

November 2025 - January 2026



Sola Fide

"Only by Faith"- A publication of Faith Lutheran Church

Calling All Angels!

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Thursday Evening Advent Suppers & Worship

Take a pause from the rush of the season and join us on Thursdays, December 4, 11, and 18, for a light supper at 6:30 p.m., followed by Advent worship to conclude by 7:30pm.

Our theme this year is "Calling All Angels - Studies of Fearlessness and Strength." Together, we'll explore how angels in Scripture bring messages of courage, hope, and peace – and how those same gifts are still at work in our lives today.

Come for a simple meal, good company, and a time of reflection that will steady your spirit in this busy season. All are welcome – bring a friend!

A Letter from Pastor Jen

Happiest People on Earth

For the eighth consecutive year, the residents of Finland have been named the happiest people in the world. *Onneksi olkoon!*

So what's their secret? (It can't be the weather.)

According to this year's *World Happiness Report*, their joy might have less to do with sunshine and more to do with kindness. The report's theme focused on something that sounds very familiar to people of faith — the power of caring and sharing.

Researchers discovered what Scripture has been teaching all along: when we care for others, we are “twice-blessed.” Like mercy in Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*, caring “blesses those who give and those who receive.”



***Each act of care
ripples outward—
blessing others,
and blessing you!***

Around the world, people were asked simple questions: In the past month, have you given to charity? Volunteered? Helped a stranger? Would someone return your lost wallet if they found it?

The answers painted a hopeful picture. It turns out people are far more kind than we think. When researchers actually dropped wallets on the street, they were returned much more often than anyone expected. Even during the pandemic, when life was at its hardest, acts of generosity and compassion *increased* — and they've stayed higher ever since.

The report shows that kindness doesn't just help the receiver — it blesses the giver, too. But here's the key: the deepest joy comes not when we help to feel good about ourselves, but when we genuinely want to make a difference.

Other insights from the study remind us of the simple, sacred ways we connect with one another:

- **Sharing meals** is one of the most universal forms of caring. People who regularly eat with others are significantly happier than those who eat alone. Around the world, loneliness is rising — especially among young adults — and yet so is our longing to belong.
- **Living with and for others** matters. In communities with strong family and social bonds, happiness is higher and more evenly shared.
- **Serving others** — through volunteering, giving, or helping strangers — even reduces what the report calls “deaths of despair,” the tragic losses linked to addiction and hopelessness.

(cont'd)

Pastor Jen (cont'd)

In a world that often feels divided or disconnected, these findings are good news. They affirm what our faith has always known: caring for others isn't just charity — it's the foundation of a joyful life.



As we move into this season of gratitude and giving, there are many small ways to live out that truth:

- Share a meal with us at our potluck *Friendsgiving* on **November 16**, or come for a light supper on **Thursday evenings in Advent — December 4, 11, and 18.**
- Help a stranger by serving as a **greeter or usher** at one of our Christmas services.
- Choose a gift from the **Giving Tree** to brighten the season for a family in need.
- Notice and celebrate the **kindness** you see in others.

Each act of care ripples outward — blessing others, and blessing you.

In Christ, Pastor Jen

Confirmation News

Our Confirmation class has been learning and serving. This fall we've explored the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism in Luther's *Small Catechism*. Youth have served at common cathedral in Boston and Bread and Roses in Lawrence (see page 20 for photos). They are working on "faith badges," earned by serving in worship, learning a prayer practice, inviting someone to an activity, etc.



First Communion

Michael D'Angelo and Matthew Walton received their first communions on Reformation Sunday, October 25. Jack Kelly will receive his first communion on November 2. Maylee Doran has received instruction and will receive in the coming weeks.

Welcome to the table to all these young people!



New Members

This fall we welcomed Thomas Fedorka, Trudy Buelow and Joseph LaForest as new members!



A Letter from Council

Kevin Maschhoff, Council President



Gift from Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Lawrence

This past August, representatives of the former Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lawrence, Ken Caglusio, and Rosemary Moran, presented a check for approximately \$160k to Faith Lutheran. This extraordinary gift is the result of a long process that began with a vote of the Redeemer congregation as part of the Holy Closing of the church. As one of the final acts in their long ministry, Redeemer congregation gave thoughtful and faithful consideration to the distribution of these church assets, and chose to provide gifts to eight faith-based and community-based organizations in the region, including Lazarus House, community service organizations in Lawrence, and our sister NE Synod congregation Triumphant Cross as well as to Faith.

Now it is Faith Lutheran's turn to give thoughtful and faithful consideration to the best uses of this gift:

- Do we want to use this to strengthen or expand some of our current ministries?
- Do we want to use this to extend our ministry into an additional areas?
- Do we want to use a portion of this gift join with other ministries in our region, or perhaps internationally (such as with our A-Z Ministry)?
- Do we want to invest in the future in some way, through new leadership education, or through our Endowment, to provide support to ministry in the future?



A team has been formed that included members of the Church Council, our Endowment Committee, and a member of Redeemer now worshipping with us at Faith, to consider ways this gift might be used enhance our ministries now, and in years to come. They will bring recommendations to the Council, and then we will bring a recommendation to the congregation at the Annual meeting. And we welcome your ideas, and you can share these with any member of our Council.

As you consider your thoughts along these lines—please also give consideration to your Giving Intention for Faith Lutheran's ongoing ministry for 2026. You can access a Giving Intention form on-line through Faith's website, or use one of the paper forms that are in the narthex area. Finally, the letter that each household received about this year's Stewardship Campaign includes a QR code, and scanning that code with your phone camera will link to the Giving Intention Form. Thanks!

Kevin Maschhoff
Council President



(cont'd)

A Letter From Council (cont'd)

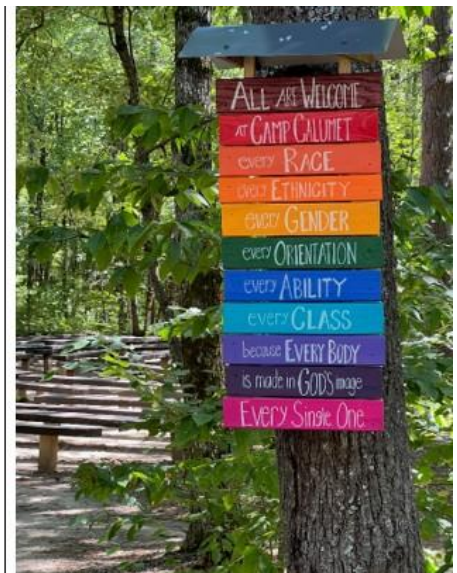
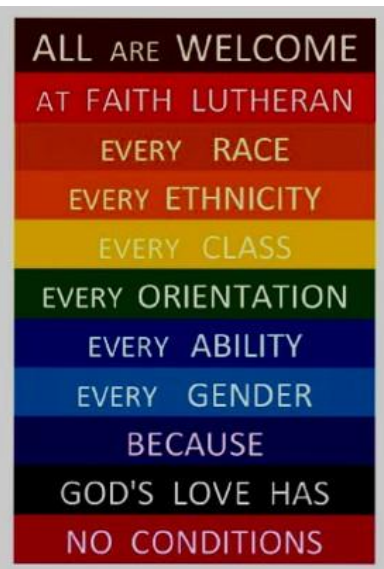


Exterior Signage Representing Faith Lutheran's Welcome Statement

Faith Lutheran, in a Special Congregational Meeting in June of 2024, adopted a Welcome Statement, following a long process of education, discussions, and discernment facilitated by our Reconciling in Christ Committee. (Our Welcome Statement is accessible through a link on Faith's Web site.) As many of you recall from discussions during the Special Meeting, any discussion or decisions regarding external representation, such as flags or signs, was deferred to another time. The motion adopted at the Special Meeting was confined to the Welcome Statement.

In May of this year, the Church Council asked our RIC committee (also known as FAL-R) to provide at least three recommendations to the Council for external symbolic representation of what is expressed in our Welcome Statement. After deliberation, the committee recommended three signage concepts to the Council at our September meeting. One of these, in a "ladder sign" format was the clear favorite of both the

RIC committee and the Council. This concept is shown on the left in the figure below. The phrases on the sign panels are portions of Faith's Welcome Statement. One inspiration for this sign concept is a similar ladder sign that is posted on a tree along the path to the Outdoor Chapel at Camp Calumet, as shown at right in the figure below. A team led by Kate Robinson, Communications Liaison on the council is investigating material and vendor options for this sign. The placement concept for this sign would have versions of this sign at each of the three entrances to the church building.



Mock-up on left is proposed for Faith Lutheran by the FAL-R (RIC) Committee. Wording and order of phrases has been approved; colors not necessarily the exact shades desired, but they are close; font size alignment (centered?) aren't perfected. Photo (r) taken at Camp Calumet August 2025.

The Committee also recommended options symbolically representing Welcome through the addition of color to Faith's existing roadside sign close-- to Main Street-- that would be both visible, and interpretable, when viewed from people in passing cars. (Cars pass too quickly for the messages from a Ladder-style sign to register.) Another concept presented by the Committee was to paint the bench in front of the building in a multi-color scheme. Another option for a road-side sign described during the Council meeting includes a version of the multi-color heart symbol of Reconciling Works, (the ELCA-affiliated organization that provided support during our RIC process).

Property

Dawn DiPersio, Council liaison



Looking for a Few Helping Hands!

Do you have an interest or experience in buildings, maintenance, or caring for outdoor spaces? We're forming a Building & Property Committee and would love your help! We're looking for people who can lend their expertise, lend a hand with small projects, or assist in organizing and managing our church facility and grounds.

It's not a big time commitment—but it's a wonderful way to get involved and make a difference in our church community and we could really use the help!

If you'd like to learn more or join the team, please contact Dawn (ddipersio@verizon.net)



RIC Committee

Cindy Schatz



On May 4, the Reconciling in Christ committee (RIC) presented a session on signs and symbols between the morning services. At their monthly meeting later that week, the Church Council asked the Committee for suggestions on outdoor signage which would represent our church's Welcoming Statement. Committee members shared their ideas over the summer and then voted on a couple of options, which involved modifying the sign by the street and adding signs by the church's entrances. These ideas were formally presented to the Council at its September meeting, and good discussion ensued. The Council is moving forward on implementation.



Transgender Day of Remembrance, which will be observed on **Thursday, November 20**, honors and remembers those who have lost their lives due to transphobia. It was established in 1999 in response to the brutal murder of Rita Hester, a transgender woman, in Allston, MA, and is now observed in cities around the world as a day to remember the lives lost to anti-trans violence. Look for more information about this, as well as any upcoming area events and items of interest, on the RIC bulletin board.

We welcome new voices and ideas for ongoing programming; inquire in the church office about our next scheduled meeting.

Social Ministry

Ed Knapp, Council liaison



November– Socks & Toiletries for Boston Night Center



The Boston Night Center is an overnight drop-in shelter for men and women experiencing homelessness. This shelter is open every night of the week and has a capacity of 60 individuals. We will be collecting socks and various toiletries in November, and will deliver them to the Center in early December. See weekly Forward with Faith for more details.

Christmas– Gift drive for Ascentria and Lazarus House

Faith will have our annual Christmas donation drives again this year. We collect gifts for both Ascentria's Intensive Foster Children Program and Lazarus House's "Project Bethlehem". We will distribute more details in the next few weeks.



January 2026– The Great Tuna Drive Returns!

Please bring or ship cans of Tuna to church for the Great Tuna Drive in January. ***Last year you all donated 1022 cans of Tuna!! Can we top that?***



We collect the tuna for the People's Food Pantry in North Andover in January to refill the pantry stores. Lots of donations are made during the holidays, and the food is distributed during the holidays, but now the pantry shelves need to be restocked. The food insecure arrive every other Tuesday to get a bag of groceries at the pantry. The recipients can bring the tuna home to their families and have a high-protein long shelf life food.

People's Food Pantry operates out of North Parish UUC in North Andover, as an independent 501c3. <https://peoplesfoodpantry.org>

Paper Bags for People's Food Pantry

Please bring your used brown paper grocery bags to church and place them in the white children's coat hanger box in the hallway of the south entrance. The People's Food Pantry uses these bags to hold the food they give to each family on distribution days.



Write "Village Food Hub" in memo line of checks



And don't forget our ongoing "Winter Coat Drive"

Stewardship

John Breiland, Council Liaison

The stewardship campaign for 2026 ends on November 16th with a celebration at the Coffee Hour after the First Service. The theme was “Rooted in God’s Grace” and focused on the never ending Grace from God to us and how we can respond by supporting the many Missions of our church. Thank You to All that returned Commitment Forms or support us in other ways.



God's Grace is like a pie that grows larger as it's shared
God's grace multiplies as we offer it to others through love and service.



Here are our slices to this divine abundance

We used a Pie chart listing the areas that need our love and support. The team reached out to about 190 families and asked for Commitment Forms with 2026 giving intentions. The important data gathered from these responses will help determine the Congregational Budget for 2026.

I want to thank the team that helped with the Stewardship program this year: Tanya Hayward, Kevin Maschhoff, Pastor Jen, Laura Schulte, Wilma Breiland, Dave Cressman, Jeanne Hladky, Olivia Janvrin, Jason & Calvin Buelow.

Evangelism & Fellowship

Laura Schulte, Council liaison



Friday Night Social– Help Wanted!

The first Friday of every month is Faith's Friday Night Social! We are looking for anyone who wants to take a turn hosting and maybe share an activity you enjoy! Ideas include game night, watercolor painting, coloring, trivia night, puzzles, making holiday cards, or any hobby that you enjoy and want to share! Contact Laura at evangelism@faith-andover.org for more information.



Finance

David Cressman, Council Liaison

Budget

Beginning in October, the Church Council began to review budget requests for 2026. If you continue your generosity by fulfilling your 2025 pledges, we will have a surplus which we can use to continue to pay for the unplanned and unbudgeted HVAC system that we had to purchase for the Sunday School wing.

In planning for 2026, the Executive Committee indicated a strong desire to plan for staff raises as our staff has had to go for two years without raises. Additionally, there is a desire to restore some funding to some of the other budgets, particularly Christian Education, which saw significant reductions over the past two years. Finally, we need to plan for Pastoral Care and Support during Pastor Jen's sabbatical. This will require budgeting for Sunday Supply Pastors plus usually another Pastor to cover issues arising during the week.

Since your generosity will determine the Church's ability to address the items noted in this report for 2026, it is important that you provide us with your pledges as soon as possible as we were blessed in 2025 when a donor stepped forward and balanced our budget. However, that was a one-time gift, so it is difficult without your help to budget for Weekly Offerings in 2026. If weekly offering were to only grow from \$345,199 in 2024 to \$355,00 then we would be looking at a very difficult effort to address the "needs" in the preceding paragraph. However, if Weekly Offering grew to \$382,000 or higher then we could better address the items in the preceding paragraph. As of October 27, 2025, the Financial Secretary reported pledges bringing us almost a quarter of the way to \$382,000 so hopefully we will see the remaining balance arrive by mid-November.

Rentals

For 2025, we have had two rentals but two rentals from last year which were anticipated for this year did not happen. We will need other rentals if we are to reach our target. If you or a friend are interested in renting part of the facility, please contact the office at office@faith-andover.org to start.



Worship & Music

Jeanne Hladky, Council Liaison

Musicians Wanted for Holiday Season

With Thanksgiving and Christmas fast approaching, we welcome musicians (new or experienced) to join our Ringers of Faith (handbells) or Intergenerational Chimes groups. Come learn some new music, get to know other musicians and give God the glory of music this upcoming holiday season. If interested, contact Jeanne at jeanne.thehissilent@gmail.com.

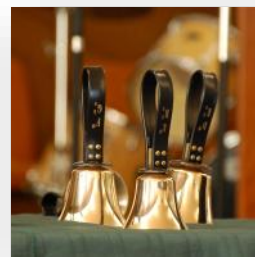
Ringers of Faith group is open to anyone grade 9 or older. We can accommodate all music abilities.

- **Christ the King Day 9:15am service on 11/23:** Rehearsals at 7pm on 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, and 11/18
- **Christmas Eve 2pm service on 12/24:** Rehearsals at 7pm on 12/2, 12/9, 12/16 and 12/23

Intergenerational chimes group is open to anyone 2nd grade or older. We can accommodate all music reading abilities.

- **Christmas Eve 4pm service on 12/24:** Rehearsals at 6:15pm on 12/2, 12/9, 12/16 and 12/23

See below for information on **Festival Choir** and the upcoming **Music Series**.



Join us in harmony!

Advent & Christmas FESTIVAL Choir

Sing with our choir in the **Traditional Service** for the four weeks of **Advent and Christmas Eve**. Rehearsals on **Thursdays at 7:30pm** beginning November 13 and 20.

Open to all voice types and experience levels.
Chat with D.J. Cleavinger or come to our Thursday rehearsal !!

2025-26

MUSIC AT FAITH 2025-26 LUTHERAN

2025-26

ALL ARE WELCOME
SUGGESTED DONATION OF \$20

Faith Lutheran Church
360 S. Main St., Andover, MA, 01810

COMING SOON
FULL DETAILS & DATES

DR. JESSICA McCORMACK, SOPRANO

VIRGINIA ZHENG, PIANO

YOUNG ORGANISTS RECITAL

MERRIMACK VALLEY RINGERS

Holiday Information



Christmas Eve

2:00 PM | 4:00 PM | 8:00 PM

Christmas Day

10:00 AM

Christmas 1, Dec 28

10:00 AM



Help Decorate
Our Church
for Christmas

SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 23
12:00 NOON

ORDER BY DECEMBER 15

POINSETTIAS/
GIFTS IN HONOR OR
MEMORY OF LOVED
ONES AT CHRISTMAS

PLANTS MAY BE TAKEN HOME ON
CHRISTMAS DAY OR AFTERWARDS

\$20 PER POINSETTIA



Order Form



Coming in January...

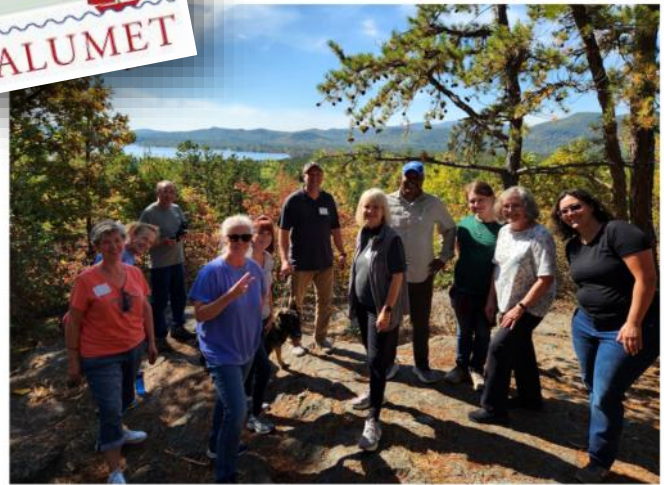
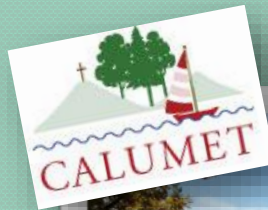
JOHN

gospel of
light and life

WORSHIP SERIES BEGINNING IN JANUARY



Photos of Faith



Lay Preacher Training at Calumet



**Our Fall Kickoff
was Fabulous
(and Tasty too!)**



Serving at Bread and Roses



Photos (cont'd)

**Andover
DAY
2025**

**It takes a team to make
Andover Day a success!**



Having fun at Friday Night Social



News & Notes



Habitat for Humanity Build Days

Saturdays, 11/8, 12/13 & 1/10; 8:15AM

Faith Member Tom Baird organizes Faith's build team (ages 16+) the second Saturday of each month. You do not have to be a building expert or have specialized skills to contribute to the projects. For more information contact Tom at tombaird739@gmail.com. Please note that build days may or may not be closed when licensed subcontractors are on-site.



American Red Cross Blood Drives

The situation is dire. The Red Cross is issuing a plea for all eligible donors to make an appointment to give now. Sign up for an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org under "Donate Blood". Note: Other dates and sites available are also available in the greater Andover area.

- Faith Lutheran: 11/19 & 12/16



Bread & Roses

Mondays, 11/10, 12/8 & 1/12; 3:45PM

58 Newbury St, Lawrence, MA

Faith Lutheran serves at Bread & Roses on the 2nd Monday of every month. Volunteers arrive at 3:45 PM and help put together meals which we then hand out to folks from 4:00-6:00 PM. If you'd like to help, a sign up is here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f4eafa823a02-serve>



Stand Out for Justice

Every Thursday, 5:30- 6:00pm

Corner of Central and School Streets., Andover MA

Andover Area Faith Communities invite you to join us as we come together to stand up for justice and the most vulnerable in our society. As people of faith, we believe in love, compassion, and action. This is a time to bear witness, stand in solidarity, and show our community that justice matters. All are welcome—bring a sign, bring a friend, or just bring yourself.

News and Notes (cont'd)



Thank You for helping our Gardens of Gratitude grow!

Dedication Service, Sunday, November 1 (All Saints Day)

By Sue Eliassen

In the spring our church landscaping underwent a major revitalization. The new gardens are beautiful and welcoming spaces. We are calling them the “**Gardens of Gratitude**.” Every flower planted and every tree nurtured is a living symbol of our thankfulness of God’s natural habitat, and connection of the inside care and beauty of our congregation to the outside. Thank you for your generous gifts that will help the Gardens of Gratitude thrive!

A dedication service will be held on November 1st – All Saints day. All donations and the names of loved ones will be acknowledged during this service.

Any donations received after October 26 will be acknowledged at a future date.



News and Notes (cont'd)



Church Fall Cleanup

Saturday, November 1; 9am-12Noon

Raindate– November 2; 12Noon-3pm

We need people who are willing to rake up leaves, clean flower beds, and cut some of the smaller dead tree branches. If you can bring rakes and tools for trimming branches, that's a big help! Coffee, apple cider and donuts will be on hand. If you are available to help, or have questions, please email Dawn DiPersio. Thank you so much!!



Piano at Methuen: D.J. Cleavinger

Sunday, November 9; 3pm

Methuen Memorial Music Hall, Methuen MA

Faith's own Director of Traditional Music, D.J. Cleavinger will present the second Piano at Methuen concert of the season at Methuen Memorial Music Hall. A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, D.J. grew up in an array of artistic activities: piano and voice study, leading roles in musical theatre productions, studio art classes – earning three gold key awards in the National Scholastic Competition, and various genres of choral singing through churches, schools, and the Cincinnati May Festival Youth Chorus. For discounted tickets, reach out to D.J. (traditionalmusic@faith-andover.org) by November 2, OR order at mmmh.org/events/pianoatmethuencleavinger.



Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Friday, November 14; 11:30am

Chinmaya Mission, 1 Union Street, Andover

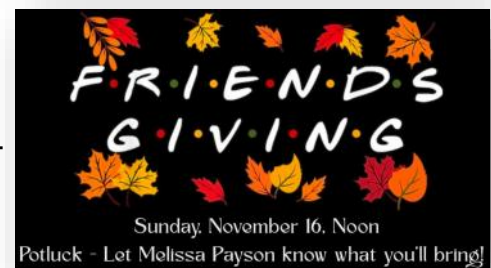
Join Communities Together for this year's Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at the Chinmaya Mission, 1 Union St in Andover, MA 01810. This service will be on Friday, November 14th at 11:30 am with a light lunch to follow. Please look for more information to come. We look forward to welcoming you!



Friendsgiving Potluck Lunch

Sunday, November 16; 12pm

You are cordially invited to join us for a potluck lunch on November 16, 2025, at 12:00 pm. Feel free to bring your favorite dish to share and please send Melissa Payson a message on what you will bring. We hope to see you all there.



News and Notes (cont'd)

Drop-in Hours with Pastor Jen

Wednesdays, 10:00am-12Noon
Caffe Nero, Andover



Pastor Jen will be at Caffe Nero on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am for anyone who would like to stop by. Want to say hello? Have a question, concern or prayer request? Stop by and let's chat.



Pub Spirituality

Wednesdays, 11/19, 12/17 & 1/21; 6:30pm-8:30pm
Lee Chen Chinese Cuisine, Lawrence

We typically meet on the 3rd Wednesdays (November 19, December 17, and January 21) at 6:30pm at Lee Chen Chinese Cuisine, 230 Winthrop Ave, Lawrence, MA. RSVP's to Pastor Jen are helpful but not necessary. Pub Spirituality is a time of informal conversation and exploration of spiritual topics. There are no right or wrong answers, but simply conversation about things such as prayer, good and evil, science and faith, creation, and forgiveness. All are welcome!



Pathways to Peace

Saturdays, 11/15 & 1/17; 9am-10:30am
Theme: "How We Learn to Be Brave"

The **Meditation Group's series "Pathways to Peace"** meets monthly on Saturday mornings this fall at church. We will meet from 9:15am-10:30am on November 15 and January 17. Each month we look at a chapter of Mariann Edgar Budde's book, "How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith," which talks about the decisions we make and how our faith influences them. Each discussion time ends with a guided meditation.



Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Saturdays, 11/15, 12/20 & 1/17; 8am-9am

Men's Fellowship meets one Saturday morning per month, just to share and get to know one another, and occasionally for a shared service project. We take turns providing breakfast. All men in the congregation are welcome! Please contact **Mark Morgan** or **Kevin Maschhoff** if you need more information.

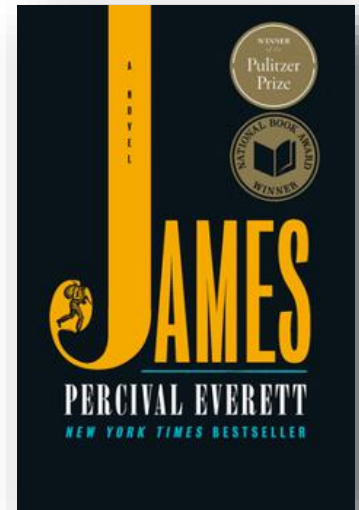


News and Notes (cont'd)

ChickLits (and Cookie Swap!)

NOTE Sunday, December 14; 12pm at church
“James” by Percival Everett

Looking for a fun, engaging way to explore new books and connect with others? Join ChickLits, the Women of Faith book club! We read a wide range of books—mostly fiction with a dash of non-fiction—which spark great discussions. Whether you're into Zoom meetings or in-person gatherings, you'll find a welcoming space to share your thoughts and discover fresh perspectives. If you would like to get on the email distribution list, please email Dawn DiPersio, ddipersio@verizon.net

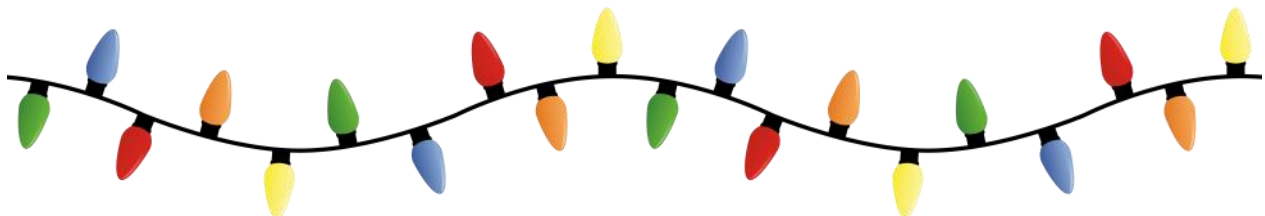
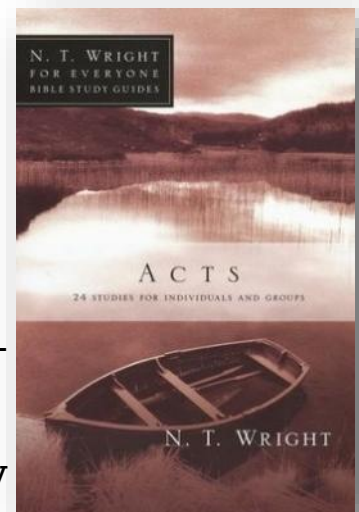


On Sunday, December 14 at 12pm, the ChickLits book club will be meeting for our discussion on the 2025 Pulitzer Prize winner “James” by Percival Everett. Our meeting will be in person at church. We will also be doing a cookie swap, so ***please bring 3 dozen holiday cookies if you would like to participate.***

Bible Study

Tuesdays, 10am

The Tuesday morning Bible study has just embarked on an in-depth study of the Acts of the Apostles, the New Testament book which follows the four Gospels and provides some insight to happenings of the Christian Church in the 1st Century. We began this study in mid-September, and have already welcomed a few new folks. Feel free to join us! The Bible Study takes place both in-person at church and simultaneously via Zoom, so you can participate from home or while you're away. We begin at 10:00 am and wrap up around 11:30 am, with some people choosing to go out for lunch afterwards. Our five lay leaders take turns preparing the weekly lesson, which is sent out in advance, and a study guide is also provided, so if you miss a week or two you can still keep current. These are interactive sessions, and you are welcome to ask questions, offer your insights and opinions, or just listen in. ***For more information, or to receive the Zoom link, contact the church office or speak with Cindy Schatz, Louise Kress, Chris Hayward, Wilma Breiland or Roberta Ede.***

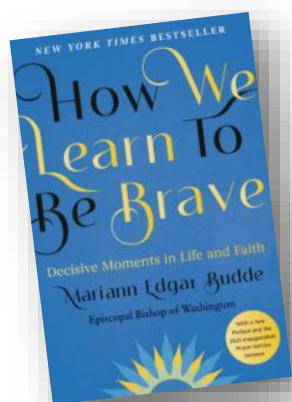


News and Notes (cont'd)

Women's Retreat 2025

By Cindy Schatz

During the first weekend of October, a number of women from Faith journeyed up to the ELCA's Camp Calumet in Freedom, NH and enjoyed good food, conversation and weather. As we've done before, we rendezvoused at Jake's Seafood and Grille, a few miles south of camp for Friday night dinner. Later that evening we were welcomed by the new Associate Director, Pr. Sara Anderson ("Sara J.") who provided an overview of the meal times, services and activities scheduled for the weekend.



Our Saturday morning session was designed by Pastor Jen, based on Mariann Edgar Budde's book "How We Learn to be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith". Some of us took advantage of an afternoon pontoon boat ride offered on Lake Ossipee, during which we were able to venture down Bear Camp River, while others relaxed in our lakeside cabin. Due to the drought, a ban had been imposed on outdoor burning, so we missed out on our usual campfire with singing and skits on the beach (an alternative evening activity was offered).

After breakfast on Sunday, a walking tour of the camp was given to one of our group, who was visiting Calumet for the very first time. We were blessed that Sunday morning was warm enough for the worship service to be held in the outdoor chapel (on the resident camp side), where we joined with folks from other churches who were up for the weekend. After brunch in the Conference Center, we packed up and headed home, sorry to leave the stillness and beauty of Calumet behind. The date of the 2026 Fall retreat will be publicized as soon as we have it – be sure to save the date and join us next year!



Youth Ministry Position

We are still looking for our part-time Youth Leader for Faith Formation. Please share the job description with anyone you know who might be a good fit! Applicants should send a resume and cover letter to pastor@faith-andover.org

Job description for Youth Leader for Faith Formation:

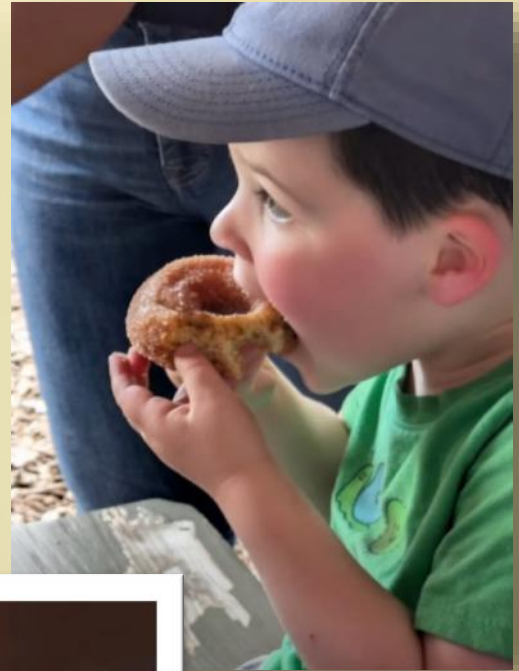
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xs_gZA4Hpi6V_z9GS-a27chK6dPa2jdsioihz9nw6bY/edit?usp=sharing



Youth News- Faith's youth help feed the homeless



Youth news- Fall Fun (cont'd)



**Apple picking
and cider
donuts at
Smolak Farms**



Youth News- Fall Fun (cont'd)



Fall Family Fun decorating pumpkins and going on a hayride at Krochmal Farm.



Calumet Corner

All activities are subject to change. To learn more, go to Calumet's website at www.calumet.org or contact Alice at alice@calumet.org.



Winter at Calumet



The land may be slumbering, but during the winter Calumet is just as vibrant as it is during the summer. Winter is why we live here after all, and there is no shortage of exciting games and activities to be played in the snow and ice. So come up for a midweek retreat or a weekend getaway, and enjoy all that Calumet has to offer.

- **Women's Weekends**, November 7-9, 14-16 & 21-23
- **Rejoice Weekend**, December 5-7
Join us in December for a weekend filled with some Christmastime favorites -- and it's for people of all ages. Whether you come up with your family, a group of friends, or all by yourself, this will be a time for fun, for getting grounded in what the season is all about, and for making memories.
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend**, January 16-19, 2026
Come to Calumet for your Holiday Weekend! There's fun to be had with tubing on the Toboggan Run, Broomball, Campfires, Ice Skating, Snowshoeing, and other fun activities. Or, use Calumet as your base of operations for family skiing at nearby ski areas and other local attractions.
- **New Years Extravaganza**, December 29-January 1
The classic fun of our New Year's Eve Dinner will be followed by Team Trivia, special musical guests on New Year's Eve, and the dropping of "The Ball" at 9 PM and at Midnight.
- **Scrapbookers' Retreat**, January 9-11, 2026

ELCA News



Installation of Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry: A Joyful Day for the ELCA

On October 4, 2025, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gathered in celebration as the Rev. Yehiel Curry was installed as Presiding Bishop at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. The service marked a historic and hope-filled moment for Lutherans across the nation, highlighting Bishop Curry's deep commitment to justice, community, and the transformative power of the gospel.

The 4-minute highlight video, now available on YouTube, captures the beauty and energy of the day—from the music and procession to the powerful preaching and prayers.

The installation service reflected Bishop Curry's vision of a church rooted in faith and courageously engaged in the world. As the first African American to serve as Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, his leadership embodies the church's growing commitment to inclusion and the richness of the body of Christ.

As Bishop Curry begins this new chapter of leadership, Lutherans across the [ELCA] and beyond are invited to hold him in prayer—giving thanks for God's guidance and for a Spirit-led future of unity, renewal, and mission together.



For a full story, read the *Living Lutheran* article "Answering the Call: Yehiel Curry is installed as ELCA presiding bishop" at livinglutheran.org/2025/10/answering-the-call/



ELCA News (cont'd)

Programs at Rolling Ridge

Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center

(www.rollingridge.org/events)

660 Great Pond Road, North Andover

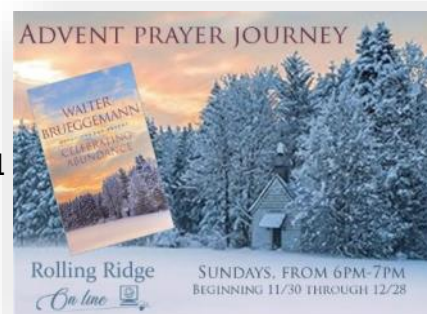
"Emerging Spirituality" - Sunday, Nov. 16; 9:30am-3:30pm

This one-day program will focus on our emerging spiritualities and the evolution of our experiences of the Divine. We will explore how to become wholly present to that Holy Presence through various mindful worship practices, through new and meaningful ways in which the Divine may reveal itself. Participants will end the day by designing a closing ritual to celebrate spiritual community, and all the fruits of our spiritual becoming. Cost: \$89 (includes program from 9:30-3:30, pastries and lunch)



"Advent Prayer Journey ONLINE" - Sundays, 11/30-12/28

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, we invite you to join Rolling Ridge for an ONLINE Advent Prayer Journey. Each Sunday during the weeks of Advent (beginning November 30th and concluding December 28th), we will offer ONLINE reflections and contemplative sharing at the Vesper Hour from 6:00 to 7:00 pm eastern. Celebrating Abundance: Devotions for Advent by Walter Brueggemann will be our guide this season as we remember his legacy and his passing this year in June 2025.



"Christmas at Rolling Ridge" - Dec. 14 & Dec. 17

Step into the magic of the season at Rolling Ridge's first-ever Holiday Decorating Showcase! This Grand Georgian Manor will be transformed into a festive wonderland, with staff, family, and friends adorning bedrooms, meeting spaces, and the grounds in holiday splendor. Christmas at Rolling Ridge is one sure way to prepare you and your family for the holidays! All ages are welcome to enjoy and explore. Please register online



* Sunday, December 14: 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM

* Wednesday, December 17: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Communications– Quick Reference



Telephone

- Church office (Magaly Nelson): **(978) 475-4059**. [Leave a message]
- Pastor Jen: **(978) 806-8255**

Church Office Hours

The Church Office is open on **Tuesday/Thursday/Friday** from 9:20am-1:00pm.
We work from home on **Mondays**. The office is **CLOSED on Wednesdays**.

Email

Church Staff

- Pastor: Pr. Jeanette Leisk at **jleisk@gmail.com** (or **jen@faith-andover.org**)
- (interim) Director of Youth and Family Ministry: Melissa Payson
- Director of Trad. Music: David Jesse Cleavinger at **traditionalmusic@faith-andover.org**
- Praise Band Director: Ingrid Marstaller at **ingrid@faith-andover.org**
- Church Administrator: Magaly Nelson at **office@faith-andover.org**
- Worship Technology Technician: **TBD**

Church Council Executive Committee

- Council President: **president@faith-andover.org** - Kevin Maschhoff
- Council Vice-president: **vp@faith-andover.org** – Jackie Hartzell
- Council Secretary: **councilsecretary@faith-andover.org** – Chris Hayward
- Financial Secretary: **financialsecretary@faith-andover.org** – Tanya Hayward
- Treasurers: **treasurer@faith-andover.org** – Dave Menninger & **TBD**
- To contact the entire Council: **council@faith-andover.org**

General

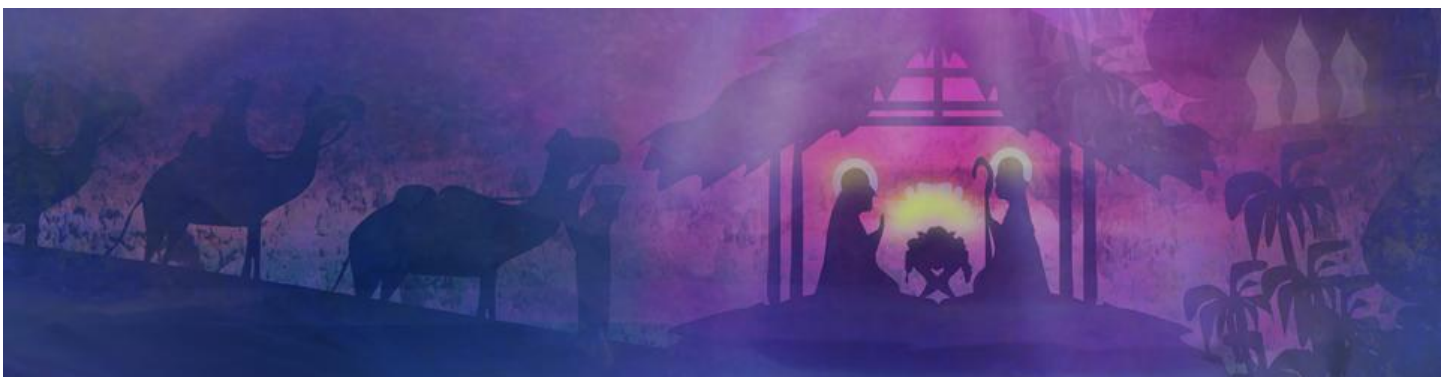
- Submitting announcements: **anouncements@faith-andover.org**

Online and Social Media

- Website (**www.faith-andover.org**)
- Facebook Page (**www.facebook.com/Faith.Andover**)
- Instagram (**www.instagram.com/faithandover**)

WiFi: SolaGratia

Password:
ph0eBeF@ith





Faith Lutheran Church

Address: 360 South Main Street, Andover, MA 01810
Email: info@faith-andover.org

Phone: 978-475-4059
Web: www.faith-andover.org

Worship Schedule

9:15 AM – Traditional Worship Service

10:15 AM – Fellowship/Connection Time (for all)

11:00 AM – Contemporary Worship Service

- All are welcome to join us for Sunday worship!
- The links to view the service and worship booklet are published each week on our website. We livestream on our **YouTube** channel and **Facebook** page.
- Recordings of our services are available to view at your convenience at a later time

Information on our **Advent/Christmas services** may be found on pages 1 & 11.

**May each person feel invited
to this community, feel
equipped to use their gifts to
the Glory of God, and feel
sent to serve...**

Sola Fide November 2025 - January 2026

