

Faith Lutheran Church & School

Forward in Faith

July - September 2026

"Where faith meets life"

Galatians 2:20

Our Mission:
Sharing the word of Jesus Christ through a loving and caring ministry responding to the needs of all people.

STAY CONNECTED

2265 Red Lion Road
Bear, DE 19701-1849
OR
P.O. Box 1000
Bear, DE 19701

Church 302-834-1214
School 302-834-3417

WORSHIP SERVICES

Contemporary @ 8:15 AM
Traditional @ 10:30 AM
Livestream @ 10:30 AM
5th Sunday @ 9:30 AM

WEBSITE:

www.faith-lutheran.church

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/@FaithLutheranChurchBearDE

FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/faith.bear.de

PASTOR'S EMAIL:

revthress@icloud.com

OFFICE EMAIL:

Office@faith-lutheran.church



"Summer Breeze"

Do you know the song? By Seals and Crofts? I love "yacht rock" and this is one of my favorites to put me in the summer mood. The tune immediately relaxes me, and the chorus says it all:

"Summer breeze makes me feel fine
Blowin' through the jasmine in my mind"

The whole song is about the simple pleasures of summer moments...

- Curtains in front of an open window blowing in the breeze
- Music being heard out the window
- A screen door
- Relaxation after a day's work - enjoying the longer daylight of summer evenings

And for me, stanza three really hits home as I start my new wedded life with Nancy:

"See the smile awaitin' in the kitchen
Food cookin' and the plates for two
Feel the arms that reach out to hold me
In the evening, when the day is through"

(continued)

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As I write this, we have officially entered the summer season. For Nancy and me, we have gotten back from our “mini-honeymoon” to Gettysburg and have leapt right into this new life together. This song perfectly describes that time together away from everything. And I am looking forward to more cherished time this summer and beyond.

But our reality is also about a house full of young adults (my children), boxes and bins of Nancy’s belongings that need to be unpacked and placed, hectic lives merging - new challenges along with all the same challenges life is always throwing our way.

Thankfully, we have a God who is with us in the summer breeze as well as in the thunderstorm, the tornado and hurricane, and even the winter blizzard. I think of Jesus talking to Nicodemus about the work of the Holy Spirit and comparing it to the wind that “...blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.” (John 3:8 ESV)

I’m thankful that God’s Spirit moves and breathes into me and around me. That’s our God’s faithful promise. He is that breeze that moves beyond our understanding, offering us solace and comfort in the midst of life’s chaos.

At our wedding, we held the reception in a tent at church. Many of you were there to help us celebrate. And if you were there, you remember that the skies darkened at one point; people got nervous; some left at that point to beat the storm... and the rain came... but just for a short time. The tent did its job. And then came a beautiful rainbow.

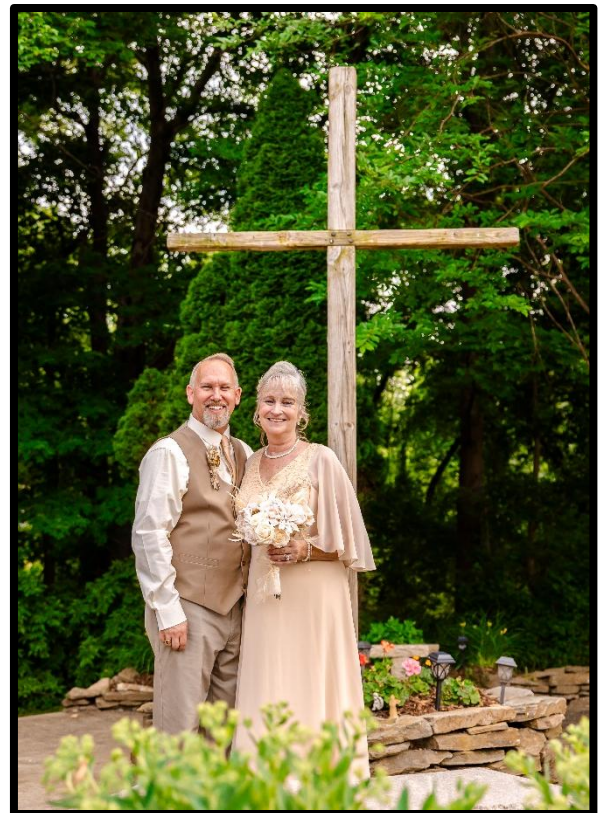
It was a perfect metaphor of daily life - a storm coming, but shelter in the arms of our Savior, followed by the reminder of the rainbow in the clouds that our faithful God will never leave nor forsake us, a promise fulfilled by Jesus on the cross and in the empty tomb.

I pray that this summer brings you many cool breezes. But living in the reality of summer heat and storms, remember that your loving God is faithful in His grace and mercy for you. May He calm your fears and anxiety when the storms come. May He gently cool you down when life’s temperature rises. He knows what you are facing, for He has faced it all and is walking through it with you now.

“The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.” (*Psalms 121.5* ESV)

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Mike

Congratulations
Pastor Mike and Nancy!



Photograph by SamanthHarter Photography

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE:

The hot weather is upon us, and soon the sky will be full of fireworks as our nation celebrates its 250th birthday. Enjoy the festivities, but please be safe! Our church hasn't been around quite that long, yet we still have plenty to celebrate!

We give thanks for another wonderful VBS, and we're grateful to Kym Caudill and all her helpers for their hard work and joyful service. Our Food from Faith ministry continues to thrive, and your response to our Capital Fund Drive has been both amazing and encouraging! While we haven't reached the number on our chart just yet, we *have* reached our goal of repairing both the elevator and the broken HVAC unit. Thanks to Keith Davis and others, we were able to secure repair costs far below our original estimates. Of course, life keeps us on our toes, and now another unit is giving us trouble—so the Fund Drive continues!

We've recently formed a new "Discipleship Team" to help us assess the overall wellness of our congregation using the SIMPLE Assessment from the Southeastern District. You'll be hearing more about that soon. In addition, the elders will be partnering with Pastor to strengthen our follow-up with members we haven't seen in a while, using a District resource called *Shepherding Our Strays*—a gentle, caring approach to reconnecting people to church life.

Another team is being assembled to explore upgrades to our digital ministry so we can better use the technology that so many people—especially younger generations—rely on every day. There is so much more we can do in this area. So, if digital communication is something you enjoy, we would love to have you involved.

Summer is full of travel and family activities, but don't forget to stay rooted in worship and God's Word. Our early service is great for those heading out for the day, and our livestreamed second service is available all week on YouTube. There's no need to take a "vacation" from church—we all need Him just as much in summer as any other season.

Blessings to you all!

Pete Mueller
Council Chairman

COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES – SAVE THE DATES!

Saturday, October 3rd: Fall Festival

Saturday, October 24th: Trunk or Treat

Both of these events are wonderful community outreach events that are also fun for your family. More information to come as we approach October, but please mark your calendars now!

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Birthday Blessings

July

07/01 Jonah Rufus
 07/03 Nicolas Vacula
 07/05 Sarah Drummonds
 07/05 Jordan Hartman
 07/06 Seth Cordrey
 07/06 Gabriele Semenoro
 07/09 Michael Semenoro
 07/11 Elijah Rufus
 07/11 Luke Thress
 07/17 Helen Knapp
 07/18 Kristen Nawrocki
 07/19 Dave McCrea
 07/19 Rocky Zelano
 07/21 Jim Bennett
 07/21 Debbie Eisenhauer
 07/22 Derek Loveless
 07/24 Xavier Bennett
 07/24 Martha Elder
 07/27 Anna Drummonds
 07/28 Peter Faverio
 07/29 Joe Zebley

August

08/01 Eric Loveless
 08/01 Nathaniel Menefee
 08/03 Connor Roman
 08/04 Julie Carter
 08/05 Sue Bradford
 08/05 Allison Thress
 08/06 Laura Bettinger
 08/08 Barbara Bradford
 08/09 Cheryl Michaels
 08/11 CR Bradford
 08/11 Immanuel Rufus
 08/12 Gabriel De Luz
 08/12 Paul Mackey
 08/15 Abigail Dalby
 08/15 Kayla Zelano
 08/18 Talen Faverio
 08/19 Madison Greigg
 08/19 Alexandra Luzetsky
 08/20 Jamie Eisenhauer
 08/23 Danny McLaughlin
 08/24 Alayna Bettinger
 08/28 Judy Andela
 08/28 Hedy Fay
 08/31 David Lyons

September

09/04 Josie Traver
 09/05 Kenneth McNeil
 09/08 JoAnn Littleton
 09/08 Nancy Rufus
 09/09 Loretta MacLaren
 09/13 Robert Cordrey
 09/16 Charlie Bradford
 09/19 Tyler Bennett
 09/19 MaryBeth Cichocki
 09/22 Donna Lyons
 09/28 Ray Cichocki

ALTAR FLOWERS:

If you would like to place altar flowers in the sanctuary, in honor of someone special or in memory of a loved one, please see the flower signup sheet in the narthex. The cost is \$40.

Please wish Helen Knapp a Happy 103rd Birthday!

Helen is our oldest charter member and will be 103 on July 17th. She loves receiving cards and it would be wonderful if you would send her a greeting card. It doesn't need to be on or before her birthday. Any day will be a great surprise to her. Even if you don't know her, she thinks it is great that you would take the time to send her a greeting. Tell her how long you have been a member or how you found Faith Lutheran Church or any story about Faith. Thank you for making her birthday special!

Submitted by Sue Bradford

Mailing address:

1900 Lovering Ave., Room #238
 Wilmington, DE 19806-2123
 (Helen no longer has an email address)



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES:

Sundays @ 9:30 AM – Adult Bible Study will resume September 13th.

Tuesdays @ 10:30 AM – Small Group Study continues through the summer at the home of Amy Cannavo. See Amy for future study topics and dates.

Thursdays @ 10:00 AM – Women's Bible Study will resume on September 17th.
Study topic: 2nd Corinthians.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH and TODDLER'S CHURCH:

If you are a current **Children's Church** teacher, or would like to become one, please plan to attend a brief meeting on July 12th, after the 10:30 service.

We are also trying to start a **Toddler's Church** for our younger children (ages 2-3). If you are interested in helping with this age group, please also plan to attend the meeting.



Please let Martha Elder know if you can attend the meeting or have questions.

***** IT'S TIME TO "STUFF IT"! *****

"Stuff it!" is becoming a theme for August at Faith! There are two activities planned for members to join in showing God's love to our community that are easy to join in with, so please consider sharpening up your "stuffing skills" with us!

First, on August 1st, the Women of Faith will be stuffing backpacks with school supplies needed by the children of our *Food from Faith* families. Thrivent Financial is providing an Action Team grant to help purchase the 20 or so school backpacks, which then will be stuffed with school supply donations from members of Faith. Backpacks will then be ready for families to pick up at the *Food from Faith* distribution the following Saturday. Families benefiting from this ministry in the past have been able to send their kids to school with the needed items to start their school year prepared and with dignity. Congregation members are asked to support this very special and needed ministry with donations of gift cards to Target or Walmart, or cash, that will then be used to shop for the specific supplies based on the lists provided by the schools the children attend. Please see Kym Caudill or Pastor Mike for any questions.

Next, on August 23rd, there will be the opportunity for folks to join in with stuffing packs with summer needs for the *Hug from Matt* ministry that MaryBeth Cichocki provides for people who are homeless in our area. Thrivent Financial is also providing seed money through an Action Team grant to help order backpack bags and a few of the supplies for stuffing them. Additional donations are needed from the "summer list" of items critically needed by folks who are homeless in our community (see page 6). If you are able to help, please bring the donations to church over the next few weeks and place in the donation bin in the narthex, or if you would you would prefer, provide an Amazon gift card so supplies can be ordered. We will be stuffing the packs after church on August 23rd with the goal of stuffing at least 70 packs (and hoping to get to 100 if we have enough donations!). Please consider adding a contribution from the list and/or staying for an hour or so after the 10:30 service to flex your stuffing muscles with us- many hands make light work! And you get to rock a "Live Generously" t-shirt in the process! If you have questions, please see MaryBeth Cichocki, Carla Vacula, or Pastor Mike.

Both ministries give us opportunities to bring God's love and grace into a world that is hurting. Please consider joining either or both efforts!

Submitted by Carla Vacula

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A HUG FROM MATT:

SUMMER NEEDS

Socks (male/female)
Rain Ponchos
Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
Deodorant
Hand Sanitizer
Lip Balm
Sunscreen
Tissues
Combs
Body Wipes
Water
Peanut Butter & Non-perishable Snacks

Thank you for helping those less fortunate, but please only donate the items listed. Thank you!

HELP WANTED:

"There are so many fabulous things about gardening, and the best is that anyone can do it"
C. Z. Guest (1920-2003)

We wouldn't have the flowers out front if it were not for Arne Wilkening and Rich Andela removing the overgrown shrubs with chains and a pickup truck! They provided some topsoil and space for what we enjoy this summer! We'd love to expand our happy gardeners at Faith. No experience necessary. Gardening gloves, kneeling pad and tools provided.

Submitted by Betty Agovino



GREETERS NEEDED:

Welcoming visitors to Faith is the first impression our guests receive. We would like to have a designated person at the 10:30 service (please see signup board). Even if you are not the greeter for the day, please introduce yourself to a new face and welcome them. We only have one chance to make a first impression!



A Hug From Matt is sponsoring:

Back to School Supplies Drive

Drop off or mail to
232 Timber Knoll Dr. Bear, DE
by second week of August.
(Pick up can be arranged)

Supplies Needed Include:

- Pencils
- Pencil Cases
- Notebooks
- Crayola crayons
- Folders
- Glue Sticks
- Erasers
- Dry Erase Markers
- Scissors
- Rulers
- Composition Books
- Colored Pencils
- 3 Ring Binders
- Notebook Paper
- Washable Markers



Benefiting students from Oberle Elementary School

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WOMEN OF FAITH – HOW WE SERVE OTHERS

UPCOMING: We will not meet in July due to the 4th of July Holiday. We will meet on August 1st at which time we will be filling backpacks for the children of our ***Food from Faith*** families. On September 5th, we will go to volunteer at Orphan Grain Train. We've done this several times before. It is an amazing organization, and we have always had a good time helping there. All are welcome to come and help.

Submitted by Jill Mackey

BACKPACKS FOR ***FOOD FROM FAITH*** FAMILIES:

Kym Caudill is spearheading the collection efforts to give all the children in our ***Food from Faith*** ministry a new backpack with supplies specific to their school. Donations of cash, check, or gift cards to Target or Walmart are appreciated. All donations should be made by July 31st since the WOF will be stuffing them on August 1st. Thank you for your support!



GIRLZ OF FAITH: Amy Cannavo and Kym Caudill are enthusiastically preparing for the next ***Girlz of Faith*** meeting to be held on Saturday, July 18th from 1:30 – 3:00. The theme is “Beauty in Christ” through DIY spa treatments. If you would like to participate or volunteer to help, please contact Amy at cannavoam@gmail.com.

MONTHLY REMINDERS

Monthly meetings are held the 1st Saturday of the month @ 9:30 AM. All women are invited and encouraged to attend and participate in our mission work which supports Faith, our community, and around the world.

MITE BOX MISSION

The 1st Sunday of every month is Mite Box Mission collection. Wear purple and show your support for LWML. Money collected, no matter how small, adds up and helps support global mission work.

God sees every act of service done with a sincere heart.
Nothing is wasted. Nothing is overlooked.
What you do for Him—no matter how hidden—has eternal value.

Serve with joy.
Serve with humility.
Serve knowing that heaven sees what man sometimes doesn't.

And in God's Kingdom, faithfulness will always matter more than fame. 🙏❤️

In the church, there is
no big or small ministry.

Every act of service
is a ministry.

@saltandlightwords



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026 IS A WRAP!!



Many thanks to Kym Caudill for her leadership in planning ***Tropical Trek***. We brought the Gospel to 28 kids throughout the week with singing, crafts, story time, games and snacks! Many of the kids were past and present students from our preschool! VBS would not have been successful without the many volunteers. A special thanks to Carla Vacula for capturing the week with her photography (and these are just a few)!

Past & present children from our preschool!

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