



Voice of Faith Newsletter
Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool
2012 Sullivan Trail, Easton PA 18040
610-253-1625
faithlcms@outlook.com



September 2020
“Voice of Faith”

Our Mission: “Reaching, Teaching, Serving, and Sharing Christ”

FAITH CHURCH LEADERS

Interim Pastor Rev. David Derema
Director of Christian Education Alex Lillis

Office Administrator Jean Wehrle
Office Hours: 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Phone: 610-253-1625
Email: faitlcms@outlook.com

Head Elder Gary Sandt
Council President Eric Himmelwright
Vice President Steve Baas
Council Secretary Nancy Smith
Financial Secretary Kyle Garon
Treasurer Steve Fogt
Worship Committee Gary Sandt

At-Large Cong. Members Positions Open

Boards

Preschool Elisabeth Brune
Education Elisabeth Brune
Finance Steve Fogt
Facilities/
Property Management Craig VanPell

Ministries

Children Position Open
Youth Position Open
Adult, Fellowship & Social Position Open
Assimilation & Stewardship Position Open
Evangelism Position Open
Choir Director Brenda Cavella
Handbells Director Lori Brewer
Organist Sue Tucker
Ushers Sally Ueberroth
Custodians Heather Brown
Stephanie Altner
Preschool Coordinator Mary Beth Buza
Security Greg Pioppi
Scouting Program Coor. Greg Pioppi
Voice of Faith Gaye Lowe



NOTE: Meeting dates, times and location may change.
Please call the contact below to confirm.

Due to Pandemic all meetings are tentative

YOUNG ADULT BREADBREAKERS

Eric & Becky Himmelwright

PAUL MACHER'S BREADBREAKERS

3:00 PM 3rd SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH in FELLOWSHIP HALL

STEVE BAAS' BREADBREAKERS

Sally and Steve Baas

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST (Ted Cheung)

8:00 AM 1st SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH **GTO**

PAIRS AND SPARES (Kay Cowen)

Meets throughout the year in homes or different events.

THRIVENT (Gloria Miller)

CHOIR (Brenda Cavella)

7:00 PM TUESDAYS in CHANCEL **on hold**

BELL CHOIRS (Lori Brewer)

MONDAY in PRESCHOOL ROOM

Beginners 6:30 PM Advanced 7:15 PM **on hold**

ALTAR GUILD (Lynn Klein)

TEAMS CHANGE MONTHLY

WOMENS BIBLE STUDY (Karen Smith)

2:30 PM 2nd and 4th THURSDAYS in FH **on hold**

QUEEN BEES (Judi Rabinsky)

BOARD GAMES, CRAFTS and FELLOWSHIP

10:00 AM 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in FELLOWSHIP HALL **on hold**

LWML (Tracy Pioppi)

3rd Sunday at 9:15 in the Sanctuary **on hold**

Lutheranism 101

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming a member of Faith Lutheran Church? Do you want to know what we as Lutherans believe?

Classes are forming periodically.
Sally Baas: to join the next **Lutheranism 101** class.



Mark your calendars!
Tuesday, September 15th

Please submit articles, updates and notes to Gaye Lowe no later than September 15th for inclusion in the

October 2020
Voice of Faith NEWSLETTER



A Note from Gary Sandt

Head Elder Deacon in Training

Blessings to you!

I pray you are doing well as life moves on. We still have the virus, they are working on a vaccine, and we should pray the serum is what is needed to put this virus to rest.

Worship is going well, but we have a few bumps. We are trying to stay safe the best we can, as we worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our interim Pastor, Pastor Demera led his first worship services yesterday and I know we were blessed when God gave his name to us. Please get to know him as he will be assisting in all our needs. I was told by our circuit visiting Pastor, that our plan for worship is good because we are assisting with the worship. Churches that are in the process of a calling, receive an interim Pastor, and everyone backs away and let's the Pastor handle it all.

We are so blessed to be able to worship our Lord together. please help us stay safe as we worship together. Our next step is that we are planning to start some kind of safe Sunday School on the 13th of September, which is Rally Sunday. We are not sure yet what it will be like yet, sharing God's message and staying safe, but DCE Alex and Superintendent Donna are working on a plan, please pray for them and our Sunday School.

I am hoping that Pastor Demera will be writing a message for next month, and on, please pray for him and his service for us.

We would like to see you in church, but if you do not feel safe, stay home and go to YouTube and you can see the 10:30 service live to worship and sing along. If you cannot do that, you can watch it any time and still worship and sing.

If you are planning to attend worship, please sign up on Realm to be counted and for attendance. If you do not know how, please call the office, have a chat with Jean and she will gladly sign you and your family up.

Time to write a sermon for Sunday. Lay Deacon class starts September 15th, please pray for me also as I do God's plan for me and our church.

May God bless your month and keep you in His loving arms.
Elder Gary R Sandt

We Welcome Rev. David Demera - Interim Pastor

The Reverend David Demera has agreed to be with us on the first and third Sundays while we search for a permanent pastor. We appreciate Pastor Demera's willingness to serve Faith.

Rev. Demera has a very interesting background. His parents were Alverta Weaver, a nurse of Penn-Dutch extraction from the Danielsville, PA area and Jose Demera, a merchant seaman from Ecuador. He was born in New York City and lived in Queens. His elementary thru high school education was in the Lutheran School System. He graduated from Hunter College with a BA (Biology major/Chemistry minor). He attended Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and graduated in 1980. He spent his vicarage in Texas. His first call was to the Atlantic District as a Missionary-at-Large to the South Bronx. He has pastored several congregations including Emanuel Corona where he was involved in starting a preschool. It was the first parish that David served in English and Spanish. In 39 years of ministry, he has served seven congregations. He was privileged to serve the LWML as pastoral advisor for the Atlantic District and the Queens Zone. Pastor Demera has been retired since October 2019.

He enjoys sports, movies, the arts, crosswords, and jigsaw puzzles. Reading, swimming, and science round out a number of interests. He resides in Neffs, PA, with his widowed cousin, Linda, and his hot dog, Cody.





Alex Lillis, Director of Christian Education



September Youth Schedule:

Sunday, September 6th, 6pm-8pm
Sunday, September 20th, 6pm-8pm
Sunday, September 27th, 6pm-8pm

Greetings and Blessings!

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
-James 1:2-4

Imagine telling a friend about the struggles you're facing, and they say, "Wow, God has really blessed you! You must be so joyful!" That doesn't seem like an appropriate response to someone who's struggling. But that's essentially what James is saying here in his letter. He is writing to Christians who are facing various trials, and he tells them to "count it all joy." Seriously, James? Count it all joy when COVID-19 is spreading? Count it all joy when schools are going virtual? Count it all joy when we have a pastoral vacancy? Well... yes! Count it ALL joy! It's not that our joy comes from the struggles themselves. Rather, we find our joy in Christ in the midst of the struggle. When we face trials, we can seek God's wisdom to endure, and know that the struggle makes us stronger in faith. We can trust that God uses our struggles for good and rejoice because of the victory we have in Christ Jesus. What struggles are you facing? No matter what you're dealing with, I encourage you to find joy in Christ and cling to Him.

August was a fun month for **Youth Ministry**! We had four outdoor Youth Nights including an obstacle course race in the parking lot, a mini-golf competition at Two-T's, a movie and game night in the pavilion, and an evening out at Rita's for ice and custard. We are enjoying spending time together and we are staying safe with masks and social distancing. We've got more exciting Youth Nights coming up in September! Youth, I hope you'll join us!

Social distancing is especially hard on little ones. That's why we are making **Kid's Message Videos** to bring the hope of Christ to children during this difficult time. **Volunteers are needed!** If you are interested in giving a children's devotion, please contact me. You can watch all our Kid's Message Videos on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/faithlcmseaston

Confirmation Classes are starting on September 8th. We will be meeting every Tuesday from 4:00pm to 5:30pm. This year, we will be studying Luther's Small Catechism. Because of the Coronavirus, these classes are only open to our Confirmation students and their families. But if you have questions about Luther's Small Catechism or want to learn more, let me know and I'd be happy to talk about it with you!

Sunday School and **Bible Classes** are starting back up again soon! Beginning on Rally Day, September 13th, Sunday School for Children and Youth as well as Adult Bible Class will take place every Sunday from 9:15am to 10:15am. Masks are required for all attending in person. We are hoping to offer an online option for Children's Sunday School. Keep an eye on your email for more details about that soon!

Alex Lillis
Director of Christian Education

Stewardship Note:

The yellow "Special Mission Offering" envelopes in your 2020 offering envelope boxes will be dedicated for the Director of Christian Education program here at Faith. If you are giving on line through our e-giving program you may designate to do the same on line with your monthly special gift.

Join Us for Fun and Fellowship



<https://www.youtube.com/faithlcmseaston>

In an ongoing effort to maintain connection in the midst of our social distancing we've begun to post some videos on the church YouTube channel. Some of those videos are worship services, and I've Bible Studies. Alex is posting videos for children, youth and confirmation classes. Our goal is that we can be fed by God's Word together. Please don't hesitate to contact the church office with any questions you have, and we will do my best to answer them. Thank you so much for being part of our community. We pray that God will continue to bless you and reveal His grace in amazing ways. Above is the link to our YouTube channel if you don't have it.

Financial Corner

Stock

Has the Stock Market smiled on you lately? Oh the capital gains taxes you will need to pay if you cash in a stock that has risen appreciable! Never fear. Stock can be transferred directly to the church and the church can sell it at the highest price without any penalty.

You will receive credit for the appreciated value of the stock you have donated. You actually get to deduct income you never paid income tax on!

Information - See Steve Fogt for details.



Attention Trivent Members

It is time to direct your Thrivent dollars.

Action Team Grants are needed
Contact Carl Varga or Craig VanPell



Recycle Ink and Toner cartridges

Staples rewards for recycling range from \$40 to \$65 per month



AmazonSmile

Good news! AmazonSmile is now available in the [Amazon Shopping app on iOS and Android mobile phones.](#)

Download the latest Amazon Shopping App.

Simply follow these instructions for AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

1. Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device
2. Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings'
3. Tap 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process

Faith's AmazonSmile account number is

23-6291128

A Tax Saving Tip For Seniors

There is a way for some seniors over the age of 70 ½ to take the standard deduction and still deduct a charitable contribution. If you have an IRA, and this only applies to an IRA, not a 401(k) or 403 (b), and are required to take a RMD (required minimum distribution), you can direct the IRA to send part or all of the RMD amount as a QCD (qualified charitable distribution) directly to the church and it is deductible even though you take the standard deduction. The check must be written to the church. You cannot have the check written to you, cash it, and then give it to the church. Normally the RMD is taxable, this way it is not. See Steve Fogt for details.



Matching Funds for 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Corporations

Faith Lutheran Church is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit corporation. As such your donations to Faith may be eligible for matching funds from your employer.

Many major corporations will match their employees donations. They donate many thousands of dollars to nonprofits thru the giving of their employees.

Your company, large or small, may also have a Matching Program set up. If you are interested in making your donation to Faith go farther, consult your employer.



!!!Thrivent Grants Needed!!!

1. To complete the sanctuary sound system
2. To complete the bathroom in youth room
3. To mulch and seed the lawn
4. To replace damaged side door in church garage
5. To repair the annex roof

If you can help by directing your Action Team Grant toward these projects, please let Craig VanPell know. Action Teams are ready and waiting to work. Thanks!

KFUO

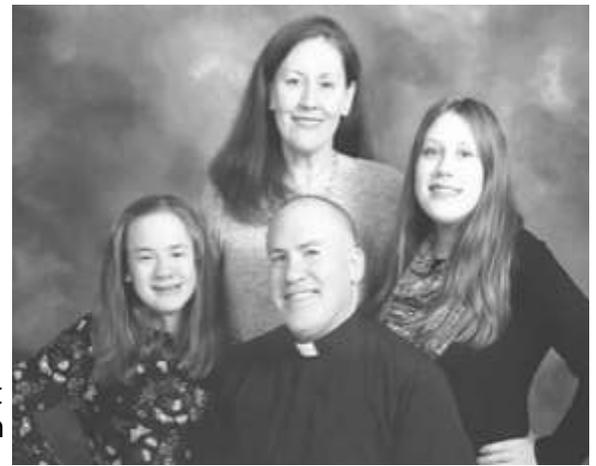
KFUO is an LCMS radio station on the AM dial in St. Louis Missouri. During the day, they have talks, Bible studies and related discussions as well as services. After 6pm our time, they end their broadcast day but continue to stream music.

To listen to it, simply put KFUO.org in your browser and click on the headphones. There are good lessons and Bible studies to keep us connected to His word throughout the day during this time while we are staying around home.

Greetings in Christ, I hope this finds you well!

The boxes are almost all unpacked, school has begun for both girls, and what has proven to be a huge transition continues.

Throughout this process, we've had the opportunity to reflect on God's grace and His action in the little ways that so easily go unnoticed. It is amazing what can be seen with a change in perspective. Megan, I, and the girls have always considered our relationship with you as a gift, and we thank and praise God for all of you as you have blessed our lives. I want to particularly say thank you for all the cards and gifts you have given us as we follow God's call here in Arizona. Although those two words don't adequately capture the gratitude we have for our relationship with you and our experience at Faith, we want you to know that we are truly grateful.



Please know that you are dearly missed. As part of your family, even partners in the Gospel, we continue to pray for you. I know that God has already chosen your next shepherd. He will faithfully nurture you and lead you in mission and ministry, and we are excited to watch this unfold. One blessing of vacancy, as difficult and taxing as it is, is that you have a chance to affirm what God is doing in your midst. I pray that God shows you in unmistakable ways how wonderful you are, how gifted you are, and how equipped you are to do the work He has placed in front of you. I pray that the Holy Spirit continue to move you to put these God-given qualities into action.

St. Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24:

¹² Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. ¹³ Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.

²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

These words remind me of the fabric of Faith Lutheran Church. Thank you for being who you are!

In Christ,

Pastor, Megan, Caris, and Sadie

Positions Available

We ask that you prayerfully consider serving in one of these positions up for election this November. Terms start January 2021. Please contact Eric Himmelwright for more information.

- ✝ President
- ✝ Vice President
- ✝ Treasurer
- ✝ (2) At Large Congregational Members
- ✝ Director of Children's Ministry
- ✝ Director of Youth Ministry
- ✝ Director of Adult, Fellowship, and Social Ministry
- ✝ Director of Assimilation and Stewardship Ministry
- ✝ Director of Evangelism Ministry



Gloria Rissmiller

Richard and Eileen Dalrymple
Michael and Virginia Happel
Raymond and Patricia Kiefer
Mark and Gaye Lowe
Liz Chronister
Karen Smith
Doris Relyea
Joelyn and Floyd Kullman
Jerry and Sophie Stametz
Michael Stametz



Prayers are offered for ALL the families of Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool families.

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

Faith Families

- 9/6 Robert and Judy Pitman
Lisa and Katie Pysher
- 9/13 Judi and John Rabinsky
Bruce Rasley
- 9/20 Anthony and Luann Raso
Susan and Anthony Raso
- 9/27 Linda Roth
The Sandt Family

Our Military and their Families

- Tom Heller
- Spencer Muhlbach
- Brandon Read
- Sean Sargent
- Stephen Sargent
- Vincent Franchino
- Jef Spangler
- Brayan Cardozo
- John Pekol
- Joanne Gabl

Please email the church office with CURRENT information for the military families listed above:

- ◆ Names of their immediate family members
- ◆ Their connection with Faith Church
- ◆ Branch, Rank, and where they are currently serving (and an end date if known)
- ◆ Home and Deployed addresses
- ◆ Email, and Phone Numbers

Let us know if your military family would like to receive cards or letters



Suspended until Further Notice - Continue to Save Mites

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) is the official women’s auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. For over 77 years, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman’s relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.

The LWML is the leading group for LCMS women where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness.

Mite Boxes and Stamp Deposit Box are available in the coat room.

Contact Tracy Pioppi or Lori Brewer if you have any questions.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

August 2020

September 6 **9:00 am** **10:30 am**
Officiant: Rev. David Demera Rev. David Demera
Assistants: John Bronico, Steve Baas,
 Gary Schleicher Greg Pioppi
Readers: Gary Schleicher Steve Baas
Altar Guild: Sue Tucker and Lynn Klein
Organist: Sue Tucker Sue Tucker

September 13 **8:00 am** **10:30 am**
Worship Leader: Gary Sandt Gary Sandt
Assistants: Ted Cheung Erik Wendt
Readers: Ted Cheung Erik Wendt
Altar Guild: Sue Tucker and Lynn Klein
Organist: Sue Tucker Sue Tucker

September 20 **8:00 am** **10:30 am**
Officiant: Rev. David Demera Rev. David Demera
Assistants: Greg Pioppi Erik Wendt
 John Bronico Tom Zaro
Readers: Greg Pioppi Erik Wendt
Altar Guild: Sue Tucker and Lynn Klein
Organist: Sue Tucker Sue Tucker

September 27 **8:00 am** **10:30 am**
Worship Leader: Gary Sandt Gary Sandt
Assistants: Ted Cheung Gary Schleicher
Readers: Ted Cheung Gary Schleicher
Altar Guild: Sue Tucker and Lynn Klein
Organist: Sue Tucker Sue Tucker



HELP ! Volunteers are Needed

for various tasks around the church. Social distancing can be observed. Many tasks take only an hour or two. Some need a special skill that you may have. Many times volunteers are needed when there is an emergency,

for example last month when the basement flooded during the big storm.

Contact Craig VanPell and give him an idea of how you are willing to help. You are so very important to Faith and our ongoing ministry.

A Word of Thanks

Janet and Taylor Swim thank the members of Faith for their thoughts and prayers following the death of Martin Swim.

Many Thanks

- ✝ To those who answered the emergency call to cleanup the church basement following the flooding from heavy rain. They include Bernie Smith, Eric Eric Himmelwright, Carl Varga. Craig, Ryan and Patrick VanPell.
- ✝ To those who helped move furniture during church cleanup week. They include John Harper, Mark Lowe, Tom Shepherd and his grandson Tyler Smith.
- ✝ To Rob Fedorczyk and Mark Lowe for trimming trees and bushes.
- ✝ To those who applied for Thrivent grants to help with the Sound System in the sanctuary.
- ✝ To those who have volunteered to serve on the Call and Nominating committees.

Facility Use Form

The Facility Use form can be downloaded from our website (Faithlcms.com) under the COVID-19 Response tab or a hard copy is available at the sign-in station outside the church office. The completed form must be turned into the Church Office for review and approval.

After a decision is made and the schedule is checked for conflicts, the person submitting the form will be contacted either via email or phone. Questions can be directed to the Church Office (Jean)