



VOICE OF FAITH

July 2026



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

2012 Sullivan Trail, Easton PA 18040

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(Y) youtube.com/faithlcmseaston

FAITH LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

2012 Sullivan Trail, Easton PA 18040

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

(W) faithlcms.com/faith-lutheran-preschool

(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
Summer Hours - Mon to Thu 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 ****Position Open****
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

Confirmants - Talk to Pastor Kerns

LCMS READ-ALONG BOOK CLUB

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

LWML - Lutheran Women in Mission

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

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Tom Gorman
8:00 am First Saturday at Nazareth Diner

THRIVENT

Pastor Kerns kernsds@gmail.com

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY >ON SUMMER BREAK<

Mary Ruth Murdoch
11:30 am Thursdays in Fellowship Hall



ELDERS

HEAD ELDER Greg Pioppi

Ted Cheung
Tom Gorman
Gary Sandt

Frank VandeVeegaete
Erik Wendt
Tom Zaro

THE MOM TEST

Greetings in Christ. This month's newsletter article is going to be a little bit different. Rather than writing specifically for a situation within our congregation, this month is an article written for publication to the larger LCMS body.

The Mom Test!

A couple months ago, I got word that there was a meeting between the Council of Presidents and the Joint Faculties of our two LCMS seminaries. Hopefully I am getting these details correct. Apparently, the major theological topic at hand was church's written communion statements. The statements that many churches publish in either their bulletins or have printed on cards in the pews or in some other way putting them in our church's public announcements. These statements hopefully, due to what we teach, believe, and confess, reflect our belief in close or closed communion. See President Harrison's great article, Close, closed, close[d] Communion: Three words, one meaning" June 27, 2024, published in the Reporter. Accordingly, this is what we believe. So, this article will assume that as a starting point.

Although we know that sadly some within our synod, either by omission or commission, functionally practice open communion. Putting the best construction on things, a well thought out and well written communion statement is a good starting point to help those who may not realize that they are practicing open communion within their churches. It is the church at-large that is charged with coming along side our brothers and sisters in Christ and helping them to remain faithful to the Word of God. I would have loved to have seen some kind of model written statements and guidance published similar to what came from the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) and adopted December 2014. This previous publication included actual statements as well as comments as to their faithfulness to our confessions and it would have been great to have had something similar come out of that joint meeting of the Council of Presidents and the Joint Seminary Faculties.

With that in mind, without seeing something new in print coming out of those discussions, I thought I would offer my thoughts on the matter. My thoughts boil down to the Mom Test.

The Mom Test comes from my very specific situation, but I think it will help others to think through evaluating these written communion statements. These written communion statements can be viewed by our very rosy glasses of those within the church and have no measuring gauge to determine how good a published statement is. Other than it doesn't have any spelling or grammatical errors and can be read through reasonably. These are but a starting point and don't provide a real benchmark or criterion for evaluating the communion statement. So I now offer the Mom Test.

The Mom Test boils down to two questions. First, would it stop my mom? Second, is it nice enough for my mom? These two questions form the basis of the Mom Test, but probably need a little bit of explanation in order for them to be applied. A little history: after graduating from seminary and being a few years into being a pastor, my mom decided that she was going to go to school to be a "pastor" in the ELCA. Maybe it was the fact that she thought I only worked one day a week. Just kidding! All kidding aside, she did graduate and is now serving a congregation within the ELCA. My mom, a lesbian ELCA "pastor" who, at least for a few years, was a part of the LCMS. Now, it is with her in mind, as someone who would absolutely take communion if it were available, that we evaluate a written communion statement. Is that statement specific enough to say to her as a "Lutheran" that she is not to take communion while at the same time being broad enough to include also those with whom we share altar and pulpit fellowship. To be clear, our written communion statements must be written in such a way as to make sure that she understands she may not receive communion at our tables. This first question should definitely be taken seriously as we take our communion fellowship seriously as well.

Which then brings us to our second question: Is it nice enough for my mom? Really, it is not just my mom, but anyone's mom. We have, or at least we should have, a way we talk to our own mothers. Which hopefully is nice. While this might not happen all the time, certainly you would hope if you are going to talk to your mother, you would do so in a nice i.e. loving and caring way. When we evaluate a written communion statement that is going to be read by people, we have maybe never had a chance to talk to before, at least we should be able to talk to them with the niceness with which we would talk to our own mothers. It might seem simple, but niceness goes a long way.

The way we write and evaluate our communion statements should pass both of these questions for the sake of the church and for the sake of the people who come through our doors. Christ has called us to care for his people, including guarding and protecting them. It is my hope that the Mom Test might be a helpful way of looking at communion statements in line with the previous guidelines of the CTCR with both clarity and charity as guiding principles. Keeping in mind that at the end of the day the single most important part of any written communion statement is the direction to speak with the pastor prior to taking communion. I hope the Mom Test helps our church! **If you are curious what our congregations written communion statement is, feel free to look inside any bulletin to find it. It passes the Mom Test!**

- Pastor Kerns



IT IS TIME FOR A NEW PICTORIAL CHURCH DIRECTORY!

**Photo Day is
Wednesday, August 5**

Online Photography Scheduling Open
Monday Through Friday

To schedule your photography appointment online, go to www.ucdir.com, click on Photography Session Sign-Up on the right side, enter PA1291 in the Church Code field and enter Faith in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family, please use 2 consecutive time slots. Appointments fill up quickly, so be sure to schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred time.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE 8, 2026

Council President John Murdoch called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Council members present were John Murdoch, Dave Hanson, Pastor Kerns, Jackie Morrow, Greg Pioppi, Debra Paolini, Janet Murray, Donna Lugg, and Lorraine Varela. Congregation member Frank VandeVeegaete, Jr. was also present.

The Council passed two motions this month:

- To accept a photo/information layout for the photos in the upcoming pictorial church directory.
- To invite A.J. Sinisgalli (District Vice President of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund) and his team to evaluate and offer advice on our congregation's financial goals.

Other items of note this month included the installation of Tom Gorman as an Elder, continued plans for celebrating the congregations 75th Anniversary next spring, agenda items for the June Voters Assembly Meeting, current finances, and wrapping up projects around the church.

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, July 13, at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Morrow,
Council Secretary

RAMBLINGS FROM THE HEAD ELDER

With July 4th fast approaching, I thought I would share some facts about our nations up coming anniversary. I have always been a sort of history buff, with history having been one of my favorite subjects in High School. Whenever we had a quiz in any of our Social Study classes, I always seemed to have a large gathering around my desk. It helped that from 8th grade through my Junior year; I had a morning paper route; you remember Newspaper Boys right? I would catch up on all of the local, national and global events while walking my route.

First bit of trivia for you is why the 250th anniversary is called the Semiquincentennial. Well let's break it down beginning with centennial, which means "100 years," and quin, which is a prefix that means "five" (as in quintuplets – a set of five babies), and semi, which is a prefix that means "half" (as in semicircle – half of a circle), then semiquincentennial means half of 500 years which equals 250 years. You all knew that already.

Next we all know the immortal words uttered by one of our founding fathers Patrick Henry, who at the Second Virginia Convention in March of 1775 said "Give me liberty or give me death". Well just six months earlier at the convening of the First Continental Congress he spoke these more profound words that was his call for unity among the 13 colonies if they were to succeed in gaining their independence, "The distinction between Virginians, Pennsylvanians, New Yorkers, and New Englanders, are no more. I am not a Virginian, but an American". At that time, not many colonists thought of themselves as "Americans". I think that he may have been influenced by Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth.

We all learned about the British defeat at the events of Lexington and Concord in April of 1775 and their defeat at the Battle of Bunker Hill in June of 1776, which led King George III to declare the colonists in open rebellion against the crown. But did you know that the Continental Congress did not want to break away from the empire but through two documents, the first called the Olive

Branch Petition, written by Thomas Jefferson of Virginia and edited by John Dickinson, one of the delegates from Pennsylvania. Dickinson was tasked to soften up Jefferson's aggressive tone; they wanted to keep favor with the king. The second writing was called the Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking up Arms. Again, written by Jefferson and edited by Dickinson, to again, tone it down. This was to let the king know that they were defending their rights as Englishmen to be treated as Englishmen. They were sent together in hope that George would read them, come to know that it was not the crown they had problems with but that it was the overreaching of the Parliament and their heavy and sometimes brutal taxation of the colonies. The Congress' desire was that the king would intercede on their behalf. He did not bother to read either of the documents. Slight shades of Martin Luther here.

And last, when did we become the United States of America? When the 13 colonies were first talking about their problems with Parliament, there was no name uniting us, see the paragraph about Patrick Henry. It is thought though that an Irish immigrant by the name of Stephen Moylan originated the name. He had settled in Philadelphia which at the time was the largest city in the colonies. His father was a merchant in Cork, Ireland, which help Stephen to start his own shipping company after his arrival in 1768. With the outbreak of the war in 1775, he sided with the patriots and joined the Continental Army. With his experience in shipping, he helped to outfit the new Continental Navy. He quickly rose through the ranks and by appointment of Congress, was named the second Quartermaster of the Army. As near as historians can tell, it was Moylan who in a letter to a friend, dated January 2, 1776, was the first to call the colonies the United States of America. How the term travelled from there is not documented but we now can see it across the top of that document dated July 4, 1776, **The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America**. Many call it the greatest breakup letter ever written.



In March 2027, we will be celebrating our 75th year as Faith Lutheran Church, a congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Let's celebrate! We will be planning two celebration events and need your help! Two committees will tackle planning these two events.

Worship Service and Potluck

March 14, 2027

- Organize potluck dinner sign up sheets.
- Design an invitation and invite District leadership and local congregations to attend.
- Make announcements to our congregation via Sunday bulletins and announcements, and online.
- Set up and clean up on day of event.
- Recruit additional help as needed.
- Update Council on progress periodically.

Community Celebration Event

Date TBD, 2027

- Decide on type of community event to be held (a dinner, festival, craft fair, etc.).
- Select a date for the event.
- Develop and execute plans for the event.
- Make announcements to our congregation via Sunday bulletins and announcements, and online.
- Advertise in the community via flyers, social media, etc.
- Set up and clean up on day of event.
- Recruit help as needed.
- Update Council on progress periodically.

If you are interested in chairing or participating in either of these important committees, please let Pastor Kerns know.

Let's make 2027 a year of celebration and thanksgiving!



FAITH LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS IN JULY

We hope everyone is having a nice summer and is staying cool! The new Preschool year will be here before we know it.

Our **Annual Christmas in July** is here! Preschool is seeking either the supplies or a \$25 or \$50 Amazon gift card with which Preschool can buy supplies tax exempt. Supplies include Elmer's Glue Sticks, clear glue dots, yellow and neon pink construction paper, black sharpies, band-aids, magic erasers, Lysol Spray and Crayola markers. Starting Sunday July 5, please stop by the Christmas Tree in the Narthex. Thank you for your generosity!



FAITH LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration forms available for download from our website and also available in the church office hallway. Please visit our website for more information at faithlcms.com/faith-lutheran-preschool.

➤➤ NEW CLASS OPTIONS FOR 2026/2027 ◀◀



TOTS CLASS

2 years old

Students must be 2 years old by September 1, 2026

2 Days: Monday and Wednesday from 9:00 am to 11:30 am..... Tuition: \$200/mo

JUNIORS CLASS

3 years old

Students must be 3 years old by September 1, 2026 & Potty Trained

3 Days: Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm..... Tuition: \$240/mo

5 Days: Monday thru Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm..... Tuition: \$300/mo

- Add Extended Learning Monday 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm..... Add \$25/day

- Add Extended Learning Wednesday 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm..... Add \$25/day

SENIORS CLASS

4 years old

Students must be 4 years old by September 1, 2026 & Potty Trained

3 Days: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Tuition: \$240/mo

5 Days: Monday thru Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm..... Tuition: \$300/mo

- Add Extended Learning Monday 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm..... Add \$25/day

- Add Extended Learning Wednesday 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm..... Add \$25/day

** Lunch Bunch available Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm for Juniors and Seniors Not in Extended Learning**
* \$12.00 per Lunch Bunch * You may sign up on a daily basis * Sign Up forms in the Preschool hallway *

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

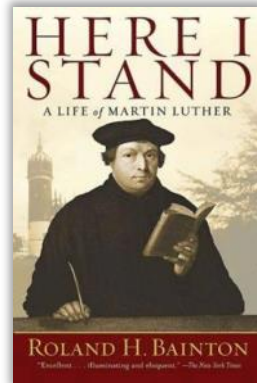
Cut flower bouquets beautify the altar while reminding us of the fragility of life. Dedicate flowers in memory of loved ones or in honor of a special family occasion such as birthdays, retirements, or anniversaries! Please make \$30 check payable to: Faith Lutheran Church, Memo - Altar Flowers



LCMS READ-ALONG BOOK CLUB

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

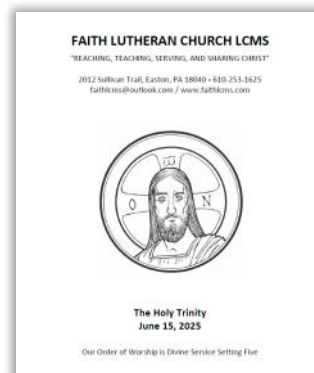
Read only during book club meetings! Join us every Monday at noon. Come as you are and enjoy the current story. There is always time to catch up on chapters. Join anytime!



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, July 11* at 8:00 am
The Nazareth Diner

***Note:** Moved the Second Saturday
in July due to the Holiday!

Held the first Saturday of every
month, join Tom Gorman 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


**ON SUMMER BREAK
JUNE & JULY**

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



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

07/05	Laura and Bob Harrison	Mark and Linda Hasz
07/12	Jill and Jim Hegedus	Roger Hudak
07/19	Laura Jean and Ryan Buck & Adelaide	Jeanne and Paul Iacono
07/26	Kathleen Jiorle & Dylan	Erin Johnson & Family

Military Families

Kevin Jiorle	Stephen Sargent
Justin Muhlbach	Zachary Tolson
Spencer Muhlbach	



July

[REDACTED]

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



[REDACTED]

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



Next Meeting is
Sunday, July 26
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 in Mission \(LWML\)](http://Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML)) for more information.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS with Prayers and Cards

VISITATION TEAM
Pastor Kerns & Gary Sandt



[REDACTED]



Sun, July 5

Officiant: Hon. Rev. Scot Kerns
 Assistant/Reader: Ted Cheung, Frank VandeVeegaete
 Ushers: Sonya and John Bronico
 Greeters: Deb and Ed Paolini
 Organist: Sue Tucker

Wed, July 8

Officiant: Hon. Rev. Scot Kerns
 Assistant/Reader: Erik Wendt
 Organist: Sue Tucker

Sun, July 12

Officiant: Hon. Rev. Scot Kerns
 Assistant: Greg Pioppi, Tom Gorman
 Reader: Alex VandeVeegaete
 Usher: Darlene Garon and Judy Dilts
 Greeter: Gary, DonnaLee and Lori Sandt
 Organist: Sue Tucker

Sun, July 19

Leader: Gary Sandt
 Assistant/Reader: Ted Cheung, Greg Pioppi
 Usher: Sirma and Kyle Garon
 Greeter: Sonya and John Bronico
 Organist: Sue Tucker

Sun, July 26

Officiant: Hon. Rev. Scot Kerns
 Assistant: Erik Wendt, Tom Zaro
 Reader: Jackie Morrow
 Usher: Deb and Ed Paolini
 Greeter: Christine and Stephen Gold
 Organist: Sue Tucker

9:45 am

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

7:00 pm

Hon. Rev. Scot Kerns
 Erik Wendt
 Sue Tucker

9:45 am

Hon. Rev. Scot Kerns
 Greg Pioppi, Tom Gorman
 Alex VandeVeegaete
 Darlene Garon and Judy Dilts
 Gary, DonnaLee and Lori Sandt
 Sue Tucker

9:45 am

Gary Sandt
 Ted Cheung, Greg Pioppi
 Sirma and Kyle Garon
 Sonya and John Bronico
 Sue Tucker

9:45 am

Hon. Rev. Scot Kerns
 Erik Wendt, Tom Zaro
 Jackie Morrow
 Deb and Ed Paolini
 Christine and Stephen Gold
 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.