



# Sola Fide

“Only by Faith”- A publication of Faith Lutheran Church

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# Sabbatical



AMERICAN

[*suh*-**bat**-i-kuhl] / sə'bat ɪ kəl /

*Any extended period of leave from one's customary work, especially for rest, to acquire new skills or training, etc.*

This lovely word has been in our conversation quite frequently as Pr. Leisk makes plans to be on sabbatical leave for June, July and August, as her call included. A team consisting of Pr. Leisk, K. Maschhoff, D. Hacker, J. Hladky, J. Hartzell, E. Knapp, D. Cressman and C. Hayward have been hard at work coming up with coverage for each week. We have found pastors to cover congregational care during those weeks, pastors and several people in the lay ministry class will be preaching, and Bishop Piphon will visit us one week. Laura Schulte will be providing some extra office help, Dawn DiPersio will cover any personnel issues, and Vacation Bible School is still on track.

Members of the Congregation Council and Executive Committee will be responsible for opening and closing the church each Sunday and will introduce the preacher for the day. Pr. Hacker has graciously agreed to be the ordained minister presiding as needed so that communion can be offered at the service.

In addition to the service details described above there will be opportunities for activities after the service: putting together baby kits, a picnic, Vietnam travelogue, making pop-sicle stick quilts, etc.

Look forward to the information on preachers and presiders and the activity of the day for each week as introduced in Forward with Faith. If you have suggestions for a summer activity, reach out to any member of the committee—we would love to hear from you.

## A Letter from Pastor Jen

### Sabbatical Plans- “Choosing Proximity: Drawing Close to People, Places, and Stories”

As we learned during COVID, it’s hard to do ministry from a distance. Most of us long for connection—with one another and with the world around us. In his book *Just Mercy*, Bryan Stevenson names this need and pushes it even further. He suggests that we are called not only to connect with people, but also with their stories. He calls it the practice of “getting proximate.”

Stevenson writes especially about the importance of drawing close to the people and stories that shape our nation’s long struggle with civil rights—a history marked by both courage and the enduring evil of racism.

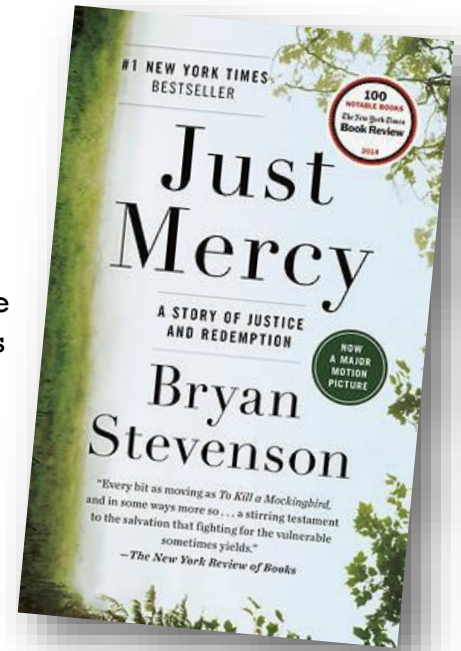
The book was published more than ten years ago, and I rarely reread books—but I’ve read this one three times. I’ve seen the film, heard Stevenson speak in person twice, and even had the chance to have him sign a copy. Last month, I emailed him to thank him for his work—and to my surprise, he wrote back.

In that email, I shared something that has been growing in me for a long time: a deep desire to visit the people and places where struggle and resilience meet, and to listen—really listen—to personal stories. I think that longing traces back to a trip I took during seminary to Birmingham, Alabama. There, I visited 16th Street Baptist Church, the site of a 1963 bombing by members of the Ku Klux Klan. Four young girls were killed that morning as they prepared for worship. I remember sitting in a pew, listening to a member of the congregation who had been there that day, telling the story firsthand.

What struck me then—and still stays with me—is how quickly those firsthand voices are fading as that generation passes on. And yet, there are still so many stories to hear, to carry, and to share.

This year, my sabbatical is shaped by that longing. Its theme is **“Choosing Proximity: Drawing Close to People, Places, and Stories.”** It officially begins June 1, though in what feels like a Spirit-led coincidence, Bryan Stevenson will be speaking in Boston on May 30—just before it begins.

In June, I will travel to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where I attended seminary and served my first call. From there, I plan to visit the Carlisle Indian Industrial School and the National Museum of African American History and Culture. I also hope to stop in Seneca Falls and Auburn, New York—important sites in the women’s suffrage movement and the resting place of Harriet Tubman.



*There are still so many stories to hear, to carry, and to share*

(cont'd)

## A Letter From Pastor Jen (cont'd)

In early July, I will spend time in silence and prayer at Weston Priory, a Benedictine monastery known for its hospitality and music. Later that month, I will travel south to places like Richmond, Virginia; Greensboro, North Carolina (home of the International Civil Rights Center & Museum and the historic Woolworth's lunch counter); and Memphis, Tennessee, where I will visit the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel. I also plan to visit sites connected to the Trail of Tears.



Along the way, there will be time with family and friends, and visits to places that are simply joyful—like Dollywood, Graceland, and the beauty of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Bryan Stevenson also invited me to return to Montgomery, Alabama, to visit the expanded Legacy Museum and conference center. If time and travel allow, I may make my way there as well.

Part of this sabbatical will also include visiting a variety of churches with unique ministries. I hope to learn from communities like Netcast Church, Sanctuary Church, Trinity Church Boston, and The Crossing Boston—each offering different expressions of worship, welcome, and community.

Because much of today's church growth is happening within immigrant communities, I'm also looking forward to visiting Spanish-language congregations in the Lawrence area. Alongside that, I hope to deepen my own Spanish through an immersive learning experience that goes beyond my current work on Duolingo.

And yes—there are a few lighter goals too: learning guitar, trying pickleball, and finally figuring out Mahjong.

I'm already looking forward to returning and sharing what I've learned with all of you. We'll have three Sundays in September (the 13th, 20th, and 27th) where I'll share photos between services, as well as three Monday evening Zoom gatherings (September 14, 21, and 28 at 7:00 PM) for stories and conversation.

I'm grateful, too, for our sabbatical planning team, which has worked thoughtfully behind the scenes to make sure all the logistics are covered—worship leadership, pastoral care, communication, and everything in between. Their preparation will allow me to step away with a full heart and full trust.

**My hope is that this time of sabbatical won't just be a chance for me to step away, but a way for all of us to draw closer—closer to the stories that shape us, closer to the people God calls us to love, and closer to the Spirit who is always at work in the world.**

In Christ,  
Pastor Jen

# A Letter from Council

Kevin Maschhoff , Council President



## Sabbatical Overview

Pastor Jen is preparing to take a sabbatical leave this summer, with 7 June as the first Sunday of this leave, and 23 August as the last. The New England Synod encourages sabbatical leaves for rostered ministers typically after every 4-7 years of service to provide rest, renewal, and spiritual growth. The council, the congregation, and a sabbatical team have been preparing for this sabbatical with her over the last several months. Please see the cover article by Chris Hayward of the sabbatical team for an in-depth description. Regular worship services will continue through the summer, and will be led by guest pastors for 6 Sundays, and for 6 Sundays by Faith Lutheran members who have been taking part in the Lay Ministry program. Retired pastor and Faith member Denny Hacker will preside for Communion on those Sundays with lay ministers, so Communion will be offered as part of worship throughout this period. Arrangements regarding Pastoral care coverage for members of the Faith family during this period have been made with several other NE Synod pastors in our area, should the need arise. Contact the church office ([office@faith-andover.org](mailto:office@faith-andover.org)) or Kevin Maschhoff, ([president@faith-andover.org](mailto:president@faith-andover.org)) to be connected with the pastor available to meet that need for that week. The additional costs for substitute preaching and pastoral care coverage were included in the budget our congregation approved at the annual meeting in January.

## Exterior Cross is first Redeemer Grant-Funded Project

Council approved a proposal to the Redeemer Grant Fund brought to the council by Kate Robinson for a metal cross that will be mounted on the church's south outside wall. This cross raises the profile of our building as a house of worship. At the 2026 Annual Meeting, the congregation voted to establish this fund from which grants can be made to advance the ministries of Faith Lutheran. A grant proposal can be made by any member of the congregation. Proposals should describe the idea, how it would benefit our ministry, and estimates on the schedule to implement the idea, and what it would cost. These proposals are then reviewed by the council. Proposals with a cost less than \$8000 such as this cross project, can be approved by the council. Proposals with an estimated cost greater than \$8000 require approval at an annual or special congregational meeting. Other ideas are in the works. What's your idea to use a portion of this gift from Redeemer to further our ministry?



(cont'd)

## A Letter From Council (cont'd)

### Mutual Aid for Immigrants

Earlier this year, the nation witnessed the aggressive immigration enforcement actions in Minnesota by the Department of Homeland Security that included indiscriminate targeting of immigrant neighbors, violence, and even the death of US citizens involved in peaceful protest. And while the profile of these enforcement actions in the Twin Cities has been reduced following public outcry (including the voices of many of our fellow Lutherans in MN), ICE activity remains high.

In March, Pastor Cassandra Chavez (who worships with our congregation) spoke at our worship services and led an education session between services highlighting the needs of our local immigrant community, especially in Lawrence, and inviting us to participate in "Mutual Aid." She shared how many of our immigrant neighbors are afraid to leave their homes to get groceries, medications, and other essentials.



Parishioners of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church gather outside to pray together after placing a sign marking the sight where a community member was abducted by ICE two days prior in Minneapolis. (Evan Frost for NPR)

As their neighbors, we have the opportunity to step in and help when called upon by joining Faith's Mutual Aid Team.

If you'd like to be part of this team, please let **Pastor Jen or Ed Knapp** know. When a need arises, you'll receive a text message, and you can decide each time whether you're able to assist. In addition, a link for financial donations designated for this purpose has been established for VAN-CO. The Team's actions are limited to non-confrontational support activities.

In recent weeks, our team has purchased groceries from lists provided by families, supplied clothing and bedding for a man released from detention with only the clothes he was wearing, and provided transportation for a man to a court proceeding.



# Finance

David Cressman, Council Liaison

## Budget

At the end of March, Year to Date revenues total \$85,793 & expenditures total \$86,047. While this shows a slight deficit, expenditures appear to be higher than anticipated, particularly the Utilities and Maintenance line items as we had a cold & snowy winter impacting our heating costs and snow removals costs. Also, in one account, the amount paid monthly to the Synod was paid ahead. For Revenues, the allocation of Prior Year Surplus funds had not been made as of yet. Overall, we appear to be positive for now.

## Rentals

For 2026, we are looking forward to seeing more rentals than in 2025. To date, we have had one rental and several inquiries. If you or a friend is interested in renting part of the facility, please contact [office@faith-andover.org](mailto:office@faith-andover.org) to start.

Also, from Tanya Hayward, Financial Secretary

## Your Q1 Donor Statement Is Available

If you would like a copy of your 2026 first-quarter donor statement, simply send an email to our Financial Secretary, Tanya, at [FinancialSecretary@faith-andover.org](mailto:FinancialSecretary@faith-andover.org) and request a PDF copy. She will be happy to send it along.

## Did you purchase goods or services on behalf of the church?

Out-of-pocket purchases made for Faith Lutheran can be added to your donor statement. Just email Tanya a PDF copy of your receipt and let her know which ministry or budget area it supports — for example, Social Ministry, Property, Christian Education, and so on. She will make sure it is reflected in your record.

## A New Way to Give — Mutual Aid

A new giving tile called *Mutual Aid* has been added to our Vanco online giving portal. This fund is used to provide immediate relief to immigrant families in our surrounding communities. Funds are distributed quickly - covering urgent needs like food, clothing and transportation to appointments - guided by those with direct relations with families on the ground. If you feel called to contribute, you can give directly through Vanco by selecting the *Mutual Aid* tile. Your contribution is a direct, tangible expression of care for our neighbors.

As always, thank you for your faithful generosity and your support of Faith Lutheran's ministries.



# Social Ministry

Ed Knapp, Council Liaison; Louise Kress, volunteer



## 2025 Lenten “Undies Sundays” Collection Was Very Successful!!

Thank you for bringing and sending in 3,730 diapers, 32 pair of underwear and 968 diaper wipes. Communities Together picked up the diapers, pull-ups and underwear you donated and combined them with contributions from many churches in the Greater Lawrence area. They will divide what they have collected from regional churches and deliver them to local social agencies that distribute the items to families in need.

Diapers are a major expense for families with limited income, so thanks for your help.

P.S. The two boxes of goldfish cracker bags were delivered to the People’s Pantry.



## May Ministry of the Month: Baby Care Kit Collection

Throughout the month of May we will collect items for Baby Care Kits through Lutheran World Relief. We will assemble them during connection time after worship on June 7.

For shipping reasons, the items are very specific - we are not allowed to deviate from this list, so be sure your donations fit the description. Each kit contains the following (you are welcome to donate complete kits or individual items):

- **TWO** lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies)
- **TWO** long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- **TWO** receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 32” and 52” square or rectangular
- **FOUR** cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- **ONE** jacket, sweater, sweatshirt or cape with a hood, or include a baby hat
- **TWO** pairs of socks
- **ONE** hand towel, dark color recommended
- **TWO** / **THREE** bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars
- **TWO** diaper pins or large safety pins





## Stewardship (cont'd)

None of this diminishes the importance of financial giving. Resources are necessary to sustain buildings, programs, and staff. But when money becomes the primary or only focus, it can narrow the vision of what stewardship truly means. Financial contributions are most meaningful when they are part of a larger pattern of engagement and commitment.

Ultimately, active stewardship is about alignment—bringing one's values, actions, and resources into harmony with the mission of the church.

It asks individuals to move from being consumers of religious services to participants in a shared purpose. This shift can transform both the individual and the community, creating a culture where generosity is not limited to finances but is expressed in every aspect of life.

***In that sense, stewardship is less about what is given and more about how one lives.***



## Property

Dawn DiPersio, Council liaison



### **Lawn Mowing Volunteers Needed!!**

We're looking for a few helping hands to keep our church grounds looking neat and welcoming this season! If you're willing to sign up for a mowing slot, we'd be so grateful.

It's a simple way to make a big impact—and every bit of help goes a long way. Thank you for sharing your time and care with our community!

### **Spring Cleanup— We Need Your Help!**

Saturday, May 16; 9am-12pm

(Rain date: Sunday, May 17; 12pm-3pm)

It's that time of year again—let's freshen things up together! We're organizing a church-wide spring cleanup and would love for you to join us.



We'll be spending a couple of hours (about 2–3) tackling things like picking up trash, clearing sticks and debris, and doing some general sweeping to get our grounds looking their best. Even if you can only stay for a short time, every little bit of help makes a big difference!

Come lend a hand, enjoy some fresh air, and connect with others in our community. Plus—snacks will be provided to keep everyone fueled and smiling. Thank you in advance for helping make our space welcoming and beautiful. We truly appreciate it and hope to see you there!

# Photos of Faith



# Photos (cont'd)



Visiting Dan and Sally Thoren- Founding Members of Faith



Virginia Zheng, pianist



Prayers and breaking a fast of Ramadan at the Andover Islamic Center



Pub Spirituality



## News & Notes



### Habitat for Humanity Build Days

Saturdays, May 9 & June 13; 8:15AM-4:30PM

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](mailto:tombaird739@gmail.com). Please note that build days may or may not be closed when licensed subcontractors are on-site.



### American Red Cross Blood Drive

At Faith: May 27, June 8, June 27

Did you know that Faith hosts a blood drive every month for the American Red Cross? Sign up for an appointment at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) under "Donate Blood". Thanks to Gary Payson for being our host!



### Bread & Roses

Mondays, May 11 & June 8; 3:45-7PM

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, 4:30-5:30pm

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)

### Drop-in Hours with Pastor Jen

Wednesdays, 10:00am-12Noon

**Through May 27 only**

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

Wednesday, May 20; 6:30pm-8:30pm (**NOT** June)

Lee Chen Chinese Cuisine, Lawrence

We will meet on Wednesday May 20 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, May 16; 9:15am-10:30am (**NOT** June)

Theme: "How We Learn to Be Brave"

The Meditation Group's series "Pathways to Peace" meets monthly on Saturday mornings. We will meet from 9:15am-10:30am on May 16. 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, May 16 & June 20; 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.



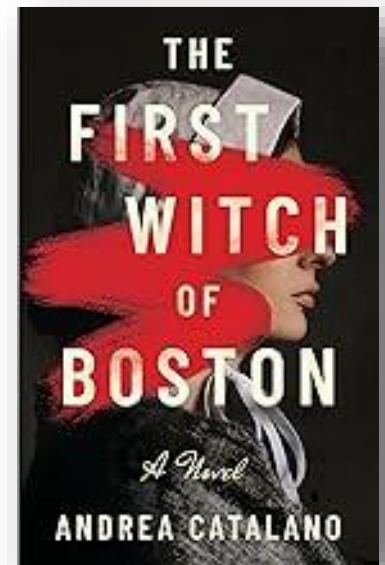
## News and Notes (cont'd)

### ChickLits

Tuesday, June 2; 7pm (Via Zoom)

“The First Witch of Boston” by Andrea Catalano

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 at [ddipersio@verizon.net](mailto:ddipersio@verizon.net)



**Synopsis:** A gripping and intimate novel based on the true story of Margaret Jones, the first woman to be found guilty of witchcraft in seventeenth-century Massachusetts.

Planning your summer beach reads? Chick Lits has you covered! Our upcoming read for August 4 is: “*The Celebrants*” by **Steven Rowley**. We currently plan to meet via zoom for our June meeting, but meeting in person for our August read is not off the table!



### Music at Faith: Merrimack Valley Ringers

Sunday, May 31; 3pm

This spring, the Merrimack Valley Ringers celebrates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence that is the touchstone of the founding of America. They have brought together a program that celebrates the resiliency of our American history with an eclectic mix of traditional, heartfelt and whimsical pieces.

Currently celebrating their 23<sup>th</sup> season, the Merrimack Valley Ringers are an auditioned community handbell ensemble devoted to sharing the art of handbells and handchimes with everyone.

Come enjoy this concert of the “Music at Faith” series (and bring your friends)!

## News and Notes (cont'd)



### Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 24, 10am service

We rejoice with Lilith Ball and Calvin Buelow as they affirm their baptism with the Rite of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday. There will be one worship service at 10:00AM that day, during which our Confirmands will share their faith statements. Also that day, the first year confirmands will receive the faith badges they have earned throughout the year. We are proud of them as they've earned badges in Worship, Learning, Evangelism, Service, Leadership, and the like.



### National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 7

Closest event: Haverhill Prays, 6-8pm

G.A.R. Park, Haverhill MA



The National Day of Prayer is an annual day of observance designated by the United States Congress and held on the first Thursday of May, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation". The Haverhill prayer event will be held outside, rain or shine— canopies will be provided. Bring your own lawn chairs.

## \*\* Youth & Family Events \*\*

Mark your calendars for fun events with FLC! And bring your friends! Contact Laura Schulte at [evangelism@faith-andover.org](mailto:evangelism@faith-andover.org) or Melissa Payson at [paysonservices@gmail.com](mailto:paysonservices@gmail.com) with your suggestions or for more information.

**craft & game night**

Bring a snack to share!

Saturday May 2  
from 6:00PM - 8:00PM  
at Faith Lutheran Church

Bring a craft that you're working on or find a craft or game there! Some projects and games will be provided! All ages welcome!



**June 14**  
**Potluck After Church!**

**June 21**  
**Ice Cream Truck Sunday**  
**(after church)!**



## News and Notes (cont'd)

### Bible Study

Tuesdays, 10am

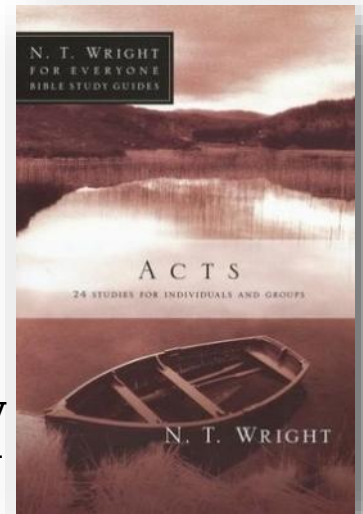
Armchair Travel – journey through the Book of Acts with the Tuesday morning Bible study!

Saint Paul, known as the author of many of the Letters in the New Testament, is also the main character for more than half of the book of Acts. He, accompanied by other apostles, traveled more than 10,000 miles over land and sea during a period of 12 or so years, spreading the story of the risen Lord Jesus and helping to lay the foundation of the Christian church.

Last September the Tuesday morning Bible Study embarked on a two-year study of the Book of Acts, which has 28 chapters. After taking a one-week break around Easter, we resumed our sessions and are currently reading about the first of Paul's 4 missionary journeys. We will finish chapter 17 in June, and then recess for the rest of the summer.

Our approach has remained the same for many years: to study the scriptures in an in-depth manner, reading every verse in every chapter, and welcoming comments and thoughts from all participants. Although this Bible study has been running for decades at Faith Lutheran, it feels fresh because the subject matter changes and new folks choose to join the group each year. Since Covid, we have evolved to a hybrid study, with some participants present at church and others taking part over Zoom. Our lay leaders consult a number of commentaries, Bible translations and other scholarly resources in preparing the weekly lessons, which helps the group to find new insights and personal meaning in these ancient words. All are welcome, regardless of level of Bible knowledge – everyone's contribution is valued, because we are all God's children.

The weekly session starts with a brief social time around 10 am and closes with prayer requests around 11:30 am. Weather and schedules permitting, some go out for lunch afterwards to a local restaurant. Join us! For more information about the Tuesday morning Bible Study, including its Zoom link, **reach out to Louise Kress, Wilma Breiland, Roberta Ede, Chris Hayward or Cindy Schatz.**



# Youth News



**Candy Bar Bingo & Patriots Trivia**



**Confirmation Class hard at work**



## Calumet Corner



All activities are subject to change. To learn more, go to Calumet's website at [www.calumet.org](http://www.calumet.org) or contact Alice at [alice@calumet.org](mailto:alice@calumet.org).

### Early Summer at Calumet

When spring rolls around, the land starts to thaw and explode with new life. It's a refreshing time to come to camp, just to get away after a long time cooped up in your house. Come June, camp is firing on all cylinders- resident camp, family camp, the beach, the lake- all of it is going on full throttle. Don't miss out on what is sure to be the best summer Camp Calumet has ever had!

- **Spring Cleaning Weekend**, May 1-3



We need many hands to clear the cobwebs, give the windows a once over, rake up some pine needles, give the beach a facelift -- there's lots to do, and it's a great way to meet new friends, renew existing relationships, and share in the faith, fun, and fellowship that only Calumet can provide.

- **Memorial Day Weekend**, May 22-25

**Summer Music Series Kickoff: May 23 @7pm: "Generations"**



Whether your idea of a weekend at camp involves lounging at the lake, taking a hike into the magnificent White Mountains, or heading out for a canoe excursion, Calumet is sure to have something to offer you during its annual Memorial Day Weekend celebration.

- **Summer Camp Sign-up: Register Now!**

Homeschooler's Week, June 15-19

Calumet Day Camp, June 29-July 24

Resident Camp for Kids, June 28- August 15

Family Camp ([calumet.org/summercamp/familycamp](http://calumet.org/summercamp/familycamp))

Family Camp PLUS, August 16-21



## ELCA News



### **News on the NE Synod (and others) Lawsuit against DHS**

In January 2025, following shortly after the inauguration, the Department of Homeland Security announced an abrupt policy change -overturning a policy that prohibited I.C.E. from entering worship spaces other sensitive locations. Since then, I.C.E. has acted on this new policy in various locations around the country. And, in many immigrant communities, there is a great sense of fear.

On Monday, July 28, 2025, the New England Synod was named as one of five ELCA Synods, along with the American Baptist Church and the Metropolitan Community Church, in a lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security over the decision to change decades of law prohibiting I.C.E. from entering “sensitive locations” such as churches, schools, and hospitals.

Recently Faith received a letter from NE Synod Bishop Pipho. In part this read:

*Dear New England Synod,*

*On Friday, February 13, 2026, United States District Judge Dennis Saylor ruled in favor of the New England Synod and other plaintiffs and against the January 2025 order by the Department of Homeland Security allowing unlimited access to places of worship for immigration enforcement activities.*

*In his ruling, Judge Saylor identified three areas protected from immigration enforcement activity:*

- *“places of worship,” i.e., churches themselves or other places regularly used to conduct religious services;*
- *“adjacent protected facilities,” i.e., facilities “attached to or adjacent to” places of worship that are used to conduct activities central to member’ religious missions, such as a school;*
- *“adjacent protected areas,” i.e., any property adjacent to a place of worship that is owned, occupied, or operated by the church, such as a parking lot, walkway, lawn, garden, playground, or cemetery.*

These protections are now in place for all worshipping communities of the New England Synod prohibiting Department of Homeland Security actions (surveillance, questionings, monitoring, etc ... ) in three areas of our properties and spaces at all hours of the day. Note, these protections identified by the judge do not shield criminal activity or prevent access when there is a judicial or administrative warrant, which was the situation prior to 2025.



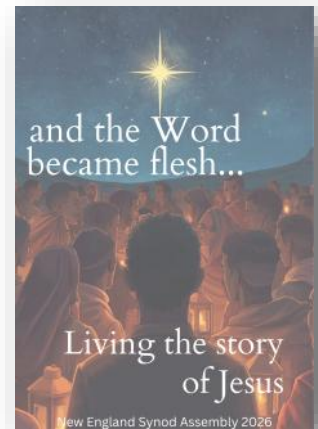
## ELCA News (cont'd)

### New England Synod Assembly

June 4-6, 2026

DCU Center, Worcester MA

This year's Synod Assembly theme is "And the Word Became Flesh: Living the Story of Jesus" and more information may be found at [neluthans.org/assembly](http://neluthans.org/assembly). Each congregation is allowed two voting members to attend assembly in addition to their rostered leader. Faith's representatives this year will be Jackie and Bill Hartzell.



### Programs at Rolling Ridge

Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center

(register at [www.rollingridge.org/events](http://www.rollingridge.org/events))

660 Great Pond Road, North Andover



"World Labyrinth Day: Workshop & Walk" - Sat. May 2

Join trained labyrinth facilitator Judy Smith for a workshop learning about labyrinths as we study their ancient origins and meanings in various cultures as paths of reflection, prayer, and healing for over 4000 years. We will explore why we walk a labyrinth, the benefits of walking a labyrinth, and various approaches to the labyrinth realizing there are many ways and traditions for walking. A labyrinth is a spiritual tool that can help you find your way.



"Pray and Paddle: Welcome Summer Solstice" - Sat. June 20

Welcome the Summer Solstice (the longest day of the year) with an ocean paddle from Winter Island in Salem, MA, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. You can register to reserve a kayak (solo or tandem) or bring your own boat. A wisdom reading will accompany us as we explore the beauty of Juniper Cove, Waikiki Beach, and Salem Harbor. Savor this longest day and the vibrant colors as the sun sets.



# 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 9:30am-1:30pm.  
The office is **CLOSED** on **Mondays and Wednesdays**.

## Email

### Church Staff

- Pastor: Pr. Jeanette Leisk at [jleisk@gmail.com](mailto:jleisk@gmail.com) (or [jen@faith-andover.org](mailto:jen@faith-andover.org))
- Youth & Family Event Leader: Melissa Payson at [paysonservices@gmail.com](mailto:paysonservices@gmail.com)
- Director of Trad. Music: David Jesse Cleavinger at [traditionalmusic@faith-andover.org](mailto:traditionalmusic@faith-andover.org)
- Praise Band Director: Ingrid Marstaller at [ingrid@faith-andover.org](mailto:ingrid@faith-andover.org)
- Church Administrator: Magaly Nelson at [office@faith-andover.org](mailto:office@faith-andover.org)
- Co-Worship Livestream Operators: Sara Bidwell and Bill Mark Langdell at [worshiptech@faith-andover.org](mailto:worshiptech@faith-andover.org)

### Church Council Executive Committee

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

### General

- Submitting announcements: [anouncements@faith-andover.org](mailto:anouncements@faith-andover.org)

### **Online and Social Media**

- Website ([www.faith-andover.org](http://www.faith-andover.org))
- Facebook Page ([www.facebook.com/Faith.Andover](https://www.facebook.com/Faith.Andover))
- Instagram ([www.instagram.com/faithandover](https://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](mailto:info@faith-andover.org)

Phone: 978-475-4059  
Web: [www.faitth-andover.org](http://www.faitth-andover.org)



### Worship Schedule

**9:15 AM** – Traditional Worship Service  
**10:15 AM** – Fellowship/Connection Time  
**11:00 AM** – Contemporary Worship Service



### Summer Schedule starts May 24 (Pentecost)

**10:00 AM** – Blended 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.
- Recordings of our services are available to view at your convenience at a later time

**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 May / June 2026**

