

Divine Connections

The Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church

August 2026

Volume 1, Number 18

Faith Forward, Love Beyond



Faith Lutheran Church

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Bible Study:

Sunday, 7:30 a.m. & Wednesday, 11 a.m.

Worship Service:

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Jami Possinger Pastor
Janet Kath Church Secretary
Tiffani Bourke Sexton
Sara Cornell Council President
Paul Frantz Council V.P.
Peggy Rapp Council Secretary
Paul Frantz Finance Committee
Ben Mroz III Treasurer
Phil Newlander Finance Secretary
Mike Gillis Property Maintenance
Don Childers
Barbara Laughlin
John Lyman
Steve Marga



FAITH FAIR

The 29th Annual Faith Fair will be held on
Saturday, August 8, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Join us for a fun-filled day featuring:

- Craft and flea market vendors
- Raffle baskets
- Face Painting
- Children's games and stories
- Old-fashioned cake walks
- BINGO and more.
- Quilt Raffle

Thank you to all our volunteers for helping make this day a success. We look forward to seeing you there.

QUILT RAFFLE

This beautiful 86 x 86 quilt is made with batiks, crafted by Laura Lyman and presented to members of Faith Lutheran Church to raffle at our Applefest. Raffle tickets are 5 for \$20 or \$5 each. Tickets may be purchased at Faith Fair on Saturday, August 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or at Applefest on Saturday, September 26, 2026. The lucky winner will be announced at Applefest.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please join us after worship on Sunday, September 20, 2026, for our annual congregational meeting.

We value your input.



CHURCH PROPERTY UPDATE

On Sunday, August 2, at a Congregational meeting following the service, a unanimous decision was reached to authorize expenses to cover the replacement of the front (Rt. 940 side) deck of the facility, as well as the replacement of the entrance doors on the same side. Additionally, a covering will be installed to protect the outside units for the AC and heating of the offices (two units by handicap parking.) And lastly, this authorization covers all necessary work to enhance the area immediately adjacent to the front door replacement.



HOLY GROUNDS COFFEE HOUR

Holy Grounds Coffee Hour will be held after worship on Sunday, August 9, and on the second Sunday of each month thereafter. Each gathering has a \$50 budget. Volunteers are needed to host; please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church.



FAITH READERS BOOK CLUB

All is welcome to join our book club. Our next selection will be announced soon. Discussions are held after worship at Murphy's Loft. If interested, please see Sara Cornell for more information.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

To donate, please pre-register by calling 800-733-2767. Upcoming blood drives at Faith Lutheran Church will be held on:



- September 16
- November 18

APPLEFEST

Build-a Basket Project

It's that time of year again! Thanks to your support, the Build-a-Basket project has been a success year after year. To participate, choose a theme and fill a basket with related items. Please return your completed basket in September, (date to be determined,) and the Faith Team will wrap it in cellophane and add a bow.



Thank you so much for your support and preparation as we get ready for Applefest 2026.

APPLEFEST

Join us on Saturday, September 26, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at our annual Applefest. Will have gift baskets, seasonal items, crafts, and homemade jams/baked goods and our Quilt Raffle drawing.

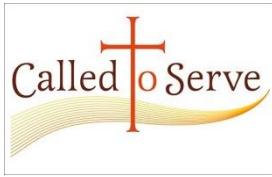


GREAT SUITCASE RACE

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Great Suitcase Race, sponsored by the Mission District of our church here in NEPA. Faith Lutheran collected 53 suitcases as a congregation, and our Mission District collected a total of 633. With additional donations from the Lehigh Valley and other churches, more than 1,300 suitcases were gathered for children in foster care or those being removed from their homes. Thank you again for helping our children feel loved and cared for! -Peggy Rapp



MANY GIFTS, ONE CHURCH FAMILY



Have you ever thought about volunteering on a Sunday morning but weren't sure where you would fit or wondered whether you had enough experience?

As the body of Christ, each of us has unique gifts to share. Whether you are welcoming someone with a smile, reading God's Word, ushering, helping lead worship, supporting our technology, or assisting behind the scenes with communion setup and cleanup, every act of service helps build up our church family and creates a welcoming place to worship.

You don't have to know everything or have all the answers. We will walk you through each role and help you find a place where you can serve with confidence and joy.

A sign-up sheet is available on the table in the narthex. Please include your contact information and the roles you are interested in.

THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU, AND YOUR GIFTS MATTER!

For questions, please contact Pastor Jami, Peg Rapp, or John Lyman.

PRAYER LIST



We encourage you to provide updates about your loved ones, helping us keep our prayer list relevant and meaningful. If you wish to add someone to the list, simply fill out a prayer request form and place it in the prayer box found at the back of the church.

FAITH SUNDAY SCHOOL



Our Boom Whacker children, along with Janice Neagle, Pastor Jami, and their families, celebrated the end of the year at our annual Beach Party at the Tims on Friday, June 12th.

The Boom Whackers Kids Club is taking summer vacation and looking toward returning to regular Wednesday classes in September. New curriculum is being researched for the Fall and Winter lessons.

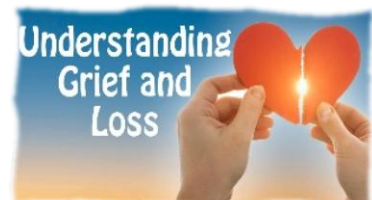


On Saturday, June 20th, our Boom Whacker students, teachers, Pastor Jami and their families traveled to Site and Sound in Lancaster, PA, to see their presentation of Joshua.

GRIEF AND BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.' Matthew 5:4

The mission of our Christ-centered grief and bereavement ministry is to help people apply biblical principles and guidance as they deal with life stresses, difficult emotions, loneliness, and moving forward after the death of a loved one or other losses. Our ministry's goals are to offer spiritual support and comfort to individuals and families who are hurting



and would benefit from having guidance in navigating their grief in an individual or group setting. There is no fee for members of Faith Lutheran and their families. Contact the church office at 570-646-0309 or Dr. Sara Cornell at 570-472-5560, or by email at saracornell10@gmail.com.



Greetings from the Pastor....

Grabbers, Giggles, and a Little Help from the Holy Spirit

One of my favorite things about children's messages is that you never know where they'll lead!

A number of weeks ago, I handed each of the children a colorful grabber toy to help illustrate a simple truth - sometimes we all need a helper. The grabber can reach things we can't quite get on our own, just as the Holy Spirit helps us do things we couldn't do by ourselves. The Spirit guides us, encourages us, reminds us of God's love, and helps us make choices that honor God.

Of course, I knew the grabbers would be a hit. I expected plenty of clicking, grabbing, and maybe even a few attempts to see who could pick up the most random objects after the children returned to their seats. (I wasn't disappointed!)

What I didn't expect was what happened next.

After the service, Melanie and Penny headed out to a playground with their parents, Molly (our Director of Music) and



Dan with their new grabbers. Instead of just playing with them, they decided to put them to work. Before long, they were happily picking up wrappers and other bits of litter, leaving the playground cleaner than they found it.

I couldn't help but smile when Molly sent me these pictures. They didn't just hear the message - they lived it.



It reminded me that the Holy Spirit often works in simple, everyday moments. Sometimes it's through a kind word. Sometimes it's through lending a hand. And sometimes... it's through two little girls armed with bright plastic grabbers and hearts ready to serve.

Melanie and Penny probably thought they were just cleaning up the playground, but they also give the rest of us a wonderful reminder. When we allow the Holy Spirit to be our Helper, the Spirit can take even the simplest tools - and the smallest acts of kindness - and use them to make a big difference.

I have a feeling those grabbers will get plenty more use. And if we're lucky, so will the lesson behind them.

Pastor Jami

NOW YOU ARE THE
Body of Christ.
AND EACH ONE OF
YOU IS PART OF IT.

1 COR 12:27