OCTOBER 2025



The Rev. June E. Wann Pastor

Robert Billig President, Church Council

Zach Keenan Vice President, Church Council

Secretary
Judy Ehret

Margy Muthard Treasurer

Jordan Bucks Organist

Joanne Gantz-Jalowiecki <u>Financial Secretary</u>

Jennifer Kishbaugh
Director Of Music

Claudette Nia Office Administrator FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 3355 MACARTHUR ROAD WHITEHALL, PA 18052

DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 1 marks the start of
 - Yom Kippur at sundown.
- October 5 is World Wide Communion
 - October 12 is Harvest home
- October 13 is a busy day, with two holidays
 - Canadian Thanksgiving.
 - Indigenous Peoples' Day (U.S)
 - October 19 is Blessing of the pets
 - · October 20 is Diwali,
 - the Indian "Festival of Lights."
 - October 24 is United Nations Day,
 - October 25 is Trunk or Treat
 - October 26 is Reformation Sunday
- October 31 is Halloween (All Hallows' Eve)



When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace; In every high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Have you ever sung a hymn and been struck with what you just sang? I often am. I dwell on a line of a hymn and quickly realize we've moved on to the next stanza. The words above are part of one of my favorite hymns that I often use for prayer and reflection.

As Christians, we often speak of God's love for us. We speak of God as our Heavenly Father who is always watching over us, and rightly so, He always is! But sometimes, we are the ones who don't see it. For example, there is a line in the hymn that says, "When darkness veils His lovely face." What this means is that sometimes, even though God our Heavenly Father is always with us, always caring for us, always loving us – sometimes we are not able to see His love and care. This "darkness" will veil God's face often with the stresses we face in daily life.

Sometimes darkness will obscure God's loving face for us when we have an illness. An illness or chronic condition has a way of screaming out at us saying, "Look at me, look at me!" and we are not able to see the love of God who is always caring for us. And maybe the greatest darkness that will veil God's loving face from us is death. Death is ugly. Death is painful. Death is heartbreaking. And in these moments when death is shouting for our attention, it is like a thick, black cloud has veiled God's loving face from us.

The hymn stanza above captured what we all go through at some point in our lives; sometimes it is hard for us to see God's loving face. But at the same time, hymns are able to articulate the neverending hope we have in Christ. After the above hymn recognized that we don't always see God's face, the hymn said this, "In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil."

No matter what we go through, Christ is with us. Christ is our anchor. Christ fastens us onto Himself and He especially does this when life itself is turbulent and flipping us upside down on our heads. Even when the tragedies of this life seem like they are putting a veil in front of God's face so we can no longer see Him clearly, our Lord Jesus Christ has you anchored onto Himself.

Jesus will always keep you grounded. Jesus will always be your hope no matter what you face in life. Jesus will always be your promise of a resurrection from the dead even in the face of death itself. I always say it is easy to be a Christian when everything is going well. But when there are trials, temptations, and death, those are the moments when being a Christian matters the most. Those are the times Christ's loving face can tear through any veil of misery we are enduring. Through everything we face in life, Christ will always be our anchor. Christ is our hope. Christ is our promise of a resurrection even in the face of death!

In peace,

Pastor June



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT FORUM AT 9:00 AM

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 is and has been 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!



HARVEST HOME: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025

Foods collected and donated are used for our Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Boxes and the Whitehall Food Pantry

THE WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

Is requesting canned sweet potatoes as our contribution from Faith FOOD BOX REQUESTS FOR THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS FOOD BOX-ES

Canned vegetables, boxed stuffing mixes, instant mashed potatoes cranberry sauce, pasta and pasta sauces

Your generous donations to HARVEST HOME are greatly appreciated!

Upcoming events

HARVEST HOME October 12

Pink Pumpkins bingo event October 18

Blessing of the pets October 19

Trunk or Treat October 25

Reformation Sunday October 26

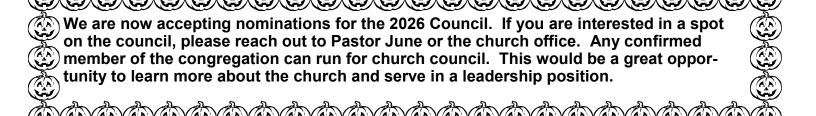
Social Ministry is sponsoring Trunk or Treat

<u>Saturday, October 25, 2025 11:00 am—1:00 pm</u>

We need trunks to participate!

Get involved: Help with crafts, food, set up, clean up Spread the word– tell your neighbors, friends, family Bring grandkids, nieces, nephews, sisters, brothers,

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE TO OTHERS GOD'S WORK, OUR LUTHERAN HANDS



All Saints Sunday is around the corner. If you would like a loved one included for that Sunday, please give the name to the church office by the last Sunday in October. Names will be read during worship. You are also invited to bring a picture of your loved one to be placed on the altar during the service.

Craft Fair preparations calling

Get involved in helping with this important fund raiser—lots of opportunities

Join the fundraising committee, the Craft Fair committee,

the Fellowship committee

Soothe the soul with food, fun, service to others, and fellowship with our Faith

Dear "Faithful" members and friends,

The Pieceworkers of Faith invite you to join our sewing group. We meet most Monday's from 1-3 p.m. in Parker Hall (during the school year) and in the Gathering Place during summer months due to Petit Scholars meeting downstairs.

Our group works on projects for our baptized babies, quilts for shut ins, items to sell at the craft fair as well as small items for hospital distribution.

No quilting knowledge is needed, but sewing skills are helpful.

We enjoy the camaraderie and friendship that we have established and would love for you and your friends/neighbors to join us.

Looking for opportunities to give back? Volunteer!

Always welcoming committee participants, volunteering in the kitchen for special events, learning the process of preparation for Sundays and special events, choir, bell choir, Lectors, Greeters

See anyone on Council, Pastor or stop by Church office! Faith needs you!

We are called to be the Church. Let us Serve as we are able!

THANK YOU, GRACIAS, MERCI, DANKE, GRAZIE, SHUKRAN

Kudo's and a great big appreciation for my right hand in the office,

Cathy Haller!

And other office helpers: Karla Billig, Judy Ehret, and Pam Blacker—

Thank you for covering and helping!

Great Big Thank you's to all our volunteers

who help tirelessly and enthusiastically for all our events and functions
Thank you to Dan Herzog and Kitchen crew, servers, helpers, set up volunteers
First Responder's breakfast went well for our first time
Church picnic was a hit—great food, fabulous entertainment from the Pioneer Band

At a time when you don't know what to say or do next, our Lord God brings our family and friends to navigate and get us through with love, care, and encouragement

Our heartfelt thanks to you for your expression of sympathy in our loss. The flowers, gift baskets, donations, and cards were so generously offered and greatly appreciated. Richard is remembered with so much love in the many ways he touched our lives.

God bless and keep you in His care, Jackie Daniel and Family

MEMBERS AND FAMILIES WHO ARE NEEDING PRAYER

Mel Haffner is recuperating at Fellowship—Please keep Rosemarie and family in your prayers

Both Adrianna and Rhynier need prayers

Rhynier is still at LVH Cedar Crest

Adrianna will be returning to Fellowship likely October 2nd

<u>Diane Finley was hit head on about 6 weeks ago—she is recovering, we got to see her smiling</u> face Monday at Piece Makers—please pray for Diane and Family

500th anniversary of the Reformation,

<u>Living Lutheran</u> is exploring its unique aspects, continuing with things you may not know about the Reformation. This list is not meant as an all-encompassing compendium of everything essential to the Reformation and its theology, but rather as a glimpse of the variety of ways the movement that Luther sparked in 1517 would influence the history of the world.

- We know that Martin Luther considered justification by grace through faith the most important teaching of Christian faith—the one by which everything else we say and believe is judged (*Luther's Works*, Vol. 21, page 59).
- Every baptized Lutheran is a "born-again Christian." And since that's who we are, Luther said we are to start living that way—living our baptisms (Book of Concord, pages 359-360).
- The righteousness of God is not something God is, but what he does to us—he makes us righteous (LW, Vol. 34, pages 336-337). Luther tells us that this insight is the essence of the spiritual experience that changed his life, the famed "Tower Experience."
- Luther often said justification involves a pronouncement by God, declaring us sinners righteous (*LW*, Vol. 25, page 46). But more frequently he compares justification to a marriage. We receive all that Christ has in the marriage, and having his love and righteousness qualifies us for salvation and makes us more loving in faith (*LW*, Vol. 44, pages 26-27).
- Luther wanted us to be sure that Christ's work is "for us" (*LW*, Vol. 34). But the strength of one's faith is not his hang-up. Even a weak faith saves, Luther said (*LW*, 12:262). In fact, when it comes to salvation, we're passive—getters, not givers (*LW*, Vol. 52).
- The reformer also taught that we can't even believe on our own—it takes the Spirit, who gives us faith (*The Small Catechism*, II.III.6). Lutherans are, in fact, big on the Spirit, believing that the Spirit is active in every aspect of our lives. Every good idea we have is a work of the Spirit, who sets us on fire, Luther said (*LW*, Vol. 24, pages 130, 89; *Complete Sermons*, Vol. 3/1, page 188).
- But grace isn't cheap for Luther! Christ's love starts moving us to do good like a spouse's love moves us to faithfulness to our marriage vows (*LW*, Vol. 44, pages 26-27). We're so filled up with the goodness God pours into us that we can't help but spill out to others (*LW*, Vol. 31, page 367).
- Good works transpire without our willing them, like a good tree can't help but produce good fruit
 (LW, Vol. 34, page 111). Faith is such a busy thing, Luther added, that it's impossible for the faithful not
 to be doing good works (LW, Vol. 35, page 370).
- Luther taught that the Christian life is "hidden," that one can't judge Christians by their lifestyles, and that sometimes non-Christians will do more external good deeds than the faithful (*LW*, Vol. 26, 376). God himself acts in hidden and surprising ways, as he did with Jesus on the cross (*LW*, Vol. 31, page 39).
- God is so in control that the good we do is really God's work (*LW*, Vol. 34, page 111). We're nothing but the hands of Christ, Luther asserted (*LW*, Vol. 24, page 226). In the good we do, we are just "little Christs" to each other (*LW*, Vol. 31, pages 367-368).
- Living as "little Christs" entails life having a free, easy quality, filled with happiness (even when plagued with the suffering that comes from being Christian) (*LW*, Vol. 24, page 230; *Complete Sermons*, Vol. 3/2, page 257). That's why Luther wants us to look at our jobs as good things—a chance (or "mask") to serve God and other people (*LW*, Vol. 35, pages 40-41).

- The reformer didn't teach universal salvation, insisting that we must have faith. But he expressed an openness to hoping for the salvation of all, that God might give the gift of salvation to all, even in death (*LW*, Vol. 43, page 54).
- We sin in everything we do because everything we do is inspired by selfishness (Luther calls this "concupiscence"). The best we can do is sin bravely—confess we are sinning in all we do and yet seek to do God's will anyway (*LW*, Vol. 48, pages 281-282).
- The reformer spoke of the three persons of the Trinity as speaker, sermon and hearer (*LW*, Vol. 24, pages 364-365), or as the mind, intellect and will of God (*LW*, Vol. 1, page 50).
- The reformer focused on the authority of Scripture, but not without tradition. Tradition mandated for him the desirability of maintaining liturgical worship and was the basis for the validity of infant baptism—do it because God has always had the church do it (*LW*, Vol. 40, pages 255-257).
- Contrary to any notion that he may not have been strong on evangelism, Luther taught that the only reason God lets us live is so we can bring others to him (*LW*, Vol. 30, page 11).
- Although he was referring to Europeans enslaved by feudalism, not the enslavement of Africans, Luther seemingly opposed slavery. He advocated that slaves run away and that a just government would guarantee the life and livelihood of the freedmen (*LW*, Vol. 9, page 232).
- The reformer advocated generous safety nets for the poor (*LW*, Vol. 45, pages 169-194). Luther believed that God has a bias toward the poor and weak, as he claimed that it is God's nature to feed the hungry and comfort the miserable (*LW*, Vol. 26, page 314).
- The reformer also said that God doesn't tell time like we do—that from his perspective, all time is one (*LW*, Vol. 30, page 196). This affirmation, suggestive of Albert Einstein's theory of relativity, entails that, in God's sight, your mother is caring for you in your infancy at the same time that your great-grandchildren are being born. In God's time you are never alone, bereft of your loved ones.
- Although Luther predates the development of the theory of evolution, his view of God's way of telling time entails that God's six days of creation are not completed, for God is still creating (*LW*, Vol. 4, page 136).
- Luther believed that the universe is a body never in one place, a bit like how the Big Bang theory posits that the universe is ever expanding (*LW*, Vol. 38, page 60).
- In communion, at least at one point, Luther believed we actually swallow Jesus—that he enters our bodies (*LW*, Vol. 37, page 100). Since we all receive Christ's body in the Lord's Supper, Luther said we receive all the members of his body. You can lean on them and support all others who receive the sacrament, so their problems and joys are now yours too (*LW*, Vol. 35, pages 50ff). Luther seems to have been open to the communion of infants as well (*LW*, Vol. 35, page 110).
- Luther taught that we should regard the possessions we have as a traveler does the items in a hotel room: they are yours for a while, but they are the owner's. This makes it easy to leave behind to others what we think of as ours—they're just on loan (*LW*, Vol. 21, page 13).
- Luther called Mary "the Mother of God" (LW, Vol. 21, page 308) because he believed everything said of Christ's divinity must be said of his humanity (LW, Vol. 22, page 346). The reformer even remained open to believing the perpetual virginity of Mary and her immaculate conception (LW, Vol. 45, page 205; LW, Vol. 21, 327.)

- In as much as all that happens to Christ's humanity happens to his divinity, Luther said it follows that God himself suffered on the cross and still suffers with us (*LW*, Vol. 30, page 223).
- The reformer believed that we are already in the "end-times": the kingdom is already present when the Spirit works faith in us or compels us to do good (*Book of Concord*, page 356).
- Luther believed that the dead "sleep in God's bosom," not that their souls go directly to heaven (*LW*, Vol. 4, page 313).
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is called to be a part of the ecumenical Church of Jesus Christ in the context in which God has placed it—a diverse, divided, and threatened global society on a beautiful, fragile planet. In faithfulness to its calling, this church is committed to defend human dignity, to stand with poor and powerless people, to advocate justice, to work for peace, and to care for the earth in the processes and structures of contemporary society.
- This statement, The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective, sets forth affirmations and
 commitments to guide this church's participation in society. It seeks to be true to this
 church's mandate to confess and teach both Law and Gospel as the whole Word of the triune God. This church witnesses to the living God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who in
 love creates, judges, and preserves the world and redeems, sanctifies, and brings it to fulfillment in God's reign.

Our witness is a response to God's faithful love received in Word and Sacraments. The bread and the wine, the body and blood of Christ, are a sacrament of love. As love and support are given you, you in turn must render love and support to Christ in his needy ones. You must feel with sorrow all the dishonor done to Christ in his holy Word, all the misery of Christendom, all the unjust suffering of the innocent, with which the world is everywhere filled to overflowing. You must fight, work, pray, and—if you cannot do more—have heartfelt sympathy.



WORSHIP TEAMS FOR OCTOBER

OCTOBER 5	OCTOBER 12	OCTOBER 19	OCTOBER 26

ALTAR GUILD	Cathy Haller And Linda Johnston	Pat Masonheimer And Charlene Frack	Shel And Judy Ehret	Diane Batza And Gloria Senchak	
ASSISTING MINISTER	Gail Herzog	Zach Keenan Sue Stahler		Karen Blayle	
LECTOR	Kindall Wann	Heidi Carr	Heidi Carr Karen Blayle		
GREETER	April Spaits	Charlene Frack	Dan Herzog	April Spaits	
FLOWER SPONSOR			Pastor June And Kindali	Bob And Karla Billig	
BULLETIN SPONSOR			Pastor June And Kindali	Bob And Karla Billig	

OCTOBER 2025 CALENDAR

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SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT			
			1	2	3	4			
			6:00 PM Eagle Scouts	6:00 PM Cub Scouts 6:15 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm senior choir					
5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
Worship Service 10:00 AM Altar communion World Wide Com- munion AA 7:00 PM	1:00 PM Piece makers 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH)	10:00 AM Prayer Group 6:45 PM Boy Scouts	6:00 PM Eagle Scouts	6:00 PM Cub Scouts 6:15 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm senior choir					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
Worship Service 10:00 AM <u>HARVEST HOME</u> 7:00 PM AA	1:00 PM Piece makers 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH)	10:00 AM Prayer Group 6:45 PM Boy Scouts Exec Council	6:00 PM Eagle Scouts	6:00 PM Cub Scouts 6:15 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm senior choir					
19 Worship Service 10:00 AM Blessing of the pets AA 7:00 PM	20 1:00 PM Piece makers 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH	21 10:00 AM Prayer Group 6:45 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Church council	22 6:00 PM Eagle Scouts	23 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 6:15 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm senior choir	24	25 TRUNK OR TREAT 11-1			
26 Worship Service 10:00 AM Reformation Sunday 7:00 PM AA (PH)	27 1:00 PM Piece makers 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH	28 10:00 AM Prayer Group 6:45 PM Boy Scouts	29 6:00 PM Eagle Scouts	30 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 6:15 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm senior choir	31				





WILLIAM & ROSE STROBL 10/02

DEAN & PAT WOTRING 10/10

KIM AND RANDALL HOFFSTETTER 10/11

BRIAN & CINDY HOLOBUSKY 10/12

ERNIE & KATHRYN KOTSCH 10/17



WENDY KNUTSEN-HESS 10/04
ANNETTE ARMSTRONG 10/05
STEPHEN YOO 10/06
SHIRYL DECKER 10/07
ELAINE GENSITS 10/07
JANET COLBURN 10/11
JUDITH PAINE 10/11
ELAINE MAJERCAK 10/13
CHRISTOPHER WHITTAKER 10/16
TAMMI LOCH-EBERHART 10/20
SARA LAUB 10/22