

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 2024



The Rev. June Wann
Pastor

Robert Billig
President, Church Council

Zach Keenan
Vice President, Church Council

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Judy Ehret

Margy Muthard
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Joanne Gantz-Jalowiecki
Dir. Of Children, Youth,
and Family Ministries
And Financial Secretary

Jennifer Kishbaugh
Dir. Of Music

Claudette Nia
Office Administrator

**FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

**3355 MACARTHUR ROAD
WHITEHALL, PA 18052
610 435 0451
M—TH 9:00 AM—3:00 PM**

Dates to Remember

- July 3 brings the start of the hot and sultry Dog Days of Summer!
-
- July 4 is Independence.
-
- July 7 marks Islamic New Year
-
- July 14 is Bastille Day



WORDS FROM PASTOR JUNE

This month I'm sharing an article from 1517 that has really spoken to me. It's written by Wade Johnston who is an Assistant Professor of Theology at Wisconsin Lutheran College.

Ever skip rocks as a kid? Remember searching for the perfect stone? When we moved to Milwaukee, we didn't waste much time heading to Lake Michigan, and it didn't take long for the kids to start looking for stones. They'd pick up one and drop it, pick up another and give it a try. They were determined to find stones fit for skipping, and, not to brag, but they've played a lot of ball, so they can throw. It was fun to watch.

What kind of stone are you? One God should pass by, pick up, or toss aside? One the world looks at and says, "That's the one," or one for which it has little use? Are you fit for skipping or do you just keep sinking? More than a decade ago now I developed a habit that I sometimes regret. As part of remembering my baptism, I will often take my time in the shower to give God all the stuff on my mind, heart, and conscience, with the water reminding me that God has washed all my sins away. Unfortunately, since I am a stubbornly pessimistic person, one prone to holding onto the negative, this has morphed at times into my morning shower becoming complaining time. I complain about myself. I complain about my life. I complain about whatever. Rather than stepping out of the shower joyful and renewed, I end up grumpy and defeated. When I get stuck in a rut, this only makes things worse.

I'm guessing you're sometimes at least somewhat like me. You get down on yourself, on life, and on whatever else, and not without good reason. You don't feel fit for skipping. You feel lost in the background. You feel picked up and tossed aside. And so we wonder, "What good is a rejected stone? What good is a rock no one wants to skip?" Peter knew that feeling well. His name meant "stone" or "rock." Christ had given him that name. And yet how often had Peter failed to live up to it? How often had he not been corrected? How often had he denied the Lord, failed to listen, or chosen the wrong path? Peter knew what it was to be an unworthy stone. Do you know what never happened, though? The Lord never tossed him aside. The Lord never declared him unworthy, even when he declared him foolish. The Lord knew how it felt to be a rejected stone. The apostle Peter reminds us: "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." 1 Peter 2:7 And because this is so, things have changed drastically for us. Peter explains, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." 1 Peter 2:9-10

Do me a favor. Take a moment and think on all the stuff you'd say in the shower. What makes you unworthy? What makes you unskippable? What makes you worth picking up and tossing away? Think on it, and then let it wash away, because it is washed away. Like it or not, as much as you'd like to grumble and wallow, it's gone. You're not that stone. You're not that rock. You're something new. You've been picked up and you will never be tossed aside. Christ doesn't find stones fit for skipping, but he does make them. He makes them with water for water. You're his stones, and that should set us all skipping, even when we face waves, even when the world doesn't see what Jesus does.

Jesus told his disciples that he had picked them up and wouldn't let them go. He promised them: "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." John 14:1-3 Leave the nonsense in the shower, because none of it makes sense in Christ. Leave all those words for the drain. Hear the words the living stone speaks to you, because his word is truth, and his word endures forever. What matters isn't what you think, what the world thinks, what anyone thinks. What matters is what this living stone thinks, the cornerstone, Jesus, the One who saves, because "there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved,"

Like me, Jesus has saved you by grace and His love will never fail. And one day you will find yourself skipping, not on water but on streets of gold.

Blessings, Pastor June

TRAINING FOR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER DATE TBA



WE WILL NEVER
CHANGE THE WORLD
BY GOING TO CHURCH.
WE WILL ONLY
CHANGE THE WORLD
BY BEING THE CHURCH.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

c/o St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
3900 Mechanicsville Road
Whitehall, PA 18052

June 12, 2024


Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
3355 MacArthur Road
Whitehall, PA 18052

Dear Friends,

Once again, the board that makes up the Whitehall Food Pantry, gratefully acknowledges your generous contributions to help us continue the mission that we share.

Your continued support is very important, and we are so very grateful.

God Bless You!



Judy Ehret for
The Whitehall Food Pantry

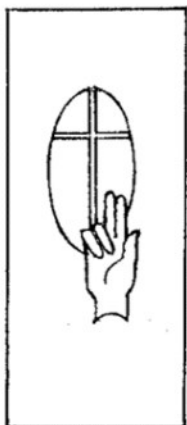


"Offering Service and Care in the Feeding of Those Less Fortunate."

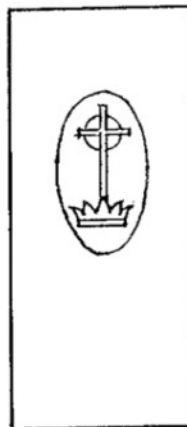
Thank you, Roger Reichard, for your donation of the dedication book for the Church. We thought it important to share with the congregation this explanation of the symbolism of our beautiful windows.

Thank you, Roger, and thank you, Cathy Haller, for spotting this in the booklet and suggesting it be shared with the congregation!

Nave Window Symbolism



THE HAND OF GOD
Symbol of the Father, as Blessor.
THE CROSS OF CHRIST
Symbol of the Son's Suffering and Death.



THE CROSS AND THE CROWN

These symbolize the reward of the faithful in the life after death for those who believe in the Crucified Saviour.

"Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee the Crown of Life."

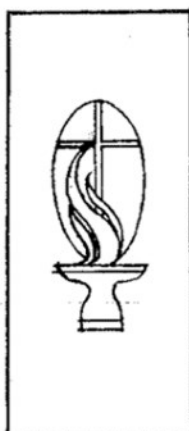
REV. 2:10



THE DESCENDING DOVE
Symbol of the Holy Spirit.

"Jesus . . . was baptized of John. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him."

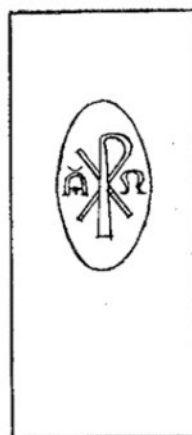
MARK 1:9, 10



CHRIST THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Also, the unquenchable Word of God.

Also, the eternal flame of faith that forever burns in the hearts of believers of all ages initiated by the fire of the Spirit on Pentecost.



THE CHI RHO WITH THE ALPHA AND OMEGA

The symbol for Christ is within an unbroken enclosure (symbol for eternity) and so signifies the eternal existence of our Lord.

Our Family of the Month
July 2024
Please welcome
Jane Ramer



Jane is quite possibly our oldest and one of our beloved members of Faith. She and her dear departed husband, Oscar, were married in 1950 at our joint church on MacArthur Road by Rev. Harvey Sell. They have two children, Vicki and Brad, along with three granddaughters and three great grandsons.

Vicki lives in Rosetta, PA and Brad in Mt. Pleasant, SC.

Jane worked in the Parkland School District first at Troxell in the cafeteria, then for 26 years between Springhouse and Troxell in the library and as secretary at Troxell.

Oscar was a production control manager at International Webbing. At Faith, Jane was active in many volunteer positions: a teacher in the kindergarten class, helper in Sunday School, on Altar Guild, helped with luncheons and made apple pies for different functions.

Jane currently lives in Allentown at Penn Crest Apartments.



Sunday School ended May 19, 2024.—Will resume in September

Sunday School classes for all ages at 9 am

- ♦ Sunday School classes available from Bible Babies to Adult Forum.
- ♦ Confirmation Classes for our youth in Seventh & Eighth grades.
This is a two-year program
- ♦ Adult Forum classes are held in the Gathering Place

♦

♦ Worship Service at 10:00 AM

Communion—The first Tuesday of each month,
join us for a light lunch at noon
followed by communion at 1:00.

We hope to encourage our members who are uncomfortable driving at night, to use this time for fellowship that was enjoyed at our Wednesday night Hotdogs and Hymns. All are welcome! Bring a friend.

Altar Communion—The first Sunday of each month
celebrate Communion around the Altar. Please join us!

Mission & Vision

Vision

A world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation.

Purpose

Activate each of us so more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love.

Priority Areas

A Welcoming Church: Engaging new, young and diverse people

"Your young ... shall see visions, and your old ... shall dream dreams."

Acts 2:17

A Thriving Church: Rooted in tradition and radically relevant

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? ...

You are the light of the world."

Matthew 5:13-14

A Connected, Sustainable Church: Raising the bar together

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5

Values

Our values are grounded in faith, in our biblical and Lutheran confessional sources and our love of God and neighbor. They speak to the way this church lives and practices our faith, and they will guide how we journey forward in Christ as church together.

Forgiveness and reconciliation

Dignity, compassion and justice

Inclusion and diversity

FROM THE ELCA

Worship: A foundation of faith for everything we do

For Lutherans, worship stands at the center of our life of faith. Through God's word, water, bread, and prayer we are nurtured in faith and sent out into the world.

Connected with and central to everything we do, worship unites us in celebration, engages us in thoughtful dialogue and helps us grow in faith. It grounds us in our Christian and Lutheran roots, while demonstrating practical relevance for today's world.

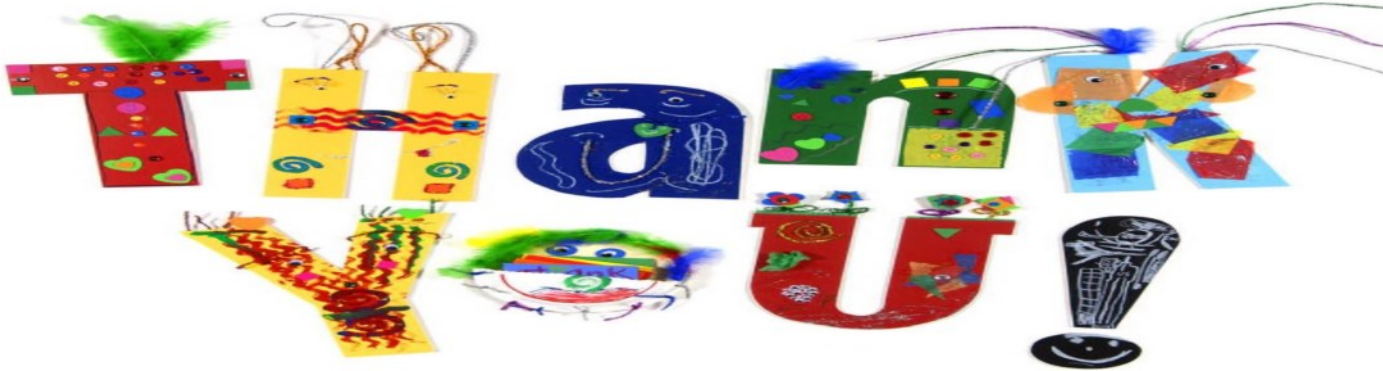
Central to our worship life is the presence of God through word and sacrament. The word proclaimed and the sacraments —both Holy Baptism and Holy Communion — are called the means of grace. We believe that Jesus Christ is present in these means through the power of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we describe worship as a “gathering around the means of grace.”

There is also a basic pattern for worship among Lutherans. We *gather*. We encounter God's *word*. We share a *meal* at the Lord's table. And we are *sent* into the world. But we do not think about worship so much in terms of what we do. Worship is fundamentally about what God is doing and our response to God's action. Worship is an encounter with God, who saves us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

WHAT DO LUTHERANS BELIEVE?

We believe that all people are imperfect and are saved (made right with God) by God's grace and God's grace alone, through Christ. There is no special prayer you need to pray, no special state of mind you need to achieve and no good deed you need to perform. We believe that through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God became one of us and took upon himself the sin and suffering of all the world. God did this to demonstrate God's love for us. We believe that we receive the gift of grace by faith alone on account of Christ. We live in the tension of still being sinful but trusting that we are forgiven and that God is at work in us. The gift of grace expresses God's unconditional love, and in response to that love we are set free to live gratefully and lovingly.

An important date in the Lutheran tradition is Oct. 31, 1517, when a German monk named Martin Luther started a movement known as the Reformation. He insisted the Bible showed that salvation could not be earned or bought, which was contrary to church teachings at the time. Luther believed salvation was a gift and a sign of God's never-ending love. The most influential documents for our church were written by him and other Lutheran reformers. These are compiled in the Book of Concord. Key writings there include the Augsburg Confession and [Martin Luther's Small Catechism](#). We don't believe that you are born or are baptized Lutheran, but if you participate in the Lutheran tradition, you identify as a Lutheran Christian.



Another big shout out to our property committee for their dedication keeping our facility looking beautiful and running smoothly. Their recent plantings around the exterior have added beauty and color. Thank you again for your hard work and dedication!

Never stop
learning, because
life never stops
teaching.

Thank you to our many dedicated volunteers who do so much to be the branches with Jesus as our vine. Our hands, God's work is embraced here at Faith.

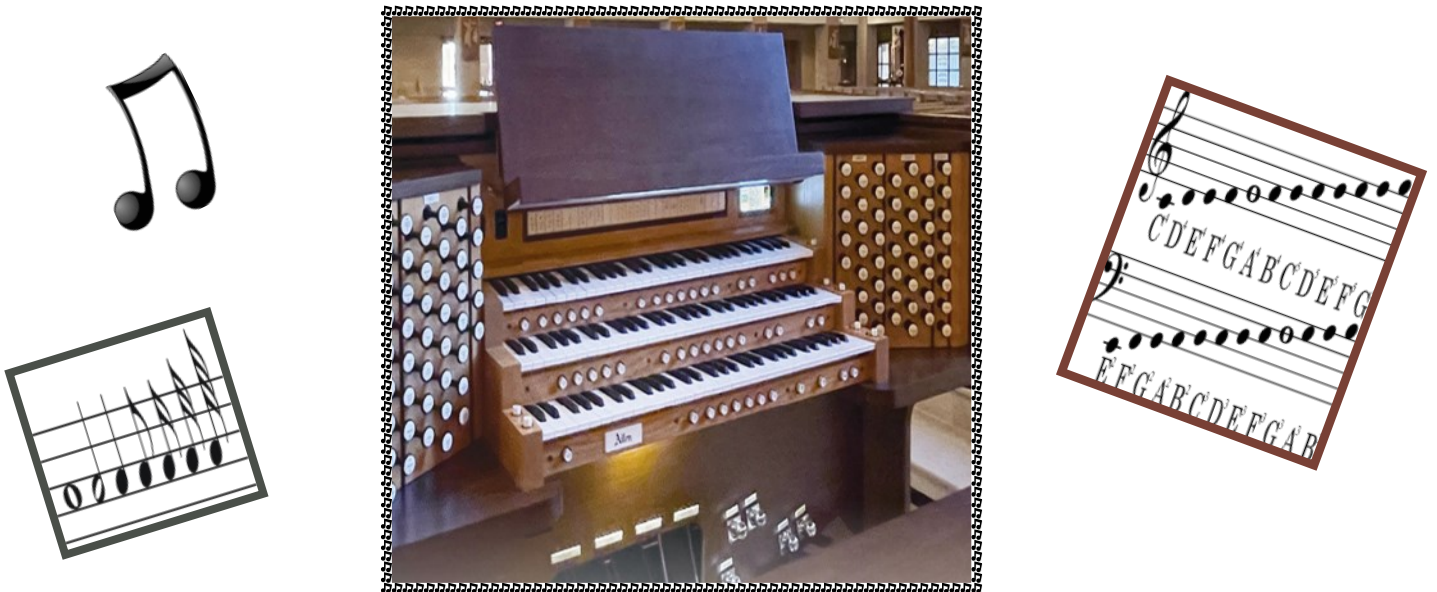
Choose to be a vital part of your Church family, of course to the best of your ability, as we all face challenges.

The love and comfort that comes from a strong Faith family defies description or capturing in words. You feel it in your heart.

You feel the love here at Faith.



Stewardship



BE A KEY PLAYER

FELC has initiated a fundraising campaign to cover the \$21,000 needed to cover the balance of our new Organ. We call it 'Be A Key Player'. We are asking people to buy keys on the three manual organ

- * Keys on the Choir manual are \$25 each.
- * Keys on the Swell manual are \$50.
- * Keys on the Great manual are \$100 and
 - * the pedals are \$250.

*

To recognize those who purchase a key, their names will be written on a key on a commemorative poster that will be hung in the church.

If you would like to purchase a key, there are forms in the narthex or contact the church office.

Boy Scout , Cub Scout, and Eagle Scout Update



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

Join Us in Our Mission

Remember Honor Teach

December 14, 2024 National Wreaths Across America Day

Help Cub Pack 32 honor local heroes!

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a veteran's grave this December at Cedar Hill Memorial Park.

visit www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/PA0713

We've set a goal of selling 100 wreaths to lay out at the cemetery on December 14th.

For each wreath donated, Cedar Hill will receive one wreath, and the Cub Pack will receive a small donation for assisting in this fundraising effort. We hope that this helps Cedar Hill to achieve coverage of all veterans graves on that day.

We will be promoting this effort through Veteran's Day on November 11th, although our fundraising page will be open until December 3rd. Please let me know if you or any members of the church have any questions and I'll do my best to answer them.

**Thanks again for all of your support for the scouting program in our community.
Yours in Scouting,**

Pete Paone

Asst. Scoutmaster - Troop 32

Treasurer - Pack 32

JULY FUN FACTS



The larkspur and water lily.

The Larkspur, especially white forms, generally indicates lightheartedness; pink, fickleness; purple, first love.

The water lily symbolizes purity of heart.

July Birthstone

The July birthstone is the ruby, which is believed to protect its wearer from evil.

- “Ruby” is derived from the Latin *rubeus*, which means “red.”
- The ruby, along with the related sapphire, is the second hardest natural gemstone, with only the diamond being harder.
- The gem was once thought to protect warriors if worn on their armor or embedded in their skin.

**July's zodiac signs are Cancer June 21 to July 22
and
Leo July 23 to August 22**



Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

Cancer is a cardinal water sign. Represented by the crab, this oceanic crustacean seamlessly weaves between the sea and shore, representing Cancer's ability to exist in both emotional and material realms. Cancers are highly intuitive

Much like their celestial spirit animal, Cancers are shielded by hard, external shells. At first, these crabs may be perceived as cold or distant. With time, though, Cancers reveal their gentle nature, genuine compassion, and mystical capabilities.

Cancer is ruled by the moon, the celestial body that represents comfort, self-care, and maternal energies. Accordingly, Cancers tend to be domestically oriented. They love to create cozy, safe spaces that serve as their personal sanctuaries, then spend lots of time in them. Cancers care deeply about their families and are quick to adopt caregiver roles. But these crabs must be careful:

Cancers attract friends through their loyalty, commitment, and emotional depth. These crustaceans make excellent hosts and enjoy entertaining with comfort food and free-flowing libations. (Cancer rules the stomach, so there's nothing these crabs love more than a home-cooked meal.). Though these celestial crabs avoid direct conflict by walking at an angle, they can inflict a harsh pinch with their distinctive brand of passive-aggressiveness



Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Leo is represented by the lion, and these spirited fire signs are the kings and queens of the celestial jungle. Vivacious, theatrical, and passionate, Leos love to bask in the spotlight and celebrate themselves. These lions are natural leaders and they enjoy cultivating friendships and romances that are artistically and creatively inspired. Leo perceives him or herself as a celebrity. These astrological divas never get tired of lavish dinners, exclusive parties, or decadent designer wear.

Leo is ruled by the sun, the dazzling celestial body that governs life and vitality. The sun never goes retrograde, and likewise, Leos are renowned for their stability, loyalty, and consistency. They are dedicated friends who put their hearts into every relationship. (Fittingly, the Leo sign governs the heart.) Ultimately, Leos' own hubris is the greatest threat to their happiness.

This fixed sign is known for its ambition and determination, but above all, Leos are celebrated for their remarkable bravery.. Fearless optimists who refuse to accept failure, Leos will find their deep wells of courage grow as they mature.

JULY 2024

JULY 7

JULY 14

JULY 21

JULY 28

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|---|
| Altar Guild | Charlene Frack and Cathy Haller | Pat Masonheimer and Barb Yurasits | Shel and Judy Ehret | Pat Masonheimer and Linda Johnston |
| Acolytes and Crucifers | | | | |
| Lectors | Howard Schaf- fer | Howard Schaffer | | |
| Narthex Greeters | Chris Gartner | April Spaits And Charlene Frack | Dan Herzog | Sara Laub |
| Assistant Ministers | Tom Colburn | Bob Billig | Judy Ehret | Shel Ehret |
| Bulletin Sponsors | | | | |
| Flower Sponsors | Harold and Deb Whittaker | | | |

JULY 2024

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|---|---|--|-----------|-----------|
| | 1 1:00 PM Piece Workers 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH) | 2 Prayer Group (TGP) Noon Light Lunch 1:00 pm Communion 6:45 PM Boy Scouts | 3 6:00 PM Eagle Scouts 6:00 PM Hot dogs and hymns | 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Worship Service 10:00 AM AA 7:00 PM (PH) | 8 1:00 PM Piece Workers 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH) | 9 10:30 AM Prayer Group (TGP) 6:45 PM Boy Scouts (PH) | 10 6:00 PM Eagle Scouts 6:00 PM Hot dogs and hymns | 11 6:00 PM Cub Scouts (PH) | 12 | 13 |
| 14 10:00AM Worship Service AA 7:00 PM | 15 1:00 PM Piece Workers 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH) | 16 10:30 AM Prayer Group (TGP) 6:45 PM Boy Scouts (PH) | 17 6:00 PM Eagle Scouts 6:00 PM Hot dogs and hymns | 18 6:00 PM Cub Scouts (PH) | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Worship Service 10:00 AM AA 7:00 PM | 22 1:00 PM Piece Workers 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH) | 23 10:30 AM Prayer Group (TGP) 6:45 PM Boy Scouts (PH) | 24 6:00 PM Eagle Scouts 6:00 PM Hot dogs and hymns | 25 6:00 PM Cub Scouts (PH) HR mtg 6:00 PM | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Worship Service 10:00 AM AA 7:00 PM (PH) | 29 1:00 PM Piece Workers 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH) | 30 10:30 AM Prayer Group (TGP) 6:45 PM Boy Scouts (PH) | 31 6:00 PM Eagle Scouts 6:00 PM Hot dogs and hymns | | | |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Stacy Cave 7/1
Robert Stahler 7/3
Sarah Whittaker 7/9
Ernie Kotsch 7/10
Robert Hawkey 7/11
Patricia Himmelwright 7/13
Roger Reichard 7/14
Patsy Walschburger 7/15
Dennis Wehr 7/17
Donald Clewell 7/18
Joanne Gantz-Jalowiecki 7/24
Tammie Steidinger 7/24
Tara Miller 7/27
Mark Schaffer 7/31



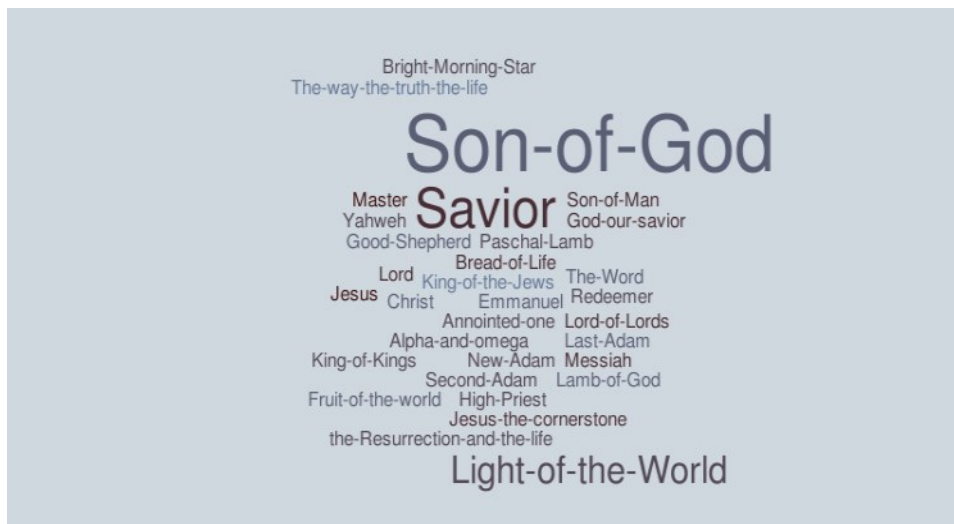
Robert and Debra Keenan 7/3
Matthew and Jennifer Kishbaugh 7/13
Frederick and Dorothy Scott 7/23
Zachary and Tinamarie Keenan 7/31

Jesus said to him,
"I am the way,
the truth,
and the life.
No one comes
to the Father,
except through me."

—John 14:6, World English Bible

Remember if you are or know of a member who is hospitalized

Faith's code for visiting is 224



Live in such a way that the preacher can tell the truth at your funeral.

