

# Beacon of Faith

Worship God. Grow in faith. Offer hope.

Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool

September 2024



## 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.

## ELCA DAY of Service "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday, September 8



### 10 a.m. worship in the sanctuary

- This is a one-service Sunday and a collaborative event welcoming our siblings in Christ from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.
- Focus on Outreach Ministry
- Enjoy a message during worship from the FLC Puppeteers ... recently featured at VBS! Children (and their adults) are invited to sit up front!

### 11 a.m. ELCA Day of Service activities

#### At Faith

- LWR school kit assembly
- Fleece blanket tying for Akron Children's Hospital
- Visitor bag decorating

OR

#### Beyond our Church Walls

- Participate in a First Serve project; go to [joinfirstserve.org](http://joinfirstserve.org) and click on events for options!
- Help a Faith member with yard tasks at her home; a sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center desk. Contact Nancy Tobar for more information, 330-836-8811.

## Christian Education



### September 15

Sunday morning  
Christian Education  
Resumes

9:50 - 10:30 a.m.

See page 16 for details.

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**Pastor's Pondering**  
**Pastor Jean M. Hansen**

This is the fourth and final edition of "Ponderings" on my favorite passages from the Bible. I have focused on a favorite text from the Old Testament, the Psalms, the Epistles and now, the Gospels. It continues to be true that narrowing the options down to one is difficult. So this time I settled on the first one that came to mind.

**John 11:1-46: Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life**

There is no doubt that this is a GREAT story! Jesus is friends with Mary, Martha and their brother Lazarus who live in Bethany. Lazarus dies, apparently unexpectedly, and Jesus is not with them at the time of his death. By the time Jesus arrives, Lazarus has been dead four days and is securely settled in his tomb. But Jesus calls him forth, and the dead man lives. That, of course, is the barest of summaries of a story fraught with details. Here are some of my favorites:

- ◆ Jesus loved his friends; this is alluded to twice. It must have been painful for him to purposely stay away after they asked him for help, even if doing so was for God's glory.
- ◆ The disciples, as often is the case, are clueless. When Jesus says, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him," they take him literally. He must "tell them plainly" that Lazarus is dead. I wonder what they thought would happen when they arrived in Bethany?
- ◆ We are given a hint that Mary and Martha are upset at Jesus' delay since they both tell Jesus that if he had been there Lazarus would not have died. Yet, they trust him, which I think is what caused Jesus to be "greatly disturbed in Spirit and deeply moved", so much so that he wept.
- ◆ Immediately after the Jewish leaders criticized Jesus saying, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" we are told that Jesus was, again, greatly disturbed. Is that because of what his friends have gone through, that he could have prevented, or because his actions are being put in a negative light by his enemies?
- ◆ Who could not help but smile at Martha's response when Jesus commands that the stone be removed from the entrance of the tomb? "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Indeed, he is really and truly dead!
- ◆ Such drama ... "Lazarus, come out! The dead man came out...!" Can you imagine???
- ◆ We are told that Lazarus' hands and feet are bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth, more proof and he was really and truly dead.
- ◆ "Unbind him and let him go!" Lazarus is freed from the power of death by Jesus, as will be true for us all.
- ◆ This story is the beginning of the end, so to speak. While many believe because of the raising of Lazarus, when the miracle is reported to the Pharisee they begin to plan to put Jesus to death.



For that reason, this story also is the beginning of a new beginning.

## Key Dates

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### Collaborative Events –

### **Faith and Holy Trinity Collaborate! Worship, ELCA Day of Service on September 8**

We are embarking on a collaboration venture with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Akron to build relationships with each other while waiting for further direction from the NEOS concerning possible broader collaboration.

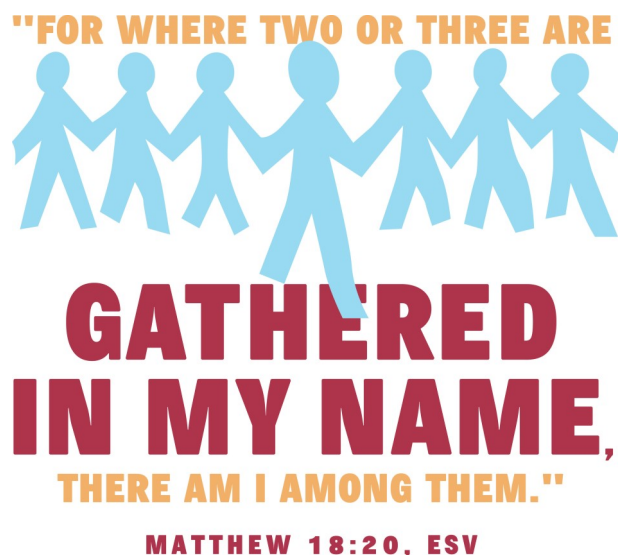
**September: HTLC worships at Faith (10 a.m. combined service) and joins in after-worship “God’s Work, Our Hands” projects on Sunday, September 8.**

**October: Faith worships at HTLC for Reformation Sunday (9:30 a.m. service) and joins in after-worship refreshments on Sunday, October 27.**

**November: Rachel Nunez (HTLC staff) leads Midweek Devotions & Lunch at Faith (for both congregations) on Wednesdays, November 13 & 20.**

**December: Choirs/Musicians from both congregations join to present Arts@HolyTrinity Procession of Advent Lessons & Carols (at HTLC) at 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 8.**

Please support, and participate in, these collaborative events; it will be good to share worship and fellowship with our siblings in faith! Also, please be mindful of the “big picture”, which is proclaiming the Good News of Jesus into the ever-changing future.



## Key Dates

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### Mark Your Calendars!

#### “The Chosen” Returns in October

In recent years, Faith members have gathered to view and discuss three seasons of “The Chosen”, a Christian historical drama television series about the life and ministry of Jesus. It’s time for Season Four!

Viewing of each episode, followed by discussion, will be on Sunday afternoons in the Fellowship Hall, beginning in October. All adults and youth are welcome. Childcare will be provided as needed; please contact Pastor Jean if you need childcare.

#### The schedule is:



- Sunday, October 6, 4-5:30 p.m., Episode 1
- Sunday, October 13, 4-5:30 p.m., Episode 2
- Sunday, October 20 – NOT MEETING
- Sunday, October 27, 4-5:30 p.m., Episode 3
- Sunday, November 3, 4-5:30 p.m., Episode 4
- Sunday, November 10, 4-5:30 p.m., Episode 5
- Sunday, November 17, 3-5:30 p.m., Episodes 6, 7  
(Note earlier start time.)
- Sunday, November 24, 4-5:30 p.m., Episode 8

### Sweet Erie

an a cappella concert

4 p.m.

Sunday, October 20

at Faith



**Sweet Erie** is an a cappella group singing everything from doo wop classics to modern originals. Members include Faith members Hannah Kozee and Em Antal.

This is a free family friendly community concert in the sanctuary - all are welcome!



# GETTING YOUR

# AFFAIRS IN ORDER

Wholly Organized!® LLC



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WHOLLY-ORGANIZED.COM

Do you have a will and your papers organized? Would your family members be able to locate your computer passwords if you died suddenly? Do you have specific wishes written down? If you answered "no" to any of these questions, please consider joining "Get Your Affairs in Order" workshop led by Faith Member, Member of the Courtyard Committee and Professional Organizer, Lynne Poulton. The sign-up is in the Welcome Center. **Deadline to sign-up is September 15th, 2024.**

**DATES:** Mondays -  
September 30, October 14, 28, November 11, 25 and December 2

**TIME:** 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

**LENGTH OF PROGRAM:** Six total sessions every other week for 11 weeks

**LOCATION:** ZOOM and at Faith Church for 1st (9/30/24) and Last Session (12/2/24)

*Zoom sessions available during all six sessions*

**COST:** \$40 per person (includes "I'm Dead Now What Book", all six sessions + Zoom recordings of sessions, and weekly guide) Payable by check or cash to "Faith Lutheran Church" with "Courtyard Team - Workshop" in the memo.

**DETAILS:** We will use the book "I'm Dead Now What Book" as our guide. There will be an opportunity to meet in-person (optional and encouraged) at Faith for the first and last sessions. During sessions 2 - 5 we will be meeting via zoom, so that we can be in our homes gathering the papers and information needed to get our affairs in order! Lynne will share stories, guidance, resources and even incorporate some fun! The time is now, don't miss this opportunity.

### OVERVIEW OF TOPICS:

**Session One:** Introduction & Diving In!

**Session Two:** Financial Affairs

**Session Three:** Heirlooms & Personal Effects

**Session Four:** Bills to Pay & Wishes

**Session Five:** E-mail & Social Media Accounts & Passwords

**Session Six:** Wrap-up, Celebration, and Additional Resources

**Please reach out to Lynne Poulton at 216-650-0897 (text/call) or e-mail: [lynne@wholly-organized.com](mailto:lynne@wholly-organized.com) with any questions or concerns.**

# Stewardship

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## STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS 2024

### Gardeners for God: Growing Together!

*He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will...increase the harvest of your righteousness.  
(2 Corinthians 9:10)*

During this year's stewardship emphasis, we will consider the **seeds** – our abilities, our financial resources, our time, our faith - and the **bread** – God's grace, God's word, Holy Communion, Jesus himself - that are supplied by God and how we gardeners for God can tend and use the seed and the bread so that together we can grow into righteousness - being right with God.

*Special events are planned to highlight our gardening endeavor!*

### SEED KITS for ALL



**Step #1: On September 29**, everyone in worship will receive a “seed kit” (a container, seeds and dirt). Please don't throw it away or leave it in the car!! Instead, take it in your house, plant the seed, tend it (watering and sunlight required). That's step #1

**Step #2: PHOTO DAY, OCTOBER 15!!!** Take a photo of your planting endeavor! Did the seed grow? Did you forget? It doesn't matter ... no judgement here ... this is for fun! Just take a photo on your phone and send it to the church office, [nancy@faithlutheranchurch.org](mailto:nancy@faithlutheranchurch.org). (Or, bring the container into the office for its photo.) Then...wait to see what happens next!!

*By the way ... help is needed putting the seed kits together. Come to the library at 10 a.m. on September 22 to lend a hand.*

### A BOUNTY of BREAD October 13

**Are you a baker of bread?  
Would you like to share your gift?**

The Stewardship Team is looking for bakers who will:

1. Bake their favorite bread (yeast, sweet, any variety).
2. Host a table from which you will share samples of your bread (small servings) and the recipe.
3. Help us celebrate the gift of bread!



This event will take place from 10 -10:50 a.m. on October 13 in the Welcome Center and Youth Room! Please sign-up to be a bread-sharer at the desk in the Welcome Center or contact LauraJeanne Fligor at [ljfligor@gmail.com](mailto:ljfligor@gmail.com).

### Other important Stewardship Emphasis dates:

- October 6 – Temple Talk by two of God's Gardeners!
- Week of October 6 – Look for a letter, Commitment Cards, in the (snail) mail
  - ◊ Prayerfully consider your financial commitment to the ministry of Jesus at Faith Lutheran Church.
- October 20 – Commitment Sunday and Donut Day ... bring your completed Commitment Card to worship and celebrate with donuts in the Kinship Café!

# Outreach

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



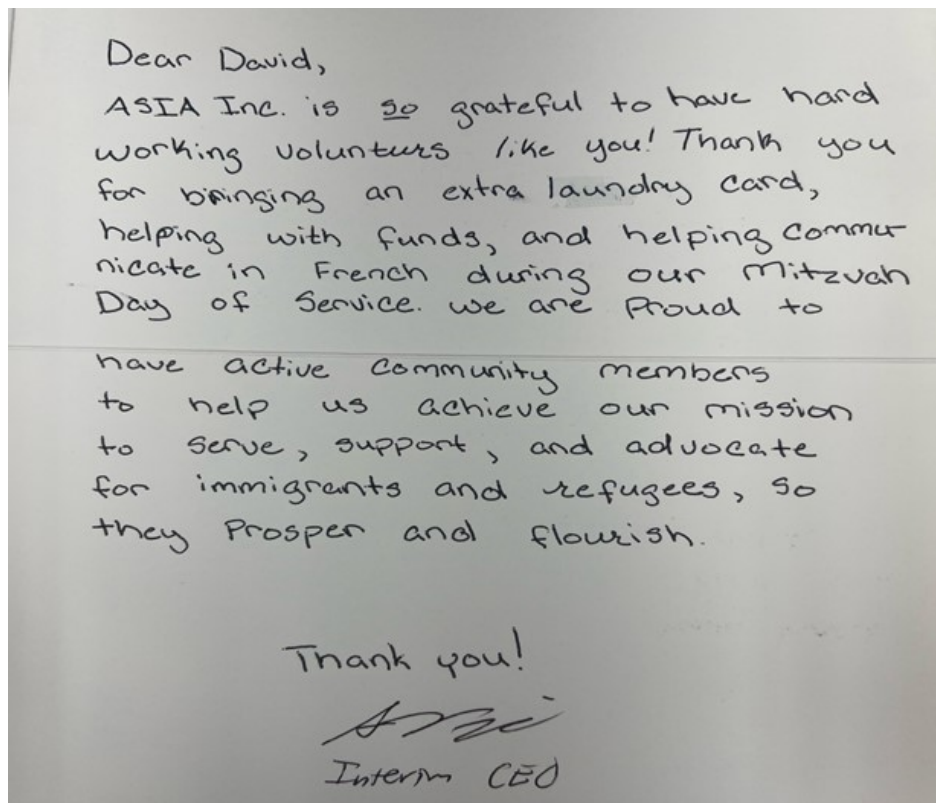
## Loads of Faith Laundry Ministry

Progress continues on our community fund development. Dana Singer has prepared a grant proposal for the Akron Community Foundation. We have successfully passed the first two stages of their funding review process. The final formal proposal is now being written. Our request will be for \$10K. Submission deadline is September 1. Letters of support are being requested from partner organizations such as Asian Services in Action (ASIA).

We are also preparing an application to the GAR Foundation.

At our most recent North Hill LoF (July 31) event we served a client from the Blick Center accompanied by Denise Hannig, his case manager as well as one of their social work interns. They were very grateful for the service and provided the first step toward another community networking opportunity. The Blick Center Services support early childhood, school age and adult individuals with developmental, behavioral, physical and mental health conditions. It specializes in mental health and drug and alcohol addiction treatment for older adults.

The following note was received from Scott Piepho, ASIA's interim executive director following our assistance with their recent laundry event.



# Outreach

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## THAILAND OUTREACH MISSION



For eight years we have generously supported children at the Youth Charity Foundation (YCF) in Thailand. Your financial support has assisted several children to advance in, and even complete educational programs leading some to fulfilling professional careers. We are sad to announce that this will be our last year for this outreach ministry. Our decision is not based on any wish to discontinue. It results solely from an understanding and application of tax rules as they apply to foreign charity donations. Unfortunately, we could find no avenue to continue without falling out of tax law compliance. We are deeply grateful for the extraordinary generosity shown by so many of our members. Moreover, we recognize and honor the profound dedication and energy that Marilyn Wilson has brought to this worthy endeavor. Not only did she first bring it to our awareness, but she diligently kept her focus on it, and by that measure, ours as well. Should you have any questions, you may follow-up with Pastor Jean, John Weisend, David Simpson or Marilyn.

The YCF provides safe homes, education and an array of support services for underprivileged children. From the YCF's website it is stated "Here at YCF Thailand, we believe that every child should have access to good education that prepares them for life ahead. By imparting Christian values to our children, our hope is that their lives will be transformed to impact others in their society."



One of the residences

## AKRON AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL (AAIC)

Our response to the request from AAIC that we take the leadership role for the Hunger Walk has not yet been determined. Although for several years we have participated in this event with donations, walkers and the water station, we have not been a part of its organization or administration. We are evaluating this request and will respond to AAIC as soon as possible. Please contact David Simpson if you would like more information about this project.



# Outreach

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## INTERNATIONAL WELCOME CENTER (IWC)



International  
Welcome  
Center

Representatives from the IWC, based in New Franklin Ohio, presented information about its mission to members of Faith Lutheran Church on Sunday, August 11. About 15 of our members attended this informative session. Information was shared about refugees and the services provides. The IWC receives funding through philanthropic support as well as federal funds for refugee services. Additionally, they rely on volunteer participation and as well as their networking with community organizations.

Presenters were:



Christina Hodgkinson  
Executive Director



Matt Hicks  
Legal Services Manager



Some of the attendees

The IWC's website is: <https://theiwc.org>. Also, some information is posted on the outreach bulletin board.

# Outreach

## INTERFAITH JUSTICE ALLIANCE

On Sunday, **July 28**, Ellen Vollman, a St. Hilary member of the coordinating committee, hosted a picnic gathering at her home for the committee. This social gathering was well attended by committee members including Dineen Dowling and David Simpson from Faith. Pastor Jean was out of town and unable to attend.

Braver Angels continues to be evaluated for next year's program. Also, Braver Angels hosted one of its events in Stow on **August 21**. **Attendees included Dineen Dowling, David Simpson and Dana Singer**. The topic was "Is It the News That's Polarizing Us?" Please ask any of them if you would like to know more.

The Braver Angels web site is <https://braverangels.org>. Here is a link to their activities in Northeast Ohio: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/braver-angels-northeast-ohio-alliance-meeting-registration-845097097167>

## RECONCILING CHRIST (RIC)



Much gratitude to all the volunteers who assisted staffing our booth and participating in the Akron Pride Festival. Among our volunteers were:

Darryl Anderson  
Evie Anderson  
Joe Antal  
Em Antal  
Tom Antal  
Lori Ashenfelter  
Christy Bauer  
Duane Daily  
Loralee Daily  
Dineen Dowling  
Abby Jezewski

Eric Jezewski  
Melissa Johnson  
David Johnson  
Tom Peyton  
Ed Pleasant  
Sandi Schmidt  
Sandy Selby  
Dana Singer  
David Simpson  
Nancy Tobar  
Jim Tobar

Darlene Weaver  
Pastor Richard Weaver  
Carol Whidden  
Gwen Whidden  
Barb Wiedmann  
Marilyn Wilson

## DLM

The August DLM event featured an end-of-summer carnival theme. In addition to the hot meal, clothing, hygiene items and food boxes, various games and other activities were available, especially for the children who were also treated at a snow cone station. Our 21 volunteers for this day were:

Deb Allen (Kitchen)  
Debbie Gottas (Kitchen)  
Pastor Jean Hansen  
Nancy Hooper (Kitchen)  
Bonnie Janelle  
Tim Lewis  
Flo Mackall

Midge Murphy  
Patti Nagy (Kitchen)  
Paula Oby  
Deb Rose (Kitchen)  
Sara Shook (Kitchen)  
Alex Shepherd  
David Simpson

Ruth Simpson (Kitchen)  
Terry Vernon  
Brady Vernon  
Parker Vernon  
Darlene Weaver  
Pastor Richard Weaver  
John Weisend



# Outreach

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## ELCA DAY OF SERVICE AND “GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS”



### LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS

This year as part of our ELCA Day of Service in September, we will assemble school kits to be donated to Lutheran World Relief. Thanks to all who already donated material for making the draw string bags. We now need to collect the school supplies that go into the bags. Items needed are:

- 70-sheet notebooks
- 30-centimeter rulers or rulers with centimeters on one edge and inches on the other
- Pencil sharpeners
- Blunt scissors
- Unsharpened pencils
- Black or blue ballpoint pens
- Box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 2 ½ inch eraser

Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages, or your group’s name. Also, do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage. You can drop your donations off in the container located in the Welcome Center, labeled “Material for School Kits” or at the Outreach office.

Thank you in advance for your generosity in donating these items!

Other service projects for that day include:

- Cutting and tying fleece blankets for Akron Children’s Hospital
- Decorating welcome bags
- Yard work at a Faith member’s home – sign up on the sheet at the desk in the Welcome Center or call the church office, 330-836-8811 to register in advance.



## Outreach Sunday

As an added feature of this national Lutheran Day of Service we will be celebrating our own communal commitment to outreach ministries by designating it as **Outreach Sunday**. This will provide an opportunity to highlight all our wonderful services as well as to recognize and show appreciation for all that is done throughout the year.

# Outreach

## FAMILY PROMISE

Call for condiments:

Place items in box on top shelf in the Fellowship Hall Hallway marked Family Promise.



## ASIAN SERVICES IN AKRON (ASIA) HAPI FARMER'S MARKET

The Healthy Asian Pacific Islander (HAPI) Fresh Produce Farm is a four-acre, USDA organic certified farm committed to producing high-quality vegetables at an affordable price. HAPI Fresh Farm provides job and training opportunities for refugees whose age and limited English proficiency pose employment barriers. ASIA staff have let us know that volunteer opportunities are available for the weekly farmers market which will continue every Wednesday from 3 to 8 PM. If interested, here is the link: [https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=PHhv1m\\_hnUSGNeChhs-Cu0YniWh39OtKop0NL8J3gF1UMehKN0NMN0dQNFITNUFWMU1HTIQ1QTRC4u](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=PHhv1m_hnUSGNeChhs-Cu0YniWh39OtKop0NL8J3gF1UMehKN0NMN0dQNFITNUFWMU1HTIQ1QTRC4u)



Asian Services in Action (ASIA) is the largest health and human services agency serving the Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) community of Northeast Ohio. ASIA runs two federally qualified health centers —one in Cleveland and one in Akron—that specialize in linguistically and culturally competent care for immigrants and refugees. ASIA also provides all of the wrap around social services for this community to thrive in Northeast Ohio.

# Outreach

## FAITH AND BLUE – October 5 AT HARDESTY PARK

Faith & Blue initiative is described as the largest nationwide community-law enforcement collaboration in history, designed to bring law enforcement and the community together through the outreach of faith based organizations. Details are available on the attached flyer and at this website: <https://sheriff.summitoh.net/pages/Faith-Blue.html>

# Summit County FAITH & BLUE

Summit County Sheriff Kandy Fatheree invites you to join us for a day of fun and fellowship at our 4th annual Summit Faith & Blue! The Faith & Blue initiative is the largest nationwide community-law enforcement collaboration in history, designed to bring law enforcement and the community together through the reach of faith-based organizations.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5<sup>th</sup>

### 11:00am – 2:00pm

Free Event!

## Hardesty Park

All Are Welcome!

### 1615 W. Market St, Akron, OH 44313

Live Performances Games & Contests “Walkie Talkie” Fun Run/Walk  
Obstacle Course Food & Drink Touch-a-Truck Mounted Unit  
Giveaways ...and more!

Law enforcement, houses of worship, and community organizations wishing to participate can sign up at [summitfaithandblue.com](http://summitfaithandblue.com) or by scanning this QR code:



[SummitFaithandBlue.com](http://SummitFaithandBlue.com)

SLATER & ZURZ.

#SummitFaithandBlue

# Outreach

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## FIRST SERVE

This service day coincides with our own ELCA Day of Service. Although some of their activities take place in the afternoon, most are listed as all day or morning only. Detailed information is available at this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/first-serve-registration-2024-registration-952585738587>

Here is a list of the projects offered this year:

- Elizabeth Park: Mulch and Weed Pavilion.
- Elizabeth Park: Mulch and Weed Playground
- Elizabeth Park: Stain Swinging Chairs
- Cascade Village: Build Entrance Gate
- Colonial Hills Housing: Landscape Refresh
- Colonial Hills Housing: Litter Pick Up
- Colonial Hills Housing: Paint Porch Overhangs
- Exchange House: Stain Back Deck
- Exchange and Maker House: Stain Front Porch Floors
- Findley CLC: Create Notes of Encouragement
- Findley CLC: Poverty Simulation Volunteer
- FCCH: Prep Meals for Grace House Staff
- Forest Hill CLC: Bike Rodeo
- Forest Hill CLC: Garden and Weed Flowerbeds
- Forest Hill CLC: Paint New Hopscotch
- Forest Hill CLC: Soccer Clinic for Kids
- Forest Hill CLC-FAMILY FRIENDLY: North Hill Rocks
- Forest Hill CLC: Lunch Prep Team
- Grace House: Memorial Wall Install
- NH Comm House: Install Privacy Fence
- NHS - FAMILY FRIENDLY: Teacher Gift Bags
- NHS - FAMILY FRIENDLY: Cleaning Classroom Toys
- NHS: Playground Clean Up
- NHS: Power Wash Preschool Mural & Touch Up Paint
- NHS: Paint Lockers in Girl's Volleyball
- NHS: Wash Windows First Floor Level
- NHS: Preschool Mud Table Refresh
- Rooted In Christ: Sanctuary Tasks
- Rooted in Christ: Dining Room Tasks
- Rooted In Christ: Paint Fascia
- Residential Deck Build: Renovate, Build Front Deck
- Children's Center at VV: Build Covered Sandbox

## LOOKING AHEAD

ELCA Day of Service – September 8

DLM

2024 DLM DATES		
	In person	Delivery
September	14	27
October	12	25
November	9	22
December	14	20

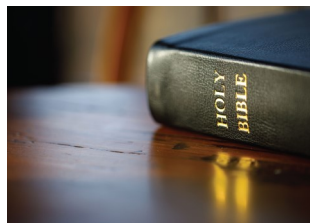
LoF Laundry Ministry

These are all the last Wednesday of each month except December:

- September 25
- October 30
- November 27
- December 18

## Growth & Learning

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### **Let the Bible Come Alive in Your Life with Northern Illinois Online Bible Study**

More than ever we need to hear and understand God's words of promise and love in the Bible. For four years now a growing group of Christians have met every Monday evening at 7 p.m. **Central Time**, for about an hour of prayerful reading and study of Scripture, always focusing on those promises and that love in Christ. That group is called Northern Illinois Online Bible Study, or NIOBS; yet members gather on Zoom from as far away as Nebraska and Virginia.

This **September 9**, NIOBS will start a new academic year with an eight-Monday study called "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible." We will use a video by one of the world's best teachers of Scripture, Dr. Mark Allan Powell, emeritus professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, and prolific author. In fact, on September 9, Dr. Powell will join our discussion live via Zoom, for a session you will not want to miss.

This will be an excellent opportunity to join a NIOBS study to see if it is right for you. To join up you can contact Pastor John Seraphine via email at [heatherhopefarm@gmail.com](mailto:heatherhopefarm@gmail.com) to be put on the email reminder list; or use the following Zoom link on September 9 or any Monday evening at 7 p.m. Central Time:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88546520947?pwd=ISb4bvFmQcQRfUiT1hoFoHCr0jGd63.1>



### **Faith Book Club Opens Year with Novel "Sold on a Monday"**

**2 p.m.  
Tuesday, September 17  
In the Youth Room**

Faith's book club opens its 2024-2025 year with the novel *Sold on a Monday*, by Kristina McMorris. Now in its seventeenth year of existence, the group will **meet in the Youth Room on Tuesday, September 17, 2023 at 2 p.m.** Members of Faith and their friends and neighbors are welcome to attend and encouraged to participate in the discussion or just listen and enjoy our conversation.

*Sold on a Monday*: A Novel by Kristina McMorris 2 CHILDREN FOR SALE. In 1931, near Philadelphia, ambitious reporter Ellis Reed photographs the gut-wrenching sign posted beside a pair of siblings on a farmhouse porch. With the help of newspaper secretary Lily Palmer, Ellis writes an article to accompany the photo. Capturing the hardships of American families during the Great Depression, the feature story generates national attention and Ellis's career skyrockets. But the piece also leads to consequences more devastating than he and Lily ever imagined - and it will risk everything they value to unravel the mystery and set things right. Inspired by a newspaper photo that stunned readers throughout the country, *Sold on a Monday* is a powerful novel of ambition, redemption, love, and family.

For more information about FLC's book club, please contact leaders Marilyn Wilson and Steve Thompson. Or read our online information about the club, summaries and dates of all the books we'll read this year, and our current study guide for the McMorris book (<https://www.faithlutheranchurch.org/>, Ministries, Adults, FLC Book Club).

# FaithKids & Junior Youth Group

**Welcome Pastor Sarah Courtney!** Faith is delighted to introduce Pastor Sarah as our new Coordinator of Children's Ministry! Please read her welcome letter on the next page. She is passionate about children's ministry and has been involved at Faith for some time already! She taught the FaithKids Sunday School class, partnered with Dineen on a Good Friday event for children, and co-directed 2024 Vacation Bible School. She brings an energy and enthusiasm to her work, and the children leave having learned about God's love and Christ's church. We are so excited to call her to this position!

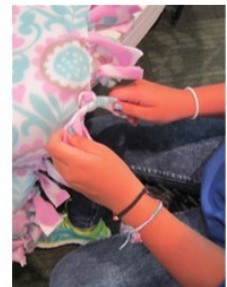


## Sunday, September 8 - Day of Service

Join us for a single 10 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary **Special sermon featuring puppets by Daniel & Kaylan Hyter, hosted by Em Antal!** **You don't want to miss this!**

Holy Trinity will join us this day and participate in the Service Projects in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. Please plan to stay and help with:

- 👉 Fleece blanket tying for Akron Children's Hospital
- 👉 Lutheran World Relief School Kits  
Stuff sling bags assembly line style!
- 👉 Visitor bag decorating



Evangelical  
Lutheran  
Church in America

**God's work.  
Our hands.**



## Sunday, September 15 - Classes resume

FaithKids and Junior Youth return **9:50 a.m.—10:30 a.m.** Students can exit early service in time for upstairs session. Families who attend 10:30 worship, please come early (9:50) and enjoy coffee hour while your child participates in faith building activities. Pastor Sarah Courtney will be coordinating our Sunday School ministry! Children preschool age through 2nd grade are in FaithKids and meet upstairs. Students 3rd-4th-5th grade are in Junior Youth Group and meet in the Library.



# Growth & Learning

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Dear Faith Lutheran Family,

I am overjoyed and deeply honored to introduce myself as your new Coordinator of Children's Ministries. My name is Pastor Sarah Courtney, and I am thrilled to embark on this exciting journey with all of you.

My path to ministry has been one of profound growth and fulfillment. I was ordained in the United Church of Christ and have had the privilege of serving in various pastoral roles. My journey began as the sole pastor at the First Congregational Church of South Windsor, CT. From there, I served as the associate pastor at the First Congregational Church of Tallmadge, and later, I was blessed to co-pastor with my husband, Andrew, at the First Congregational Church of Twinsburg. These experiences have shaped my ministry and deepened my passion for nurturing faith communities and having children love their faith and relationship with God.

For the past five years, I have been a stay-at-home mom, cherishing the time spent raising our three wonderful children—Asher, Annabelle, and Samuel. You may have seen us around as we attended the second service and I taught the FaithKids Sunday School Program last year. My husband, Andrew, continues to serve as an Army chaplain in the National Guard while also working as a cybersecurity consultant for IBM.

As I step into this new role at Faith Lutheran Church, I bring with me a deep passion for making church life vibrant and engaging, particularly for our children's ministry and Vacation Bible School. I believe that church should be a place of joy, discovery, and connection for people of all ages, and I am committed to creating an environment where everyone feels welcomed, loved and inspired.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve this community in this new role, and I look forward to getting to know each of you. Together, we will explore the wonders of faith, support one another in our spiritual journeys, and make Faith Lutheran a place where God's love shines brightly.

Thank you for welcoming me into your church family. I am excited about the future we will build together and the memories we will create as we grow in our faith!

With gratitude and joy,

**Pastor Sarah**

Coordinator of Children's Ministries



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY STAFF CHANGE

After 13 years of serving as the Coordinator of Children's Ministries at Faith Lutheran Church, I am passing the torch to Pastor Sarah Courtney, who has already partnered with me many times with FaithKids and VBS activities. I am beyond grateful for her leadership and trust the work of teaching the littlest ones in our midst will thrive! I will remain in my position as Director of the Preschool and maintain a connection between the preschool and the church. I plan to help out with children's ministry as a volunteer when not being a grandma!

I give thanks for the many people who have participated in children's ministry over the years, those who said, "Yes!" when I asked for help and assistance. May willingness to serve God's children continue as the body of Christ grows in our midst and into the world! I implore you to continue to welcome the little children and love them as Jesus loves you! And say "Yes!" to Pastor Sarah when she asks for some help! :)

Below, in these letters that spell THANKS!, are just some of those who have helped me with FaithKids, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Camp Mowana Retreats, and more! Fond memories and great stories of children's ministry with each one! You are all blessed to be a blessing! And I am grateful for your partnership in ministry! Let your light shine so that they can see your good works and give glory to God in heaven!



### Miss Dineen



## Growth & Learning



Teachers and students are getting ready for a new school year!

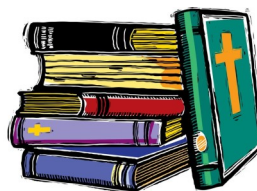
Over the summer the staff participated in an amazing training at the Main Library hosted by beloved children's musician Jim Gill! We are ready to start the year with a song in our hearts!

We welcome Kelly Fischer as Assistant Teacher to the MWF Threes Class. Kelly has been a sub with us and now adds regular staff member to her resume! We added substitute teacher Christine Rees to our regular Early Drop Off and the all-day students Lunch Bunch. We give thanks to God for a strong and devoted staff, who love teaching the little children in our care!

We are thankful for a healthy substitute roster, something that will help keep our Preschool classes in session when teachers are absent!

Faith Church member, Preschool Board member, and Registered Nurse Cindy Boswell will conduct CPR/First Aid In Person Training for our staff this month. We are so grateful to her for sharing her skills with us!

Watch for information about our returning popular Fall Fundraiser Butterbraids next month! Many Faith Church members order to enjoy their pastries for the holidays. Thank you for supporting Faith Lutheran Preschool!



### **3rd Thursday Women's Bible Study Thursday, September 19 10 a.m. in the Youth Room**

Third Thursday Bible Study will continue covering the Book of Acts--from Acts 11:1 to Acts 15:41. This session will include a partial viewing of the Amazon Prime video: *Acts: The Acts of the Apostles*, which is brought to life through the eyes of Luke visualizing his chronology of the activity of the apostles--post Jesus. After the viewing of approximately 5 chapters of Acts, discussion will ensue.

All women are invited to join the group on Thursday, September 19, at 10 a.m. in the Youth Room. If you have questions, please contact Bonnie at 330-606-3230, or [janellebonnie@gmail.com](mailto:janellebonnie@gmail.com). Zoom participants are welcome!"



### **Men of Faith Bible Study and Discussion Group 9 a.m. in the Youth Room September 21**

**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](mailto:geoffrey.whidden@gmail.com) or Karl Demuth, [karl-demuth@gmail.com](mailto:karl-demuth@gmail.com).

## Growth & Learning

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The logo for flcyouth, featuring the text "flcyouth" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font on a blue rectangular background.

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



**Thank you** to the youth and parents who helped make **keychains for Akron PRIDE!** Without you it would not have been possible!

**Confirmation Orientation** for our new 6th grade youth (current 7th grade youth/parents are also being asked to attend as a refresher!) will be held immediately following second service (11:30 a.m.) on September 15, in the Youth Room. We are also inviting youth from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church to participate. It is another great way for our congregations to collaborate.

**Confirmation Learning Saturdays** have been set for the following dates:

- #1 - September 28
- #2 - November 23
- #3 - March 15
- #4 - Sunday, April 27

With summer break coming to an end, the new **Youth Calendar and Scheduled-to-Serve** documents will be sent the first week of September to all youth/families in grades 6-12 via email and will also be posted on the Band App!

The invite for our annual **Back-To-School event** will be sent via email and Band App. Please make sure you pay attention to your email so that we can get the best date for everyone!



### ACME RECEIPTS = CASH FOR OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS

It's that time of the year again; the **Acme Community Cashback** program is now in full swing (**receipts dated 8/1/24 - 2/15/25**). Please save your Acme receipts to benefit our youth programs! There are collection boxes in the Welcome Center, Narthex, as well as the counter outside of the Fellowship Hall.



## **In Our Prayers:**

### **Health Concerns:**

Tommy Gorman  
Faith member Jared Borodkin  
Faith member Pastor Tim Keeler  
Faith member Joyce Lange  
Faith members Ken & Peggy Messick  
Faith member Dede Morrison  
Faith member Terry Vernon

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

### **In Times of Loss:**

### **Special Prayers**

For all students, teachers, administrators and school staff members as another school year begins, that they may learn and grow together.

### **With Thanksgiving:**

For a Church Picnic filled with fun, fellowship and good food, and for all who worked hard to make it happen.

### **QR Code Prayer Requests:**

For HC, for strength, guidance, perseverance and comfort.

For Brandon, for good health, restored health, strength, guidance and perseverance.

# SEPTEMBER

## Schedule to Serve

Date	Service	Altar	Communion	Flowers	Lay Reader	Ushers	Youth
1	9 a.m.	Kit Scheetz	Fedearia Sweval - SE Terry Vernon - SE Polly Dobkin - SP John Weisend -SP Dana Singer - B	Faith Gardeners	Deb Gottas	Darry Kleinhenz Paul Skerlong	<b>Acolyte:</b> Cayden Cloninger <b>Assistant:</b> Elyse Vincent
	10:30 a.m.	Bonnie Janelle	Bonnie Janelle			Geoff Whidden	
8	10 a.m.	Kit Scheetz		Art & Sarah Kaufman	Loralee Daily	Darry Kleinhenz Paul Skerlong Becky Kuhar Alice Gilmore	
15	9 a.m.	Kit Scheetz	Polly Dobkin - SE John Weisend - SE Fedearia Sweval -SP Terry Vernon - SP Dana Singer - B	Lynne Poulton	Martha Mazak	Darry Kleinhenz Paul Skerlong	<b>Acolyte:</b> Cyrus Jezewski <b>Assistant:</b> Crosby Jezewski
	10:30 a.m.	Tana Fligor	Tana Fligor			Nancy Hooper	
22	9 a.m.	Kit Scheetz		Karin Allen	Terry Anderson	Darry Kleinhenz Paul Skerlong	
	10:30 a.m.	Deb Allen	Deb Allen			Cathy Medlen	
29	9 a.m.	Kit Scheetz		Bobbie Fitt	Martha Keeler	Darry Kleinhenz Paul Skerlong	
	10:30 a.m.	Deb Allen	Deb Allen			Kim Kennedy	

SE - Server  
SP - Supplier  
B - Bread



# September



## Calendar of Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Grades 6-12 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 7:30 AA	<b>2</b>  8 p.m. AA	<b>3</b> 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 5:30 p.m. Preschool Open House 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	<b>4</b> First Day of Preschool	<b>5</b> 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10 a.m. One Service ELCA Day of Service Activities 7:30 AA	<b>9</b> 10 a.m. St. Cecelia 8 p.m. AA	<b>10</b> 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 6 p.m. Faith Endowment 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. DLM @ Holy Trinity
<b>15</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Education 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound Confirmation Orientation 7:30 AA	<b>16</b> 7 p.m. Congregation Council 8 p.m. AA	<b>17</b> 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 2 p.m. Book Club 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 3rd Thursday Women's Bible Study	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9 a.m. Men of Faith
<b>22</b> 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Education 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 7:30 AA	<b>23</b> 10 a.m. St. Cecelia 7 p.m. Gardeners of Greater Akron 8 p.m. AA	<b>24</b> 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	<b>25</b> 5 p.m. LoF Laundry Ministry	<b>26</b> 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9 - 11 a.m. Confirmation Learning Saturday
<b>29</b> 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Christian Education 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound Worship Team 7:30 AA	<b>30</b> 10:30 a.m. Workshop: Getting Your Affairs in Order 8 p.m. AA					



Please visit our website.

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

**Worship God. Grow in faith. Offer hope.**