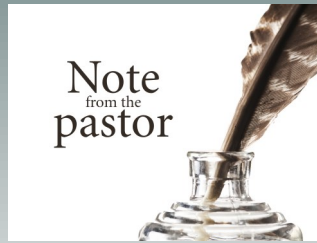


Faith Lutheran Church
The Messenger
March, 2025



A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.
(Proverbs 17:22, KJV)

Humor is the great thing, the saving thing. The minute it crops up, all our irritation and resentments slip away, and a sunny spirit takes their place. (Mark Twain)

Dear Friends,

The cat costume is almost finished.

Despite having hand surgery in February, my mother was committed to getting the costume together far in advance of Faith hitting our goal of seventy responses to the Congregational Assessment Tool. Mom did not doubt that we would exceed the goal!

When I made the pledge to show up to the celebratory reception in costume, I had no idea that so much teasing would be unleashed (someone even suggested serving saucers of cream), but it has brought some laughter and lightheartedness to the “business” of being church together. And thank God for that. I can’t say that I am necessarily *excited*, but I am *grateful* for the strong response to the CAT and will keep my promise to show up tail and all on March 16th.

As it turns out, in God’s deep sense of humor, the earliest date we could get the CAT interpretation scheduled looks to be April 1. Talk about being “fools for Christ!” With the CAT data, the church council and committees will be better equipped to make informed decisions for the benefit of our whole congregation. And that is no laughing matter. We are, after all, endeavoring to do just about the hardest thing I can think of in 2025: build lasting and sustainable growth in a mainline protestant congregation. Merry spirits and a sense of humor will contribute tremendously to our shared mission.

After all, as it has been said, “churches that play together stay together.” Laughter and joy have the incredible ability to bind people to one another. Such bonds endure through difficult times and sustain a community through conflict. Fun also has a way of inviting creativity and expanding horizons. It is not trivial that in Hebrew, the name “Isaac” means “he laughs” or “will laugh.” When we invoke the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, we are calling to remembrance a God who loves skeptics and tricksters, a God who uses our laughter to reveal grace and mercy.

In Christ, Pastor Dana

Lenten Soup Suppers



Lenten Soup Suppers will be held on each Wednesdays; at 6.00, before the Mid-Week Lenten Services starting, March 12 and continuing through April 9, 2025. Come and enjoy a delicious bowl of soup and fellowship before the service.

From the Music Director



You may remember that in Advent we invited Thomas Keesecker, composer and pianist, to Faith Lutheran where he played and directed the choir at the 11:00 service. After he left, he wrote a new piece of choir music to be published which he dedicated to our choir:

For the choir at Faith Lutheran Church, Lexington, Kentucky, and their director, Kathy Egner, and their violinist, Luise Wendroth.

O Holy Spirit, Root of Life

This is a tremendous honor for our church and its music program. We are delighted to invite Mr. Keesecker back to premiere this music on April 6. He will direct the choir together with Luise on the violin at the 11:00 service. On that day, the choir will also sing two of his other pieces of music.

Please plan to meet Tom and join in the celebration!

Community Outreach Committee



The Community Outreach committee meeting is Monday, March 3 at 6:30 pm at Faith House. All are welcome to attend.

Grace Jar Entry



Thank you to everyone who has placed notes in the Grace Jar. Here is the entry we received in February. Please continue to place these in the jar in the Narthex.

- ◆ Many thanks and three cheers for Ole and Kerstin Wendroth for the time, energy and their lively way of overseeing the Harstad Series. Same for the committee members. Hip, Hip Hooray!

Meet the Mystics



Meet the Mystics

This Lent, as part of the Wednesday Lenten services, you will have an opportunity to learn about some of the great Christian saints who are referred to as mystics. You are probably wondering: *What is a mystic?* The definition is difficult to pin down because there is a wide divergency in the experiences of the mystics. But we can notice some commonalities.

The mystics didn't just think about God; they were in deep and loving relationships with God. They identified the keys to developing a relationship with God as prayer, living a pious life, love for God, and love for neighbor.

Mysticism offers up a different way of looking at the world. It places value on human beings as children of God. Often the mystics experienced visions of ecstasy as they learned to love God more and more.

Even in the modern age, we can learn from the medieval mystics. We can understand that mysticism is not about our actions or our successes. It is about God's actions and God's love. Mysticism centers us in our love of God through prayer and devotion, and helps us turn toward our neighbor. It is about being in relationship with the creator of the universe, not because we are worthy, not because we deserve it, but because God loves us.

In our worship, we will hear the words of a different mystic each week. We will also read scripture, we will pray, and we will sing. You are invited to let this time bring deep blessings into your lives.

Holy Cow: The CAT is Here!



We are thrilled to announce that we surpassed our goal of 70 completed assessments and had a total of **84** assessments taken as of February 25th! Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the CAT. The data is currently being compiled and a summary of the results will be shared in the April Messenger. We will be having a Holy Cow CAT celebration Sunday, March 16th following the 10am service. We hope you will join us!

Many thanks,
Faith Lutheran Church Council

HFAS Opera



The Harstad Fine Arts Series Ninth Season

Join us on **Sunday, March 30th** at **3:00 PM** for an inspiring concert at our church featuring UK Opera soloists Audrianna Hughes, Pharel Silaban, and Kayla Wilson (left to right). The accomplished singers will present the program "THE TIME IS NOW: Songs of Unity and Hope" weaving together melodies from diverse cultures and genres. Professor Robert Bosworth (right) will accompany the vocalists on the piano.



LexArts has provided funding support for the Harstad Fine Arts Series Season 2024-2025 through its Fund for the Arts.



The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, provides operating support to the Harstad Fine Arts Series with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Please reserve your free ticket ahead of time [HERE](#). For more information visit harstadarts.com.



First Thursdays at 7 pm
Faith Lutheran Church
1000 Bates Creek Road
Lexington, KY

How do I fit into this world?

That is the question we will be exploring as we gather for **Deep Green Forums @ Faith**. Each of us is a unique member of the Body of Christ. We naturally have different gifts and abilities, along with different lifestyles. How do we integrate faith into our daily lives, to live in such a way that we honor the world that God has made?

To consider these questions, Faith Lutheran Church is gathering diverse voices from our community to share experiences of *God and nature, vocation and faith, and refuge and learning*. We will look at these three strands through Martin Luther's filter of everyday practical compassion. There will be a presentation and time for discussion at each forum.

At the end of the year, we will be invited to consider what tools or gifts we bring to address the challenges of our time. We will call these tools/gifts our **Five Smooth Stones** after Shepherd David's understanding that ill-fitting solutions are not as effective as ones that fit our hands, hearts, and minds. (1 Samuel 17:38-40)

We warmly invite you to join us!

Our Forums

February 6, 2025

Ole Wendroth

"When Soil Meets Soul—You are the Salt of the Earth"

March 6, 2025

Daniel Lau

"The Environmental, Economic, and Human Cost of Bitcoin"

April 10, 2025

Ray Hughes

"God Works in Mysterious Ways"

May 8, 2025

David Johnson

"Mathematics, Beauty, and the ELW"

September 4, 2025

Valerie Dutcher

"How Toyota's Key Philosophies for Success Can Help Us Succeed"

October 2, 2025

Jennifer Klee

"Stitching Together Vocation and Faith"

November 6, 2025

Finding our Five Smooth Stones



Last Month at Faith



Courtney and Lindsay participated in Early Childhood Advocacy day at the capitol annex, meeting with legislators and other providers in the state to discuss the need for quality childcare and education.



Children worked on Valentine's crafts with Ms. Val during her weekly volunteer time.



Children in Ms. Mandy's class are investigating what happens when they mix ice with different temperatures and materials in water.



Faith hosted Downtown Youth Group on February 23rd for a group of youth from our ecumenical community.



Ole Wendroth giving his presentation at the first Deep Green Forum



Harstad Fine Arts Series Ninth Season

“KITH and KIN”

An art exhibit and book launch featuring the works of Kathy Rees Johnson!



“Kith and Kin” Exhibit

March 2nd through May 9th, 2025

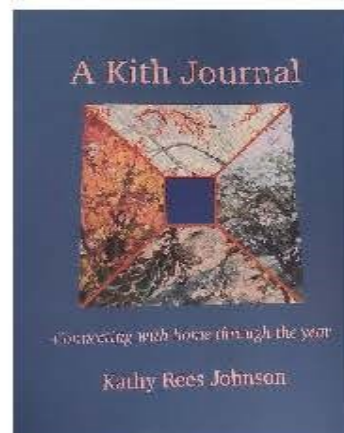
Artist’s Reception & Book Launch for

“A Kith Journal”

Sunday, March 16th 3-5PM

Faith Lutheran Church

1000 Tates Creek Road





Lent is the 40-day period (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter. The forty days of Lent involve fasting, prayer, and almsgiving to help us connect deeper with God. Many people use the days of Lent as a time of personal reflection to prepare their hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter.

We mark the beginning of Lent this year on Wednesday, March 5th, known as Ash Wednesday, when we come to worship and receive a cross of ashes on our foreheads. These ashes are a reminder of our need for repentance and of the reality of our human frailty.

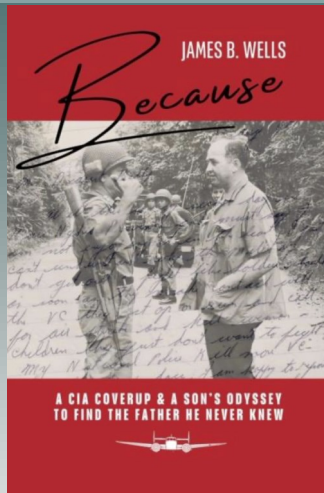
Palm Sunday is the last Sunday of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week, the week when we remember the final days of Jesus' life. On Maundy Thursday, we celebrate the Last Supper, when Jesus shared a final meal with his disciples and demonstrated humility by washing their feet. Good Friday is a solemn day that commemorates Jesus' crucifixion and his ultimate sacrifice for us.

Holy Saturday is a day of quiet reflection, as we remember Jesus' time in the tomb and anticipate the joy of what is to come. Finally, Easter Sunday bursts forth with celebration—Jesus is alive! His resurrection offers us hope, new life, and the promise of eternity with him.

It's important to remember that the primary purpose of Lent is to be a time of repentance. That does not mean that we should feel shame and wallow in our sins, but rather that we become more deeply aware that sin separates us from God. Lent should always lead us toward gratitude for Jesus' sacrifice on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter.

We hope that you check the calendar of Lenten opportunities to worship and be blessed by the richness of this season.

Faith Lutheran Summer Reading Opportunity



Local author James Wells will be visiting Faith Lutheran on June 17th as part of the launch of his investigative memoir *Because*. Pastor Dana has a minor part in the book as someone who has supported James in his decades-long quest for answers. As part of his upcoming book tour, we have the potential opportunity to get advanced copies of the book. One idea has been to form a mini-book club that could read the book ahead of his visit. If you are interested or would like to order a copy of the book, please talk to Paige Barricklow or Pastor Dana.

SYNOPSIS

Because: A CIA Coverup and a Son's Odyssey to Find the Father He Never Knew is an investigative memoir about a son's thirty-three-year odyssey to uncover the truth and meaning of his whistleblower father's covered-up and still CIA-classified death in Vietnam.

Twenty-six years after the CIA Air America plane his father is a passenger in is reportedly brought down by hostile fire in South Vietnam, his youngest son James discovers hundreds of letters his father, Major Jack J. Wells, wrote his mother, Betty, over two wars and a career in the U.S. Army and State Department. The letters compel James to learn more about the father he lost as a child. When he discovers his father was a whistleblower and the details of his death are inexplicably classified, an Odyssean journey for the truth begins.

Through archival and field research across two continents, James not only learns about events that shaped his father's love for God, family, country, truth, and duty but also a government lie and a CIA coverup of his death. As the details of a love story about moral injury, post-traumatic resilience, and the consequences of truth-telling evolve, a son connects with the man he barely knew and finds himself along the way. After completing most of his research, where multiple sources corroborate what may be the actual circumstances of his father's death, James seeks spiritual answers that attempt to bring him peace with what he's learned and what he may never know.

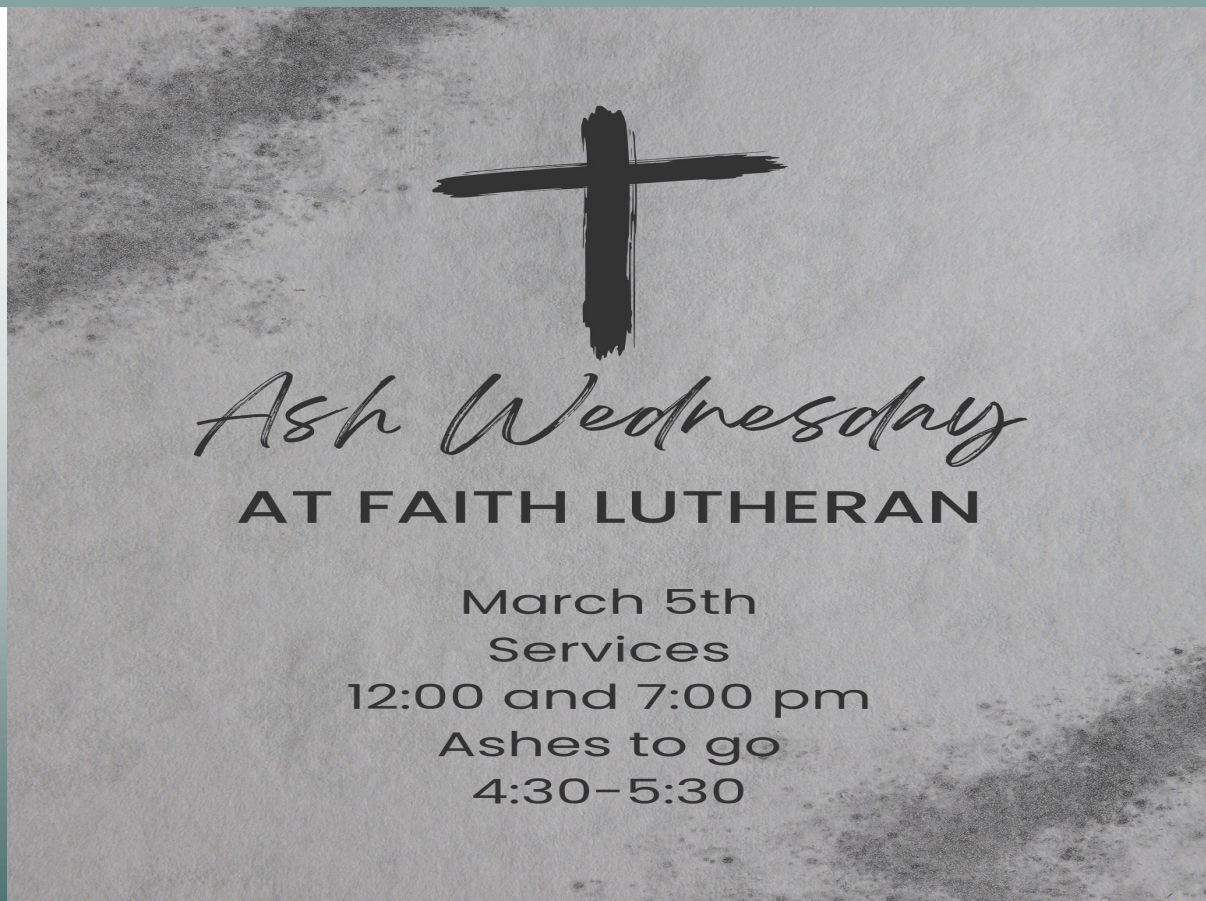
Faith Lutheran Summer Reading Opportunity (continued)

BIO

JAMES B. WELLS is a retired criminology and criminal justice professor in the School of Justice Studies in the College of Justice, Safety, and Military Science at Eastern Kentucky University, and is the recipient of the 2025 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences John Howard Award, an award given intermittently, upon significant demand, to recognize an individual who has made significant and sustained contributions to the practice of corrections. A former carpenter, soldier, and correctional officer in a super-maximum-security prison and later as a researcher/planner assisting architects in prison design, he has multiple degrees, including an M.S. in Criminal Justice, a Ph.D. in Research, and an MFA in Creative Writing. He's authored or co-authored over sixty-five books, chapters, articles, and essays, as well as over a hundred and fifty research reports for various local, state, and federal agencies. Recent essays from his research and memoir work appear or are forthcoming in *Collateral Journal*, *About Place Journal*, *Wild Roof Journal*, *Military Experience and the Arts*, *The Wrath-Bearing Tree*, *Shift*, *Proud to be: Writing by American Warriors*, *Trajectory Journal*, and *From Pen to Page III: More Writings from the Bluegrass Writers Coalition*.

His investigative memoir about his father's still CIA-classified death in Vietnam in 1965, titled Because: A CIA Coverup and a Son's Odyssey to Find the Father He Never Knew, will be released on Father's Day weekend, 2025. Links to publications, presentations, trailers, social media, blog, and other information can be found at <https://jamesbwells.com>.

Ash Wednesday—March 5th



Prayer List



The persons on the parish prayer list are lifted in prayer at every Sunday service. If you would like to be on the prayer list or no longer need to be on the list, please call or email the parish office.

If you would like a pastoral visit or home communion, you may contact Pastor Dana by calling the church office or by email pastordana@faithlutheranchurch.org

The prayer/care ministry invites you to join them in connecting with persons on our prayer list. You can volunteer to connect by phone or email, by a personal visit, or by agreeing to add one specific person to your daily prayers. Contact Pastor Dana for more information or to become part of this ministry.

Members of the Parish (recent concerns): Richard Heine, Gayle McGrath, Carol Buchanan and Carolyn Carden

Members of the Parish (ongoing concerns): Wayne Schedler, Nancy George, Mike Keller, Eva Lau, Ray Ranta, Linda McDaniel, Joe Swanson and Bev Stanley

Friends of the Parish:

Jim Pinkston, Rory Hefner-Templar (daughter of David Templar), John Klee, the family of Sue Raney, Britney Harris (daughter-in-law of Leta Harris), the family of Jim Johnson (brother of David Johnson), Danny Rees (nephew of Kathy Johnson), Bill and Jake McDonald (brother and nephew of Val Dutcher), the family of Danny Kazee, the family of Marguerite Mitchell (mother of Ellie Burnside) and Linda Wolf (aunt of Amanda Nord)



- 1 Gisela Atkerson
- 2 Doug Dutcher
- 3 Dale Austin
- 5 Aeris Hammonds
- 8 Susan Harper
- 11 JoEllen McComb
- 12 Linda McDaniel
- 13 Judy Templar
- 15 Lin Whitley
- 17 Hailey Shannon
- 18 Kevin Lentz
- 19 Gene Harper
- 21 Alann Karow
- 22 Karl Krause
- 23 Walt Keinath
- 24 Kathy Egner
- 27 Joe Swanson
- 29 Denise Adams
Ray Hughes



- 4 Dana & Victoria
Lockhart
- 19 Julie & Mike Keller



Single Service Sunday

We will be having a single service Sunday, March 16th at 10am. Following this service will be our Holy Cow CAT celebration.

Daylight Savings Time



Daylight Savings Time begins March 9th. Don't forget to move your clocks forward one hour.

Healthy Congregations March 15th

We will welcome Pastor Kevin Burney one last time to present the 6th workshop on March 15th. We will gather for breakfast at 8:30 am followed by the workshop from 9 am until 1 pm.

All are welcome to attend. Healthy Congregations has enhanced our understanding of our congregational culture and how we function as an emotional system. It has led to deeper insight into our present and provided tools to build a stronger future together. We hope to see you there!

Vacation Church School—Summer 2025

This year's theme for Vacation Church School will be "**Road Trip**", based on *Joshua 1:9* – "**The LORD your God is with you wherever you go.**"

We will once again be offering our VCS program to Faith Lutheran Learning Center students (Summer Camp participants) and any church/community children in grades K–3. Older children will be invited to be Helpers in either Games or Crafts.

If you would like to help us out (for even **ONE** afternoon) or if you'd like to donate needed items for snacks or crafts, please contact Val Dutcher at valjdutcher@gmail.com

6pm Services

Starting March 9th, Faith will hold a 6 pm service on Sundays during Lent (through April 13th). Like the 6 pm services that were previously held at Faith, this service will be planned as a smaller and more contemplative worship setting, with a spoken liturgy (no music) and a quieter atmosphere. All are welcome to attend. We are also in need of people to serve as lectors and to help with sacristy duties. For more information, please contact Pastor Dana.

Property Committee

Come and Join Us!

Let's start out with what we **HAVE**:

- We have a wonderful new Facilities Manager, Parker Taul, who has many skills and abilities. He has already been a blessing to us!
- We have a Work List that we are going to be enhancing to better understand and prioritize the key property needs for our facility.
- We have a **GREAT** group of "core" Property Committee members, who are all dedicated to the Church & Learning Center that we love so much:
 - * Steve Hayes – Cong. Council Liaison to Committee
 - * Ray Hughes – Property Committee Co-Chair.
 - * Courtney Herald – FLLC Director & Interim Property Committee Co-Chair.
 - * Teri Applegate, Val Dutcher, Phyllis Hasbrouck; and Richard Michel.

What do we **NEED**?

- We would love to have a few more members join us with their new ideas and new perspectives.

Please prayerfully consider becoming a member of our Property Committee and please let anyone on our Committee know if you are interested in joining us!



Holy Week April 13-April 20



April 13th—Palm Sunday: Services at 8:30am, 11:00am & 6:00pm

April 17th—Maundy Thursday: Service at 7:00pm

April 18th—Good Friday: Stations of the Cross led by Val Dutcher 12:00pm; Service at 7:00pm

April 20th—Easter Sunday: Services at 8:30am and 11:00am

Faith Lutheran Church

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Phone: 859-266-7621
Fax: 859-266-9600
Email:
office@faithlutheranchurch.com

Church Council 2024

Sue Anne Lau, President
Elaine Billington, Vice President
Val Dutcher, Secretary
Urton Anderson, Treasurer
Pastor Dana Lockhart
Steve Hayes
Becki Luddy

Financial Secretary

Jennifer Carey

Assistant Treasurer

Debbie Rosenberg

Sunday Worship Schedule

In-Person Worship 8:30 and 11:00 AM
Online Streaming, 11:00 AM

Clergy & Staff

Pastor Dana Lockhart

859-266-7621
pastordana@faithlutheranchurch.com

Amanda Nord

Parish Administrator

office@faithlutheranchurch.com
859-266-7621

Kathy Egner

Director of Music

music@faithlutheranchurch.com
859-266-7621

Neil McComb, Sexton

859-229-8834

Paige Barricklow, Youth Assistant

pebarricklow15@gmail.com
859-940-0631

Courtney Herald, Learning Center Director

fillc859@gmail.com
859-268-0108

Parker Taul, Facilities Manager

taulparker@gmail.com

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