



VOICE OF FAITH

Our Mission: "Reaching, Teaching, Serving, and Sharing Christ"

January 2026

¹⁴ I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. ¹⁵ For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

1 Corinthians 4:14-15

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

2012 Sullivan Trail, Easton PA 18040

(T) 610-253-1625 (E) faithlcms@outlook.com
(W) faithlcms.com (F) facebook.com/faithlcmseaston
(Y) youtube.com/faithlcmseaston

FAITH LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

2012 Sullivan Trail, Easton PA 18040

(T) 610-253-1572 (E) faithlcmspreschool@gmail.com
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(F) facebook.com/faithlcmspreschool

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH LEADERS

Hon. Rev. Scot Kerns 618-920-3479
kernsds@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE

Office Administrator Jean E Wehrle
Hours - Mon to Fri 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Phone 610-253-1625
Email faithlcms@outlook.com

ELECTED COUNCIL

President John Murdoch
Vice President/Ministry Chair David Hanson
Secretary Jackie Morrow
Treasurer ****Position Open****
Finance Board Deb Paolini
Elders Board Greg Pioppi
Property Mgmt Board ****Position Open****
Preschool Board Janet Murray
At-Large Cong. Member ****Position Open****
At-Large Cong. Member Lorraine Varela
At-Large Cong. Member Donna Lugg

MINISTRIES

Children Jackie Morrow
Youth Bambi Guptill
Adult, Fellowship & Social Jeanne Iacono
Assimilation & Stewardship ****Position Open****
Evangelism ****Position Open****

CHURCH CONTACTS

Faith Lutheran Preschool Jenny D'Angelo
Financial Secretary Kyle Garon
Organist Sue Tucker
Security Greg Pioppi
Sunday School Superintendent Carrie Midgley
Ushers Gary Sandt
Voice of Faith Editor Jean E Wehrle
Worship Committee Greg Pioppi



NOTE:

Meeting dates, times and location may change.
Please call ahead to confirm. See contact below.

55+ BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Kerns kernsds@gmail.com
11:00 am Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall

ALTAR GUILD

See Judy Dilts

ACOLYTES

Confirmands - Talk to Pastor Kerns

LCMS READ-ALONG BOOK CLUB

Pastor Kerns kernsds@gmail.com
12:00 noon Mondays in Fellowship Hall

LWML - Lutheran Women's Missionary League

See Janet Murray or Pastor Kerns
12:00 noon Fourth Sunday in Fellowship Hall

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Ted Cheung
8:00 am First Saturday at Nazareth Diner

THRIVENT

See Pastor Kerns

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Mary Ruth Murdoch
11:30 am Thursdays in Fellowship Hall



ELDERS

HEAD ELDER Greg Pioppi

Ted Cheung
Gary Sandt
Frank VandeVeegaete

Erik Wendt
Tom Zaro



Hello my name is.... You have probably seen those sticker nametags at some point in your life. They are definitely helpful if you are at a party or event, so that you might know people's names to introduce yourself and to likewise be able to call someone by their name, without asking. A name is personal and just knowing someone's name can really help to break the ice. I happen to like the idea of nametags and often muse to myself, we have such nice nametag holders in the narthex of our church that collect dust.

Certainly, using nametags would help our visitors feel a little less intimidated. Yet that is not the real subject of this month's article. Instead, I figured we could touch on what goes in a name. Not your name, but mine. Let me start off by saying this hasn't been an issue in our church, yet I figured it would be worthy for us to consider.

Some of you might not even know my full name. Did you know my name is actually Douglas Scot Kerns II? Yes, before you even ask, of course I was named after my father. He would be Douglas Scot Kerns (the first, technically). So, truth is, while my first name is Douglas, I have actually never gone by Douglas in my life. Instead, I have always gone by my middle name which is Scot. Yet it strikes me as absolutely foreign and a little bit disrespectful when I go to another congregation and I have some of their members who refer to me as Pastor Scot. While they are no doubt trying to be respectful, they are truly misses a larger and more important point.

The point is I am your pastor! Your pastor who is called by God to preach the Word faithfully and rightly administer the Sacraments. Your pastor who is there for you for baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and even burials. Your pastor who walks with you and guides you through all of life, both the highest highs and the lowest lows. I am your pastor, thus pastor is my first name for you. In Latin, the word for pastor actually means shepherd and emphasizes care for the flock of God and the spiritual guidance that a pastor as a shepherd gives to the sheep.

Pastor is not the exclusive title that could be used for someone in my position. Sometimes in more formal settings, you might use terms like Reverend, Minister, or Cleric. All three of these titles convey roughly the same amount of formality and commonality among clergy yet are used in different circumstances. Speaking of circumstances, as a pastor who frequently wears his clerical collar out in public, the title by which I am most often addressed is Father. I must look very Roman Catholic!

Truth be told, you are more than welcome to call me Father Kerns if old Roman Catholic sensibilities kick in; it is totally acceptable. It is way more appropriate than Pastor Scot or Scot. Paul even refers to himself as Father to the people in Corinth in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. (1 Corinthians 4:15) The idea of Father is similar to that of Pastor in that it embodies care and guidance of the people of God. That is what it is all about. I care about you and I am there for you as indeed your pastor. Please feel free to continue calling me Pastor Kerns or Pastor.

- Pastor Kerns

SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING

Sunday, January 18, 2026

Immediately after Sunday worship, join us in Fellowship Hall for this Special Voters Meeting to discuss restricted funds.

PLEASE RSVP IN REALM or feel free to call the church office at 610-253-1625 or email faithlcms@outlook.com.



COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 8, 2025

Council President John Murdoch called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Council members present were John Murdoch, Pastor Kerns, Greg Pioppi, Jackie Morrow, Debra Paolini, Janet Murray, Donna Lugg, and Lorraine Varela. VP Elect David Hanson was also present.

No motions were made or passed this month.

Please mark a Special Voters Meeting on your calendar for Sunday, January 18, 2026, following worship. This meeting is being held for the purpose of discussing

and voting to un-restrict some of the funds that have been classified as "Restricted Funds" on the congregation's balance sheet.

Complete meeting minutes are available by request in the church office after their approval at next month's Council meeting. The next Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 12, at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Morrow, Council Secretary

RAMBLINGS FROM THE HEAD ELDER

HOW BUTTER FUELED THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

Having just finished up the Christmas baking season, I found this story, written by Dave Roos quite interesting.

The story begins in Medieval Europe, where "fast days" were a big deal. According to "Butter, a Rich History" by Elaine Khosrova, the tradition started with monks abstaining from eating any animal products on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and all during Lent, the 40-day period leading up to Easter. Meat and dairy was believed to fuel lust, writes Khosrova. Eventually the Church extended the fast day rules to all Christians - no meat, milk, eggs, animal fats or butter.

The problem was that the Roman Catholic Church was centered in, you guessed it, Rome. And people in Southern Europe didn't eat a lot of butter back in the 15th and 16th century. Their diet was dominated by fish and olive oil, both of which were totally acceptable on fast days. Up north in dairy-farming countries like France and Germany, cutting butter from the diet was a much bigger deal. After losing meat and cheese, there was pretty much nothing left. And since fast days covered almost half the calendar year, the butter ban was akin to starvation.

For well-connected royalty and other wealthy faithful, the church was known to grant reprieves or "dispensations" on the butter ban. Other powerful petitioners made contributions to Rome - alms for chapel construction and money to fund the crusades - in return for exemptions to eat butter.

Meanwhile, the poor faithful in Luther's parish were stuck with the "no butter" rule. Even worse, enterprising exporters from Southern Europe were selling oil to the northern countries to use on fast days. Not only was the oil much more expensive compared to local butter, but it was low quality.

"In Rome, they make a mockery fasting, while forcing us to eat an oil they themselves would not use to grease their slippers," Luther wrote in "An open letter to the Christian nobility of the German nation" published in 1520.

But the worst offense, according to Luther, was that some clergymen were traveling around Germany selling indulgences for the sin of eating butter on fast days. Indulgences were official church pardons that had been part of Roman Catholic doctrine for centuries, but were only to be given under the condition of contrite confessions. There is that dirty word, INDULGENCES.

"They sell us the right to eat foods forbidden on fast days... but they have stolen that same liberty from us with their ecclesiastical laws," wrote Luther. "Eating butter, they say, is a greater sin than to lie, blaspheme, or indulge in impurity."

"It seems hardly a coincidence," writes butter historian Khosrova, "that most of the dairy-rich countries producing and using butter were the same nations that broke away from the Roman Catholic Church in the sixteenth century."

"That was one of Luther's biggest teachings - nothing about eating, drinking, sleeping, marrying is sin. Not believing in God is sin," says Kirsi Stjerna, Professor of Lutheran History and Theology at the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. "In other words, everything is cool. Eating butter is cool. One of the reasons why the Reformation was so successful was that Luther radically changed how people thought about what's wrong and what's permissible."

Luther's teachings, which spread rapidly thanks to the new-fangled printing press, forever altered the course of Christian history...and the sweets we eat at Christmas.

IHS, Greg Pioppi, Chairman Board of Elders

4TH ANNUAL FAITH AND FITNESS CLASS

Dear Members of Faith Lutheran Church,

As part of a community outreach program, I would like to offer the 4th Annual Faith and Fitness Class. This would be a 6 week program which would meet on Tuesdays and Fridays for approximately 60-90 minutes. **This 6 week program starts February 10th and end March 20, 2026. The classes will be from 10:30 am to 12 noon in Fellowship Hall.** These classes are intended for those individuals that may answer yes to any of these 3 questions:

- **Do you use a cane or a walker?**
- **Do you feel unsteady on your feet?**
- **Have you fallen in the past year?**

Of course others can join us, but this will not be a high impact exercise class. It will be offered to get people moving and offer some strengthening/balancing exercises to help prevent falls.

Emphasis is placed on flexibility, balance and core strength. Each routine will offer a modification to meet the ability of the participant. The first class will include an overview of terminology, such as the importance of warm up, cool down, sets, reps, etc.. Activity will most likely be 30-45 minutes.

An informal devotion will be offered during this time as well. This devotional time can include a time of thanks, prayer requests, perhaps a reading from Portals of Prayers or a short inspirational story from Guidepost, or a devotion from the Lutheran Hour Ministries. Participants could also reflect on their favorite bible passage and why it means so much to them. Simply, a time of thanks and sharing what makes us faithful.

I believe in having a set start time and end time, so participants can fit other activities into their busy lifestyles. I am willing to offer blood pressure monitoring and educating members on how to monitor their own pulse and certainly remind participants and members of our church on where the AED is located.

About Me:

I have a teaching degree in Health and Physical Education and a Masters degree in Clinical Exercise Physiology. I spent 40 years in the field of Cardiac and Pulmonary rehabilitation and retired in January of 2022 from Lehigh Valley Health Network. I look forward to sharing my skill set to members of Faith Lutheran Church and perhaps friends from the community.

Please note that my email address is xxxxxxxx redacted xxxxxx and my cell number is x redacted x. We will cancel due to inclement weather to ensure that we remain safe and avoid fall risks with icy conditions. I ask that you contact me directly if there is any question if we would be meeting. If there are any questions or concerns that would like to be addressed privately, please do not hesitate to contact me.

PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX or you can contact myself or the church office directly to add your name to the list. Days missed due to inclement weather will not be made up. The following are the dates that we will meet:

Tuesdays	Fridays
Feb 10	Feb 13
Feb 17	Feb 20
Feb 24	Feb 27
March 3	March 6
March 10	March 13
March 17	March 20

- Darlene Garon



Please Note!

55+ Bible Study held on Tuesdays at 11:00 am will be **ON BREAK** from Feb 10 to Mar 17. 55+ Bible Study will resume March 24.

KIDS' CORNER



Welcome to the "Kids' Corner," where families and congregant members can stay up to date with Sunday School material and Children's Ministry offerings!

Gingerbread House Decorating was a blast! Thank you to all who made this a fun event by donating candy or attending.

Coming up this month will be the **Children's Ministry's 3rd annual Baby Supplies Drive benefitting Moms Offering Mom's Support (MOMS)**. MOMS is a local organization that helps families in need in the Easton area. Please see included flyer for accepted items. Donations may be dropped off in the Narthex from January 4 to January 18, 2026.

For questions about Children's Ministry offering, please contact Jackie Morrow

FLC Children's Ministry

Baby Supplies Drive

January 4th - 18th

Children's Ministry will be collecting new and gently used baby items to benefit Moms Offering Moms Support (MOMS), a local Easton organization supporting families in need.

Items can be dropped off in the church narthex. Have a something too big to bring in? Contact Jackie Morrow at 215-262-1895 to arrange a pick up time!

Items Needed:

- Clothes (all seasons, preemie - 6T): sleepsacks, swaddles, hats, socks, mittens, blankets, shoes (up to size 10C)
- Diapers (partial or full packs!), wipes + cream (NEW only), changing pads, diaper bags
- Strollers, backpacks/slings
- Bottles, utensils, cups, unopened formula and baby food, bibs, sterilizers
- Bassinets, monitors, mobiles
- Toys, pacifiers (NEW), books, playmats, bouncers, small swings
- Bathtubs, towels, shampoos and lotions (NEW)

Items NOT accepted: cribs, mattresses, swings, pack n plays, highchairs, very large toys, car seats

Faith Lutheran Preschool Newsletter January 2026

January 1 and 2nd - No Preschool
Happy New Year!

Monday, January 19- No Preschool
Martin Luther King Holiday

Snow Days

Faith Lutheran Preschool follows the Easton School District for school closures due to inclement weather. In the event of inclement weather, please tune to local TV and radio stations and look for EASD closings. The following applies...

❄️ EASD Closed
Preschool Closed ❄️

🍏 EASD 2 hour delay
Preschool opens at 10:00 a.m.
EASD FID (Flexible Instruction Day)
Preschool Closed

Looking Ahead

February 16 - NO SCHOOL
Presidents' Day

Enrichment Programs

If any junior or senior students are interested in joining the enrichment classes, please ask your teacher for more information.

Juniors - Tuesdays
Seniors - Thursdays

Camp Outs

for Juniors and Seniors
(during regular school hours)

Friday, January 16

Tots will have A Snowy Day Celebration
Tuesday, January 13

**Registration
for 2026-2027 School Year
Begins:**

February 2nd - for current students

February 9th - for siblings and church members

February 17th - Open to all

PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Held December 18, 2025



COFFEE & CATECHISM

**Every Sunday after Worship
Fellowship Hall**

ALL MEMBERS are highly encouraged to join us weekly after Sunday worship in Fellowship Hall as we learn about our Faith - what we teach, believe and confess. Ends by noon!



55+ BIBLE STUDY

**Tuesdays at 11:00 am
Fellowship Hall**

All are welcome to join Pastor Kerns weekly on Tuesdays for Bible Study specifically for adults age 55 and older.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Sign Up Poster in Narthex

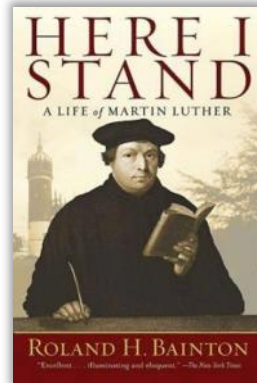
Cut flower bouquets beautify the altar while reminding us of the fragility of life. Dedicate flowers in memory of loved ones or in honor of a special family occasion such as birthdays, retirements, or anniversaries! Please make \$30 check payable to: Faith Lutheran Church, Memo - Altar Flowers



LCMS READ-ALONG BOOK CLUB

**Mondays at 12:00 pm
Fellowship Hall**

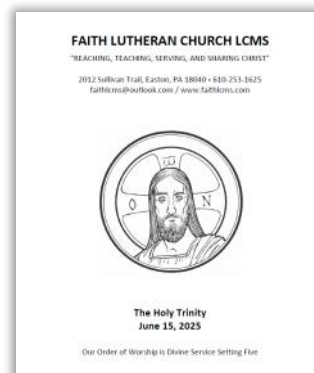
Read only during book club meetings. Join us every Monday at noon. Come as you are and enjoy the current story. There is always time to catch up on chapters. Join anytime!



SPONSOR A BULLETIN

Sign Up on the Bulletin Board

Help defray the cost of printing by sponsoring Faith's weekly bulletin! Dedications and anonymous Sponsors are welcome. Sign up on the Bulletin Board. One sponsor per week. \$20 per Sponsor. Cash, or Check written out to Faith Lutheran Church. Credit Cards accepted via your Realm Profile under the Giving tab (be sure to select the Bulletin Sponsor Fund).



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday, January 3 at 8:00 am
The Nazareth Diner

Held the first Saturday of every month, join Ted Cheung and your fellow Faith Lutheran members for fellowship and prayer.

Men's Prayer Breakfast held at:

The Nazareth Diner
581 South Broad Street
Nazareth, PA 18064



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays at 11:30 am
Fellowship Hall

**** No Study on Jan 1 ****

Join Mary Ruth Murdoch for Bible Study in Fellowship Hall on Thursdays from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. Current study topic is the **Book of Psalms**.

See Mary Ruth for more details or email



FAITH LUTHERAN FAMILY PRAYERS

Please include the following families in your prayers this month. They will also be remembered in a special way during Sunday Worship.



Faith Families

01/04	Greg and Tracy Pioppi
01/11	Robert Pittman
01/18	Joyce Schumacher
01/25	Jack and Sharon Smickle

Richard Pitner
Gary, DonnaLee and Lori Sandt
Billie-Jo and Jason Serrao & Family
Nancy and Bernie Smith

Military Families

Kevin Jiorle
Justin Muhlback
Spencer Muhlback

Stephen Sargent
Zachary Tolson



January

[REDACTED]

Faith Lutheran Members - Did We Miss Your Birthday?
Update on Realm or email faithlcms@outlook.com

January



Did We Miss Your Anniversary?
Update on Realm or email
faithlcms@outlook.com



Next Meeting is
Sunday, JANUARY 25, 2026
at 12:00 pm
in Fellowship Hall

Do you desire to share the Gospel message, and have a heart to serve? Join us to *Serve the Lord with gladness! (Psalm 100:2).* LWML meetings held the fourth Sunday of the month at noon in Fellowship Hall.

Visit [Lutheran Women's Missionary League \(LWML\)](#) for more information.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS
with Prayers and Cards

VISITATION TEAM
Pastor Kerns & Gary Sandt



[REDACTED]



Worship*

Sun, January 4

Officiant:
Assistant/Reader:
Usher:
Greeter:
Organist:

9:45 am

Hon. Rev. Scot Kerns
Greg Pioppi, Frank VandeVeegaete
Sonya and John Bronico
Deb and Ed Paolini
Sue Tucker

Sun, January 11

Officiant:
Assistant:
Reader:
Usher:
Greeter:
Organist:

9:45 am

Hon. Rev. Scot Kerns
Ted Cheung, Greg Pioppi
Frank VandeVeegaete, Jr.
Darlene Garon and Judy Dilts
Christine and Stephen Gold
Sue Tucker

Wed, January 14

Officiant:
Assistant/Reader:
Organist:

7:00 pm

Hon. Rev. Scot Kerns
Erik Wendt
Sue Tucker

Sun, January 18

Officiant:
Assistant/Reader:
Usher:
Greeter:
Organist:

9:45 am

Hon. Rev. Scot Kerns
Tom Zaro, Frank VandeVeegaete
Sirma and Kyle Garon
Gary, DonnaLee and Lori Sandt
Sue Tucker

Sun, January 25

Officiant:
Assistant:
Reader:
Usher:
Greeter:
Organist:

9:45 am

Hon. Rev. Scot Kerns
Erik Wendt, Gary Sandt
Jackie Morrow
Deb and Ed Paolini
Sonya and John Bronico
Sue Tucker



* WORSHIP SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Please check the website and/or weekly bulletins for the most up-to-date information.

WORSHIP NOTES

If you feel unwell, please stay home and worship with us on YouTube. Thank you for helping us keep our members and guests healthy!

FAITH NURSERY

When little ones worship with us, our heavenly Father is thrilled! If any parent feels the need, the childcare room will be open for parents to accompany their child ages 5 and younger during worship.

INCLEMENT WEATHER REMINDER

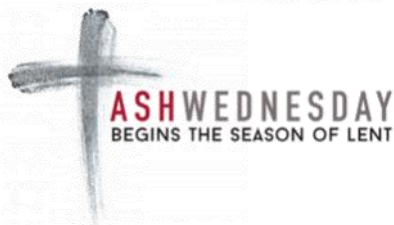
Decision to cancel or hold worship will be determined by officiant and head elder. Check WFMZ 69 for updates!



[youtube.com/faithlcmseaston](https://www.youtube.com/faithlcmseaston)

Be sure to visit our YouTube channel! Weekly worship streamed LIVE every Sunday (subject to change). Videos posted include past weekly and holiday worship, fun kid's messages, and various other videos.

SAVE *The* DATE



Join us for Worship
& Imposition of Ashes
February 18 at 7:00 pm