

Faith's Blessings

Faith Lutheran Church
6567 Glades Pike
Somerset PA 15501
(814) 443-3179
(814) 483-3097 Pastor Kathy

December 2024



*I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die*

*for poor ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.*

*When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall
with wise men and farmers and shepherd and all.*

*But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
and the promise of ages it did then recall.*

*If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.*

*I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die...*

*for poor ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander... out under the sky.....*

“I Wonder as I Wander” is a Christmas hymn written by John Jacob Niles based on a few lines of a song he heard while traveling in the southern Appalachians. In his autobiography, Niles wrote: “I Wonder as I Wander” grew out of three lines of music sung for me by a girl who called herself Annie Morgan. The place was Murphy, North Carolina, and the time was July, 1933. The Morgan family, revivalists all, were about to be ejected by the police, after having camped in the town square for some little time, cooking, washing, hanging their wash from the Confederate monument and generally conducting themselves in such a way as to be classed a public nuisance. Preacher Morgan and his wife pled poverty; they had to hold one more meeting in order to buy enough gas to get out of town. It was then that Annie Morgan came out—a tousled, unwashed blond, and very lovely. She sang the first three lines of the verse of “I Wonder as I Wander.” At twenty-five cents a performance, I tried to get her to sing all the song.

After eight tries, all of which are carefully recorded in my notes, I had only three lines of verse, a garbled fragment of melodic material—and a magnificent idea.”

“I Wonder as I Wander” is one of my favorite Christmas hymns and holds a special place in the earliest beginnings of my journey of pastoral discernment, for, I admit, have always been a wonderer...

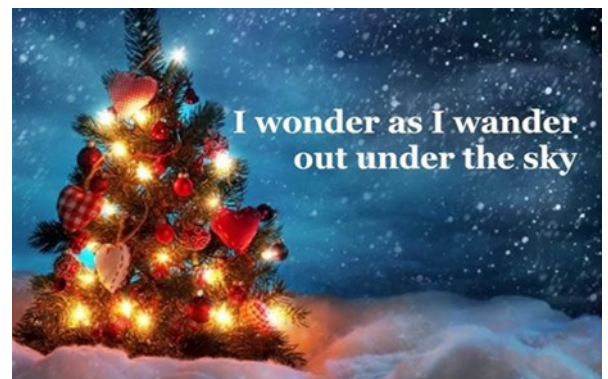
As a tween, I would sit cross-legged on the floor in a dark corner of our living room—the only place I could plug in the old family record player, which I had claimed for my 45’s and 33-1/2 albums. I would spin tunes from The Carpenters, The Beach Boys, and Loretta Lynn. This time of year, I would lose myself for hours in melodies that captured the divine story—His story—drawing me closer to God. The glow of Christmas tree lights twinkled back at their reflections on the large picture window as my thoughts wandered and wondered through the mysteries of our faith.

Amidst the snowflakes falling, choirs of little angels singing, Christmas cookies baking, gift-buying and gift-giving, the true miracle of these days of waiting is found in God becoming one of us, revealing His presence within each of us and all of His creation - a sacred presence to be embraced and cherished and shared.

For me, for you, for us...this “wonder” cannot be bound to the Christmas season alone but carried into our daily walk throughout the year with joy, thanksgiving, and thanks-living. British author, G.K. Chesterton, known for his series on the priest-detective, Father Brown, beautifully noted, “Children are grateful when Santa Claus puts in their stockings gifts of toys or sweets. Should I not be even more grateful to God for the miraculous gift of two legs to walk His path?”

Let us view the world with child-like awe—with eyes of innocence and faith. In doing so, may we find joy and wonder in the everyday miracles around us, embracing the beauty of God's creation and the divine grace that surrounds us.

Wishing you and yours joy and peace,
this holy season
and beyond,
Pastor Kathy +





During the month of November we lifted the following in prayer: Donna Stillwagon, Champ Slayton and Faith's Homebound Members

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care visits are a means of bringing the presence of Jesus Christ into the lives of our community of Faith at times of acute illness, pending surgery, long-term care and rehabilitation of care, as well as hospice care. We rely on family members, friends, and neighbors to let the church staff know when someone is in a hospital or other facility; please call the church office 814-443-3179 and provide the name of the individual, name of hospital or care facility, and room number if known; and it is also helpful to give time/date of surgery. After office hours you may call Pastor Kathy directly at 814-483-3097.

Thank you,
Pastor Kathy

Second Offering

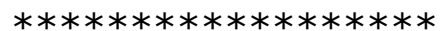
We collected \$108 for "Berlin Food Panty" during our Second Sunday offering in November.

Our Second Offering for the month of December has been designated for the "Pastor's Discretionary Fund". Your donations will assist those who Pastor Kathy discerns as needing a helping hand. Thank you for helping this outreach!



Hurricane Relief

Our Election Day food sales and a few donations through our offering are enabling us to send **\$1500** to Samaritan's Purse to aid in the work being done for hurricane relief. Thank You, Thank You for all your help in this outreach!!



Winter is upon us with the cold air, stay warm, healthy & thankful to God for our everchanging seasons. Watch for a list of upcoming events as we enter a New year!



Take this time to consider how you would like to be more involved in the church as you enter a New Year.

Caring Workers

Our group will be taking the month of January and February off. Be sure and watch the newsletters and bulletin for the date we will return. Enjoy the beauty of winter!!

WELCA will also be taking the months of January and February off. It will be announced in the bulletins and newsletter when they will resume their meetings. Stay warm!



Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, Dec. 8. We will be electing 3 new council members and voting on the Ministry Proposal for 2025. Plan on attending!

Worship

Altar Flower and Communion Bread sign– up sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex for 2025. If you can provide flowers or bread for any worship service, please put your name on the appropriate Sunday.

Somerset Floral will bill you directly for the flowers and if you want, you can choose a specific flower of your choice. The bread should be an unsliced loaf or you can provide pita bread. Thank you for helping with these items for our worship service.



We thank those who are willing to serve
for the month of December

Dec. 1

Altar Guild	Sandy, Brenda & Dawn	Reader	Jane Pugh
Assisting Minister	Dave Pugh	Acolyte	Kaden George
Greeters	Jane Pugh & Jen Ohler		
Council Person	Dave Pugh		

Dec. 8

Altar Guild	Sandy, Brenda & Dawn	Reader	Brenda Maust
Assisting Minister	Darren Walker	Acolyte	Evelyn Rhoads
Greeters	Gene & Elaine Hillegas		

Dec. 15

Altar Guild	Sandy, Brenda & Dawn	Reader	Rich Walker
Assisting Minister	Bill Hoffman	Acolyte	Ari Ohler
Greeters	Patti Trent & Brenda Maust		

Dec. 22

Altar Guild	Sandy, Brenda & Dawn	Reader	Bob Duppstadt
Assisting Minister	Brenda Maust	Acolyte	Kaden George
Greeters	Joleen Everett & Kaden		

Dec. 24– Christmas Eve

Altar Guild (1:30 pm)	Sandy, Brenda & Dawn	Reader	Kate Judy
Assisting Minister	Darren Walker	Acolyte	
Greeters			

Altar Guild (7:00 pm)	Sandy, Brenda & Dawn	Reader	Steve Will
Assisting Minister	Jane Pugh	Acolyte	<u>EVERYONE</u>
Greeters	Dave & Sandy Pugh Steve & Dawn Will		

Dec. 29

Altar Guild	Sandy, Brenda & Dawn	Reader	Brock Bowers
Assisting Minister	Brock Bowers	Acolyte	Darren Walker
Greeters	Katelynn Judy & Brock Bowers		

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 9 am Donut Sunday Kid's Kingdom Wrap Angel Blessing Gifts		3 Caring Workers 10 am	4 Advent 6 pm	5 Bible Study 10:30 am		7 Creative Crafters 1 pm
8 Worship 9 am 2nd Sun. Offering Annual Congre- gational Mtg	9 WELCA 7 pm	10 Caring Workers 10 am	11 Advent 6 pm	12 Bible Study 10:30 am Council Mtg 7 pm		
15 Worship 9 am Decorate the Sanctuary "Mingle Jingle" covered dish lunch		17 Caring Workers 10 am	18 Advent 6 pm	19 Bible Study 10:30 am		
22 Worship 9 am		24 Christmas Eve Worship 1:30 pm and 7 pm (with spe- cial music at 6:30)	25 Office Closed MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 Office Closed		
29 Worship 9 am 5th Sunday Offering						
			December Second Offering will be collected for Pastor's Discretionary Fund			

PLEASE JOIN US...
Wednesday evenings during Advent,
beginning December 4th,
at 6:00 p.m.

Angels We Have Heard on High



How will we spend these days of waiting for Christ to be born among us?

As we anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth, you are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings to gather for a meal around the stories that have encouraged, inspired and energized generations of faithful witnesses. "In the hopeful spirit of Advent, we will hear and repeat the angels' invitation for our time "Do not fear". If we respond to the angels' call, we will spend this time acting on our hope, living joyfully, proclaiming peace and always, always embodying love."

Come for a Service of the Word, Fellowship

“Mingle and Jingle”



Join us on Sunday morning, December 15 following worship to help decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas!

When the decorating is complete, we will then gather in the fellowship hall for a covered dish lunch and a time of fellowship.

Everyone is invited to help decorate and join in the meal. Many hands make light work!

Hope to see you then.

Lift every voice and sing!

Faith's Choir needs your voice!

Practice is immediately following worship service.

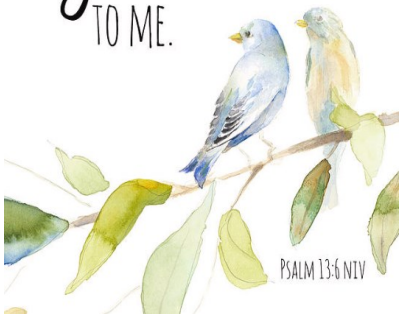
It runs for 15 minutes.

15 minutes is all that's needed.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...

(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Sing
TO THE
Lord,
FOR HE HAS BEEN
Good
TO ME.



Take time to sing! Please...Come...join in!



Mary Ann Long (81)	Dec 2	Richard Golby	Dec 19
Debbie Heiple	Dec 5	Robert Duppstadt, Jr.	Dec 20
Michael Lensbouer	Dec 5	Tyler Fochtman	Dec 20
Andrew Maust	Dec 6	Katelyn Smeak	Dec 20
Brenda Walker	Dec 6	Mark Cober	Dec 22
Will Brendle	Dec 7	Jenny Ohler	Dec 22
Elaine Hillegas	Dec 7	Donald Weyant	Dec 22
Loni Nist	Dec 10	Joshua Walker	Dec 26
Janora Fochtman	Dec 11	Robert Swank (88)	Dec 27
Carol Kemerer	Dec 15	Allen Stump	Dec 28
Adam Latuch	Dec 15	Brexton Weyant	Dec 28
Steven Latuch	Dec 15	Halley Ashtin Friedline	Dec 30
Lakin Friedline	Dec 17	Clair Weyant	Dec 30
Brittany Nicole Flick	Dec 18	Gracelyn Friedline	Dec 31
Anna Lane	Dec 18	Roger Saylor	Dec 31
Ryan Gary	Dec 19		



Beth & Michael Lane	Dec 6	27 yrs
Kathryn & Fred Smith	Dec 9	1 yr
George & Edith Lensbouer, Jr.	Dec 11	13 yrs



*As we gather together
with family and friends to celebrate the season,
the sights and sounds that fill the air remind us of the reason:
The greatest gift, sent from heaven above,
found sleeping in a manger.*

*With thankful hearts let us come together in joy and thanksgiving,
celebrating that night of nights...
when angels sang
shepherds gathered
and Kings set off from afar with gifts of love and adoration*

**This year we offer two opportunities for worship:
A candlelight afternoon service with Holy Communion
and children's message will begin at 1:30 pm
A candlelight evening service with Holy Communion and
children's message will begin at 6:30 p.m. with special music.**

**Please join us and start your Christmas festivities celebrating
the coming of the Christ child, our Lord and Savior!
All are welcome!**

**Wishing you and yours a Joyous Christmas filled with the love
and hope that is found in Jesus Christ,
Rev. Kathleen Stump**



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

6567 Glades Pike

Somerset, PA 15501

Reverend Kathleen Stump

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Sunday Worship 9 am

Sunday Church School 10:30 am

Kid's Kingdom—1st Sunday of Each Month 10:30am

Youth in Action! Last Sunday of the Month