

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 2024 Newsletter



The Rev. Peggy Wuertele
Interim Pastor

The Rev. June Wann
Incoming Pastor mid April

Robert Billig
President, Church Council

Zach Keenan
Vice President, Church
Council

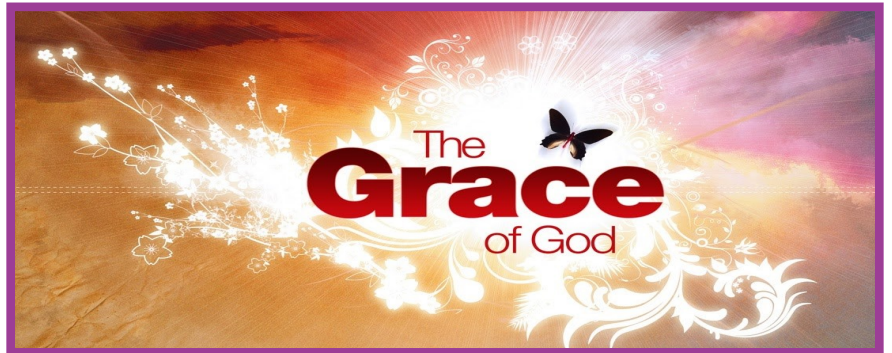
Secretary
Judy Ehret

Margy Muthard
Treasurer

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

April 1 is All Fools' Day— known as “**April Fools' Day.**”

April 22 is the start of Passover, which begins at sundown.

April 22 is **Earth Day.** .

April 28 is **National Arbor Day.**



A Note from Pastor

April 2024

As I write this I am very conscious that this will be my last newsletter article to the people of Faith. I have to confess to some very bittersweet feelings. When the bishop asked me to take on this interim assignment, he was very clear that you all had been through a lot of chaos over the past few years. We've talked about all of this quite a bit, so we don't need to rehearse it all again. My work with you was to be the task of helping you settle down and prepare to move into the future with a newly called pastor. I know that I frustrated some folks who wanted to "move on" and "get back to where we were" the truth is you can never go back; God is always calling us from the future, and we must move forward, embracing the future in faith.

Many exciting things have happened over the past two years. We have received new members, baptized some children, tried out some new things in worship, reinstated some fellowship, initiated some new stewardship/social ministry initiatives, and returned to some favorite community outreach programs (basket social and craft fair). We also decided to let some things of the past go, because we recognize that we don't have as many leaders and, let's be honest, folks are getting older and can't do everything they once did.

We have weathered some big changes in staff as well. But, we welcome Claudette Nia as our office administrator, who frankly is the central person who holds us together. We accepted Linda Eberhardt's retirement after 47! Years on the organist bench and for a year we have lived with some week to week supply musicians. Thank you to Jennifer Kishbaugh for holding it all together. And, no small thing, our technology has been updated (thanks tech team).

You are now ready and have called a new pastor. My prayer as you move forward is that you will embrace her leadership and continue moving forward. St. Paul writes in his letter to the church at Phillipi: "Every time I think of you, I thank God." That is how I will think of the people of Faith; thanking God for the blessing that you have been to me over two years. I thank you and I thank God. Be well Church, and always remember that no matter what happens; "Jesus loves us anyway."

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Peggy



COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Beginning with Palm Sunday and the children's egg hunt, to Holy Thursday Services, Good Friday Services, Easter Breakfast, and Easter Services, Holy week is one of the busiest weeks in the life of FELC. But things do not slow down for us during April. In fact, the week of April 14th is probably even busier than Holy Week.

This is the week when FELC will host Family Promise for the first time. Up to fourteen people will use our facilities as their home for the week. We will provide an evening meal and provide a place for these families to sleep. Many thanks to all who have helped in this Social outreach endeavor. And especially for those who have volunteered to prepare the meals and to those who will be serving as overnight hosts.

On the 20th and 21st, FELC will be hosting the first training session for the Northeast Pennsylvania Synod's new Licensed Lay Minister's program.

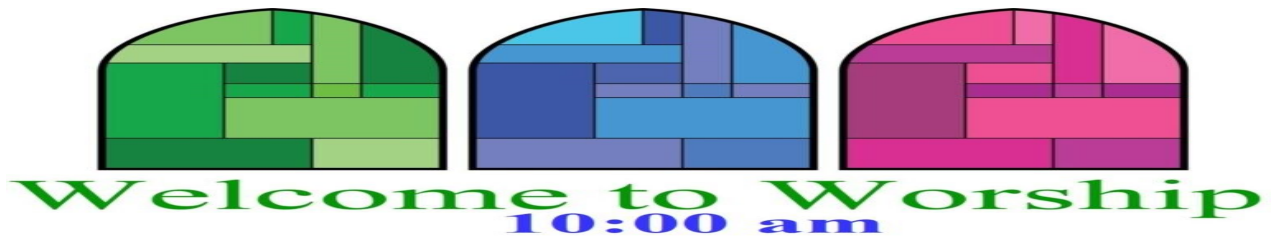
On the afternoon of 21st, the Pioneer Band of Allentown will be presenting a Spring concert at 1:00 in the sanctuary.

In the morning of the 21st, we welcome Pastor June Wann as she will conduct her first worship service as pastor to serve the congregation of FELC. We welcome Pastor June and her husband, Kindall. We look forward in having Pastor June return to us and help lead us in faith and to help us to grow in our mission as disciples of Christ.

But on a sad note, we begin this week on April 14th with Pastor Wuertele sharing her last service with us. Pastor Peggy has faithfully served FELC as our Interim Pastor for the past two years. During that time she has helped us grow both spiritually and in our faith. Without her help and guidance we would not be in the good place we find ourselves in today. Please help us give Pastor Peggy a special send off by attending both the service and reception for her following the service.

Robert Billig
FELC Council President





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!**





YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

THANK YOU to the many members who have already signed up to help with our Family Promise guests during the week of April 14! We are still in need of some volunteers to prepare and drop off a dinner, serve dinner to our guests; as well as the need to fill two nights for overnight hosts.

Please check out the sign up sheet in the narthex. We will begin collecting various items for our guests starting this week. Below is the list of needs. Please drop them off in the Social Ministry Collection Center in the narthex.

FAMILY PROMISE NEEDS -

- New or gently used twin sheets, blankets, quilts - S
- mall table lamps -
- Alarm clocks -
- Plug in night lights -
- Power strips -
- Coloring Books/Crayons -
- Feminine Hygiene Products -
- Grab and Go Cereals - Juice boxes/pouches -
- Bottled water (large and small bottles) -
- Plastic Containers (for guests to pack up lunches) -
- Sandwich Bags -
- Napkins -
- Plastic Silverware -
- Paper Towels -
- Boxes of Tissues -
- Individual-size snacks (cookies, crackers, chips) -
- Granola/Breakfast Bars

Thanks in advance for your service to this vital ministry.

God's Work...Our Hands



BE A KEY PLAYER

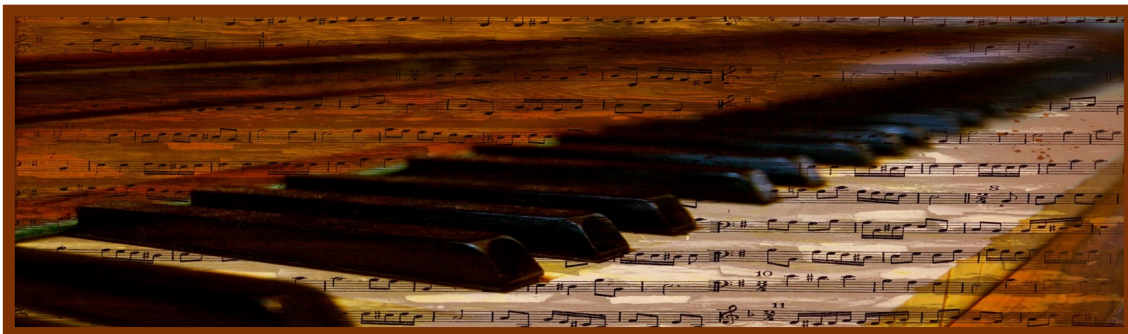
FELC has initiated a fundraising campaign to cover the \$21,000 needed to cover the balance of our new Organ. We call it 'Be A Key Player'. We are asking people to buy keys on the three manual organ, as well as the pedals and the bench.

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.

We are also looking for anyone interested in sponsoring the organ bench. The bench is \$2000 and the donor will have their name engraved on a plaque that will be fastened to the bench.



UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 14-APRIL 21 FAMILY PROMISE

APRIL 14 PASTOR PEGGY'S LAST DAY

APRIL 21 PASTOR JUNE'S FIRST SERVICE

MAY 5 WHITEHALL COPLAY HUNGER INITIATIVE COMMUNITY MEAL

April's Religious, Cultural, and Secular Holidays in Brief

While this list is not exhaustive, we hope it gives you a place to start to grow your religious literacy and learn about some of the holidays people are celebrating and honoring this month.

April's Major Religious Holidays

April 6 – Laylat al-Qadr

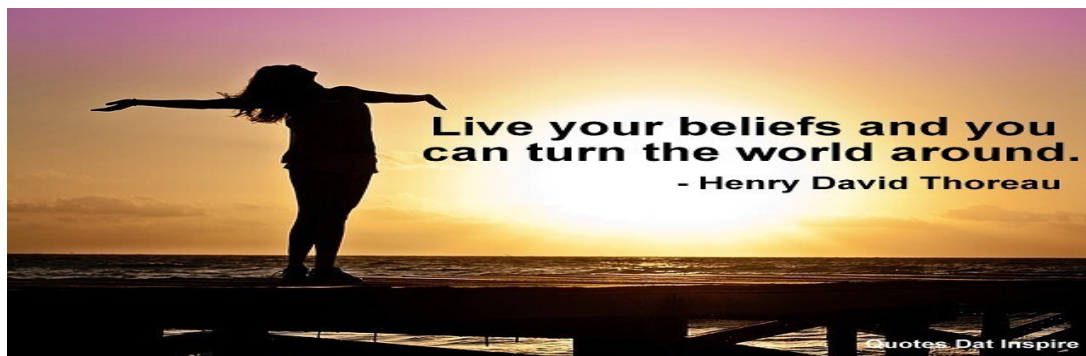
Laylat al-Qadr is for the holiest night of the year for Muslims as it's believed it's the night that the Quran was sent down from Heaven. The last ten nights of Ramadan are dedicated to praying and scripture reading as they believe this night of decree took place in one of those ten nights.

April 9-12 – Eid al-Fitr

On one of the most important Islamic holy days, a big meal is enjoyed to mark the end of Ramadan and celebrations go on for 3 days.

April 22*-30 – Passover

This 7-day holiday week honors the freeing of Israeli slaves. It is one of three pilgrimage festivals and is a major Jewish holiday celebrated on the 15 days of Nisan, a Hebrew month.



APRIL FUN FACTS

- April is named for the Greek goddess of love, Aphrodite.
- The name for the month of April originally came for *Aprilis* which means to open.
- Small animals that hibernate are usually coming out of their burrows in April. The birds fly back northward and settle down to have their families. The bees and butterflies begin to gather nectar from the first flowers of the season.
- In some parts of the world, it is planting time, while in other parts, it is the harvest season.
- April is Humor Month, so laugh it up!
- The birthstone for April is the diamond.
- The zodiac signs are **Aries (March 21 – April 19)** and **Taurus (April 20-May 20)**.

The **birth flowers** for the month of April are the **sweet pea and the daisy**.

Historical moments in the month of April

America's first astronauts were announced by NASA on April 9, 1959.

The first Webster Dictionary was copyrighted by Noah Webster on April 14, 1828.

The Titanic sank on April 15, 1912.

The Revolutionary War in America began on April 19, 1775.

The United States Library of Congress was established April 24, 1800.

Our first President George Washington was inaugurated on April 30, 1789.

Special Days in the month of April

- The first day of April is April Fools Day, when children and grown-ups play jokes on one another.
- April 22 is Earth Day.
- April 2 is Light It Up Blue for Autism Day and the whole month is Autism Awareness Month.
- Arbor Day is a day for planting trees, and it is observed on various April days.
- The Jewish festival of Pescah, or Passover, is celebrated early in April.

April is also the month of the Thai New Year in Thailand and the Khmer New Year in Cambodia.

April is also host to some famous birthdays

Marvin Gaye, April 2, 1939

Jane Goodall, April 3, 1934

Jackie Chan, April 7, 1954

Dolores Huerta, April 10, 1930

Emma Watson, April 15, 1990

Leonardo da Vinci, April 15, 1452

Charlie Chaplin, April 16, 1889

Jack Nicholson, April 22, 1937

William Shakespeare, April 23, 1564

APRIL

April 7

April 14

April 21

April 28

Altar Guild	Shel and Judy Ehret	Diane batza and Charlene Frack	Barb Yurasits and Linda Johnston	Cindy Rowan and Gloria Senchak
Acolytes and Crucifers	Kendall Bashore And Samantha Cave	Luke Knechel And Gav in Kishbaugh	Owen Keenan And Kinston Rivera	Luke Knechel And Kendall Bashore
Lectors		Manny Stivers	Heidi Carr	
Narthex Greeters	Dan Herzog		Sara Laub	April Spaits
Assistant Ministers	Manny Stivers	Tom Colburn	Bob Billig	Zach Keenan
Bulletin Sponsors		Chris Gartner In memory of Husband, David And Mother, Mildred Ruch	Adriana And Rhyner Minnich Celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary	
Flower Sponsors	Pat Masonheimer	Chris Gartner In memory of Husband, David And Mother, Mildred Ruch	Adriana And Rhyner Minnich Celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary	Karen Ruch

APRIL CALENDAR 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FR I	SAT
	1	2 Light lunch and pew communion noon, 1:00 pm 10:30 AM Prayer Group (TGP) 6:45 PM Boy Scouts (PH)	3 6:00 PM Eagle Scouts	4 6:00 PM Cub Scouts (PH) 6:15 Bell 7:00 PM	5	6
7 Sunday School: 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM AA 7:00 PM (PH)	8 1:00 PM Piece Work- ers 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH)	9 10:30 AM Prayer Group (TGP) Social Ministry 6:00 PM 6:45 PM Boy Scouts (PH)	10 6:00 PM Eagle Scouts	11 6:00 PM Cub Scouts (PH) 6:15 Bell 7:00 PM 7:30 Senior Choir	12	13
14 Sunday School: 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Farewell recep- tion for Pastor Peggy 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) 7:00 PM Church Council	17 6:00 PM Eagle Scouts	18 6:00 PM Cub Scouts (PH) 6:45 Bell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	19	20 Lay Minis- ters training
21 Sunday School: 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM 7:00 PM AA (PH)	22 1:00 PM Piece Work- ers 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	25 6:00 PM Cub Scouts (PH) 6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	26	27
28 Sunday School: 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM AA 7:00 PM (PH)	29 1:00 PM Piece Work- ers 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH)	30 10:30 AM Prayer Group (TGP) 6:45 PM Boy Scouts (PH) 7:00 PM Church Council				

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Patricia James 4/1

Donald Ruth 4/1

Wendy Wehr 4/3

Allen Carr 4/7

Paula buchvalt 4/9

Paulette Hawkey 4/9

Kim Hofstetter 4/9

Pearl Wagner 4/11

Ryley Colburn 4/12

Gunther Kurrasch 4/16

April Spaits 4/20

Denise Baltsar 4/24

Diane Batza 4/26

Happy Anniversary

Rhynier and Adriana Minnich 62 years

