

Beacon of Faith

Worship God. Grow in faith. Offer hope.

Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool

October 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.



See clothing drive details
on pages 9 & 12.

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God's work. Our hands.

Highlights from September 12 & 13



More photos on pages 6 & 7.

Pastor's Pondering



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

The Secret to Abundant Life in Christ and Our Estimate of Giving

Beloved People of God...

Throughout September and October, we are focusing on St. Paul's wonderful letter to the Philippians, learning the secret to living an abundant life in Christ. This October 18, we invite all members of our congregation to share that secret and in our mission grow to be a church that "Worships God, "Grows in Faith and Offers Hope." Thank you so much to everyone who has already filled out and returned their pledge card for the coming year. Your continued generosity is what keeps our ministry, our mission, and our church home thriving.

We have received some wonderful questions and thoughtful feedback regarding this year's pledge cards and/or the Estimate of Giving Card - specifically about the decision to streamline the card into a single pledge amount rather than separating general giving from the Building & Grounds fund.

I want to share the reasoning behind this change and offer some reassurance: our building and grounds remain a top priority. Caring for our sacred spaces, routine maintenance, and campus upkeep are essential parts of our operating budget each year. A simplified card does not mean any less commitment to caring for our physical home.

Your Estimate of Giving supports one shared mission. From a financial and budgeting standpoint, general gifts and building upkeep are drawn from our unified operating funds. Consolidating to one total on the card was intended to simplify the process and reduce confusion, ensuring we capture your complete intended support for our church's life and ministries.

If you used to make a different pledge for the Operating and Building & Grounds, we simply ask you to add the two together for 2027. This will help us to plan an accurate budget for the year ahead. (And prayerfully consider growing your estimate by 10%.)

Thank you for your patience with this adjustment, and more importantly, thank you for your deep care for every part of our church community—from our ministries to the very roof over our heads.

Perhaps you have some questions about why to share an Estimate of Giving card in the first place?

An Estimate of Giving card, Plan for Giving, Faith Commitment, Promise, or Covenant is important in the life of our church today. Let me share why I personally believe it is an important tool that helps me to fulfill our purpose to "Worship God, Grow in Faith and Offer Hope". The rapid change taking place in the world and the needs of the world make it very important that I develop a personal plan for proportionate giving to and through my church, write down my weekly intention, and put my name to it. So, as a response to God's grace I share my estimate of giving...

Because God gives me the grace to give, and that grace moves me to make a firm commitment to my church, contributing a portion of my time, talents and financial blessings for our Lord's mission and ministry.

Because in estimating my giving, I try to show just how much God is the God of my life, and in growing in my commitment each year I give external evidence of my internal priorities. I put God first.

Continues on the next page.

Pastor's Pondering continued

Because God has asked for my commitment, not just that I give, but that I be committed to justice and mercy and faith in all the world. As a Christian, my estimate of giving is foundational to all ministry and helps my church plan for and provide such programs of ministry.

Because God is important in my life and my personal support of our Lord's ministry is a way to make a difference in the world.

Because the programs for ministry that my congregation and my church at large provide for me and my family are important in our life, and anything so important takes planning and commitment.

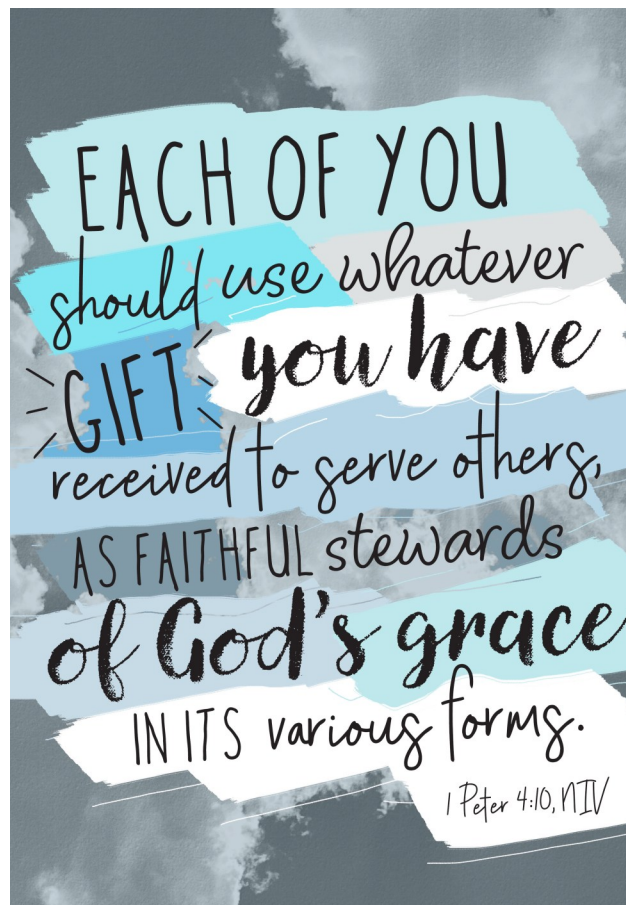
Because I do not believe that any Congregation Council can make meaningful decisions concerning ministry without first knowing what can be expected in support of those ministries.

Because through estimating my giving I can express my hopes and cares for the programs of ministry that proclaim Christ's love in a world that so desperately needs it.

And because it enables me to be truly intentional about my own personal stewardship. I can prayerfully consider what God is calling me to give to the ministry of Christ's Church and make a conscientious decision about my response.

I simply ask you to prayerfully join me in contributing to this marvelous mission here at Faith.

See you Sunday,
Pastor Bruce



Business - Call Process Update

As Council President Darryl Anderson indicated in his “Call Process Update” in the September newsletter, the Council and the Call Committee met with Pastor Mitch Phillips, Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership, in mid-August. Pastor Mitch reviewed the responsibilities of the Call Committee and shared resources for use by the committee in its work. At that meeting, we also received the report of the Transition Committee that will be important and helpful input into the Call Committee’s work.

The purpose of the Call Committee is to recommend to the congregation a candidate for pastor who has the gifts to be our leader and our partner in mission and ministry. Our initial responsibility is to develop a Ministry Site Profile (MSP) that faithfully describes the congregation, its mission and vision, and the needed leadership skills and gifts of a pastor to work with us toward that mission. The MSP will then be sent to Pastor Mitch and to the Congregation Council for approval. Once approved, it will be submitted to the ELCA and made available to rostered ministers who are considering a new call. After the MSP has been available on the ELCA website for about a month, candidates will be presented to the Call Committee for evaluation and interview.

It typically takes 3 to 4 months to put together the Ministry Site Profile. We have been asked, “*What takes so long???*” The MSP is a multi-page document that describes our congregation’s purpose, characteristics, trends, programs, goals, mission and vision, expectations for leadership, congregational gifts and leadership support, and the demographics of our congregation and our neighborhood context. Assembling this document requires a significant amount of discernment, conversation, research, and writing. The ELCA resource we will be using as a guide as we develop the MSP is 80 pages long!

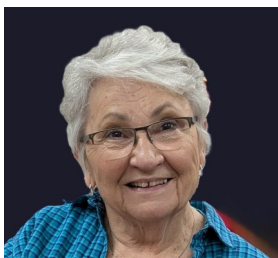
Members of the Call Committee are Lori Ashenfelter, Kit Scheetz, Sandy Selby, Judy Vernon, Mark Watkins, and Geoff Whidden. As we do our work, we want to be as completely transparent as possible, and will communicate regularly about our progress. We will be asking the congregation for input that supplements what you provided to the Transition Team earlier this year. In September, we did a survey about Purpose. We plan to do a survey on Leadership in October. We also encourage you to bring your questions to us as you see us on Sunday mornings, at meetings, and at congregation events, and tell us what is important to you.

We know that the Holy Spirit is with the Call Committee and the entire congregation on this journey. We want to get this right --- a pastor that will be here for the long haul. Doing this requires that we not rush the process, but do our work thoughtfully and prayerfully. We give thanks to the Congregation Council for their leadership and to Pastor Bruce Roth for his willingness to serve as our interim pastor. We also give thanks to the NE Ohio Synod, and for Pastor Nathan Krause and Pastor Mitch Phillips as they guide and assist our congregation through this process.

Calling our next pastor is not something that will happen overnight, and we ALL have much work ahead of us. There must be a match and mutual interest. However, with Pastor Bruce’s guidance of the day to day, and the assistance of the Synod, we are confident about this process and its outcome. We are blessed to be very stable here at FLC, and are assured of being attractive to many candidates.

Thank you for your prayers and your support, as we discern who God is calling to be the next pastor of Faith Lutheran Church.

Sandy Selby
Chair, Call Committee



Outreach



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



RECONCILING IN CHRIST (RIC)

Live Real-time Transcription Service with LECTURE SCRIBES is here.

We are pleased to introduce Lecture Scribes at our 9 a.m. Traditional service. This free accessibility service provides real-time transcriptions directly on your smartphone, ideal for anyone who is hard of hearing or simply wants to follow along with the spoken service. Past service transcripts are also available to read at any time. The following are key points:

- Works on Any Device: The app is free to download for Apple and Android devices. Open the QR code, or go to either the Apple App store, or Google Play
- Full Coverage: All audio captured through the sanctuary sound system is transcribed live.

Step 1 - Download the App

- Scan the QR code with your phone camera, or
- Search for Lecture Scribes in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.



Step 2: Set Up Your Account

- Open Lecture Scribes and enter your email address, then tap Enter email to continue.
- Select Yes to create your account.
- Tap Search organizations by name, type Faith Lutheran Church, and tap Search.
- Select our church from the list, then tap Login to this device.

Once logged in, you can view the live transcription during the service or browse archives from previous weeks. Whenever you open the app in the future, it will take you straight to the list of services.

In addition to English, the app also provides real-time Spanish transcriptions for native Spanish speakers.

The RIC team is continuing to deepen awareness that its purpose includes more than issues associated with the LGBTQ+ community. This idea is well articulated in our "Welcome" statement. The team is proud of its success in having created wheelchair accessible pews and its current project on Lecture Scribes.

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

This special day included these project/service areas:

- Keep Akron Beautiful clean-up
- Cookie decorating for first responders (Firefighters, EMT's and police)
- Picture coloring and encouragement notes for first responders (Firefighters, EMT's and police)
- Bagging pet food to be donated to Feeding Hope Food Pantry, to help families in need with pets.
- Assembling 100 meals in a bag

Please enjoy the photos on the next page.

Outreach



Kids, cookies, notes and pet food



Outreach

One hundred meals packaged.



Thanks to:

- Nina White for organizing the park clean-up project through the Keep Akron Beautiful initiative
- Amanda Hyter for creating and implementing the cookie, pet food and encouragement note projects
- Dana Singer and Lorelee Daily for all the work on the Meal-in-a-Bag endeavor

OPEN M



A special focus at OPEN M's annual meeting on September 9, was *connection with partners* and in this regard, Faith Lutheran Church was highlighted. To demonstrate our support, Bob Pacanovsky, Marketing and Events Consultant, created a video featuring our community garden which was shown at the event. For the presentation Bob interviewed and recorded both Tim Lewis and Nancy Bradshaw on Sunday, September 6, in our garden.



The following data from OPEN M's organization over the past twelve months was also shared at their meeting.

- 790,336 meals were provided to neighbors in need
- 1,668 free medical appointments were hosted
- \$851,399 in prescription value was made available
- 337 individuals were supported through employment services, placing 52 new hires into stable jobs
- 150 individuals celebrated work anniversaries

Our year-to-date contribution of this summer's garden produce is 2,075 pounds.

Bob Pacanovsky, Marketing/Events Consultant, OPEN M with Tim Lewis

Outreach

INTERFAITH JUSTICE ALLIANCE (IJA)

A Zoom meeting is scheduled for October 5, for members of the Interfaith Justice Alliance and representatives of the Dayton based GEM City Market. The purpose of this is to learn about their experience in developing a food co-op in a food desert and to determine if such a service could be explored and developed in Akron. Discussion areas for this virtual meeting were included in the September Beacon of Faith.

Following up on the IJA food theme, John and Dana Singer participated in the Helen Arnold CLC “Back to School Bash” on August 25. They offered taste samples from “Meal-in-a-Bag” recipes and shared how food for the bags may be procured and prepared. Participants expressed enthusiastic interest and gratitude.



On September 22, the Helen Arnold CLC received 25 “Meal-in-a-Bag” kits to distribute through 6th grade students. This is an initial effort by the school to test the viability of continuing and expanding such a service on a regular basis. Tammy Monroe, Family Resource Coordinator for the school, received the food.



FOOD PANTRIES SOUP DINNER

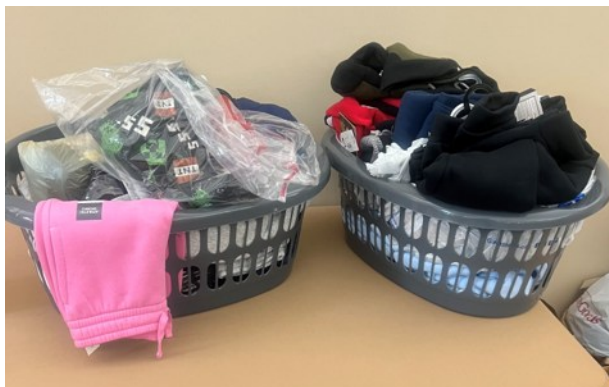
Thanks to Dana Singer, Nicole Vincent and all the volunteers who made the evening such a success. And special recognition to the 15 soup chefs whose entries were both nutritious and delicious. The evening’s event raised \$1,500 to support local food pantries. Please visit our website or Facebook page to enjoy more photos of the evening.



Outreach

CLOTHING FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Both Corie Miller and Amanda Hyter have taken the lead in a clothing drive for students at the Mason CLC and the Harris-Jackson CLC. Donations have already begun for hoodies, sweatpants, hats and gloves.



**Help Us Fill the Kids Closet
at Harris-Jackson CLC
with Sweats and Hoodies
Sizes 5-12**

Matthew 25:36 I needed clothes and you clothed me...

AKRON AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL (AAIC)

AAIC has been organizing activities in support of immigrants in our community as well as the Haitian population in Springfield Ohio. The following report was included in a recent AAIC newsletter:

We are writing with heavy hearts. Pierre Damas Bel had just started his freshman year at Wright State University on August 24, chasing a dream of studying medicine. He graduated from Springfield High School this spring as an honors student, a JROTC member, and a varsity soccer player — the kind of young man this community was proud to call its own. Then, on Monday, his family lost him.

Pierre's family and Haitian leaders here in Springfield believe he took his own life after months of mounting distress. In June, the Supreme Court allowed the Trump administration to strip Temporary Protected Status from Haitian immigrants across the country, and Pierre was among the hundreds of thousands who lost that protection. In July, immigration authorities summoned him to their offices and placed a GPS monitor on his ankle. He wrote online about walking through his own life carrying a feeling of shame and humiliation he never imagined he'd experience. His father says Pierre went back to ICE twice, asking simply to have it removed so he could return to playing the sport he loved.

This is the weight so many families in our community are carrying right now — not as an abstract policy, but as a daily fear that follows their children to school, to practice, to the dinner table. We owe Pierre, and every family living under this same pressure, our public witness and our care.

On Thursday, September 3, the Springfield, Ohio, Haitian community came together for a prayer service in honor of Pierre Damas Bel.

Outreach

AAIC is also promoting interest in a special program of *The Chosen*. In November, there will be four actors from *The Chosen* series here in northeast Ohio for a meet and greet, and a special concert from the Piano Guys. Program locations are:

Friday, Nov 13 · Lakewood, OH
Saturday, Nov 14 · Akron & Fairlawn, OH
Sunday, Nov 15 · Chesterland, OH

Please follow this link for more details, <http://neochosen.com/>

Also, from AAIC:



نساء يستكشفن الخيوط المشتركة بين تقاليدنا الإيمانية.

עוף אוויר פאיתה טרדתונס

ומהן אקספלוריינג אתה קומון תרידס

Sponsored by Women's Interfaith Spiritual Heritage (WISH)
and



Sunday, October 18, 3:00 PM
Founders Hall, Alpha Phi Alpha Homes
662 Wolf Ledges Parkway, Akron

This unique discussion will focus on issues relevant to women of faith and seekers of open interfaith dialogue. Through face-to-face conversations among diverse faith traditions, we will support the exploration of common threads and beliefs among us. By listening to the insights of our panelists and sharing our own stories, attendees will have a unique opportunity to explore and discover how our faiths call on women to embrace all humanity and encourage us to aid in caring for the world.

Registration for this event: Please send email to
neowish2020@gmail.com
or for more information about this event and our panelists:
www.neowish.org



Walk-ins are welcome! No Fee for this event!

Outreach

FUTURE EVENTS

LOADS OF FAITH DATES FOR 2026

October 28
November 18
December 30

DLM SCHEDULE FOR 2026

10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Second Saturday of each month.

LOOKING TOWARD 2027

Interfaith Justice Series

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

O - T - H - E - R N - E - W - S

BOOKS AND BREAD: FREE GROCERY STORES IN LIBRARIES TACKLE FOOD INSECURITY

An August 10, a New York Times article by Audra D.S. Burch describes a growing model in which public libraries are becoming sites for free, choice-based grocery stores, helping address food insecurity while offering people a more private and dignified experience than traditional food pantries. The article focuses on two new markets in Prince George's County, Maryland, located inside library branches. Customers can select the foods they need - such as fresh produce, meat, dairy, cereal and pasta—rather than receiving a predetermined package. The markets are supported through partnerships among local government, nonprofits and food-rescue organizations, with food coming from surplus supplies, donations and purchased goods.

The article places the approach in the context of rising grocery costs and growing financial pressure on households, noting that “need” increasingly includes people who may not traditionally qualify as poor, including seniors on fixed incomes and working families facing unexpected economic difficulties. Library officials and community leaders see libraries as particularly useful locations because they are familiar, accessible community institutions where people can seek assistance without the stigma sometimes associated with food pantries. The model is spreading beyond Maryland to other libraries and community settings, suggesting a broader shift toward combining food assistance with existing neighborhood institutions and emphasizing choice, dignity and accessibility.



Growth & Learning



Sunday School 9:50-10:30 a.m.

FaithKids Preschool-2nd Graders (*Upstairs*)

- Led by Miss Amanda & Miss Hannah

Junior Youth 3-5th Graders (*Library*)

- Led by Miss Dineen and Miss LJ

Youth Group 6th Gr-High School (*Youth Rm*)

- Led by Eric and Abby

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!

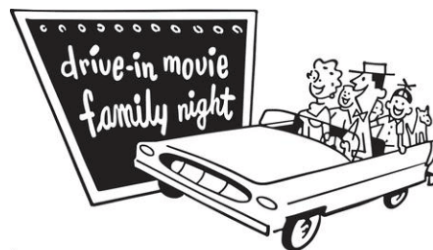
Please reach out to Amanda Hyter, Faith's Coordinator of Children's Ministries, at faithkids@faithlutheranchurch.org if you would like more information or if you would like to join our awesome volunteer team!



Save the Date: Oct. 10, 2026

Faith Family Campfire & Drive-In Movie Night

(Details will be sent out via e-mail, Weekly Beacon and BAND app)



Outreach Project for the 2026-27 School Year

FaithKids, Jr Youth and Youth Group Families are working together with First Serve to Fill the Kids Clothing Closet at Harris-Jackson CLC.

**Help Us Fill the Kids Closet
at Harris-Jackson CLC
with Children's Winter
Hats, Gloves & Mittens**

Accepting New or Gently Used clothes through Oct. 25

Matthew 25:36 I needed clothes and you clothed me...

*Thank You to everyone who donated Hoodies and
Sweatpants for our September Kids Closet Drive!*

**For October we are collecting children's
Hats and Gloves**

Growth & Learning



Thank you to everyone who helped with our ELCA Day of Service



We delivered 4 dozen sugar cookies, iced & creatively decorated by our Faith Families, along with a dozen Thank You cards and coloring pages, to our local Fairlawn First Responders to express our gratitude.



We are so grateful to our Firefighters, EMTs, Paramedics and Police Officers for all their heroic service in helping to keep our community safe, and being there when the cookie crumbles and we need help picking up the pieces!



Also **Big Thanks** for everyone who helped scoop up pet food into gallon bags on our Day of Service. We delivered 32lbs of Large Breed Dog Food (donated by Courtney Family), 32lbs of reg dog food and 22lbs of cat food to "Feeding Hope Food Pantry" at First Congregational Church of Akron UCC, to help Pet Families in need.

God's Work, Our Hands!



Growth & Learning

Fall Fundraisers

The very popular frozen **Butterbraids** pastries and frozen **David's Cookie Dough** Fundraiser is back! If you enjoy these items, please consider ordering to support the preschool! Delivery at Faith is Tues., Nov. 3, plenty of time for stocking your freezer for holiday company! Order forms are in the Welcome Center and the Church Office. Or use the QR code below.



left: Butterbraids QR Code. Speak to Dineen for more information!

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 19-20, and the soup will be delivered to Faith on Thurs., Oct. 22. Pick up Thurs., Oct. 22, Fri., Oct. 23, or Sun., Oct. 25. 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 2026-2027 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 circle.

Our two older classes of Four & Five Year Olds are designed as PreK or "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 Zoophonics and Heggerty Phonemic Awareness programs in the classes. This month they are off to Luther Farms for a field trip!

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!



But most importantly, 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
Director*

Growth & Learning



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

Thank you to the youth and family members who helped out on the Day of Service! Between the city cleanup and the projects at the church, we had good participation! Thank you for making a difference for our community members!

Thank you to the 6-8th grade youth who attended the first Confirmation Learning Retreat of the year on September 27. We really enjoyed kicking off another year of learning and walking in faith with you!

Once again we will be helping to clean out the community garden here at the church. Molly Donohue is helping to organize the cleanup this year, so stay tuned for the date and time via email and the Band App! Please bring work gloves and clothes/shoes that you can get dirty. Parents, we would love for you to join us during the service project. More hands make the cleanup much easier!

In collaboration with Jr. Youth and FaithKids, we will host a Fall Drive - In Movie at the church on Saturday, October 10! The congregation is invited to join us for s'mores and a movie (yes, you will tune in via your car radio!) beginning at 6:30 p.m. A QR code to let us know you are coming will be posted throughout the church to help with making sure we have enough s'mores supplies. In the event of rain, we will move into the church for the movie.

Don't forget, the 2026/27 Scheduled to Serve and Youth Event calendars for Fall/Winter have been sent to all families in 6-12th grade. If you need an additional copy, please download it via the Band App!

Parents and youth in 6-12th grade, if you haven't joined the Band App yet, you're missing out on up-to-date information and details for events and meetings. Please ask Eric for the link if you haven't joined yet, and he will get you setup!



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 (faithlcyyouth@gmail.com) with questions.

Growth & Learning



Third Thursday Women's Bible Study Thursday, October 15 10 a.m. Youth Room

We are finishing with the book of Ruth, discussion will focus on chapter 4. Ruth's love and dedication magnifies into a lineage to Christ. Join **Third Thursday, Bible Study on Thursday, October 15, at 10 a.m. in the Youth Room at Faith.** All women are welcome. For more information contact Bonnie at 330.606.3230

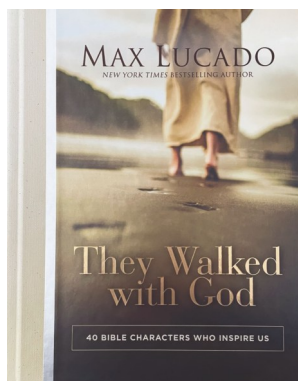
Men of Faith Bible Study and Discussion Group 9 a.m. - October 17 Youth Room

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



Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6 p.m.

Wednesday, October 14 & 28



In October, we will begin reading the book *They Walked with God: 40 Bible Characters who Inspire Us* by Max Lucado. We will learn more about several well-known as well as lesser-known biblical characters. We will read about their struggles and failures in life, their courage in the face of adversity, and their questions of faith. The first session (on Oct 14th) will be focused on Abigail (from 1 Samuel). Come join the conversation as we learn from faithful followers of God in the past. Books will be provided for those participating in the study.

For more information, please reach out to Lori Pritt, yes2justice@hotmail.com or Jennene Pritt, mgia247365g@aol.com.

Faith Book Club October Choice The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead

Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. An outcast even among her fellow Africans, she is on the cusp of womanhood--where greater pain awaits. And so, when Caesar, a slave who has recently arrived from Virginia, urges her to join him on the Underground Railroad, she seizes the opportunity and escapes with him.

In Colson Whitehead's ingenious conception, the *Underground Railroad* is no mere metaphor: engineers and conductors operate a secret network of actual tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. Cora embarks on a harrowing flight from one state to the next, encountering, like Gulliver, strange yet familiar iterations of her own world at each stop.

As Whitehead brilliantly re-creates the terrors of the antebellum era, he weaves in the saga of our nation, from the brutal abduction of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day. *The Underground Railroad* is both the gripping tale of one woman's will to escape the horrors of bondage--and a powerful meditation on the history we all share...

Come and join the discussion of this award-winning novel. See why it was **One of The New York Times's 10 Best Books of the 21st Century.**

Faith Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, October 20, at 2 p.m. in the Youth Room** at Faith. Haven't read the book? Come anyway, all are welcome; contact Marilyn Wilson, marsiewilson7@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Key Dates



FAITH'S FIRST OCTOBERFEST

6 p.m.

Wednesday, October 21st

- Where:** Art & Sarah Kaufman's barn
9401 River Styx Rd., Wadsworth
- What:** Dinner, Socializing, Games,
you may even get a Polka lesson!
- Details:** 6 p.m. Appetizers, followed by a meal.
- Provided:** Meal, soft drinks, coffee, cider

You're welcome to bring other beverages of your choice. Feel free to bring an appetizer or dessert if you care to, but just bringing your cute selves, is the important thing!

Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship! Any questions, call Sarah at 330-715-2765. Hope to see you October 21st!

FLU SHOT Clinic

Flu Vaccines
(also COVID, Pneumonia, Shingles &
RSV vaccines available)

Sunday, Oct. 4
In the library
10 a.m. - Noon

Provided by Sand Run Pharmacy



New Members Class

Sunday, October 11
11:30 a.m.

Meet in the church library

Pastor Bruce leads this class. It is intended for visitors interested in learning about Faith Lutheran Church and joining our Faith family. Please contact the church office (330-836-8811) to reserve your seat!

Lunch and childcare provided.

FAITH'S TALENT SHOW
THE EVENT OF THE CENTURY
6:30 p.m. - in the Fellowship Hall
Friday, November 6

It is an evening you'll never forget!
(And we mean that in a good way!!!)

You will see acts that have never appeared in public before!

- Synchronized swimmers
- Musical basketball players,

**AND- if you can believe it- six ministers
will appear on our stage at the same time
(along with a grizzly bear!!!)**

UNBELIEVABLE? Absolutely!!!!

- It's a fun evening you won't want to miss!!!
- It features over 60 of your fellow Faith members performing their awesome talents (?) right on our own stage!!!
- Come for a night of fun, laughter and free popcorn!!!

November 6th at 6:30 p.m.!!! See you then!!



In Our Prayers:

Health Concerns:

Faith member Lin Bryant
Tommy Gorman
Faith member Pastor Tim Keeler
Faith member Judy Lee
Faith member Terry Vernon
Faith member Barb Wiedmann

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 Chuck Gerdes upon his death on September 22, especially wife Judy and his family, that they may be comforted.

For the family and friends of Faith member Dick Eichner upon his death on September 6, that they may be comforted.

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.



PRAISE & THANKSGIVING



Schedule to Serve

Date	Service	Altar	Communion	Lay Reader	Flowers	Ushers	Youth
4	9 a.m.	Martha Keeler	John Weisend - SE Flo Mackall - SE Marilyn Wilson - SP Martha Keeler - SP Corie Miller - B	Darlene Weaver	Polly Dobkin	Tim Lewis Jim Woodrum	Acolyte: Crosby Jezewski Assistant: Cayden Cloninger
	10:30 a.m.	Chris Fritzen	Chris Fritzen			Geoff Whidden	
11	9 a.m.	Martha Keeler		Martha Keeler	Linda & Rich Wiedrick	Tim Lewis Jim Woodrum	
	10:30 a.m.	Nancy Hooper	Nancy Hooper			Karin Allen	
18	9 a.m.	Martha Keeler	Marilyn Wilson - SE Martha Keeler - SE John Weisend - SP Flo Mackall - SP Corie Miller - B	Corie Miller	Beth Brumbaugh and Greg Hackett	Tim Lewis Jim Woodrum	Acolyte: Cayden Cloninger Assistant: Katie Archbold
	10:30 a.m.	Chris Fritzen	Chris Fritzen			Nancy Hooper	
25	9 a.m.	Martha Keeler	John Weisend - SE Flo Mackall - SE Marilyn Wilson - SP Martha Keeler - SP Corie Miller - B	Fedearia Nicholson	Karin Allen	Tim Lewis Jim Woodrum	Acolyte: Elyse Vincent Assistant: Hannah Williams
	10:30 a.m.	Bonnie Janelle	Bonnie Janelle			Paula & Bob Lundell	

SE - Server
SP - Supplier
B - Bread



OCTOBER 2026

Calendar of Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl	2 5 p.m. Preschool PJ Party	3
4 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Education 10 Kinship Café 10 - noon Flu Vaccines 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 7:30 AA	5 11:30 a.m. Preschool Staff 6 p.m. Girl Scouts 8 p.m. AA	6 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 6:30 p.m. Call Committee 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	7 5 p.m. Outreach Advisory Team	8 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	9	10 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. DLM at Holy Trinity 6:30 p.m. Youth Drive-in Movie & Activities
11 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Education 10 Kinship Café 10 - noon Flu Vaccines 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound Nominating 11:45 New Member Class 7:30 AA	12 10 a.m. St. Cecelia 8 p.m. AA	13 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 5 p.m. Preschool Bd. 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	14 1 p.m. Mem. Courtyard 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening Bible Study	15 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 3rd Thursday Women's Bible Study	16	17 9 a.m. Men of Faith
18 Newsletter Deadline 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Education 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 7:30 AA	19 6 p.m. Girl Scouts 7 p.m. Council 8 p.m. AA	20 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 2 p.m. Faith Book Club 6:30 p.m. Call Committee 7 p.m. Scouts	21 6 p.m. Faith Family Fellowship Event, October- fest	22 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl	23	24
25 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Education 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 7:30 AA	26 10. a.m. St. Cecelia 7 p.m. Gardeners of Greater Akron 8 p.m. AA	27 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	28 5 p.m. Loads of Faith Laundry Ministry 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening Bible Study	29 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	30	31



Please visit our website.

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Worship God. Grow in faith. Offer hope.