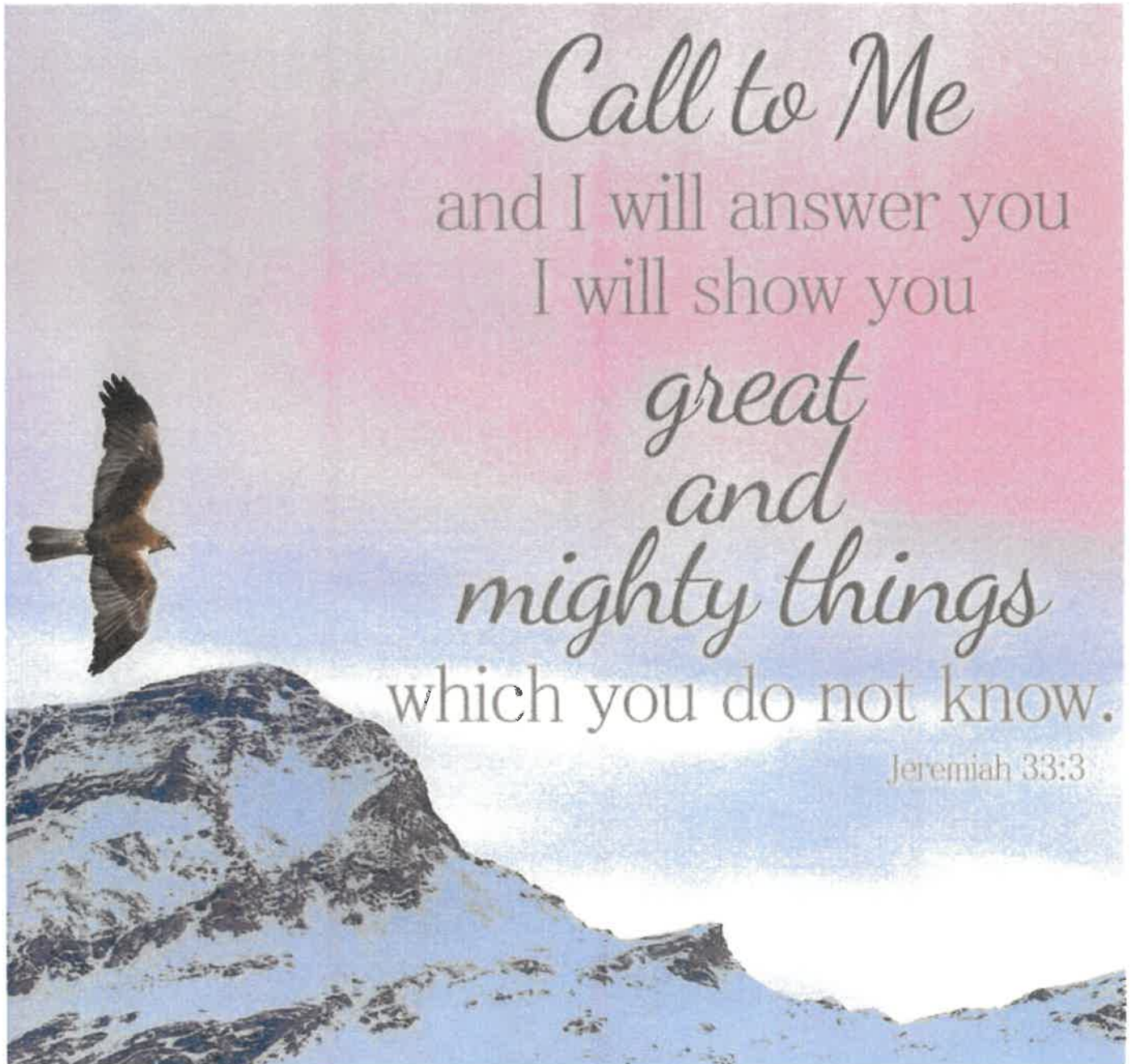


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH



2025
Annual Report

Faith Lutheran Church

550 State Route 940

Pocono Lake, PA

Mailing: P. O. Box 228, Blakeslee, PA 18610

ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

Agenda

Call to Order – Council President John Lyman

Opening Prayer – Pastor Jami

Adoption of the Agenda

Adoption of September 15, 2024, Congregational Minutes

Adoption of Special Congregational meeting of 3/2/25 & 7/27/25

Nominations for elected positions: (see page on nominees)

Council Members

Audit Committee

Synod Assembly

Nominating Committee

Proposed 2026 Annual Budget for vote - \$135,375.00

Old Business

New Business

- Proposed changes to the constitution.
- Porch update.
- Donate up to 10% bequeathed Hunter Estate to charities.

Closing

Faith Lutheran
Annual Congregational Meeting

Sept. 15, 2024

A call to order was offered by Council President Tom Hutton at approximately 10:35 a.m. Opening prayer said by Pastor Jami Possinger. Thirty-four members were present.

The agenda was presented for adoption. One item was added to the agenda with a motion made by Barbara Laughlin and seconded by Steve Marga. All approved with the agenda as amended.

The Congregation Annual meeting minutes of September 17, 2023, were presented. Peggy Rapp explained that the minutes were drafted by her from memory. The only correction was to add Sara Cornell as elected to the Audit Committee. All approved the corrected minutes.

The minutes from the special Congregational meeting on 5/26/24 in regards to the removal of trees costing approximately \$12,000. Less was spent. Motion made by Peggy Rapp and seconded by Barbara Laughlin.

Nominations for the following positions were read and paper ballots distributed. No nominations came from the floor.

Church Council: Don Childers, John Lyman, Sara Cornell, Mike Gillis

Audit Committee: Ruth Major

Synod Assembly: Phil Newlander, Ruth Major

Nominating Committee: Tom Hutton, Jacquie Halko

All positions were voted on by paper ballots. Slate of all nominees were accepted unanimously.

Annual reports were offered for review from August 2023 to July 2024. Congregational members were encouraged to read all the ministries Faith is involved in. Additionally, special thank you was noted for Pastor Jami and her incredible dedication and gifts shared with us.

The Proposed Annual Budget for 2025 was offered from the Church Council to Congregation prior to meeting. Having been approved by the council, only a second to the motion was needed and was made by Steve Marga. The 2025 Budget was approved as presented.

Old Business-none

New Business-

The Church Council made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$53,000 to repave and reline the Church parking lot including the roadway in front which does not belong to Faith. Motion made by Council and seconded by Jan Frantz. After discussion it was deemed by the congregation not to do the road in front therefore spending approximately \$8,200 less. A new amount was proposed by Steve Marga for \$48,000 which is the amount needed to pave, line and repair walkways on Faith Property only. The motion seconded by Brenda Gillis. The vote was brought to the Congregation and majority voted yes. One voted no. No abstentions.

Council also brought to the floor a proposal to spend \$28,300, a tithe of the bequest from William A. Hunters estate. Twenty Thousand dollars is proposed to be sent to Synod and \$8,300 would go to local charities such as Meals on Wheels and the Food Pantry. The motion was seconded by Ruth Newlander. All approved.

Motion was made by Peggy Rapp to close meeting at 11:00 a.m. and seconded by Rick Halko. All approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Rapp

Peggy Rapp, Council secretary

Interim Congregational Meeting

Sunday, March 2, 2025

Attendance: 28 members present

The meeting was called to order during the announcements before the Sunday service at 9:32 a.m. This meeting was to confirm the announcement made last week that the Council has recommended an expenditure of up to \$5,000.00 for the purpose of repair and preplacement of plumbing fixtures in the men and ladies' room.

President, John Lyman, presented the recommendation to the congregants present and a vote was called. All approved the expenditure of up to \$5,000.00 for the upgrades.

Sincerely,

Peggy Rapp

Council Secretary

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Special Congregational Meeting – July 27, 2025

32 in attendance

The meeting was opened before church service on Sunday, July 27th by President John Lyman. He explained the nature of the meeting was to vote on funding heating/air conditioning units for the offices for secretary and pastor.

Peggy Rapp read the motion presented by the Council: To allow the council to spend up to \$12,000 on two heating/air conditioning units for the church office.

Since the motion was presented by council, only a second was required from the floor. Ruth Newlander seconded the motion.

A vote was called and in was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted

Peggy Rapp

Peggy Rapp, Secretary

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

2026 (term expires)

Don Childers

John Lyman

Mike Gillis

Sara Cornell

2025 (term expires)

Paul Frantz

Peggy Rapp

Barbara Laughlin

APPOINTED FOR 2025

Ben Mroz III – Treasurer

Phil Newlander – Financial Secretary

Rev. Jami Possinger – Pastor as of April 1, 2024

MISSION STATEMENT

By the Grace of God, we are a caring family of Christian believers – worshipping and ministering in His mountain community of year-round residents, seasonal residents and visitors to our area. Together we are learning and growing in Faith, striving for peace and witnessing to the love of Christ; we are using our many gifts to serve His church, our community and the world.

2025 Church Council President – John Lyman

2025 Church Council Vice President – Paul Frantz

2025 Church Council Secretary – Peggy Rapp

PARISH REGISTER 2025

BAPTISMS

River Edward Pilecki	03/02/25
Callie Carpenter	11/23/24
Cameron Carpenter	11/23/24
Maisie Boyer	12/22/24

NEW MEMBERS

None

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Brynn Braun	04/06/25
Teagan Braun	04/06/25
River Pilecki	04/06/25
Mason Pilecki	04/06/25

DEATHS

Ardeth Merrell	October 2024
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TRANSFERRED or MOVED

Joyce Klein
 Larry and Annaliese Jarema
 Lloyd and Joan Vought

FUNERALS/MEMORIALS

Nancy Robinson	01/20/24
Ardeth Merrell	11/08/24

WEDDINGS

None

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Year	Baptized	Confirmed Communing	Confirmed Contributing	Confirmed Cont. & com.	Confirmed Attendance	Average
2019	149	129	119	109	109	65
2020	149	129	119	109	*	*
2021	114	100	100	95	107	64
2022	110	99	74	70	94	52
2023	96	84	86	86	80	52
2024	87	78	62	62	62	48
2025	86	64	61	61	60	42*

*This number does not reflect those persons who might have watched the online video live or recorded.

President's Message...

It is hard to believe another year has passed! And for Faith Lutheran it has been a good year.

Financially, we are in excellent shape. We have a large sum in a Thrivent account that is gaining earnings, and we have enough money on hand to pay our bills.

We have a great staff made up of an excellent pastor, music director, secretary, and sexton. The Church Council continues to work hard to keep the church running smoothly, and our level of volunteerism continues to impress.

It was a great year, and next year is also looking good!

John Lyman
Council President

Greetings from the Pastor....

April 1, 2024, was the beginning of a new chapter in my life. It was also the beginning of a new chapter in the life of Faith Lutheran Church. April 1st was the first Sunday of my new position at Faith as your interim pastor - and the day that we began our life together. It was the day we began to weave together our diverse gifts, joys, challenges, questions and hopes for our future as a family of faith and as God's disciples in the world around us. It was an exciting day!

However, there is work to do, people to meet and ministry to share so we get on with the work at hand. As you read the articles from other staff, committees and auxiliary organizations of the church in this annual report, you will agree with me when I say we are an active, thriving and vibrant congregation. We are blessed with leadership who are committed to ministry and seeking God's will for us. We are blessed with members who volunteer for all kinds of activities that help our congregation grow in faith. And we are blessed with a staff – Director of Music, Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Sexton - whose work ethic, dedication, sense of hospitality and flexibility help to make our congregation run smoothly and be a place where the gospel is lived out. I am amazed at how worship, social ministry, and property issues are coordinated and carried out by groups of volunteers who, together, make such an impact on our organization and our community!

One thing I've learned from my conversations with members is that when we gather as a church the very essential component of our life together must be God. Scripture, song, prayer, faith sharing, spiritual reflection in the midst of our work changes lives and strengthens the community in our ability to discern the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I also recognize that we are a center for celebrating God, transforming lives and renewing faith. Here are some examples of what I mean:

- ❖ We are an open and welcoming community. In 2024 we received into membership new families/household units. Many say they come here because they were greeted warmly and it felt like "home" to them.
- ❖ We baptized 2 children – a blessing for any congregation!
- ❖ We sing God's story into the lives of others. Molly Finkbiner, our Director of Music, and the choir – as well as other occasional singers and soloists – add life and joy to our worship.
- ❖ We are intentional about welcoming guests. Greeters and ushers welcome members and guests alike as they enter the sanctuary – making it feel friendly and open.

- ❖ We extend our arms to reach out to those in the community through our participation in TOMEK, Meals on Wheels, and more.
- ❖ Our facility provides a hospitable and usable space that encourages and supports ministry within the community year-round. AA meetings, Blood Drives, Election Polling station, a Karate School and Girl Scouts.

Even with all people and groups doing all this wonderful work in the name of Jesus, we are still an organization that needs to be financially and fiscally responsible. Thank you for your financial support of Faith Lutheran and our ministries!

I have only been here a few months – but I am excited to be a pastor in this family of faith! And as I reflect on our ministry in 2025, I am joyful that we continue to do God's work. But I also know that we don't drive our cars looking in the rear-view mirror. While a glimpse or two helps us to see where we have been, we have to be looking forward – to where we want to go - that's where new challenges and new opportunities await us.

I think you can see that I believe we are a dynamic family of faith who has built on our past, laid a foundation for our future and are walking hand-in-hand with our Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you for your support of God's work here at Faith. I look forward to an exciting year of ministry with all of you!

In Christ,

Pastor Jami

Witness and Service Committee

Faith Lutheran Church in Blakeslee Pa has been blessed for the many people in our congregation who have been creative and energetic with regard to our service and witness to our fellow congregants and community and beyond. THANK YOU!

CARE TEAM REPORT

Twenty-seven shawls have been sent to those in crisis or suffering loss. Shawls are given to our parishioners and friends and relatives of our members. 127 cards have been sent and 32 phone calls made.

TOMEK (Top of the Mountain Ecumenical Council) is part of our involvement in the community. The Food Pantry is part of TOMEK and has been supported by our food donations and programs.

TOMEK also has other assistance programs.

TOMEK holds an Interfaith Service for Thanksgiving take part in the service for 2024. The message was given by Pastor Jami Possinger.

At Christmas time we participate in the TOMEK GIVING TREE for clothing gifts for children of the clients of the Food Pantry.

FAITHFUL COMMUNITY QUILTERS

For the year 2024 the following was made and donated by the Quilt Group: FAITHFUL COMMUNITY QUILTERS under the direction of Laura Lyman with help from Peggy Rapp.

- 47 Twin size quilts donated to Cold Weather Shelter in Stroudsburg
- 25 Children's quilts donated to Angel's Closet
- 75 Quilted placemats donated to Meals on Wheels, Monroe County
- 18 Receiving blankets and 30 new born hats donated to Giesinger
- 09 Lap robes to Hospice
- 10 Rag quilts to Hospice or children's Angel Closet
- 39 Doggie beds to AWSOM Animal shelter from our scraps

FOR HURRICANE VICTIMS in North Carolina

- 20 Quilts and a myriad collected used hats and gloves.

For 2025, the group has already been productive with more shelter quilts, over 20 hospice lap robes, and over 12 children's quilts. A full report will be made in the 2026 annual report.

WITNESS

Faith Fair – see report from the fellowship committee by Sara Cornell. We netted over \$2500 in the 2025 fair – thanks to all who volunteered, baked, cooked, purchased, made baskets, etc.!

Apple Fest of September 2024 – Team led by Lois Childers, many baskets, homemade items, Christmas items and bakery goodies were sold. Soup lunches and quarts of homemade soups were also sold. We reach a goal of just over \$2000.00. The Apple Fest for 2025 will be on Saturday, October 4th. Hope to see you there.

Christmas Cookie Event: Baking ladies of our church provided a myriad of different kinds of cookies which were sold in packages put together by our Faithful Ladies. Over \$400 was raised for the church.

Souper Bowl: this fund raiser which happens during Super Bowl month raises money for the Food Pantry run by TOMEAC (Top of the Mountain Ecumenical Council). Faith congregation has always been generous in supporting our local charities.

Buck A Chick: a fund raiser held for National World hunger, unfortunately, did not happen this past year.

Also sponsored at Faith Lutheran Church are:

The American Red Cross blood drives: thanks to Phil Newlander. Happening every other month. Many lives have been saved because the blood drives have been very successful. Check the schedule and join us if you are able.

AA – Alcohol Anonymous: meets at the church every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from noon until 1 p.m. Those recovering are very grateful for the space and time allotted to them at the church.

We also provide a voting place for Western Tobyhanna Township.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Fox and Peggy Rapp

**FAITH LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONAL MEEING
FELLOWSHIP TEAM -COMMITTEE REPORTS
SEPTEMBER 28, 2025**

Faith Cookbook:

The Faith Cookbook project is still a work in progress. Several recipes have been collected from church members, but not yet enough for an entire book. Hopefully, we will gain some renewed interest in this project during this fall and winter, so we urge everyone to submit their favorite recipes so we can complete a cookbook for our members.

Faith Fair:

Faith Fair was held Saturday, August 9, 2025. The Fair featured flea market and craft vendors, sales of used books, jewelry and purses, bingo games, cake walks, and delicious food and baked goods. Pastor Moore and Rick Halko provided music. In addition, baskets were raffled, and tickets were sold for a quilt to be raffled at Applefest in October.

Faith Fellowship Team:

The Faith Fellowship Team was initiated in May 2025, to promote community and church fellowship and interaction. Since its inception, Faith Fellowship Team has participated in a bake sale for the National Service Animals Monument local dog walk (May), held a presentation entitled, "Positivity and Joy in a Challenging World" by Sara Cornell (May), held a Bingo! event (June), and a Movie and Ice Cream Sundae Sunday for children ages 4-12 (July). The August Fellowship Team event was the Faith Fair.

Faithful Readers Book Club:

The Faithful Readers Book Club currently has 10 members. Each month has featured a different book, lively discussion, and brunch at the Chat N Chew Cafe. Books read have included: The Women, The Women's March: A Novel of the 1913 Woman Suffrage Procession, And Then There Were None, The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell: A Novel, The Hotel Nantucket, Pawprints on Our Hearts: How A Few Incredible Dogs Changed One Life Forever, Remarkably Bright Creatures, By Any Other Name, and When the World Tips Over. The book club will be resuming later in September after a summer hiatus.

Faith Library:

The Faith Library is a small library located in the back of the church. The library is available to all church members and consists of a diverse selection of both children's and adult books. A sign-up sheet is available for those wishing to borrow books. Books may be donated if they are faith-based.

Fellowship Outings:

There have been many fellowship outings this year. Some have been more heavily attended than others, but they have been a great way to interact and learn more about our members. Since last fall, we have gone to Stoddartsville Historical Center; the Larry Cook, Historian Center at Hoyt Library in Kingston; and the National Canal Museum in Easton.

ALTAR GUILD

2025 has been the first full year of traditional communion distribution during worship, since the pause during the COVID Pandemic driven changes.

Many volunteers facilitate the communion portion of the service. Some of these tasks may not be visible to the congregation on a weekly basis. Bread needs to be baked, linens must be washed, cups placed in the trays, cups must be removed from trays after use, the sanctuary is cleaned as well as the chalice and plate that Pastor uses during distribution. In addition, this committee also coordinates the weekly schedule for communion assistants.

Special thanks to Phil and Ruth Newlander who frequently prepare the elements before each service.

The committee also is responsible for flowers to brighten the sanctuary during holiday services.

The dedicated staff of the Altar Guild works in small groups and serves monthly to get the altar ready for church services. There are four sub-committees. They are as follows:

Flowers, juice, linens, and bread.

Anyone willing to chair one of those sub-committees is more than welcome, so please let me know!

Please do not hesitate to volunteer! It is a small commitment that makes a big difference! Anyone willing to volunteer for the altar guild may contact me at (570) 947-0465.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Frantz

Jan Frantz, Chairperson of Altar Guild

Music at Faith 2025

Music continues to be a large part of our worship here at Faith. Each Sunday service includes at least three hymns, service music, and prelude and postlude. Services also sometimes include special music or additional hymns for special occasions.

In addition to music at weekly services, we also have a choir of 13 members that rehearses each Sunday from September through May from 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings. They sing a variety of musical styles and share their music with the congregation about once a month. New members are always welcome!

Molly sits as part of the Music Planning Committee, along with Peg Rapp, Rick Halko and Pastor Jami, to choose hymns and service music for Sunday services. The group meets 3-4 times per year and prayerfully chooses music based on the readings of the day and the liturgical season. The group considers the familiarity of music, good times to introduce new music, and feedback received from the congregation. This group also selects liturgy for worship services. For the Pentecost season, we've utilized settings 1 and 2 from Lutheran Book of Worship, along with the Russian Orthodox Kyrie, Celtic Alleluia, and post-communion song from the Bread of Life Setting of With One Voice. Beginning in mid-September, the service music will change to include Setting 10 from Evangelical Lutheran Worship and Setting 5 of With One Voice, as well as a new Kyrie, Offering Song and Post-Communion song. We will continue to use this new setting for the next several months, with small changes to reflect the changes in liturgy during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Molly continues to send copyrights to the church secretary so that they can be included in the bulletin each week. This enables us to print music in the bulletin as well as live-stream and record what is played during services. She also reports all of our music used each week to our two licenses, CCLI and OneLicense.

We were blessed once again to have some volunteers from the congregation provide us with chime music in the winter, after eight weeks of practice. If time and schedules permit, we will hopefully have chimes players for the fall of this year as well.

Molly also provides music for scheduled memorial services and special services, like the Christmas Program, throughout the year.

As always, it is a privilege to hear this congregation lift their beautiful voices in praise each week and to hear the musical talents that so many members are gifted with. If anyone is ever interested in sharing some special music during services, please reach out to Molly.

Summer Concert Committee Report—2025

The 2025 Summer Concert Series was a bit more abbreviated than prior years, but the results were outstanding.

In July we had a fabulous performance from Poor Man's Gambit, an Irish American trio who had performed for us several years ago. Attendance was strong at 67 and we received \$313 in freewill donations. Special thanks to Molly Finkbiner for connecting us with these wonderful musicians.

In August, we were fortunate to have Beth Goldwater and Kyle Swartzwelder return for a program of soft jazz from the Great American Songbook. Beth sang two years ago, accompanied by Kyle on guitar, and last summer Kyle gave a solo performance, both singing and playing. We had an audience of 52 and an offering of \$260.

Attendance was up from an average of 35 the previous year. This year, we opted to have a basket for offerings at the back of the sanctuary rather than passing a plate during the performance. Offerings per concert were similar to 2024, but were markedly lower per attendee.

Special thanks to Mike Gillis for faithfully putting up (and taking down) the banner announcing our concerts, and to John Lyman, Peggy Rapp, and Judie Tim for assisting with the logistics involved in opening and closing the sanctuary.

Since the Rays will be moving, the congregation will need to develop a new committee if this community service effort is to continue.

2025 Concert Committee,

Carol and Bob Ray Co-chairs

Judie Tim

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Over the course of the past year, there have been several upgrades to the church facility.

Upgrades:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| August 2024: | A new walkway was added to the shed, and cameras installed to monitor the property. |
| October 2024 | The parking lot was paved and carpets cleaned. |
| December 2024 | Snow took down several trees. The narthex and bathroom floors were scrubbed clean.
Snow plowing and deck shoveling were done as needed. |
| March 2025 | All five toilets were replaced with new ADA compliant versions. |
| April 2025 | A new refrigerator was purchased and the old one removed. |
| August 2025 | The two air conditioner/heat pump units were approved and replaced. |

As of **September 2025**, all maintenance items are up to date. The volunteers are keeping the grass cut and the flowers cleared.

Upcoming:

The next major project will be replacing the front ramp and deck. We are still in the planning stage currently.

Submitted,

Mike Gillis,
Council Maintenance

Technology Support Group

We do not function in any kind of formal way. There are several members of the church that periodically use their knowledge and experience to advance the use of current technology at Faith.

2025 has seen an upgrade to our streaming equipment to “broadcast” our service via the internet. An additional benefit from this equipment upgrade has been our ability to offer hearing assist headphones that duplicate the audio track that is streamed directly to parishioners in the sanctuary. We currently have equipment for 5 hearing assisting devices with the option to expand the system if needed.

Many people have had a hand in developing our current procedures and equipment.

Ben Mroz has continued the effort to stream our services and make them available most Sundays. The audio portion continues to be supported by Rick Halko.

Ben, Rick and Paul continue to function on an as needed basis to keep Faith’s IT equipment functioning to support the ministry at Faith.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Frantz; Council Liaison to the Technology Group

EARLY SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY - 2025

Early Bible study has finished the 40 books of Exodus this summer.

- Many Israelites did not trust(believe) in God much of the time they were in the desert, this kept them wandering. They wanted to go their own way. Exodus 32 and 33.

We are on summer break now and will continue in September studying Leviticus. The setting is at the foot of Mount Sini. The Israelites are being taught how to live as holy people.

Leviticus 19:2: *'You must be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.'*

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Hutton

Faith Children's Boomwhackers Kids' Club- Annual Report 2024-2025

Our weekly BoomWhackers Kids Club continues Wednesdays 5:00 - 6:00 with music - BoomWhackers, handbells, instruments, and songs, Bible study, crafts, and painting outreach cards for friends in need.

Our **Family Advent Service/Covered Dish** took place on Sunday evening, December 15th. Carols, Ornament making, and the Advent service began our Advent preparation. The children and members acted out the scripture readings. The Advent evening of preparation was enjoyed by all.

In March Pastor Jami led 5 children in preparation for their First Holy Communion which took place on 6 April. Molly taught the children both words and American sign language to the hymn "I Received the Living God". The children took their **First Holy Communion** with their families on **April 5th**. A delicious reception followed in Fellowship Hall.

In April our children colored 150 hardboiled eggs for our **Faith Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday, **April 19**. 500 plastic eggs were also stuffed. All eggs were hidden by age group on the front and side lawns. Church school Guest bags were provided to each of the 30 children who attended with their families. A light lunch was served. Grateful thanks to so many of our members and friend supporters and helpers.



Our **End of Year Beach party** took place on **June 12th**. Awards were given to each child for their thoughtful participation, cheerful learning, and stimulating questions throughout the year!



Grateful thanks to Pastor Jami for leading captivating Children's Time on Sundays!

Faith children participating: Teagan and Brynn Braun, Melanie and Penny Finkbiner, and Mason and River Pilecki. Grateful thanks to our gifted **Teachers**: Molly Finkbiner, Janice Neagle, John Lyman, Pastor Jami, Lois Childers, and Judie Tim and many member/staff helpers and friends.

Finance and Stewardship Committee Annual Report (August 2024 through July 2025)

2025

The 2025 budget was developed by understanding our income vs expenses for the last year. Our 2026 budget builds on our experience and focuses on maintaining our infrastructure while continuing our detailed stewardship of church funds.

Our electronic giving capability, introduced in 2019, is not being utilized to the level it was during the pandemic. The finance committee continues to recommend the use of the online system for regular recurring donations. This allows us to accurately track our income in the most efficient manner.

As we reported last year Faith received a large contribution from the estate of Bill Hunter. The estate has not been finalized, and Faith has been informed that we will be receiving additional funds as the distribution of the estate is completed. The Finance committee along with the council has worked to be good stewards of this donation. A large portion of these funds have been invested through Thrivent Financial. We also donated 10% of the original donation to local charities as directed by the congregation at the 2024 annual meeting. A small portion of this gift has been used to support our facilities through restroom renovations, HVAC updates to our office areas, clearing of hazardous trees, and repaving our parking area.

Thank you to everyone who has a hand in keeping our financial house in order. We all owe special thanks to Ben Mroz (Treasurer) and Phil Newlander (Financial Secretary) for the many hours they donate to Faith every week keeping track of our income and tracking our expenses as well as making sure our employees and vendors are paid on time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Frantz; Finance Committee Chair

Proposed changes to the Constitution of Faith Lutheran Church, Blakeslee, PA

Section C12.05, subsection C reads:

The Congregational Council may enter into contracts of up to **\$2000.00** for items not included in the budget.

Section C12.05, subsection D reads:

The Congregational Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption, and may incur obligations of more than **\$2,000.00** in excess of the anticipated receipts only after approval by a Congregational meeting. Etc.

The Congregational Council proposes to change the highlighted dollar amounts in Section C12.05, subsections C & D from **\$2,000.00 to \$5,000.00.**

Rationale: The \$2,000 limit in both these sections was established many years ago and has not been updated to account for inflation and rising prices. The proposed changes give the Congregational Council more appropriate decision-making latitude without necessitating a Congregational meeting.

Faith Lutheran Church - Blakeslee PA
Presentation Budget Report

Page 1 of 3

Friday, May 9, 2025

Account #	Account Name	01/26 vs. 01/25 \$	01/26 vs. 01/25 %	Yr Beg 01/2026	Yr Beg 01/2025
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<i>Income</i>					
		Total Interest/Other Income	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00
4.001.000	Budgeted Operating Income	\$	0.00%	141,800.00	141,800.00
4.303.000	Faith Fair Income	\$	0.00%	0.00	0.00
4.501.000	Memorial Gifts Income - Undesignated	\$	0.00%	0.00	0.00
4.502.000	Memorial Gifts Income - Designated	\$	0.00%	0.00	0.00
4.601.000	Concert Series Income	\$	0.00%	0.00	0.00
4.703.000	Apple Fest Income - Undesignated	\$	0.00%	0.00	0.00
4.801.000	Memorial Garden Income Account	\$	0.00%	0.00	0.00
4.888.800	Help Offset ACH Fee	\$	0.00%	0.00	0.00
4.901.000	SB World Hunger	\$	0.00%	0.00	0.00
4.902.000	SB LWR	\$	0.00%	0.00	0.00
4.903.000	SB Souper Bowl	\$	0.00%	0.00	0.00
4.905.000	SB Buck a Chick	\$	0.00%	0.00	0.00
4.907.000	SB Disaster Relief	\$	0.00%	0.00	0.00
4.999.900	Help Offset CC Processing Fee	\$	0.00%	0.00	0.00
Total Income		0.00	0.00%	\$141,800.00	\$141,800.00
<i>Expenses</i>					
5.001.000	<i>Outreach Ministry</i>				
5.002.000	Pocono Mission District	\$	0.00%	100.00	100.00
5.003.000	TOMEC	\$	0%	200.00	200.00
5.004.000	Mission Support	\$	0%	6,000.00	6,000.00
5.005.000	Bear Creek Camp - Campership	\$	0%	1,500.00	1,500.00
	<i>Total Outreach Ministry</i>	\$	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>7,800.00</i>	<i>7,800.00</i>
5.020.000	<i>Administration</i>				
5.022.000	Office Equip Maintenance	\$	0.00%	2,520.00	2,500.00
5.022.100	Office Equip Usage	\$	0%	1,600.00	1,000.00
5.023.000	New Office Equipment	\$	0%	500.00	1,500.00
5.024.000	Postage	\$	0%	250.00	500.00
5.025.000	Kitchen/Cleaning Supplies	\$	0%	700.00	700.00
5.026.000	Adjustments	\$	0%	0.00	0.00
5.028.000	Church Windows Expense	\$	0%	1,188.00	1,188.00
	<i>Total Administration</i>	\$	<i>(8.53%)</i>	<i>6,758.00</i>	<i>7,388.00</i>
5.030.000	<i>Worship & Music</i>				
5.032.000	Altar Supplies	\$	0.00%	500.00	750.00

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Account #	Account Name	01/26 vs. 01/25 \$	01/26 vs. 01/25 %	Yr Beg 01/2026	Yr Beg 01/2025
5.033.000	Organ/Piano Maintenance	\$	0.00	500.00	500.00
5.034.000	Miscellaneous Worship & Music	\$	0.00	400.00	400.00
5.034.002	Miscellaneous Worship & Music Licenses	\$	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
	<i>Total Worship & Music</i>	<i>(250.00)</i>	<i>(9.43%)</i>	<i>2,400.00</i>	<i>2,650.00</i>
5.031.000	Bulletins	\$	0.00%	0.00	0.00
5.040.000	<i>Learning</i>	0.00	0.00%		
5.041.000	Sunday Church School	\$	0.00	300.00	300.00
5.042.000	Vacation Bible School	\$	0.00	100.00	100.00
5.046.000	Adult Leadership	\$	0.00	100.00	100.00
	<i>Total Learning</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>500.00</i>	<i>500.00</i>
5.050.000	<i>Witness</i>	0.00	0.00%		
5.051.000	Witness/Advertising	\$	0.00	370.00	370.00
5.052.000	Care Team	\$	0.00	500.00	500.00
5.053.000	Pastor's Discretionary	\$	0.00	750.00	750.00
	<i>Total Witness</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>1,620.00</i>	<i>1,620.00</i>
5.060.000	<i>Stewardship</i>	0.00	0.00%		
5.061.000	Stewardship Materials	\$	0.00	100.00	100.00
5.062.000	Offering Envelopes	\$	0.00	100.00	100.00
5.063.000	Online Giving Fees	<i>(100.00)</i>	0.00	100.00	200.00
	<i>Total Stewardship</i>	<i>(100.00)</i>	<i>(25.00%)</i>	<i>300.00</i>	<i>400.00</i>
5.070.000	<i>Pastor's Salary & Benefits</i>	0.00	0.00%		
5.071.000	Pastor's Salary	\$	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.072.000	Pastor's Housing Allowance	\$	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.074.000	Pastor's Pension/Health	\$	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.076.000	Pastor's Auto Reimbursement	\$	0.00	2,700.00	2,700.00
	<i>Total Pastor's Salary & Benefits</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>2,700.00</i>	<i>2,700.00</i>
5.080.000	<i>Staff Salaries & Benefits</i>	0.00	0.00%		
5.081.000	Parish Administrative Assistant Salary	\$	0.00	16,709.00	16,222.00
5.083.000	Director of Music Salary	\$	0.00	19,307.00	18,745.00
5.084.000	Supply Pastor	<i>(1,200.00)</i>	0.00	1,200.00	2,400.00
5.085.000	Staff/SS & Medicare	0.00	0.00	2,700.00	2,700.00
5.086.000	Sexton Salary	\$	0.00	5,021.00	4,875.00
5.087.000	Supply Organist	\$	0.00	300.00	300.00
5.088.000	Parish Administrative Assistant Mileage	\$	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.089.000	Interim Pastor	<i>2,250.00</i>	0.00	<i>47,250.00</i>	<i>45,000.00</i>
	<i>Total Staff Salaries & Benefits</i>	<i>2,245.00</i>	<i>2.49%</i>	<i>92,487.00</i>	<i>90,242.00</i>

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 Account # Account Name 01/26 vs. 01/25 01/26 vs. 01/25 Yr Beg 01/2026 Yr Beg 01/2025

5.090.000	<i>Travel</i>				
5.091.000	Synod Assembly	\$	0.00	0.00%	1,000.00
	<i>Total Travel</i>	\$	0.00	0.00%	1,000.00
5.100.000	<i>Property/Utilities</i>				
5.101.000	Church Electric	\$	0.00	0.00%	5,000.00
5.102.000	Church Telephone & Internet	\$	0.00	0%	1,200.00
5.104.000	Church Natural Gas	\$	0.00	0%	3,000.00
	<i>Total Property/Utilities</i>	\$	(160.00)	(1.71%)	9,200.00
5.110.000	<i>Property/Maintenance</i>				
5.111.000	Carpet Cleaning	\$	0.00	0.00%	250.00
5.112.000	Church Maintenance	\$	60.00	0%	500.00
5.113.000	Trash Service	\$	(450.00)	0%	1,500.00
5.114.000	Exterminator	\$	0.00	0%	500.00
5.115.000	Fire Extinguishers & Alarms	\$	0.00	0%	600.00
5.116.000	Snow Removal	\$	1,200.00	0%	2,400.00
5.117.000	Water Testing	\$	0.00	0%	960.00
	<i>Total Property/Maintenance</i>	\$	810.00	13.73%	6,710.00
5.120.000	<i>Taxes/Insurance</i>				
5.121.000	Workmen's Comp	\$	0.00	0.00%	600.00
5.122.000	Property Insurance	\$	0.00	0%	3,300.00
	<i>Total Taxes/Insurance</i>	\$	0.00	0.00%	3,900.00
	Total Expenses		1,915.00	1.43%	\$135,375.00
					\$133,460.00

If the accounts in the subtotals have changed or if ledger and subsidiary account attributes have changed, totals for prior years may not represent a valid comparison.

