

Beacon of Faith

Worship God. Grow in faith. Offer hope.

Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool

September 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.

Sunday Morning Children & Youth Time Resumes

- **Sept. 13** - Youth and children participate in **ELCA Day of Service** activities.
- **Sept. 20** - Children, preschool – 2nd grade meet upstairs, and 3rd - 5th grade meet in the library. Youth in grades 6-12 meet in the Youth Room.

9:50 - 10:30 a.m.

In between the services



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ELCA DAY OF SERVICE GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.



God's work. Our hands.



September 13, 2026

One 10 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, September 13 Followed by Day of Service Projects (one project on Saturday, Sept. 12)

- Preparation of 100 meal kits
- Decorating cookies and writing thank you cards for first responders
- Preparation of pet food bags for donation
- Summit County park clean-up project (Sat., Sept. 12)

We are one of over 8,300 congregations participating in "God's work. Our hands." on Sept. 13. Across the country, thousands of members will work to make a positive change in our communities, build and deepen relationships and share God's love. Join us!

Pastor's Pondering



The Rev. Dr. Bruce Roth
Interim Pastor
pastor@faithlutheranchurch.org
330-836-8811



The Secret to Abundant Life: Consecration Sunday October 18, 2026

Our stewardship theme this fall focuses on **The Secret to an Abundant Life**, with keys shared from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians. St. Paul's letter reveals the pathway to living with joy no matter what our circumstances.

One of the secrets of the abundant life we will learn about on **Sunday, October 18**, is how the people of God at Faith Lutheran Church, are called to lean into the amazing future that God has in store for us. One of the other secrets we will learn that St. Paul's letter conveys is that stewardship, from a biblical perspective, is about the Christian Community sharing their resources with the church, to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God and fulfill their mission. We will learn that this is done best by supporting our church's mission and ministry with a percentage of our treasure or income, time, and talent.

On **Sunday, October 18, 2026**, we invite you to share the secret to realizing an abundant life. Faith Lutheran Church is a community filled with the gift of generosity. We believe that as followers of Jesus Christ we are called to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. Therefore, we want to *encourage* proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "***What percentage of my treasures, time and talents is God calling me to give?***"

On **October 18**, we are asking our attendees and members to make financial commitments to help us realize our mission to worship God, grow in faith, and offer hope. You are encouraged to share the Estimate of Giving Card you will receive in the mail during the month of September. Please prayerfully consider your offerings and help us share the secret of abundant life!

The Dates and focus of, "The Secret of Abundant Life," sermon series with textual references are below:

9/13 Day of Service Pent 16A *Day of Service	Philippians 1:1-11	Gratitude
9/20 Pent 17a *Blessing of Backpacks	Philippians 1: 21-30	Rejoice
9/27 Pent 18A *Reflections on the merger.	Philippians 2:1-13	Unity
10/4 Pent 19A * Reflections about our Reconciling in Christ Journey.	Philippians 3:4-14	Hope
10/11 Pent 20A *Why is worship important?	Philippians 4:1-9	Focus
10/18 Pent 21A	Philippians 3:12-16	Finish Well

***Consecration Sunday: sharing our time, treasure, and talents to the glory of God!**

GROWTH STEPS GIVING CHALLENGE

- Find the step that matches your current weekly giving.
- Prayerfully consider increasing your giving by one step.

\$100 - \$150
or increase by 1%

\$75 - \$99

\$50 - \$74

\$40 - \$49

\$30 - \$39

\$20 - \$29

\$15 - \$19

\$10 - \$14

\$5 - \$9

\$1 - \$4

What percentage of
income do
you give?

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Weekly giving} \\ \div \\ \text{Weekly income} \\ = \\ \text{Percentage of giving} \\ (.10 = 10\%) \end{array}$$

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Stewardship

Tithing: Proportionate Giving

And of all that you give me I will surely give one tenth to you.” Genesis 28:22

From the earliest teachings in Scripture, God’s people have been encouraged to return to God 10% of what God has graciously given to God’s people. Tithing is giving out of love and gratitude for all God gives you. It is making a voluntary, systematic contribution of financial support to the church of a predetermined portion of your income. The Old Testament guideline for giving was a “tithe” — or tenth — of total property. A tenth of possessions, the best tenth of the “first fruits,” was to be set aside and offered to God in thanks for the blessings received.

According to the New Testament, Jesus affirmed tithing as a form of stewardship. Jesus encouraged giving in proportion to what we have received, praising the poor widow for her generous gift in Luke 21:1-4. Jesus encourages us to use everything God has given us—life, talents, possessions—to serve God with love and gratitude.

Tithing symbolizes and helps express our commitment to Christ and the church. Through giving as a percentage of our income, we offer ourselves in service and devotion to God. We actually become stronger in faith, more aware of other’s needs, and we experience the joy of sharing with others in Christ.

Everything we have comes from God. With faith and thanksgiving, we can return a part of God’s gifts to us to help the Church carry out its work.

Tithing is a way of:

Loving: Through giving, we show our love for God and humanity and receive God’s love.

Growing: It is an opportunity that helps us develop self-discipline, responsibility and maturity in Christ.

Helping: Tithing supports programs to help those with material and spiritual needs.

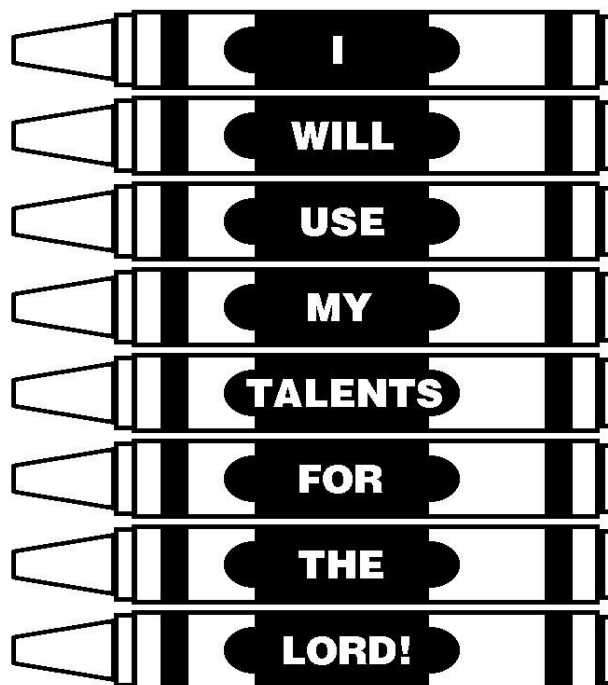
Please prayerfully consider your proportionate gift to carry out Christ’s mission.

Stewardship is not just about raising funds, it’s about raising up Christ’s ministry!



TOP 10 REASONS TO SHARE YOUR GIFTS

10. Because the Bible tells me so
9. So I can be a blessing to others
8. For where your treasure is, so there will your heart be also
7. All that I have is thine alone
6. To spread the Good News
5. Because Jesus loves me
4. Because I love Jesus
3. That my faith may live and grow
2. To experience the joy of giving
1. To share the keys to abundant life!



**We invite you to be a faithful
Steward and make the vision a reality.**

Worship

Greeters are Important!

Loralee Daily

Do you remember the first time you visited Faith Lutheran Church to attend a worship service? I do. In August of 1987, Duane and I became engaged, and we began looking for a church in which we could join and become married. We had already tried many of the other Lutheran churches in the Akron area but weren't sure that we liked them enough to become members of their congregation. On the Sunday we visited Faith Lutheran Church, I remember many people talking to us and asking if we were visitors. Pastor Stan was one of the friendliest preachers I had ever met, and the whole experience of feeling welcome convinced us that this was the church for us.

Thirty-nine years have passed and we still feel that our congregation is full of friendly and inviting people, but are we giving this vibe to the visitors who enter our church for the first time? To ensure that we make a good first impression, Dana Singer and I decided to restart the greeter program that had originally been put in place many years ago. The way our church is designed, people are encouraged to enter through the Welcome Center doors on a Sunday morning. Put yourself in the place of a first-time visitor. For the 9 a.m. service, that person walks into the Welcome Center and there might be a person or two in there drinking coffee and chatting with each other, but that visitor may go unnoticed. The visitor is thinking "where do I go for worship?" or "where are the restrooms or nursery?" Maybe someone in the Welcome Center notices this stranger and inquires if he/she/they need help, or maybe the visitor is just ignored. So much for making a good first impression. If that visitor has decided to try our

Informal worship service, when he/she/they enter the Welcome Center, it is filled with people talking, laughing and enjoying yummy snacks, but what is the chance that anyone will notice this visitor and make him/her/them feel welcome? With a greeter in place at the door, the visitor will immediately be met by a member who can welcome him/her/them and answer any questions the visitor may have, including where the worship service is held.

What are the requirements for serving as a greeter? There really aren't any specific requirements to hold this important position other than having a friendly disposition (or can fake having a friendly disposition) and a willingness to talk to people as they come in the door. We ask that you be at the Welcome Center Doors 15 minutes before the start of the service. If you don't recognize someone, introduce yourself and ask for the person's name. Even if the person is a member, this will give you a chance to meet someone new. Those who attend the traditional service would make wonderful greeters for the informal service since you are already at church! We are asking people to commit for a full month as a greeter, but if you can't make it one week or you forget to be in position, it is not the end of the world. We are keeping this ministry very laid back and stress free, so please consider volunteering. We currently have openings for October (both services) and December (Informal service).



Operations



August	John Weisend & Jerry Allen
September	Kim Kennedy & John Singer
October	Jerry Wiedmann & Kim Kennedy
November	Loralee and Duane Daily
December	Polly Dobkin and Bruce Lightle

If you would like to volunteer or want more information, please contact Kim Kennedy, at kennedy.kim23@gmail.com.

Business - Call Process Update

It has been a little over a year since Pastor Jean alerted us of her intention to retire at the end of January 2026, starting our transition process in search of a new called pastor. The pace of this transition is meant to be slow and deliberate, to allow time for the congregation to reflect on its mission and values and to also provide space for the Holy Spirit to work and guide us to the correct person to be our spiritual leader and minister to us going forward.

The Council and Call Committee met in mid-August with Pastor Mitch Phillips, Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership to discuss Phases 3 and 4 of the Transition Process. This update will explain what to expect during Phase 3.

During this Phase, the Call Committee will be putting together the Ministry Site Profile (work I had previously mistakenly attributed to the Transition Team). Much of that information will come from the work done by the Transition Team over the last few months, but the Call Committee also may seek additional input from the congregation through congregation-wide surveys or from directed conversations. It is likely that this process will take around 3 to 4 months. Once completed and is reviewed by the Office of the Bishop, the Call Committee will present the Profile to Council for approval. Once approved it will be published on the ELCA website, making it available for rostered ministers searching for a call. After the Profile has been available for about a month, candidates will then be presented to the Call Committee for them to evaluate and interview.

The Call Committee will welcome suggestions from our congregation for individuals to be considered. These should be Lutheran pastors or pastors from full communion partners; these persons would need to be approved by the Bishop's Office before moving forward in the call process.

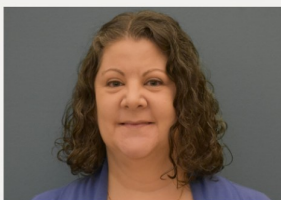
In summary, the Call Committee will likely be working on the Ministry Site Profile through the end of this year. We can expect that candidates will be presented to the Call Committee, and the interview process to start, in early 2027.

This is a process being guided by the Holy Spirit. Please pray for wisdom, patience, discernment, clarity, and unity for the Committee as they serve in this vital role.

Thank you for your patience as we work through the transition. Thank you for all the hard work and diligence that has kept us working towards our mission of worshipping God, growing in faith, and offering hope.

Darryl P. Anderson
President, FLC Congregation Council

Call Committee



Lori Ashenfelter



Kit Scheetz



Sandy Selby



Judy Vernon



Mark Watkins



Geoff Whidden

Outreach



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

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ELCA DAY OF SERVICE GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

Several projects are planned for the **September 13th** program this year.

- **Preparation of 100 meal kits**
- **Decorating cookies and writing thank you cards for first responders**
- **Preparation of pet food bags for donation**
- **Summit County park clean-up project (Sat., Sept. 12)**

The cookie decorating and thank you cards will include FaithKids families participation. Our older youth will be invited to join the park clean-up service. The **Meal in a Bag** project will entail the assembly of **100 meal kits**. Sue Harman not only brought this concept to our attention, but she also created a collection process which has been on display in our Welcome Center, along with a demo example of a fully assembled meal kit. The red 'Christmas-like' tree that she beautifully decorated is festooned with tags listing exactly what items are needed for each complete meal, that will feed four people. Each bag will also include a recipe for the bag contents.

Thanks to Nina White for organizing the **park clean-up project**. It is scheduled to take place on **Saturday, September 12**. Details are posted on the outreach bulletin board and with the sign-up clipboard in the Welcome Center.



ELCA DAY OF SERVICE

COMMUNITY CLEANUP

September 12, 8:30am - 11:30am



SIGNUP BY SEPTEMBER 4TH!

Location: 825 W Market St Akron OH 44303
(Chipotle City Lot in Highland Square)

Outreach

GRACE HOUSE AKRON

This home for terminally ill people who have no caregiver support or safe residence benefits from various Faith Lutheran Church volunteers including Deb Allen, Lorelee Daily, Jean Hansen (formerly), Sandy Selby, David Simpson and others. Most recently facility residents were treated to a visit from “Willie Nelson” a miniature horse from Victory Gallop, a Bath, Ohio based therapeutic horse-riding program.



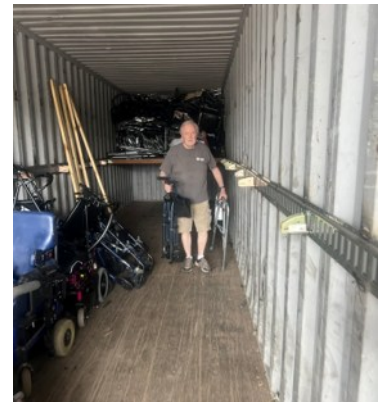
Sue Miller
CEO

Tori Simon
Volunteer



WHEELCHAIR MINISTRY

On Saturday, August 8, Faith volunteers assisted in **loading 281 wheelchairs and other medical equipment** onto a semi-truck at Dave Kaufman's (Art's brother) warehouse in Wadsworth. These were then taken to a prison in Kansas where they will be restored to excellent condition and then shipped, through the Joni and Friends Charity, to recipients in foreign countries. Each chair is accompanied with a physical therapist as well as a bible in the recipients' native languages. More information is available at Joni and Friends website: joniandfriends.org



Please visit Faith's website to view more photos, faithlutheranchurch.org/news&events/recentnews.

Outreach

Reconciling in Christ (RIC)

Thanks to all who volunteered to assist at our booth for the **Akron Pride Festival** and to all of those who took part in the **Equity March** down Main Street. Faith members showed their support, along with hundreds of others, including several churches and religious organizations, of the LGBTQIA+ community. Information about Faith Lutheran Church was made available and distributed at the event, along with keychains, bracelets and 'care-pins' that were made in Pride colors by our Faith youth.



Work continues on the Lecture Scribes project which will enable simultaneous transcription of sermons texts and other narrative aspects of our services. With this innovation people with hearing impairment will be able to read along using their phone (either Android or iOS). We are hoping to make this available in early fall this year.

A person from a neighboring workplace was so inspired by welcoming messages on our electronic signage that she requested to attend our RIC Team meeting. She did attend on August 3, participated in our dialogue and shared some of her personal journey. She told us that the discussion matched her expectations and thanked us for allowing her to attend.

Outreach

OPEN M INVITATION TO ANNUAL MEETING

Join **OPEN M** on **September 9** for the annual **“Open Your Heart Breakfast”**

A Morning of Faith, Hope & Community Impact

This gathering is an opportunity for believers across Akron to come together, hear stories of transformation, and discover how they can walk alongside OPEN M as we help our neighbors navigate the challenges of today's economy.

Event Details: Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Location: Firestone Country Club

Time: Doors open at 7 a.m.; Program 7:30–9 a.m.

Tickets: \$65 per person

For questions or group reservations, contact Julie Carneal, OPEN M CEO, j.carneal@openm.org
330-434-0110 ext. 405, www.openm.org

AKRON AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL (AAIC)

Faith Lutheran Church hosted the regular AAIC monthly meeting on August 3. The meeting was well attended and included representatives from:

Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron, Church of Our Saviour

Temple Israel, Catholic Commission

New Covenant Community Church, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Grace United Church of Christ of Loyal Oak, Islamic Society of Akron and Kent

St Vincent DePaul, Prince of Peace Baptist Church

Peninsula United Methodist Church, Women's Interfaith Spiritual Heritage

The meeting provided an opportunity for Pastor Bruce to be introduced and welcomed by the group. Also in attendance was Faith member Darlene Weaver, one of our representatives, and Faith's Outreach Coordinator, David Simpson. The agenda included a lively discussion and dialogue regarding Muslim and Jewish relations with a desire for future exploration on this important matter. Additionally, Susan Gallagher, former AAIC President, reported on an August 1st AAIC protest event that she organized, about ICE deportation flights taking off from the Akron Canton Airport through Eastern Air Express. More than 200 people were in attendance. Susan shared that several flights have already taken off from the airport since April. She also referred to Gov. Mike DeWine's objection to the Ohio deportations especially related to Haitians who have lost their Temporary Protected Status.

INTERFAITH JUSTICE ALLIANCE

Continuing follow-up to last year's food desert theme, a meeting was held at Helen Arnold CLC and contact was made with GEM City Market in Dayton, Ohio.

On August 4, Dineen Dowling, Dana and John Singer and David Simpson met with LaMonica Davis, Principal at Helen Arnold school, to explore possible nutrition programs there. Emphasis was placed on student and parent participation, education and experiential programming with the following goals:

- Teaching students how to prepare the **'Meals in a Bag'** kits.
- Incorporating food preparation into after-school programming.
- Using simple recipes requiring minimal equipment.
- Demonstrating the preparation of healthy smoothies and other foods.

Connecting the experience with STEM learning (measuring, following directions, organization, science, health and math). School personnel were very enthusiastic about introducing these ideas during the coming year. **As an initial step, Faith Lutheran Church was invited to participate in a special back to school 'BASH' program on August 25.**

Outreach

To learn more about an innovative inner city food market in Dayton, David Simpson was asked to contact representatives of the **Gem City Market**. David contacted Angela Voiles, its manager, who expressed interest in sharing their story with us. She introduced David to three of the market's board members. A decision was made to schedule a Zoom meeting with members of the Interfaith Justice Alliance. Topics for the meeting discussion include:

1. Founding and start-up
2. Initial funding
3. Relationship with supermarkets
4. Inventory sources
5. Community networking
6. Budget and staffing
7. Food bank connections
8. Location determination
9. Sustainability
10. What is essential for success
11. Expansion or replication



GEM CITY MARKET, DAYTON OHIO

2027 Interfaith Justice Series Schedule

Date	Topic	Location
February 17, 2027	Healthcare: What Can We Do Better? - Skip Radwany	Temple Israel
February 24, 2027	Food Deserts - Marty Belsky & Pastor Jack Streeter	Prince of Peace
March 3, 2027	Immigration - Art Krakauer	Faith Lutheran
March 10, 2027	Housing - Hope McGonigle	New Hope Baptist
March 31, 2027	Workshops/follow-up session	St. Hilary

UPCOMING EVENTS

ELCA Day of Service, "God's Work. Our Hands."
Sunday, September 13

LOADS OF FAITH DATES FOR 2026

September 30
October 28
November 18
December 30

DLM SCHEDULE FOR 2026

Posted on the Outreach bulletin board.

Outreach

IN THE COMMUNITY



Note from Director, Sue Wimer, after meeting with Dana Singer regarding the **'Meal in a Bag'** program.

Thank you for meeting with me at 915 N Main last week. I was so happy to be able to introduce Patricia Wyatt to you. Also. I love the project your congregation is undertaking with putting together meal bags. This email is to connect you with Gary and Patricia Wyatt who run the food pantry at the North Hill Community House. I believe they are interested in helping you distribute these meal bags. I have also copied Kris Stoehr who runs the food pantry at North High School. Both of these pantries would have the ability to get these meal bags into the right hands to feed people in need.

*Let me know if I can be of any help.
Sincerely,
Sue Wimer*

FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Summit County Common Pleas Court Judges Joy Malek Oldfield and Jennifer Towell have launched monthly legal clinics to assist Summit County residents. The initiative, Summit County Pro Bono Collaborative, will feature professional help from attorneys and court staff who volunteer their time. The collaborative is offered in partnership with Community Legal Aid, Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich and Summit Legal Defenders. "My hope is that this will create greater access to justice for the people of Summit County," Oldfield said. The program will be offered the **first Friday of each month from 9-11 a.m.** in Oldfield's courtroom, located on the first floor of the Courthouse Annex at the Summit County Courthouse, 209 S. High St. Attorneys will help with civil matters and provide assistance to those who are facing criminal charges in the court.

WOMEN'S INTERFAITH SPIRITUAL HERITAGE (WISH)

WISH and the Islamic Society of Akron and Kent (ASAK) will be hosting a unique discussion focusing on issues relevant to women of faith and seekers of open interfaith dialogue. Through face-to-face conversations among diverse faith traditions, it will support the exploration of common threads and beliefs. Listening to the insights of panelists and sharing stories, attendees will have a an opportunity to explore and discover how our faiths call on women to embrace all humanity and encourage caring for the world. The program will take place on **Sunday, October 18, 3 p.m.** at Alpha Phi Alpha Founders Hall, 662 Wolf Ledges Parkway . Registration is at neowish2020@gmail.com



OHIO ERIE TOWPATH 50 MILE BIKE FUNDRAISER

Both Sandy Selby and David Simpson participated in the bike fundraiser for the Towpath on Sunday August 9. In addition to supporting this event, Sandy included support for several of her friends affected by cancer, some departed, some in treatment and some in remission. At a certain point along the way she read names of people from her list. The ride started in downtown Akron with the turnaround point at Crystal Springs about 5 miles south of Canal Fulton.

Outreach

GUNS TO GARDENS

Harmony Grows, a nonprofit dedicated to reducing food insecurity through small-scale, sustainable agriculture, has a unique way to repurpose guns. The organization is hosting a Guns to Gardens event on Sept. 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Rubber City Radio Group, located at 1795 W. Market Street. Guns to Gardens is a national initiative by non-profit RAWtools that seeks to reduce gun violence by transforming unwanted guns into garden tools.

Individuals who donate working firearms will receive a \$100 gas or grocery gift card for each item donated. This is the third year that Harmony Grows has hosted the event.

A Safe Disposal Community Event!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 • 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Transforming Guns Into Garden Tools!



Guns to Gardens

Event Location:
WAKR - WONE - WQMX
Rubber City Radio Group
1795 W Market Street
Akron, OH 44313

How It Works:

- 1 Bring your **UNLOADED** firearms in the trunk of your car or the bed of your truck. Your identity remains anonymous.
- 2 A volunteer will guide you through the process when you arrive. Remain in your vehicle.
- 3 The gun(s) will be removed from your vehicle by trained personnel and then safely disabled.
- 4 A blacksmith will be on site to begin transforming the gun parts into garden tools.
- 5 A gift card for groceries or gas will be given as a thank you for your participation.

PARTNERS:



More Information:



harmonygrows.org/gunstogardens

G2G@harmonygrows.org

Growth & Learning

Welcome Back FaithKids & Junior Youth for 2026-27 School Year at Faith!

Sunday School Classes Begin Sept. 20 – 9:50-10:30 a.m.

Bring your Backpack for a Blessing!

FaithKids includes children ages 3+ through 2nd Graders

Meets in the upstairs Dolphins Classroom - Led by Miss Amanda & Miss Hannah

Junior Youth includes 3-5th Graders

Meets in the Library - Led by Miss Dineen and a co-teacher

Youth Group includes 6th Graders thru High Schoolers

Meets in the Youth Room - Led by Eric

Our FaithKids & Jr Youth Classes include Bible Stories, themed games, songs, crafts, snacks and service projects. Please join us for some fun with friends as we learn all about God's love!

Please reach out to Amanda Hyter, Faith's Coordinator of Children's Ministries, at faithkids@faithlutheranchurch.org if you would like more information or if you would like to join our awesome volunteer team!

Join us on Sept. 13 for our ELCA Day of Service

following our 10 a.m. Joint Worship Ser-

Children and their families are invited to help:

- Ice cookies for our local First Responders
- Write, draw or color notes of gratitude to go with the cookies
- Scoop some pet food to donate to our local food pantry

**“God’s Work,
Our Hands”**



Kick Off the Sunday School Year with Us!



Blessing of the Backpacks

Start the school year with prayer and joy!

All students, teachers, and school staff are invited to bring their backpacks, briefcases, or work bags for a special blessing as we begin a new school year!

Sunday, September 20th

During Children's Message at both worship services

- ◆ We'll pray for a safe, joyful, and successful school year
- ◆ All ages welcome — from preschoolers to grad students, teachers, and beyond!
- ◆ Each participant will receive a small tag or token to remind them of God's love and presence throughout the year.

Growth & Learning



Open Houses & Orientations

are upon us! Preschool classes resume on Wednesday, September 9, 2026! We are so excited to welcome new and returning students! It's going to be a great year to begin a lifetime of learning!

Enrollment

Both of our PreK classes are full. There are a few spots in the MWF Threes Classes, as of this printing. We have openings in our Turtle Tots class for Two year olds and a caregiver. So, if you know anyone with a three year old or a two year old looking for an early preschool experience, please tell them about Faith Preschool!

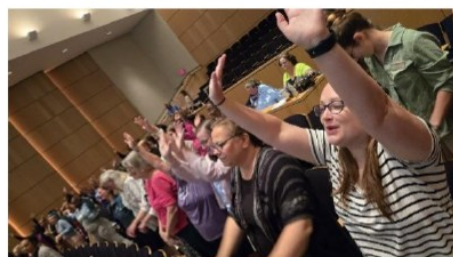
Fundraisers

In September and October, two of our popular fundraisers will open: Butterbraids /Mrs. Field Cookies and Soup from the Souper Sisters (Faith's very own Nicole Vincent's amazing soups). More information will be available in the Weekly Beacon.



Staff Professional Development

Faith Preschool Staff attended an Inspired Early Childhood Educators Symposium at the Akron Summit County Main Library in August. The topic was "Bringing Books to Life!" using creative storytelling to support early childhood development in the classroom." It was a great event featuring award-winning children's author Lindsay Bonilla! Teachers are ready to level up on their dramatic readings and interpretations of stories in the classroom! Our staff appreciate and benefit from these professional development opportunities, six hours of which are mandated by the state. We look forward to identifying other exciting and educational classes and conferences!



Support through Community



ELEA (Evangelical Lutheran Education Association) provides Lutheran education leaders with a community through communication, professional development, faith formation, and professional resources. Faith Preschool recently joined this organization and looks forward to the many resources and benefits they provide.



Thrivent recently allowed ALL its members the chance to allocate Choice Dollars! This means if you are a Thrivent member, in any capacity, you will receive a certain amount of Choice Dollars to donate to your favorite charity (501c3 non-profits). We hope you will choose Faith Preschool or Faith Lutheran Church! Thank you!



We are grateful for the many ways Faith church and its members support the preschool! This is a community that cares for the littlest among us, like Jesus did!

Growth & Learning



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

We hope that all of our youth had a fun and relaxing summer! As we settle into a new year together, we hope that you will continue to join us on **Sundays for FACE Time from 9:50-10:30 a.m.**, as well as for fellowship and service events throughout the year. As we enter into the Call process for a new pastor as a congregation, youth engagement is integral and essential to the life of the church!

Thank you to the youth that helped complete the keychains, bracelets and 'care-pins' for the 2026 Akron PRIDE march and gathering. You are making a difference in our community!!!

Confirmation Orientation will take place **Sunday, September 13 at 9:30 a.m.** prior to the single service for all 6/7/8th grade youth and parents. This will be a time to connect with Eric and Abby and to talk about all that is in store for the coming year!

Our annual **Welcome Back gathering** for ALL youth in grades 6-12 will take place on **Sunday, September 27, beginning at 10:30 a.m.** Join us for food, fun, and catching up! As always, details and evite invitation will be in your email inbox as well as on the Band app! Even if your youth is unable to attend, please take the time to respond to the evite so that we may have an accurate count for lunch. Thanks!

The **FLC Talent Show** will take place **Friday, November 6**, this year! Any youth who would like to share a talent is encouraged to participate. Please reach out to Sarah Kaufman at froghollow1632@gmail.com to let her know what talent you would like to share!

The **Fall Acolyte and Communion Assistant Calendar, along with the new Youth Calendar** have been sent to all 6-12th grade youth! Hard copies will be posted on the youth room doors and all youth will receive one in their mailboxes. Additionally, we will be posting a hard copy of the acolyte/communion assistant schedule in the sacristy for worship team and Pastor Bruce.

We plan on incorporating new 5th grade youth into events and service when possible and appropriate. Abby, Eric and Amanda Hyter will be discussing ways to collaborate for the 26/27 year at Faith, so stay tuned!

Welcome back, and lets have a great year together!

ACME RECEIPTS = CASH FOR OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS



It's that time of the year again, the Acme Community Cashback program began August 1! This is a very easy way to financially support our youth programs at Faith.

- Save your Acme receipts (**receipts dated 8/1/26 - 2/15/27**)
- Drop off your receipts in the collection boxes in the Welcome Center, Narthex, or the counter outside of the Fellowship Hall.
- Please contact Carla Ringer or Youth Leader, Eric Jezewski (faithlc youth@gmail.com) with questions.

Growth & Learning



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

We are continuing with the book of Ruth. Discussion will focus on Chapter 3, and possibly into Chapter 4. Join **Third Thursday, Bible Study on Thursday, September 17, at 10 a.m. in the Youth Room at Faith.** All women are welcome. For more information contact Bonnie at 330.606.3230

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

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



Wednesday Evening Bible Study Wednesday, September 2 & 16



Join us **September 2 and 16, in the Youth Room from 6 - 7 p.m.** for a Bible study featuring the thought-provoking NOOMA video series by Rob Bell.

During each session, we will watch a short video, read scripture, and engage in conversation as we consider practical ways to live out Christ's love in our daily lives.

Everyone is welcome. Come as you are, bring a friend, and join us as we grow together in faith. For more information, contact Jennene Pritt (330-523-0859) or Lori Pritt (330-464-1663).

Photo by Jessica Mangano
on Unsplash.

Faith Book Club September's Choice *Carnegies' Maid* by Marie Benedict

Faith Book Club is starting its 2026-27 season with ***Carnegies' Maid*** from the bestselling author of *The Only Woman in the Room* with a mesmerizing tale of historical fiction that asks what kind of woman could have inspired an American dynasty.

Clara Kelley is not who they think she is. She's not the experienced Irish maid who was hired to work in one of Pittsburgh's grandest households. She's a poor farmer's daughter with nowhere to go and nothing in her pockets. But the woman who shares her name has vanished, and assuming her identity just might get Clara some money to send back home.

Clara must rely on resolve as strong as the steel Pittsburgh is becoming famous for and an uncanny understanding of business, attributes that quickly gain her Carnegie's trust. But she still can't let her guard down, not even when Andrew becomes something more than an employer. Revealing her past might ruin her future—and her family's.

With captivating insight and heart, *Carnegie's Maid* is a book of fascinating 19th century historical fiction. Discover the story of one brilliant woman who may have spurred Andrew Carnegie's transformation from ruthless industrialist to the world's first true philanthropist. ... *USA Today*

Faith Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, September 15 at 2 p.m. in the Youth Room at Faith.** All are welcome even if you haven't read the book. For more information, please contact Marilyn Wilson, marsiewilson7@gmail.com. Hope to see you there.

Thank you

Dear Faith Family,

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all the members of Faith Lutheran who were so supportive and attentive to me at the death of my husband, Don Dillahun. The cards and phone calls meant so much and learning how Don had affected so many people at Faith was heartwarming and comforting to know he had ministered to Faith parishioners. He was a wonderful husband. We would have been married 71 years in October. Thank you for being so kind as to remember his many good deeds during his life.

Our family will be having a memorial service for Don on Sunday afternoon, **September 27, at 2:30 p.m. in the Great Hall at Concordia at Sumner**, 850 Sumner Parkway, Copley OH 44321. Concordia at Sumner is directly across Ridgewood Road from Copley High School. All are welcome to attend.

Barbara Dillahun

Dear Faith Lutheran Church Family,

Thank you all so much for the wonderful farewell as I stepped down from my role as Coordinator of Children's Ministries. We were truly blown away by your love and support as we make our temporary move to Hurlburt Field. Faith has truly become family to us, and I loved every minute of serving on staff and sharing weekly children's messages with you all. A special thank you to Dineen and Amanda for the beautiful tote bag full of goodies—their kind words moved me to tears as I reflected on my ministry, and those treats and gifts inside were a lifesaver during my two-day drive down!

We've loved tuning in online to watch Amanda's creative messages on Sundays, though the kids can't wait to be back in person come January. Florida life has been hot, but full of adventure. Andrew is enjoying his training, Asher and Annabelle are making great friends at school, and we've spent our free time exploring beaches, visiting the zoo, and splashing through afternoon rainstorms.

We are making the most of our time here, but we miss everyone dearly!

Blessings,
Andrew, Sarah, Asher, Annabelle, and Sammy Courtney

Key Dates

SAVE THE DATES!!!

The **Faith Family Fellowship Team (FFF)** has been working hard to plan events that span all ages, abilities and interests! Here are some dates you'll want to be sure to mark on your calendars:

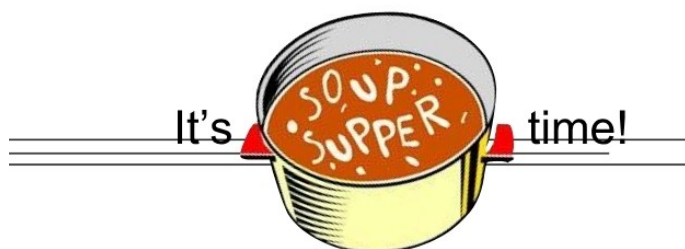
September 25 is the annual **SOUP SUPPER!** Come to the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. to enjoy a sampling of over **20 SUPER YUMMY soups** made by the culinary experts of Faith!

October 21 starting at 6 p.m., is a brand new event called **"Dinery and Winery"**. Come to the **Kaufman Barn** for heavy appetizers and lots of fun and fellowship.

November 6 will be the **LONG AWAITED TALENT SHOW** - otherwise known as a VARIETY SHOW! It begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and features the **UNBELIEVABLE talents** of your fellow Faith friends!

December 5 at 11 a.m. is the women's **Tinsel and Tea** - an annual holiday treat with beautiful Christmas decorations, food and entertainment.

Further details will follow in the Weekly Beacon, as well as in announcements. Look for posters around the church. Please plan on coming for some good **FAITH FAMILY FELLOWSHIP!!!**



All the soup you can eat plus dessert and beverages!

Friday, September 25
5:30 – 7 PM
Faith Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall

\$7.00 Adult \$3.00 Child

All proceeds benefit local food pantries!



Sponsored by the FFF Team
See Dana Singer or Nicole Vincent for more information.



In Our Prayers:

Health Concerns:

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

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

In Times of Loss:

For the family and friends of Faith member Donald Dillahunt, who passed away on July 24, that they may be comforted, especially his wife Barbara. A memorial service will be on Sunday, September 27, at 2:30 p.m., in the Great Hall of the Manor House at Concordia at Sumner, 970 Sumner Parkway, Copley, with a reception following the service.

Special Prayers

For Lori Ashenfelter, Kit Scheetz, Sandy Selby, Judy Vernon, Mark Watkins and Geoff Whidden, as they prepare to lead the process of calling Faith Lutheran's next pastor.



SEPTEMBER

Schedule to Serve

Date	Service	Altar	Communion	Lay Reader	Flowers	Ushers	Youth
6	9 a.m.	Kit Scheetz	Rebecca Williams - SE Emily Solberg - SE Cora Solberg - SP Mary Jean Lyon - SP Judy Harrison - B	Debbie Gottas	Kurt & Flo Mackall	Darryl Kleinhenz Paul Skerlong	Acolyte: Cayden Cloninger Assistant: Hannah Williams
	10:30 a.m.	Deb Allen	Deb Allen			Geoff Whidden	
13	10 a.m.	Kit Scheetz		Sue Harman	Lynne Poulton	Karin Allen Darryl Kleinhenz Paul Skerlong	
20	9 a.m.	Kit Scheetz	Cora Solberg - SE Mary Jean Lyon - SE Rebecca Williams - SP Emily Solberg - SP Corie Miller - B	Sarah Kaufman	David & Melissa Johnson	Darryl Kleinhenz Paul Skerlong	Acolyte: Crosby Jezewski Assistant: Elyse Vincent
	10:30 a.m.	Deb Allen	Deb Allen			Nancy Hooper	
27	9 a.m.	Kit Scheetz		Gabe Hyter	Carla Ringer	Darryl Kleinhenz Paul Skerlong	
	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 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	2 5:30 p.m. Preschool Open House 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening Bible Study	3 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	4	5
6 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Grades 6-12 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 7:30 AA	7 Labor Day 8 p.m. AA	8 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 5:30 p.m. Preschool Open House 6 p.m. Faith Endow. 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon Call Committee	9 Preschool Begins	10 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 12:15 p.m. Faith Family Fellowship (FFF) Team 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	11	12 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. DLM at Holy Trinity
13 ELCA Day of Service 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Orientation 10 a.m. One Service & Day of Service Projects 7:30 AA	14 10 a.m. St. Cecelia 8 p.m. AA	15 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 2 p.m. Faith Book Club 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	16 12 Noon Reconciling in Christ (RIC) 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening Bible Study	17 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 3rd Thursday Women's Bible Study	18	19 9 a.m. Men of Faith
20 Newsletter Deadline 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Education 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 7:30 AA	21 6 p.m. Girl Scouts 7 p.m. Council 8 p.m. AA	22 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 6:30 p.m. Call Committee 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	23	24 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	25 5:30 p.m. FFF Event - Soup Supper	26
27 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Education 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 10:30 H.S. Youth Gathering 11:30 Bound 7:30 AA	28 10. a.m. St. Cecelia 7 p.m. Gardeners of Greater Akron 8 p.m. AA	29 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	30 5 p.m. Loads of Faith Laundry Ministry			



Please visit our website.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Worship God. Grow in faith. Offer hope.