that when we are called by name, we are valued as people.

The Good News is, God knows your name! The Psalmist declares, “O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.”
(Psalm 139:1-4)

God knows you, your thoughts and desires and needs even before you have words for them. In the deepest sense, God knows your name. And God values you eternally. From the beginning of time, the Bible tells us that God has sought after each of us. God’s love is not for humankind in general, but for each unique and marvelous soul. That’s why, whenever Jesus calls someone in the Bible, their name is included. Jesus doesn’t just call followers; he calls individuals with names: Philip, Nathanael, Peter, Andrew, and Mary. And there will be times when God changes our names, remember Simon was named “Peter”—meaning the rock? (I look forward to sharing the story about the best nickname I was ever given.)

At its core, the desire to be called by name has to do with the nature of our identity. It is a matter of who we are and whose we are. As a community we are Faith Lutheran Church. That is our name. Our identity as a people is to Worship God. Grow in Faith. And Offer Hope. That is who we are. That is our purpose. As we reflect on the nature of our names, remember that of all the names we have been or will be given in our lives, the most important is the one God has given to us, which is “Beloved.”

Beloved, I look forward to learning more names as we worship God, grow in faith and offer hope.

In Christ’s Name,
Pastor Bruce

Business - Call Process Update



Transition Team report

We welcome our Interim Pastor Bruce Roth! Faith is still in Phase 2 of the Call Process, in which we evaluate the congregation's sustainability and vitality, and examine our mission, vision, and values.

Congregational Vitality Assessment

In March, ninety-six members completed a survey to determine the vitality of the congregation. This is a high percentage of participation! Our congregation scored in the "moderate vitality" range for all the categories except Worship, where we scored "high vitality." *See the next page for a summary of the results.* This information helps the ELCA and NEO Synod in determining a match for our new pastor.

Story of Us Historical Review

Sixty members of the congregation met in April in the Fellowship Hall to participate in completing a giant timeline of the history of Faith. You can see it hanging on the bulletin board across from the Fellowship Hall! The colorful post it notes marked events in our past, up until today. They include celebrations, major events, challenges, stressors, and losses. Reviewing our past helps us plan for the future.

The Transition Team next meets with Pastor Nathan Krause, of the Northeast Ohio Synod, to examine Faith's mission, vision, and values:

Faith's Motto: **Worship God. Grow in faith. Offer hope.**

Mission: To go to all people and make them disciples of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19)

Vision: To share the good news of Jesus with everyone; to transform followers into disciples with a faith that works in real life; to joyfully go and share his love in the world.

Values:

1. To lift high in prayer the name of Jesus Christ in all we say and do.
2. To enable all persons to experience a worshipful relationship with Jesus Christ.
3. To nurture and empower all persons to be disciples through a small group centered ministry that includes learning, service, fellowship and spiritual growth.
4. To help every Christian discover their spiritual gifts for ministry.
5. To assist in the care of a hurting world.

Your Transition Team: Joe Antal, Loralee Daily, Dineen Dowling, Melissa Johnson, Dana Singer, Fedearia Sweval (council liaison), Mark Watkins, and Marilyn Wilson.

ELCA Process to Call a New Pastor:



Phase One: Saying Farewell **COMPLETED**



Phase Two: Congregational Health & Identity **CURRENT**



Phase Three: Entering the Call Process



Phase Four: Primary Candidate

Business - Call Process Update



Transition Team report

Faith Lutheran Church

Structure&MissionAlignmentSummary

What We Learned

Faith Lutheran has a strong foundation with clear mission, structure, and leadership opportunities. At the same time, not all parts of the system are equally active.

The Big Insight

We do not need to change our structure—we need to better align and activate the structure we already have.

Where We Are Strong

- Deep relationships and strong sense of community
- Active outreach and service to the community
- Stable and meaningful worship life

Where We Need to Grow

- Faith formation and discipleship beyond Sunday
- Broader and sustainable leadership development
- Clear pathways for connection and involvement
- Using our mission consistently in decisions

What This Means for the Interim

Focus on strengthening what already exists by aligning ministry with mission, inviting wider participation, clarifying engagement pathways, and deepening spiritual growth.

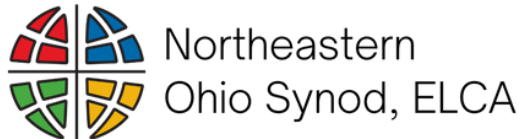
What This Means for Calling a New Pastor

The next pastor is called to partner with the congregation, strengthen formation, and align ministries—not to fix everything alone.

A Question for All of Us

If we could not expect our next pastor to fix anything, what faithful work would we still be called to do right now?

Key Dates



Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly

The Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly will be held **Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6**, at the John S. Knight Center in Akron. **Jennene Pritt and Jim Woodrum** are the voting members from Faith Lutheran Church who will be attending. **Interim Pastor Bruce Roth** also will be attending the Assembly. Please remember this annual gathering and its participants in your prayers.



2026 High School Graduates

On June 7, during 9 a.m. worship, Faith's 2026 High School Graduates will be recognized during worship, and will be given a gift from the Prayer Shawl Team. The Kinship Café which follows worship will be in their honor. We give thanks for:

Sandrine Anderson, attending Kent State University
Mason Solberg, attending Bowling Green State University
Nathan Woods, attending Kent State University

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!

The Musical **GREASE**
June 17
Porthouse Theatre



Your FFF (Faith, Family, Fellowship) Team is sponsoring a very fun evening at the Porthouse Theatre to see the musical "GREASE". The evening starts off with a covered dish dinner in the **Hackett Pavilion at 6:15 p.m.**, followed by the performance. The cost for the play is \$34. Only 25 tickets are available. If you're interested in attending, see Sarah Kaufman (330-715-2765) with your check or cash. It truly will be a night to remember, so if you want to be part of this exciting event, get your reservation in right away!!!

Key Dates



Church Clean Up Day 9 a.m. Saturday, June 27

- Spring cleaning
- Minor repairs
- Bring buckets and rags (we will supply some rags and Murphy's oil soap)
- If you are a detail painter, bring brushes to use if you have favorites. We have some supplies to use and we have the paint.

Please let Mike Herchenroeder know if you can come so he can plan the day.

Lunch will be provided.

Bring your able bodied family members with you and any friends that would like to help out. The more the merrier and it lightens the load.



Save the Date!

Sunday, August 2

4th Annual Church Picnic

Following one combined church service.

1 was fun!
2 was Too!
3 was Free!
4 will be more!

Picnic lunch, games, prizes, and
ICE CREAM TRUCK!

Outreach



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



A GIFT OF GRATITUDE

The following anonymous letter along with a donation of \$100 was found outside the church back door on Sunday, May 10. The original letter can be found hanging on the Outreach bulletin board.

Truth - Wish I had more to give.

Me Too. Still working through those days/hours/minutes that seem impossible to overcome. It is so hard to ask for help. And I am not good at receiving it when it comes. Without feeling guilt and shame. I have been homeless/helpless before. And know how much it means to be lifted up from despair. Even a small gesture of kindness meant the world of peace in those times. I spent it on the things that brought me comfort. Rarely the better things. But they got me through and were useful back then. Now I am appreciating every day to serve those who have felt what I did then and do now sometimes. God was the answer! Whatever that is to you. Helping others when I had nothing left saved me.

WHEELCHAIR MINISTRY

After having suspended this service due to a fire in the Wadsworth warehouse, it was resumed on Saturday, April 25. Thanks to Art Kaufman and his brother, David, for making this possible.



Outreach



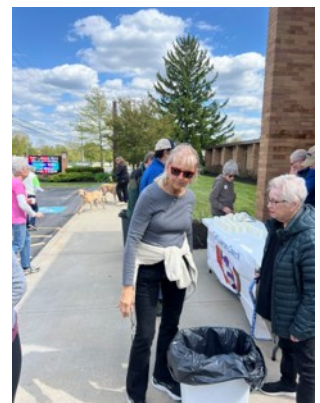
INTERFAITH JUSTICE ALLIANCE

As follow-up to the theme of the Interfaith Justice Alliance series that focused on The Grocery Gap and Food Deserts in Akron, a small group has been meeting to determine solution-based actions and services that may be of benefit. This initiative has been led by John Singer, who has spearheaded a small committee exploring various approaches to address the problem. Participants include Dineen Dowling, Dana Singer, David Simpson and Dr. Sharon Van Nostran (one of the speakers at session three of the series). One area of interest is the development of a school based educational experience featuring good nutrition. The committee is aspiring to build on the excellent program initiated by LaMonica Davis, Principal at Helen Arnold School and which was also described at the 3rd session of the series.

AKRON AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL (AAIC)

Thanks to Marilyn Wilson, the RIC Team and the other volunteers who served at the AAIC Walk for Hunger water station.

A thank you card for Faith's water station was received from AAIC and is posted to the Outreach bulletin board. Together with the Walk in the Canton area, \$35,925 was raised for the Akron-Canton Foodbank.



Outreach



A message from the new president of The Akron Area Interfaith Council

Greetings to all at AAIC,

I'm Senior Pastor J. Howard Streeter III, LPC, PhD, Senior Pastor of Prince of Peace Baptist Church, Akron. I am humbled and delighted to receive the new assignment through the unanimous vote to serve as President of the Akron Area Interfaith Council.

I look forward to establishing strong, enduring relationships with our diverse offerings of faith traditions in the Greater Akron area and working hand in hand for the welfare of EVERYONE through magnifying our common ground as religious citizens, fighting for social justice, freedom of religion, and advocating for the poor, oppressed, heartbroken, and marginalized of our city.

I'm interested in investing in, and supporting, one another, plus creating opportunities to get to know each other as human beings instead of societal labels. We can do this through fun, recreational opportunities for all ages to pass down a spirit of respect, understanding, and cooperation to our younger generations and eventually abolish the xenophobia that keeps us so far apart from one another in this small "Wonderful World" (Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, 1967) which the famous astronomer Carl Sagan called a tiny, fragile, isolated "Pale Blue Dot" we ALL call "Home" which is flung out into the vast expanse of space.

Rev. J. Howard Streeter III, PhD.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Our garden coordinators extended an invitation to St. Hilary members to cultivate a garden plot along with ours.

Our seasonal work has already begun as these busy gardeners demonstrate.



Outreach

RECONCILIATION IN CHRIST (RIC)

The RIC Team has begun planning for national Pride Month which is in June. (Akron's similar event will be in August). It is also exploring the possibility for a special presentation on a relevant subject.

We are nearing complete implementation of the **Lecture Scribes app** that Kurt Mackall has developed.

This will enable simultaneous transcription to text of sermons and other narrative aspects of our services. It has been tested during the past several weeks for our 9 a.m. service and is working well. Kurt is now working to extend this to the Informal service. With this innovation people with hearing impairment will be able to read along using their phone (either Android or iOS). Follow these steps to download the app::

1. Download the app here: <https://urlgeni.us/VKY788> If for some reason this download link does not work, go to your phone's App Store and search 'Lecture Scribes' to download it. Again, this app is free to download and use.
2. Open the app, and type in your email address.
3. You will be asked if you want to create a Lecture Scribes account - say Yes
4. Next, press the link "Search organizations by name". Enter *Faith* in the 'Search for organization name' box. Press the return/enter key on your phone's keyboard. Press '*Faith Lutheran Church*' from the list to select the church. You will get a message saying your organization is now Faith. Press *Ok*.
5. Lastly press the button '*Login to this Device*'. You will get a message that a new account has been created with your email address. Press *Ok*.

You will now see the list of prior Faith transcribed events.

After full implementation and during services, open this app, and you will see a new event for that day and time. Select the event, you will now see the service being transcribed, with the text scrolling on your phone as the service continues. Voices from all microphones - pastor's, any hand-held mic that will be used for the children sermon, and the lectern mic, will be transcribed to your phone.

MITZVAH DAYS AKRON – A DAY OF CARING IN THE AKRON

List of projects for this year:

Saturday June 6, Projects

9 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Akron-Canton Foodbank – Sorting, boxing and labeling of food products that will be distributed to those in need in our community. **No Open toe shoes. Family Friendly 10 and up. Volunteers needed: 30.**

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Barberton Neighborhood Reborn – Assist with critical home repairs, general landscaping, solar powered security light installation, public space improvements and more! Lunch provided. Rain or shine. Weather appropriate work clothes, close-toed shoes. Bring sunscreen, hat, rain gear. **18 and over. Volunteers needed: 30**

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. – Brookdale Bath – Activities include socializing with residents, planting house plants in individual pots, balloon twisting and piano concert / sing-a-long. **Family Friendly. Volunteers needed: 8**

1 – 3 p.m. Brown Bag Blessings – Pack lunch bags, deliver, and pass them out at Grace Park Akron, Ohio 44304 (behind the Haven of Rest). Optional: Provide prayer Brown Bag Blessings will provide a brown bag lunch or dinner for those at the Haven of Rest. Meet at New Hope Baptist Church Bring boxes or baskets to transport the lunches. 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**

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Community Closet Creation – ASIA is building out an unused space in their office as a temporary community closet as needs grows. This will include organizing, sorting, labeling, along with displaying items clearly for clients and patients to easily sift through. Some heavy lifting may be needed. **Family Friendly – All Ages. Volunteers needed: 10**

Outreach

5 – 7 p.m. Cookout at Safe Landing – The young people staying at the Safe Landing youth shelter will enjoy an early evening cookout and company to kick off their summer. Come hang out with these teens and pre-teens and connect with them over food and yard games. **18 & Over. Volunteers needed: 8** Participants are welcome to bring a food item and/or an outside game or activity to share at the cookout.

9 – 11 a.m. First Serve – Transform Our New Home – clean-up of Garden Beds & Mulching. **915 North Main** is a collaborative effort to transform 40,000 square feet of historic space in the North Hill community into a vibrant community hub — a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can come together for education, entertainment, recreation, and connection. **First Serve's** offices are located here providing volunteer support for its community partners in North Hill. **Family Friendly 15 and up. Volunteers needed: 8.** If possible, please bring wheelbarrows, garden gloves, shovels, rakes, hedge-clippers, etc. Rain or shine. Water and snack will be provided by First Serve.

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Farmer's Market Prep – As the biggest culturally inclusive farmer's market in North Hill Akron, ASIA is preparing for their 2026 season by spray-painting logos on safety vests, fixing traffic signage, checking tents and more. These supplies help ensure smooth operations of our HAPI Fresh Farmer's Market. **Family Friendly – 15 and up Volunteers needed: 6**

10 a.m. – noon Forest Hill flower bed revitalization – Plant flowers and shrubs at the neighborhood sign that bids welcome to the historic Akron neighborhood of Forest Hill. Keep Akron Beautiful is implementing a master plan to revitalize this bed. Volunteers will complete the project with the planting. All supplies will be provided. We will work in light rain but not severe weather. **Family Friendly – 12 and up. Volunteers needed: 6**

8:30 a.m. – noon Harmony House – Harmony House is an emergency supportive housing program for young people ages 18-24. The program is designed to empower youth as they navigate the challenging transitions from homelessness to self-sufficiency. This year we will be involved with a beautification project at one of the residents' living locations. We will clean garden beds, plant shrubs and small painting projects. Outside – bring work gloves and sunscreen. **Family Friendly 15 and up. Rain or Shine. Volunteers needed 10.**

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Home Improvements For Those In Need – Painting, decking, flooring and other restoration projects for veterans, cancer patients and seniors at multiple sites around Akron and Cuyahoga Falls. **Family Friendly – 15 and up 25. Bring hat, sunscreen and safety glasses. Volunteers needed: 25**

12 – 3 p.m. Hope and Healing (Battered Women's Shelter) – Help keep the Hope and Healing Survivor Resource Center beautiful and inviting! We will be cleaning and organizing indoors and out, as needed. Dress in work clothes. **Family friendly, parents must sign for minors. Volunteers needed: 12**

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Spring Clean up and Planting in East Akron & Middlebury Plaza – 4-5 Volunteers will clear out existing planters, courtyard garden and clean up around the EANDC located on Arlington Street. Remaining volunteers will travel to Middlebury Plaza and clear out existing planters, clean up area and plant spring flowers. EANDC will provide gloves and wheel barrels for volunteers. **Family Friendly 18 & over. Volunteers needed 10.**

Sunday June 7, Projects

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Cookies for the Community – Help make dough and bake a variety of cookies for Ronald McDonald House families at the Temple kitchen. **Family Friendly. Volunteers Needed: 20**

1 – 3 p.m. – Dresses for Children – Bring your sewing machine and sewing tools to St Paul's Episcopal Church to make pretty sundresses for young girls in need around the globe. A dress kit with all the pieces for each dress will be provided. All levels of experience are needed. **18 and older. Volunteers needed: 20**

9 – 11 a.m. Grace House Outdoor Clean Up – Help with power washing pavement, spreading mulch, edging, and weeding the garden beds. **Family Friendly 15 and up. Volunteers needed: 5-8.**

3 – 4:30 p.m. Panel – The Immigration Process; Crisis; Concerns – This panel will consist of a former Immigration Judge, a former Border Control Agent, and the chair of the AAIC Immigration Committee. These individuals will describe the Immigration Process – what it was and what it is now. they will also discuss what people can do to assist others in dealing with the crisis and securing reforms. Moderated by Rabbi Joshua Brown. **Family Friendly – All Ages. Open to All.**

Outreach

12 – 2 p.m. Project Linus – The Project Linus Blanket project makes knotted blankets for children who stay at Akron Children’s Hospital. Simple process – cut and knot fringes on pieces of fleece. Please bring scissors! **Family friendly – all ages Volunteers needed: 20.**

3:30 – 6:30 p.m. After Dinner Project – After our days of service, an informal dinner will be available for all volunteers in the Temple Israel Social Hall. Only donations accepted for desserts – cookies, brownies, etc. **Family friendly – all ages**

To sign-up for a project go to <https://www.mitzvahdayakron.com>.

F-R-O-M T-H-E C-O-M-M-U-N-I-T-Y

Cleveland Pride Festival

Pride in the CLE® 2026, organized by the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, takes place on Saturday, June 6, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Malls B & C (300 St. Clair Ave.) in downtown Cleveland. The free, family-friendly event features a march starting at 10 a.m. in Public Square, followed by a festival with live music, vendors, and food trucks. The festival will feature local and national performers, community vendor booths, a beer garden, and a designated family-friendly area. Throughout June 2026, various smaller pride celebrations, including community picnics, and marches.

The North Hill 5K

The North Hill 5K race is back again this year with a slightly different course due to construction on N. Main. Now it's called the 6th Annual Joe Lutz North Hill 5K and it is set for Saturday, June 13 at the North Hill Community Development Corp. Race starts at 8 a.m.. Registration is \$35 for adults and \$25 for 17 and under. We currently have 45 registered. Go to: <https://runsignup.com/Race/Register/?raceId=197961> Proceeds benefit North High Athletics.

Commission on Aging looking for new Members

The City of Akron Commission on Aging is made up of older adult representatives of the city and members of organizations serving older adults. The Commission serves as an advocate for adults and older adults in planning, problem-solving, coordination and services. The Commission is a partner in Direction Home, Akron - Canton Area Agency on Aging, City of Akron Mayor and City Council, and The University of Akron. An extensive planning process by the City and separately Summit County, led to formal recognition by AARP as part of the Age Friendly national initiative for both the city and county. A key purpose is to set priorities and actions for the city and the 31 communities in Summit County. If you're interested in joining, please contact Richelle Wardell, rwardell@akronohio.gov

Bike Shop

First Serve is excited to announce the opening of The Bike Shop, located in the parking lot at 915 North Main! In partnership with South Street Ministries, The Bike Shop volunteers work side-by-side with kids and adults every Thursday, teaching them how to refurbish used bicycles that they can then own in order to get to work, school, or enjoy for recreation. To volunteer or donate used bikes, please contact Bruce Hahn at 330-256-6087.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LOADS OF FAITH DATES FOR 2026

May 27
June 24
July 29
August 26
September 30
October 28
November 18
December 30

DLM SCHEDULE FOR 2025

Posted on the Outreach bulletin board.

OUTREACH ADVISORY TEAM MEETINGS FOR 2026

June 23, July 8, October 7

MITZVAH DAYS

June 6 and 7

ELCA Day of Service, "God's Work. Our Hands."

Saturday, September 12, Rise Against Hunger - Tentative
Sunday, September 13

Team Leaders & Coordinators

TEAM LEADERS & COORDINATORS

Care and Nurture

Bereavement Gathering Team - Penny Thompson
Faith Family Fellowship Team - Sarah Kaufman
Kinship Café Team - Flo Mackall
Visitation Team - Darlene Weaver
Wedding Coordinators - Carla Ringer, Lorelee Daily

Communication

Bulletins/Weekly Beacon - Nancy Tobar
Internet - Nancy Tobar
Newsletter - Nancy Tobar
Digital Ministry Team - Andrew Courtney

Outreach

Busy Fingers - Deb Gottas
Community Garden Team - Nicole Vincent
Soup Ministry Team - Nancy Tobar
Loads of Faith Team - Dana Singer, David Johnson
SJ/SP Endowment Board - Sandy Selby
OASIS - Carol Whidden
Outreach Advisory Team - David Simpson
Prayer Shawls - Penny Thompson
Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Team - Marilyn Wilson

Growth/Learning

Book Club - Marilyn Wilson
Confirmation Ministry - Eric Jezewski
Sunday School - Pastor Sarah Courtney
Preschool - Dineen Dowling
Adult Discipleship
Youth Ministry - Eric Jezewski
VBS - Pastor Sarah Courtney
Third Thursday Women's Bible Study - Bonnie Janelle
Men's Bible Study & Discussion - Geoff Whidden, Karl Demuth

Ministry Development

Staff Support Team - Mark Watkins
Nominating Committee - Lorelee Daily
Transition Team - Dineen Dowling, Melissa Johnson

Operations

Property

Memorial Courtyard Team - Martha Keeler
Data Management - Nancy Tobar
Property Team - Mike Herchenroeder
Safety & Security Team - Judy Vernon

Finances

Faith Endowment Committee - Linda Weigand
Finance Committee - John Reyes
Financial Secretary - Kim Kennedy
Stewardship Team - Andrew Fligor
Offering Counter Team - Kim Kennedy

Worship

Traditional Communion Assistant Team - Judy Harrison
Traditional Altar Team - Kit Scheetz
Traditional Ushers Team - John Knops
Traditional Readers Team - Judy Harrison
Organist/Choir Director - Bob Mollard
Informal Altar Team - Melissa Johnson
Informal Worship/Sound Leader - Melissa Johnson
Informal Ushers Team - Ed Pleasant
Worship Planning Team - Melissa Johnson

FAITHKIDS AND JR YOUTH GROUP

June 2026

Dear Faith Lutheran Church Family,

It is with both gratitude and bittersweet emotions that I share I am stepping down as Coordinator of Children's Ministries here at Faith Lutheran Church.

This summer, our family will be relocating temporarily to Florida as my husband, Andrew, attends an Air Force school at Hurlburt Field Air Force Base for six months beginning in July. Because of this transition, I will be stepping away from my staff role after completing Vacation Bible School, with my final Sunday on June 21, 2026.

Serving the children and families of Faith has been one of the greatest joys of my ministry and life. From Sunday morning children's messages and celebrations of holy days and special events, to laughter-filled games, meaningful conversations, and sacred moments of faith shared together, I have been deeply blessed by this congregation. Watching children grow in faith, curiosity, kindness, and confidence has been a gift I will always treasure.

I am especially grateful for the support, encouragement, and partnership so many of you have shown me and my family. You have given me the freedom and encouragement to bring some of my sometimes wild ideas to life, and that has been such a gift. I have loved finding creative ways to weave faith into everyday life in joyful, meaningful, and fun ways for our children and families. Faith Lutheran has never simply been a workplace to me. It has been our family's church home.

While this chapter is coming to an end, I am thankful that it is not goodbye. I look forward to continuing to worship alongside you as a fellow parishioner and remaining part of this wonderful church family.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving in this role and trusting me to care for and nurture your child's spiritual growth. I carry deep love and gratitude for this congregation and for each of you.

With heartfelt thanks,

Rev. Sarah Courtney





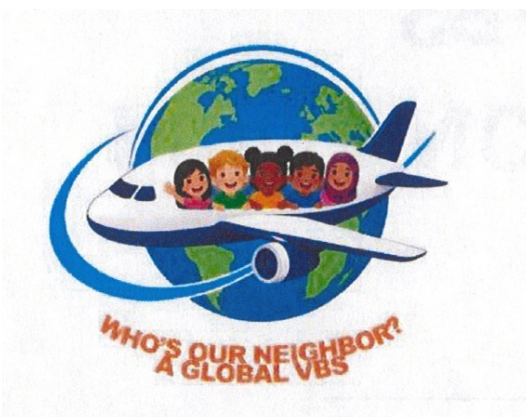
48 L.L.Bean Duffel Bags Donated to Children in the Summit Foster Care System

Last month, I was finally able to deliver all 48 duffel bags that our 2025 Vacation Bible School and congregation raised funds to support. These bags were donated to *Caring for Kids*, a non-profit adoption and foster care agency in Cuyahoga Falls.

The bags will be given to children entering the foster care system or those already in care as they move from one home to another. Too often, children are forced to carry their belongings in trash bags when they have no luggage of their own. This is something we, as a church, wanted to help change.

These duffel bags will be given to each child to bring dignity, to offer a sense of care, and to remind them that they are seen and valued. Our hope is that they feel loved and supported as our community seeks to provide safety, stability, and compassion—whether in a familiar home or a new one.

Thank you to everyone who donated and supported this effort. Through your generosity, we are helping children know that they do not step into uncertain futures alone, but are carried forward with the love, prayers, and presence of this congregation—and with their true companion, Jesus Christ.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
June 15 - 19
9 - 11:30 a.m.
Faith Lutheran Church
For FaithKids, Junior Youth Group,
Faith Preschool Families & their Friends

Growth & Learning

Another successful school year!

As the 2025-2026 school year came to a close, staff, students, and families celebrated with a field trip to the Akron Zoo, an End-of-Year Program in the Sanctuary, and an Art Show in the Fellowship Hall.



During the summer months, the sound of children in the building diminishes (except for the week of VBS!), but preschool work is still getting done!

Classrooms will receive a deep cleaning. After VBS, carpets will be cleaned. A Fire Inspection will be scheduled. Mailings will be prepared and sent to next year's incoming families. Teacher trainings will happen. Rest and recharging for staff will occur in the midst of all that for another exciting year of learning! August brings supply purchases, staff meetings, Open Houses, and Orientations for families. 2026-2027 promises to be an exciting year!

If you know anyone with a preschool age child, please refer them to Faith Preschool!

We have spots available in our MWF Threes Class and our Mom, Dad & Me Class for 2 Year Olds (with a caregiver). This class, taught by Amanda Hyter, is a great introduction to the preschool setting! We are currently enrolling Monday and Friday Classes and will open up a Wednesday Class if there is enough interest! Contact: preschool@faithlutheranchurch.org + 330-836-8827

End of School Year Thank Yous:

Thank you to the Preschool Board: Carla Ringer, Cindy Boswell, Michelle Wolski, Debbie Gottas, Karen Skerlong, Lynne Poulton, and Lori Ashenfelter for their time and dedication to the work of the preschool. They support the staff and families in many behind-the-scenes ways. They hosted a "Staff Luncheon" on May 19 to celebrate another successful school year.

Whether you purchase from our fundraisers, donate items or dollars to the preschool, support the teachers and staff, cheer on the children in the hallways, we appreciate YOU! These little ones are experiencing the goodness of God through the people and the place of Faith Lutheran Church. You are a blessing to them and me! - Dineen



All four from this family attended Faith Preschool! Sometimes goodbyes are hard for the teachers, too!

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



Congratulations to our 2026 High School Graduates!

Sandrine Anderson, attending Kent State University
Mason Solberg, attending Bowling Green State University
Nathan Woods, attending Kent State University

Reminder

Although, we concluded the 25/26 academic and programming year on May 17, **FACE Time will continue** throughout the summer. Midweek Meal & More has concluded until we start the new year in September.

If you are the parent or guardian of an incoming 6th grader, we would love to hear from you as we get ready to welcome your youth to our programming! Please feel free to email Eric and Abby at faithlcyouth@gmail.com with your youth's name and where they attend school. We will also put additional information in the Weekly Beacon throughout the summer.

Parents and youth, an end-of-year survey will be sent to you for your feedback on the 25/26 year. PLEASE take the time to complete this as it will help as we build out the upcoming 26/27 year's programming. Thank you!



Please remember your youth's acolyte and communion assistant duties throughout the summer (see below). If you need another emailed copy of the schedule, just reach out! We know that everyone has busy schedules with vacations and other plans, but please make sure that your youth shows up for their assigned role. If they are unable, please ensure that you have made a switch and have communicated that with both Eric/Abby and Nancy (nancy@faithlutheranchurch.org). Thanks!

We hope everyone has a great end to the school year and a fantastic start to your summer vacation! We have loved walking in Faith with you all throughout this year!

Growth & Learning



**Third Thursday
Women's Bible Study
Thursday, June 11*
10 a.m.
Youth Room**

"Put on the armor of God!" The final session covering Ephesians will be on this topic.-- Ephesians 6. Third Thursday Bible Study will meet on the **SECOND** Thursday instead of the third Thursday of the month due to VBS using the entire building the week that we usually meet. To join the discussion, just show up on **Thursday, June 11** at 10 a.m. in the Youth Room at Faith. Contact Bonnie for more information: 330-606-3230.

**Men of Faith
Bible Study
and Discussion Group
9 a.m. - June 20
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@hotmail.com.

Thank you

Dear Faith Lutheran Church,

Altrusa International of Akron thanks you for collecting and storing dresses and accessories for our Princess Night Project. Your efforts contributed to making so many girls truly feel like princesses during our 25th annual Princess Night Project on March 28.

Nearly three hundred girls, representing 75 high schools throughout Northern Ohio, attended the event and took home the prom dress and accessories of their dreams. Girls, accompanied by their families, educators, and other supporters, were touched by the efforts so many made that day to make them feel special. It was a day of beautiful smiles and happy tears.

The day would not have been possible without the efforts of supporters and friends like you. We thank you for being an integral part of the event and hope you will once again be involved in 2027 as we strive to meet the needs of high school girls throughout our community and beyond.

With gratitude,
Linda Rittenour
Chair, Princess Night Project





In Our Prayers:

Health Concerns:

Faith member Lin Bryant
Tommy Gorman
Faith member Pastor Tim Keeler
Faith member Terry Vernon

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

In Times of Loss:

For the family and friends of Peggy Messick, upon her death on May 2, that they may be comforted and reminded of the sure and certain hope that we share in Christ Jesus. Peggy's Memorial Service was held on May 22, at Faith Lutheran Church.

For the family and friends of Mary Alice Bradshaw, who died on Sunday, May 10, especially husband Dale, daughter Nancy and son Dave, that they may be comforted and reminded of the sure and certain hope that we share in Christ Jesus. Visitation was held at Faith on May 17.

For the family and friends of Linda Lewis, upon her death on May 18, that they may be comforted and reminded of the sure and certain hope that we share in Christ Jesus. Linda's Memorial Service was held on May 23, at Faith Lutheran Church.

Special Prayers

We celebrate that we are given the breath of the Holy Spirit, inspire us to continue to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.



Schedule to Serve

| Date | Service | Altar | Communion | Lay Reader | Flowers | Ushers | Youth |
|------|------------|----------------|--|---------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 7 | 9 a.m. | Dana Singer | Judy Harrison - SE Dana Singer - SE Terry Anderson - SP Fedearia Sweval - B | Jerry Allen | | Loralee Daily Duane Daily | Acolyte: Katie Archbold Assistant: Crosby Jezewski |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Nancy Hooper | Nancy Hooper | | | Geoff Whidden | |
| 14 | 9 a.m. | Dana Singer | | Terry Vernon | Sally Ann Anderson | Loralee Daily Duane Daily | |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Nancy Hooper | Nancy Hooper | | | Karin Allen | |
| 21 | 9 a.m. | Dana Singer | Fedearia Sweval - SE Terry Anderson - SE Dana Singer - SP Judy Harrison - B | Judy Harrison | Bob and Dixie Whitaker | Loralee Daily Duane Daily | Acolyte: Cayden Cloninger Assistant: Elyse Vincent |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Chris Fritzen | Chris Fritzen | | | Cathy Medlen | |
| 28 | 9 a.m. | Dana Singer | | Kathryn Popio | | Loralee Daily Duane Daily | |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Bonnie Janelle | Bonnie Janelle | | | Nancy Tobar | |

SE - Server
SP - Supplier
B - Bread



Calendar of Events

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|---|---|--|-----------------------------|--|
| | 1 8 p.m. AA | 2 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon | 3 | 4 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl | 5 ELCA Synod Assembly | 6 ELCA Synod Assembly |
| 7 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Grades 6-12 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 7:30 AA | 8 8 p.m. AA | 9 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 5 p.m. Digital Ministry 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon | 10 | 11 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 3rd Thursday Women's Bible Study | 12 | 13 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. DLM at Holy Trinity |
| 14 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Grades 6-12 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 7:30 AA | 15 9 - 11:30 a.m. VBS 7 p.m. Council 8 p.m. AA | 16 9 - 11:30 a.m. VBS 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon | 17 9 - 11:30 a.m. VBS 6 p.m. Faith Family Fellowship Event Porthouse Theatre | 18 9 - 11:30 a.m. VBS 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl | 19 9 - 11:30 a.m. VBS | 20 9 a.m. Men of Faith |
| 21 Newsletter Deadline 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Grades 6-12 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 7:30 AA | 22 7 p.m. Gardeners of Greater Akron 8 p.m. AA | 23 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 5 p.m. Outreach Advisory Team 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon | 24 5 p.m. Loads of Faith Laundry Ministry 6 p.m. Finance Committee | 25 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl | 26 | 27 |
| 28 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Grades 6-12 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 7:30 AA | 29 8 p.m. AA | 30 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon | | | | |



Please visit our website.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2726 West Market Street, Fairlawn, OH 44333
Phone: (330) 836-8811
www.faihlutheranchurch.org

Worship God. Grow in faith. Offer hope.