



Sola Fide

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

Welcome Back, Pastor Jen!

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After a three month sabbatical, Pastor Jen returned on Sunday, August 30 to a joyful congregation welcome and fun-filled Fall Kick-Off Potluck BBQ.

This fall, Pastor Jen would love to share some of her sabbatical journey with you:

- Sabbatical slide shows during Sunday coffee hour beginning **September 13**
- Three Monday evening online sessions beginning **September 14** at 7:00PM (stay tuned for the Zoom link!)

Come curious. Come ready to listen. And perhaps come prepared to see our own congregation—and our own faith—through a slightly different lens.

See page 4 for a small preview.



A Letter from Pastor Jen

Re-Connect, Restart, Renew

As I walked in the door on Monday, August 24, I was filled with a sense of ***“It’s good to be back!”***



I am extraordinarily grateful for the generosity of this congregation in granting me a sabbatical. So many people worked together to make these three months possible—the sabbatical planning team, executive committee, council members, lay preachers, guest pastors, Pr. Denny, staff members, and so many more. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I’m looking forward to sharing with you some of what I experienced during my sabbatical—the people I met, the places I visited, and the stories I heard. I know that those experiences will continue to shape my ministry here at Faith.

But as I returned on August 24, I was struck by another feeling: this is a good time for all of us to re-set and re-connect.

In some ways, it feels a little like starting a new call. When I began serving at Faith, we were in the midst of the pandemic. I didn’t get to meet some of you in person for months—or even longer! I remember being surprised at how tall some of you were when I finally met you in person after seeing you mostly on a computer screen!

The beginning of a new program year gives us another opportunity to reconnect—with God, with one another, and with the mission we share.

Maybe you’ve been traveling this summer. Maybe you’ve visited another congregation and brought home an idea you’d love for us to consider. Maybe you’ve been thinking about joining a small group such as Men’s Breakfast, a Bible study, choir, or band. Maybe this is the year you want to make worship a more regular part of your life. Or maybe you simply want to find your way back into the life of the congregation after a busy season.

***Let’s see what
new thing God is
already doing
among us.***

Whatever your next step might be, I encourage you to think about how you will re-connect, re-start, and renew this fall.

One of my favorite verses comes from Isaiah:

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”
—Isaiah 43:19

I love that this verse doesn’t say that everything has to be new. God is always at work making something new within the life we already share. This fall, I hope we will be attentive to where God is doing that new thing among us. Here are a few new things you might want to check out:

(cont’d)



A Letter From Pastor Jen (cont'd)

Monday Morning Brew

Beginning September 14, I'll lead a new Bible study at Panera in North Andover on Monday mornings at 9:00. We'll look together at the upcoming Sunday's Scripture readings, talk about what they might mean for our lives, and enjoy some coffee and conversation along the way. No preparation or previous Bible-study experience is required. Just come as you are!

Video Reflections

It's been several years since I wrote a regular blog, and during my sabbatical I realized how much I miss the opportunity to connect faith with the events and questions of everyday life.

So I'm going to try something new. I'll be sharing short reflections—probably in the form of videos or reels, and perhaps on TikTok as well—about faith, current events, Scripture, and whatever else catches my attention.

These won't be sermons, and they won't always be perfectly polished or extensively researched. They'll be a chance for me to share something that is on my heart, mind, or spirit and invite you into the conversation.

And this doesn't have to be just my project! I'd love to **invite you to create your own short videos or reels to share what's happening in your life of faith**—something you're learning, a Scripture verse that has been meaningful to you, a glimpse of a ministry you're involved in, or simply a thought you'd like to share with others. We can share these with the wider Faith community through our social media. **Your voice, your story, your faith—let's share them with one another!**

Reconnect Through Contemplative Practice

Another opportunity to reconnect this year will be through a deeper relationship with the programming at Rolling Ridge Retreat Center in North Andover. Contemplative practices such as meditation, prayer, and time in nature have been meaningful to many in our congregation, and we are exploring how we might connect members with the rich programming offered at Rolling Ridge. Author talks, prayer gatherings, eco-spirituality offerings, and other opportunities for reflection and renewal can provide new ways to deepen our faith and nurture our spirits. More information about opportunities to participate will be shared. In the meantime, you can check out some upcoming offerings on page 25 or here: www.rollingridge.org/programs. Let Mark Morgan or me know if there is a particular program you'd like to attend and we'll try to get a group going together!

As we begin this new season together, I'm excited about what God has in store for Faith.

Let's re-connect. Let's restart. Let's renew.

And let's see what new thing God is already doing among us.

In Christ, Pastor Jen



Pastor Jen (cont'd)

Sabbatical Reflections:

Come Along on the Journey: Sabbath, Pilgrimage, Hospitality & Joy

What happens when you spend 12 weeks listening with your feet?

During my sabbatical this summer, I traveled through places of profound beauty, painful history, courageous faith, and extraordinary hospitality. I visited congregations and communities, walked in the footsteps of civil rights leaders, listened to stories of resilience and joy, and experienced again how place can teach us something about God.

This fall, I'd love to share some of that journey with you.

Sabbatical Reflections: Three Monday Evenings Online

Beginning Monday, September 14, I'll host three informal Zoom gatherings at 7pm to share stories, photographs, and reflections from the sabbatical. Each evening will explore a different part of the journey and the questions it raised for me—and for us as a congregation.

What can the places we visit teach us about our faith?

You'll hear stories from civil rights pilgrimage sites, historic congregations, and communities that have much to teach us about hospitality, resilience, joy, and the courage to keep becoming something new.

And there will be some surprises along the way.

- Have you heard of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and *The Woman's Bible*? What does her story have to teach us about who gets to interpret Scripture—and whose voices we hear?
- What does a visit to Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta teach us about faith in the face of hatred and violence?
- What can we learn from the joy and resilience of Black communities who have endured extraordinary injustice without allowing injustice to have the final word?
- What happens when we enter another congregation as a stranger—and are welcomed as a guest?

And perhaps most importantly:

What might these stories have to do with Faith Lutheran Church?

The three sessions will be a chance not simply to hear about where I went, but to reflect together on what I encountered and how it might shape our life and ministry here.



(cont'd)

Pastor Jen (cont'd)



Sabbatical Slide Shows During Coffee Hour

Beginning Sunday, September 13, I'll also share photographs and stories during coffee hour. These Sunday gatherings will offer a more visual tour of the journey—from historic sites and civil rights landmarks to congregations, communities, and unexpected places along the way.

Come for the pictures. Stay for the stories. And see what questions emerge.

My sabbatical was shaped by the idea of “listening with our feet”—the belief that sometimes we understand something differently when we physically place ourselves in a story or a place.

I came home with plenty of photographs, but also with stories I want to share: stories of people who welcomed me, communities that have endured, people who have found joy in the midst of struggle, and places where faith has been lived out with courage.

I hope you'll join me as we explore where I went, what I saw, what I learned—and where God might be inviting us to go next.

- Sabbatical slide shows during coffee hour beginning September 13
- Three Monday evening online sessions beginning September 14 at 7:00PM (stay tuned for the Zoom link!)

Come curious. Come ready to listen. And perhaps come prepared to see our own congregation—and our own faith—through a slightly different lens.



Confirmation Classes Resuming!

Starting Sunday, September 14

Confirmation classes begin for the new school year on Sunday, September 14 with a blessing in worship in the morning and dinner and orientation for youth and families beginning at 5:30pm.

The Confirmation program at Faith is typically two years with a combination of learning, fellowship, and service. One year's learning is based on the Bible and a second year is based on Lutheran theology in Martin Luther's Small Catechism. We meet twice a month at church from 6:00-7:15PM with occasional other gatherings for service projects or youth group activities.

Typically middle school youth take part in Confirmation but sometimes families find it works better for their youth when they are older. Talk to Pastor Jen for more information!



A Letter from Council

Kevin Maschhoff, Council President



Council Strategic Planning 2026—and Follow-up Actions

Welcome back to Pastor Jen upon her return from Sabbatical! I am looking forward to hearing about her journey, retracing some of the paths on our country's civil rights struggle.

Thank you to all of those who served during this 12-week period! We were blessed by guest preaching from Pastors Denny Hacker, Dave Rinas, Cassandra Chavez, Bishop Nathan Piphon and Rev. Lawrence Jay, Rafaela Radcke (LLM), and lay ministry program graduates including our own Jackie Hartzell, Ramson Gambia, Nick Thompson, Dawn Stellmon, and Ingrid Marstaller. Thanks to Laura, Beth, Jackie, John, David, and Kate, members of the church council who took turns hosting, to Chris and Laura for coordinating with our guest preachers, to Chris again for delivering a substitute sermon, and to Denny Hacker for presiding at communion.

The council has scheduled a strategic planning meeting on September 26. This timing was chosen to precede our fall stewardship campaign, as well as council's preparation of an annual budget proposal for 2027. If you have ideas for the council to consider in this planning, please bring these to me, or any other member of the council.

At our last congregational meeting, we established a grant process, funded by the generous gift from Redeemer/Lawrence, to identify and proposals to advance our congregation's ministry. Larger proposals require both council and congregation approval. Council recently approved one of these, a proposal for installation an EV charging station, and this will come before the Annual Meeting for a vote. A proposal for repaving the south parking lot and circle drive is awaiting price quotes. Proposals are also being formulated to replace the fellowship hall flooring and install heat pumps in that space. A proposal for a community/neighborhood dinner (murder-mystery theme) is under development (please see Olivia Janvrin if you would like to help develop this.)

Remember— any member of the church can bring ideas for grant funding to the Council!

And please remember that any member of the church community can bring ideas for grant funding forward to the council.

Kevin Maschhoff
Council President



Stewardship

John Breiland, Council Liaison

Volunteer Counters Needed– Help Us Tally Our Gifts

Every Sunday, after the last hymn fades and the congregation heads to Fellowship Hour, a quiet but essential ministry begins. A small team of volunteers — our counters — gathers to tally the cash and checks placed in the collection, prepare the deposit, and make sure every gift entrusted to our parish is accurately recorded and safely brought to the bank.

It's not a flashy ministry, but it's a vital one. Without faithful counters, our church couldn't keep accurate financial records, issue giving statements, or ensure that the generosity of our members is handled with the care and accountability it deserves.

We're looking for a few more members to join this team. No special experience is required — just an hour or so of your time on a Sunday, basic comfort with counting and simple math, and a willingness to help safeguard the resources that keep our parish running. Counters typically work on a rotating schedule (once a month), so no one is asked to do this every week.

If you've ever wondered how you might serve behind the scenes, this is a wonderful, low-key way to give back. It's also a great fit for those who prefer quiet, practical service over more visible roles. Since you are at church already, this ministry only requires a little extra time after the Service. Coffee and a snack is available during Fellowship Hour.

Interested in volunteering, or just want to learn more? Please reach out to John Breiland 978-837-2839, jbreiland@gmail.com or the office or speak with a member of the current counting team after the Service. We'd love to have you join us in this important work of stewardship.

Thank you to all our current counters for their faithful service — and thank you in advance to those who answer this call to join them.

Thank You!

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who donated to make possible the recent upgrades to our family/handicap bathroom. Your generosity has helped us make this important space more accessible, comfortable, and welcoming for everyone in our church family. Special thanks to Roland Jacobson, Doug and Mary Johnson, Laura Schulte, John and Wilma Breiland, David & Caroline Kettner, Dennis Hacker and Robin Nordle.

We now have an automatic door, automatic lights, a proper latch and an emergency call station.

We are grateful for your support and for the many ways you help make our church a more caring and accessible place for all.



Finance

David Cressman, Council Liaison

Budget

At the end of July, the Treasurer and I agree that the church is showing an \$3995 surplus. This is attributable to most non-payroll accounts, except for Maintenance, running under budget. While this is good news, the summer months are historically a period when giving slows. Therefore, your contributions during summer are very important to the church's operation.

Rentals

For 2026, we are looking forward to seeing more rentals than in 2025. To date, we have had several rentals and inquiries. Currently, we are working on one of those inquiries who wants to use part of the church once a week. If you or a friend is interested in renting part of the facility, please contact office@faith-andover.org to start.



Social Ministry

Ed Knapp, Council Liaison

Thank You from the People's Pantry

The Peoples Food Pantry once again thanks Faith Lutheran for their care and concern about people with food insecurity. We have fewer food drives during the summer yet hunger knows no season. The macaroni and cheese, rice, beans, and peanut butter you collected are staple foods that are always needed. Many thanks!



Evangelism & Fellowship

Laura Schulte, Council liaison

Andover Day

Saturday, Sept. 19; 10am-4pm

Main Street, Downtown Andover

As in recent years, Faith will have a table with an activity for the community. We'd love to see our FLC friends so stop by if you're there! And talk to Laura Schulte if you'd like to hang out at our table and help (email evangelism@faith-andover.org)!



**Andover
DAY
2026**

Property

Dawn DiPersio, Council liaison

SAVE THE DATE* Church Fall Cleanup

Saturday, Nov. 14, 9am-12 (raindate Nov. 15, 12-3pm)

Emily Brontë said "*Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree.*" She probably didn't have to rake them all, ha-ha! But she did see the beauty in autumn and our beautiful seasons.



We need people who are willing join us for a lovely day in nature while helping to rake up leaves around the church property, clean the flower beds, and in general help prepare our property for the next season - winter! If you can bring rakes and tools for trimming branches, that's a big help!

Coffee, apple cider and donuts will be on hand to refresh us all. If you are available to help, or have questions, please email property@faith-andover.org. Thank you so much!!

Member Portal & Online Directory

Tanya Hayward, Financial Secretary



***"I lift up my eyes to the mountains... where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord..."***

It's hard to believe it's already been about a year since we introduced our Online Church Directory and Member Portal! For those who haven't yet explored it — or could use a refresher — here's everything you need to know.

What Is the Member Portal?

The Member Portal is a secure, easy-to-use online tool (powered by IconCMO) that lets you stay connected with our Faith Lutheran family anytime, anywhere. You can access it through a web browser or through the IconCMO mobile app, available for both Android and iPhone.

Once you're logged in, the Member Portal lets you:

- **View and update your own information** — address, phone, email, username, and password
- **Add a second address**, in case you split time between homes and want both listed
- **Browse the online church directory**, with the same familiar information you've seen in past printed or online directories
- **View or print your own donation statement** anytime, so you can confirm your giving is recorded correctly
- **See which groups you've joined** or are currently participating in

(cont'd)

Member Portal (cont'd)

And yes — it works great on your phone too! Visit the IconCMO mobile app page to learn more about downloading the app for Android or iOS.

How Do I Get Access?

Getting started is simple. All you need is to be a member or friend of Faith Lutheran with a valid email address on file with the church. Send email to the Church Office (office@faith-andover.org) if you are unsure of your email status.

To request your username, email Tanya at FinancialSecretary@faith-andover.org.

Once your request is received, you'll get an email containing:

- The church phone number (978-475-4059)
- Your system-generated username
- A link to create your own password

A note on timing: the password-creation link expires 48 hours after it's sent. Don't worry if you miss the window — just let us know and we'll send a new one.

Your system-generated username might be a bit long or awkward at first, but no need to worry — you can change it once you've logged in.

Already have a username but forgot your password? No problem — just click "Forgot Your Password?" on the login page to reset it yourself, anytime.

Questions? We're Here to Help

- **Need help logging in or navigating the portal?** You can check out the Member Portal: How To Guide or email Tanya at FinancialSecretary@faith-andover.org. Prefer face-to-face help? She'll be available during Connection Time in September.
- **Why do I need a username and password?** It's all about keeping our church family's names, addresses, and phone numbers safe — while still making them easy to access for church purposes.
- **What if my donation or group information looks wrong?** Just send an email to the Financial Secretary, and she'll correct it or pass it along to the right group leader.
- **I'd rather not have my information shown in the directory — what do I do?** Simply log in, review your family and individual details, and uncheck the box to "include information in church directory." You can even choose to leave out just your phone number while still appearing in the directory.

Thank you for your patience and enthusiasm as we continue to grow with this system. Together, we'll strengthen our connections, equip ourselves to serve our community more effectively, and always stay rooted in Faith.

See next page for a step-by-step guide to "Getting Started with the Member Portal".



Getting Started with the Member Portal

Step 1: Request Your Username

Send an email to Faith's Financial Secretary, Tanya, at: FinancialSecretary@faith-andover.org. Just let her know you'd like access to the Member Portal.

Step 2: Check Your Email

You'll receive a reply that includes:

- The church phone number (978-475-4059)
- Your username
- A link to create your password



Important: This link expires 48 hours after it's sent. If it expires before you use it, just email Tanya again and she'll send a new one.

Step 3: Create Your Password

Click the link in the email and follow the prompts to set your password. *(Note: Your username may look long or awkward at first — don't worry, you can change it once you're logged in.)*

Step 4: Log In

Go to the Member Portal website (or open the IconCMO mobile app) and log in with your username and new password.

Step 5: Explore the Portal

Once you're logged in, you can:

- ⇒ View and update your address, phone, email, username, and password
- ⇒ Add a second address if needed
- ⇒ Browse the church directory
- ⇒ View or print your own donation statement
- ⇒ See which groups you're part of



Step 6: Get the Mobile App (Optional)

Available for both Android and iPhone. Learn more here: www.iconcmo.com/church-software-mobile-app

Already Have an Account?

Forgot your password? No need to email anyone — just click "Forgot Your Password?" on the login page and reset it yourself.

Need Help?

Email Tanya at FinancialSecretary@faith-andover.org, or find her in person during Connection Time in September.

Want to Keep Your Info Private?

Log in, go to your information, and uncheck "include information in church directory." You can also choose to hide just your phone number while still appearing in the directory.

Photos of Faith



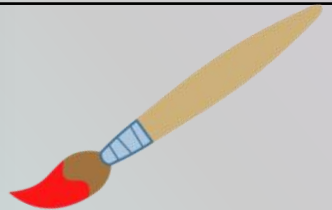
Faith welcomed Bishop Piphio during Pastor Jen's sabbatical. We followed up the service with a rousing game of kickball.



Photos (cont'd)



**Adults (and some
kids) learned to
paint ala Bob Ross.**



Photos (cont'd)



Kids (and some adults) gathered around the fire pit for conversation and s'mores. We also had fun at Wallis Sands State Park.



Photos (cont'd)



Families came together at Calumet



News & Notes



Habitat for Humanity Build Days

Saturdays, Sept. 12 & Oct. 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: 9/26, 10/30



Bread & Roses

Mondays, Sept. 14 & Oct. 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 Democracy and Humanity

Every Thursday, 4:30pm-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. All are welcome—bring a sign, bring a friend, or just bring yourself. For more information, check the South Church Social Justice Coalition website at southchurch.com/sjc.

News and Notes (cont'd)

Seeking Applicants for Office Administrator

Faith Lutheran is seeking applicants for the position of Office Administrator. The Office Administrator serves as the welcoming heart of Faith Lutheran Church's daily office/clerical operations while also supporting the congregation's weekly worship life through the coordination and preparation weekly bulletins and worship slides. This role is essential to creating a warm, organized, and professional environment for our congregation, staff, pastor(s), church council, and the broader Andover community.



The position requires approximately 20 - 25 hours per week, with variability across the church calendar. Most office duties are performed on-site; worship slide work may be completed remotely, with occasional on-site visits required to upload slides to the church iPad and narthex monitor before Sunday services. This role reports to the pastor, with additional oversight from the Church Council President.

If you are interested in receiving more information about this position including a full job description and benefits description, have questions regarding the position, or wish to apply and provide a resume, please contact the church Executive Committee **by early September 2026** via execcomm@faith-andover.org.

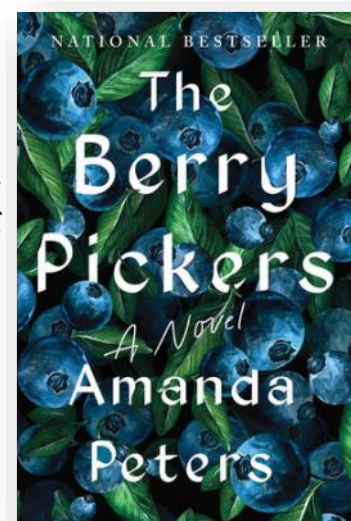
ChickLits

Tuesday, October 6; 6:30pm via Zoom
"The Berry Pickers" by Amanda Peters



Our next virtual meeting will take place on October 6, via Zoom. We will be discussing "The Berry Pickers" by Amanda Peters (Winner of the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction). If you are looking to read a great book and have a thoughtful conversation about the book, we would love for you to join us. Reach out to Dawn DiPersio at ddipersio@verizon.net for more info on this meeting, as well as our Chick Lits Reading Group.

A heads up for our December meeting: we will meet in person after the 11 o'clock church service for a cookie swap and discussion of the book "Doorman Wanted" by Glenn R Miller. More details to come!



Synopsis: A four-year-old Mi'kmaq girl goes missing from the blueberry fields of Maine, sparking a mystery that will haunt the survivors, unravel a family, and remain unsolved for nearly fifty years

News and Notes (cont'd)



Fall Sunday School

Resumes Sunday, Sept. 13 during the first service

Welcome back to Sunday School, beginning September 6th during the first service! I'm looking forward to the first day of class and a good turn out this year. The kids and I will be celebrating our welcome back to Sunday School and getting to know each other. For more information, contact Olivia Janvrin at christianed@faith-andover.org



Adult Choir Rehearsals (*NEW DAY*)

Resumes **WEDNESDAY**, Sept. 9; 7:30pm

Come sing with our choir at the Sunday Traditional Service (9:15am)! Rehearsals resume on **Wednesday**, September 9 at 7:30pm. The choir is open to all voice types and experience levels– chat with DJ Cleavinger or come to one of our Wednesday rehearsals!



Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Saturdays, Sept. 19 & Oct. 17; 8am-9am

The Men's Fellowship Group will return this fall. We meet on the 3rd Saturday from 8:00-9:00 AM at the church. We share breakfast, stories about what is happening and even some structured discussions. We have also worked together on a couple of projects. Everyone is welcome to gather and to bring some new ideas. Please join us. Please contact **Mark Morgan** if you need more information.



Communities Together: Annual Prayer Shawl Tea

Wednesday, September 9; 10am

St Augustine Parish, 43 Essex Street, Andover

Join Communities Together for their 22nd Annual Interfaith Prayer Shawl Tea to be held on September 9th at 10 am, at St. Augustine Parish, Andover, in the Fr. Smith Hall, This is a free event. Bring any shawls that you have made. Tea and snacks will be served. Please RSVP by Friday, September 4, by emailing madelyn@communitiestogetherinc.org or calling the office at (978) 686-4012. We ask that you include your name and church or group name.



To find out how to make a prayer shawl (either by knitting or crocheting), contact **Chris Hayward** or **Corinne Williams**. If you would like more information about the tea, contact **Louise Kress**, liaison to Communities Together.

News and Notes (cont'd)

Drop-in Hours with Pastor Jen

Wednesdays, 10:00am-12Noon (NOT 10/7)

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.



Morning Brew (*NEW*)

Mondays, beginning Sept. 14; 9:00am

Panera, North Andover

Morning Brew is a new offering this fall. We'll meet at Panera Bread in North Andover and explore the texts for the coming Sunday. Join us at 9am beginning September 14!



Pub Spirituality

Wednesdays, Sept. 16 & Oct. 21; 6:30pm-8:30pm

Lee Chen Chinese Cuisine, Lawrence

Pub Spirituality resumes in September! We typically meet on the 3rd Wednesdays 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, and more. All are welcome!



Read & Zoom — SEPT 21 630 PM or SEPT 22 930 AM



Join people of faith for a Zoom meet-up to discuss & share thoughts about the great book **"Born a Crime"** by Trevor Noah.

Are you wondering about the power of racism and the way systems can oppress? Consider carving out time to read & zoom ... and learn!

Visit: www.letsreadandzoom.org

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to register!

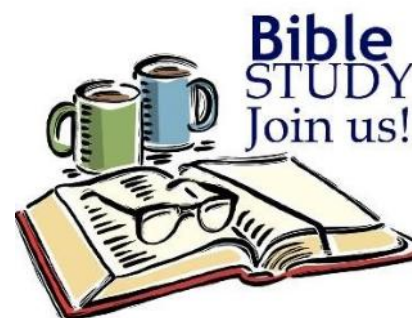


News and Notes (cont'd)

Travel with the Tuesday morning Bible Study!

Returns Tuesday, September 15; 10am

Take time to travel with the Tuesday morning Bible Study, which will visit Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Greece, Jerusalem and Rome this fall and winter.



We started to study The Book of Acts last September, knowing that it would take nearly two years to complete, since it is long (28 chapters!) and we are an in-depth study group. Since that time, we've learned about Stoicism and Epicureanism, the early church Councils, the creeds and confessions, the wealth of Thessalonica and the squabble between the first missionaries. We learned about the early church discussions regarding whether Gentile converts needed to follow Jewish laws. We've read of St. Paul's successes and the times he and his companions were imprisoned, beaten and chased out of towns. Still ahead of us is the conclusion of Paul's 2nd missionary journey, the entirety of his 3rd missionary journey and his trip to and imprisonment in Rome. Who knew history could be so compelling?

What's the Tuesday morning Bible study like? Our approach has remained the same for many years: to study in an in-depth manner, reading every verse in every chapter, and welcoming comments and thoughts from all participants. 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.

This is a hybrid study, with some participants present at church and others taking part from home via Zoom. We understand that no one is able to attend every week; appointments, vacations, illness and other things intrude, and that's okay.

Each week we begin with a brief social time around 10 am and close with prayer requests around 11:30 am. Weather and schedules permitting, some go out for lunch afterwards to a local restaurant. For more information about the Tuesday morning Bible Study, including its Zoom link, reach out to Wilma Breiland, Roberta Ede, Chris Hayward, Louise Kress or Cindy Schatz.



News and Notes (cont'd)

Women's Retreat 2026 at Calumet

Weekend of October 2-4, 2026

Camp Calumet, West Ossipee, NH



Heads-up! Calumet has reserved their Staff House for us, a desirable beach front location on the shore of Lake Ossipee, for the weekend of October 2-4 (we arrive after dinner Friday, leave after lunch on Sunday).

We've had a retreat up there for quite a number of years, but this may be our last solo one. I'm thinking that for 2027 and beyond we might want to join with other local churches or register for one of Calumet's Women's weekends (which fill up quickly!).

The Staff House has 2 first floor shared bedrooms which can accommodate 4 people on lower bunks. There are 3 more shared bedrooms upstairs, and bathrooms are both upstairs and on the first floor. I think the property sleeps about 12 or so. There's a lounge / living room on the first floor with a kitchenette (no oven). For people who wish a single, the Conference Center has bedrooms, each with their own bathroom. Meals are provided in the Conference Center, and it's easy to drive back and forth between the Conference Center and the Staff House.

Based on past retreats, the weather should be very nice and the foliage lovely. You can walk the beach, the camp's own labyrinth or hike an easy trail in the woods of Calumet. There's a new retreat specialist on staff and having not met her yet, I don't know what she offers (campfire? Pontoon boat ride? Other programs?), but we usually bring some ideas of our own as well (crafts, games, beverages).

Payment for the weekend is made directly to Calumet - and can be done in advance or upon arrival on the evening of the 2nd. The price last year was \$187 per person, and though I haven't confirmed this year's cost, it should be around the same amount. Some people have needed to arrive a little late or leave a little early, and there's no problem with that.

Please let me know if you're interested (schatzca@msn.com or [781-258-2902](tel:781-258-2902)) so I can keep track. Friends, neighbors, sisters, cousins - yes, you can invite them along. We've warmly welcomed folks who are not members of Faith at our retreat and enjoyed their company.

Cindy Schatz



Youth News– Vacation Bible School

Thank you to all the kids and volunteers for another great summer at VBS!!



Youth News- VBS (cont'd)



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.



Fall at Calumet

Fall is arguably the best season to be at Calumet and our guests would heartily agree. The leaves are exploding in a variety of brilliant colors, the air is crisp and clear, and the pleasant smell of wood fires wafts through the air.

- **Men's Golf Weekend**, September 9/11-13



- **Fruits & Roots**, Sept. 28- Oct. 1

"...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5: 22-23



Join us as we look at these fruits of the Spirit and discover how they interact with our environment, ourselves, our communities and the world.

- **Harvest Weekend**, Oct. 9-12



This year, we've got a lot planned for everyone to participate in from pumpkin carving to rock painting, walks through camp admiring scarecrow row. Service project opportunities when we put the boats away for the season. Join us on Saturday 10/10 for **PumpkinFest**—carve pumpkins with our local community and then gather for an evening concert by Lila Wilde.

- **Fall Quilting Weekend**, October 26-29

ELCA News

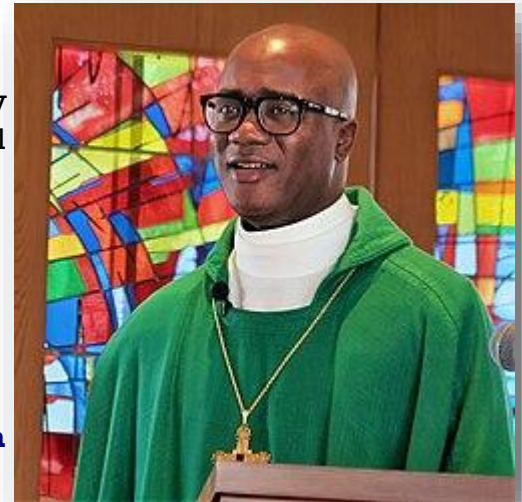


All Together in One Place

August 19, 2026

Presiding Bishop Curry issued his fourth in a series of monthly messages that continue through the end of this year, titled "All Together in One Place." Each message will share a pastoral word, rooted in Scripture, that witnesses to God's presence today, our rich theological tradition and the social teaching that connects us.

Bishop Curry's August message asks for "*A Call to be Trusted Messengers in this Election Season*". The full text can be found at www.elca.org/news/a-call-to-be-trusted-messengers-in-this-election-season



Programs at Rolling Ridge

Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center

(www.rollingridge.org/events)

660 Great Pond Road, North Andover



"The Historic Gardens of Fletcher Steele" - Sept. 21; 10am-12
Join us for a tour of this historic garden designed by influential landscape architect Fletcher Steele. Although the fountain is no longer in operation and the grounds are being restored, you will discover the visionary genius of Steele as we walk the grounds and appreciate the natural beauty of this 38 acre peninsula along Lake Cochichewick. The tour will also include the outdoor sculptures of Mico Kaufman. The Garden Tour is a "Trails and Sails" event with Essex National Heritage Area. Check out other offerings online at <https://trailsandsails.org/>.



"Celebrating Creation: Walking in the Eco-Ways of St. Francis"
- Oct. 5; 9:30am-3:30pm

In this Day Apart, we will explore St. Francis' relationship with creation and see how his "eco-spirituality" connected him with the Creator God. Through this lens, we will also explore our call to care for creation and consider the impact our lifestyle choices on the health of our common planetary home.

Through science and scripture, our Executive Director and "Baptiscan," Larry Jay will help us experience the goodness of nature and allow us to discover our "kinship" with the cosmos as we live in respect for all that God has made.



Communications– Quick Reference



Telephone

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

Church Office Hours

**** Days and times subject to change...** call or email if you're wondering!

Email

Church Staff

- Pastor: Pr. Jeanette Leisk at jleisk@gmail.com (or jen@faith-andover.org)
- Director of Youth and Family Ministry: Melissa Payson at paysonservices@gmail.com
- Director of Trad. Music: David Jesse Cleavinger at traditionalmusic@faith-andover.org
- Praise Band Director: Ingrid Marstaller at ingrid@faith-andover.org
- Church Administrator: Laura Schulte (interim) at office@faith-andover.org
- Worship Technology Technician: Glen Whiteneck at glenwhiteneck@gmail.com
- Co-Worship Livestream Operators: Sara Bidwell and Bill Mark Langdell at worshiptech@faith-andover.org

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
- Treasurer: treasurer@faith-andover.org – Dave Menninger
- To contact the entire Council: council@faith-andover.org



General

- Submitting announcements: announcements@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

***** Summer Worship Schedule (10:00AM) continues through 9/6 *****

Regular Worship Schedule begins 9/13

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

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 September/October 2026

