

# **FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## **FEBRUARY**



The Rev. June E. Wann  
Pastor

Robert Billig  
President, Church Council

Zach Keenan  
Vice President, Church Council

Secretary

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

### **FEBRUARY DATES OF NOTE**

- February 2 is Groundhog Day
- February 9 is the Super Bowl

February 12 is Abraham Lincoln's Birthday

February 14 is always Valentine's Day

February 23 is the Organ Dedication Recital at 3:00 pm  
in the Sanctuary

February 17 brings Presidents' Day, a federal holiday

February 28 is Ramadan, the ninth month of the  
Islamic calendar

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
3355 MacArthur Road Whitehall, PA 18052  
610 435 0451  
claudette@faithon145.org  
M-Th 9am-3pm



## *A note from the pastor*

Epiphany is often the forgotten season in the church year. It gets wedged between the hype of Christmas and the reflective season of Lent. There's no major holiday in Epiphany to speak of, unless you count Valentine's Day, which would be cheating. There is also no set time for it. It can be as short as four weeks and as long as seven weeks. But we need this season, because to have an epiphany is to have an "AHA! Moment". No matter how long we've been following Jesus, these AHA moments feed our faith, and keep us open to the ongoing work of God in the world.

From week to week, Jesus' teaching and healing invite us to examine our own lives and what we value. Are we living in line with the ways of Jesus and his vision for this world and the next? We ask these questions of ourselves as a matter of faith, even hoping we can still be surprised by AHA moments of God's grace and love.

Much of February, we will witness how Jesus empowers those who others might discount, and we see how Jesus invites us to expand the ways we see God at work in our lives. We might ask ourselves, who is Jesus calling us to lift up and empower? How is Jesus working through you to offer hope to a neighbor who needs it? What are you willing to give so that others can experience full and abundant life – a life without fear, a life that enables them to be their full, God – given selves?

The power of Epiphany is that once we have experienced a holy AHA moment, we can't unsee it. We grow. We change. We become more of what and who God has created us to be. As a church, we do this together. We work together and celebrate the ever-expanding ways God works through us and our ministry partners. Each time we have the opportunity to connect with our partners, there are holy "AHA moments." Moments of learning and caring, moments of worship and shared faith in a God who is always expanding our understanding of grace, love, and community.

I invite you to be on the lookout for holy AHA moments this month and never underestimate the power of God to grow and shape us into the people of God we are continually called to be.

In Peace,

Pastor June



## A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

We are pleased to announce the hiring of a new organist for FELC. Jordan Bucks will begin with training sessions at choir rehearsal on February 13<sup>th</sup> and the church service on the 16<sup>th</sup>. She will then play her first service the following week.

Jordan is graduate of Parkland High School (She served as Jennifer Kishbaugh's accompanist at Ironton Elementary School) and a December graduate of Millersville University. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Piano Performance but has also served as organist and supply organist for several area churches. She is continuing her studies on organ performance and is also working toward her Pennsylvania teacher's certification.

A very talented musician, Jordan is also an accomplished clarinetist having played in various ensembles in both high school and college including the PMEA All-State Band and the Inter-collegiate Concert Band.

Let's all give Jordan a big warm FELC welcome.

As we have successfully hired our new organist, we owe a big thank you to the Organist Search Committee for their work in the screening process and the numerous auditions that were needed. That committee consisted of Pat Himmelwright, Jennifer Kishbaugh, Pastor Wann, Pastor Wuertele, Sheldon Ehret, Judy Ehret, and Bob Billig.

Also, a great big thank-you to Jennifer Kishbaugh who was responsible for the difficult task of finding supply organists during the search process.

Finally, we are grateful to those people who filled in during our search to find a new organist. Particularly we thank Linda Eberhart and Nick Takacs who have spent the majority of playing the services for us.

Bob Billig  
FELC Council President

## Presiding Bishop Eaton Issues Pastoral Message on Executive Orders

January 24, 2025

Dear church,

On Monday, our nation witnessed the peaceful transfer of power central to our democracy, followed by sweeping actions by the incoming Trump administration. Facing such changes, we receive guidance through Martin Luther's words in the Large Catechism.

In the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer, where we pray "Give us this day our daily bread," Luther writes about the importance of praying for our leaders, asking God to grant them wisdom and strength. He also speaks to the responsibility of leaders to provide stability, sufficiency and equity, saying, "It would be very proper to place in the coat-of-arms of every pious prince a loaf of bread instead of a lion, or a wreath of rue, or to stamp it upon the coin, to remind both them and their subjects that by their office we have protection and peace, and that without them we could not eat and retain our daily bread."<sup>1</sup>

This past week has been one of rapid and cascading change, from the inauguration of a new president and vice president to the flurry of activity in government orders and regulations. The policies and decisions reflected in this week's executive orders and regulatory changes have the potential to profoundly impact our lives, the well-being of our neighbors and the future of the planet. Therefore, I am concerned about the ways that many of the executive actions have created uncertainty and fear in our communities among neighbors struggling to survive, neighbors struggling to provide for their children, and neighbors struggling to be seen.

As a church, we are called to speak up when the government distorts or denies the image of God in each person by endangering access to protection, peace and daily bread. Where harm or inequity occur, we are called by God to respond with love and advocacy.

Luther also writes that in asking for daily bread, we are to pray for our leaders. We should pray that they act wisely and justly, protect all people and not cause harm.

Prayer is not passive; it's an act of hope. Prayer reminds us to ground ourselves in God's promise. We pray for strength, to love unconditionally and to serve one another. As we lift up our petitions, we must also act—advocating for policies that affirm the dignity of every person and standing against actions that demean or exclude.

This church is committed to upholding the humanity of everyone, regardless of who we are or where we come from. We are a church called to love our neighbors and accompany all people in their joys and struggles. We must remain steadfast in this calling. As the ELCA, we will continue to proclaim the radical inclusivity of Christ's love. And we will deepen our local and global partnerships with those working to build a just and compassionate society, especially through our ecumenical and interreligious networks.

I commend to you the social message ["Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy,"](#) which states on page 7: "To evaluate how well agencies of government are doing their proper work of providing for the safety and well-being of those within their borders and/or jurisdiction, Lutherans ask one simple but all-encompassing question: Is the neighbor being served?"

I encourage our congregations to use the resources of the [ELCA Witness in Society Team](#) with advocacy networks on the state and federal level. And get involved with [AMMPARO](#), the ELCA's strategy toward just and humane policies affecting migrants.

As we move forward, let us hold fast to our faith and to one another. Let us be bold in our witness to the gospel, steadfast in our prayers for those in authority and tireless in our efforts to seek justice for all.

May God grant us courage, wisdom and peace in these days.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

<sup>1</sup>The Book of Concord, Kold and Wengert, eds., page 450



# Worship with us

## **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**

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT**

### **SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:00 AM**

## **LIGHT LUNCH AND 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 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!**

CHURCH IS NOT A PLACE WHERE ONE GOES ON A SUNDAY  
BUT RATHER A FAMILY JOINED TOGETHER SHARING IN THE LOVE  
OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOUR AND LORD!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Basket Social—Saturday, March 8 and Sunday, March 9, 2025

This is a fun and very big weekend at our church with LOTS of help needed.

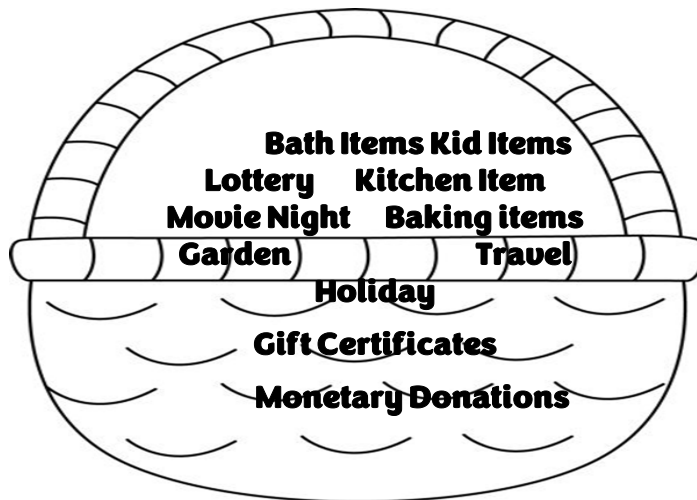
Margy Muthard and her daughter, Erika Miller, are co-chairs of this event.

Please email Margy if you will be able to help in any way, at  
[margy@faithon145.org](mailto:margy@faithon145.org).

Although the weekend of the event is very busy,  
There are many ways to help and be involved ahead of time!

#### FELC Annual Basket Social Donations Needed!

Here are some ideas:



**SPREAD THE NEWS!**

**DEDICATION OF OUR ORGAN**

**JOIN US FOR AN ORGAN RECITAL, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025 3:00 PM**

### **Miller/Keystone Blood Drives**

We Will be hosting a Blood Drive in the New Year  
Blood donation is a lifesaving gift and your help is needed.  
We will inform when Miller Keystone informs us of our date

**Thank you Thank you Thank you**

**AS ALWAYS, A BIG SHOUT OUT TO OUR PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

**THESE MEN ARE AMAZING! YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH THEY DO!**

**They dedicate their time, energy, talent, and skills to a myriad of things**

**THANK YOU MIKE MILLER, DAN HERZOG, SHEL EHRET, RON COLE, BILL FOCHT, BRIAN  
HOLUBOSKY, WILLIE STROBL!**

**A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO SO TIRELESSLY AND CHEER-  
FULLY WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE NOT ONLY OUR SPECIAL EVENTS BUT OUR DAY TO  
DAY OPERATIONS RUNNING SMOOTHLY**

**Thank you Cathy Haller and all the volunteers who helped decorate and undecorate the  
Sancuatuary, Gathering Place, Hallways, Entry, and Office**  
**It as always, looked beautiful!**

**Thank you again!**

**THANK YOU**

**NICK TAKACS, JENNIFER KISHBAUGH, JEFF AND BRIAN HOLOBUSKY, AND ERNIE HALLER  
for your collaboration on the recording of music for our Christmas Eve Services**

.....  
: Thank you to our Linda Eberhart for continuing to offer your time and musical :  
: talent whenever needed from subbing to funerals to bell playing— :  
: Thank you! :  
: .....  
.....

.....  
THANK YOU TO OUR FABUOUS, JANE RAMER  
JANE HAS BEEN LOVINGLY SENDING BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO OUR SHUT INS  
FOR MANY YEARS  
SHE HAS GRACIOUSLY RETIRED  
THANK YOU, JANE, FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE TO SERVE. YOUR LIGHT SHINES!  
.....

.....  
: THANK YOU TO OUR TECH TEAM IN THE LOFT EVERY SUNDAY :  
: ERNIE HALLER, JEFF HOLUBUSKY, BRIAN HOLUBUSKY :  
: .....  
.....





## **EASTER FLOWER ORDER OR FOOD BANK DONATION**

The cost for Easter Lilies, Mums, Tulips, or daffodils is \$10.00 for a six-inch pot; or You may make a monetary donation to the food bank.

If you are unable to pick up your flowers, we ask that you please donate to the food bank.

- Checks should be made out to “**Faith Lutheran Church**”.

Deadline for ordering: **Monday, March 17, 2025**

**Please note: We cannot accept any orders after this date**

**I wish to purchase**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Easter Lily plant/s \$10.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Easter Mums \$10.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Easter Tulips \$10.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Easter Daffodils \$10.00**

**I wish to donate \_\_\_\_\_ to the *Food Bank*.**

**In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_**

**In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_**

Check one: **Will pick up** \_\_\_\_\_

Ordered by:

\_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_



# WORSHIP TEAMS for FEBRUARY 2025

**FEBRUARY 2**

**FEBRUARY 9**

**FEBRUARY 16**

**FEBRUARY 23**

<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Diane Batza And Pat Masonheimer	Barb Yurasits And Charlene Frack	Gloria Senchak And Cathy Haller	Shel And Judy Ehret
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	Karen Blayle	Howard Schaffer	Judy Ehret	Robert Billig
<b>LECTOR</b>	Boy Scouts	Kindall Wann	Pat Himmelwright	Kindall Wann
<b>GREETER</b>	April Spaits	Charlene Frack	Dan Herzog	April Spaits
<b>FLOWER SPONSOR</b>			Nelson and Kathy Schaeffer In honor of Nelson's, Feb 28th, b day	Stacey Bachman In memory of Catherine Schombs
<b>BULLETIN SPONSOR</b>			Nelson and Kathy Schaeffer In honor of Nelson's, Feb 28th, b day	Stacey Bachman In memory of Catherine Schombs

# FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRI	SAT
						1
<b>2</b> Boy Scout Sunday  Sunday School: 9:00 AM  Worship Service 10:00 AM  <u>Music and Worship</u>  AA 7:00 PM	<b>3</b> <u>1:00 PM Piece Workers</u>  6:00 PM Brownies  7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH)	<b>4</b> <u>10:30 AM Prayer Group (TGP)</u>  <u>Noon: light lunch and communion</u>  6:45 PM Boy Scouts (PH)	<b>5</b> 6:00 PM Eagle Scouts	<b>6</b> 6:00 PM Cub Scouts  <u>6:15 Bell Choir</u>  <u>7:30 Senior Choir</u>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Sunday School: 9:00 AM  Worship Service 10:00 AM  <u>Worship and music</u>  AA 7:00 PM (PH)	<b>10</b> <u>10:00 AM Social Ministry</u>  <u>1:00 PM Piece Workers</u>  6:00 PM Brownies  <u>7:00 PM Exe council</u>  7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH)	<b>11</b> <u>10:30 AM Prayer Group (TGP)</u>  6:45 PM Boy Scouts (PH)	<b>12</b> 6:00 PM Eagle Scouts	<b>13</b> 6:00 PM Cub Scouts (PH)  <u>6:45 Bell Choir</u>  <u>7:30 Senior Choir</u>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Sunday School: 9:00 AM  Worship Service 10:00 AM  7:00 PM AA (PH)	<b>17</b> <u>1:00 PM Piece Workers</u>  6:00 PM Brownies  <u>7:00 PM Church Council</u>  7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH)	<b>18</b> <u>10:30 AM Prayer Group (TGP)</u>  6:45 PM Boy Scouts (PH)	<b>19</b> 6:00 PM Eagle Scouts	<b>20</b> 6:00 PM Cub Scouts (PH)  <u>6:45 Bell Choir</u>  <u>7:30 Senior Choir</u>	<b>21</b> soloist Prepping for organ dedication	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Sunday School: 9:00 AM  Worship Service 10:00 AM  <u>Organ dedication recital 3 pm</u>  AA 7:00 PM (PH)	<b>24</b> <u>1:00 PM Piece Workers</u>  6:00 PM Brownies  7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH)	<b>25</b> <u>10:30 AM Prayer Group (TGP)</u>  6:45 PM Boy Scouts (PH)	<b>26</b> 6:00 PM Eagle Scouts	<b>27</b> 6:00 PM Cub Scouts (PH)  <u>6:45 Bell Choir</u>  <u>7:30 Senior Choir</u>	<b>28</b>	



### Anniversaries

GRIM, WAYNE & CARIS	02/14
GOGEL, RAY & ARLENE	02/18

### Birthdays

FRACK CHARLENE	02/04
HOLLAND JR, JOHN	02/04
MILLER, CORBIN	02/04
MINNICH, ADRIANA	02/04
STAHLER, SUSAN	02/05
TROTTER, CALISTA	02/05
REESE, MARILYN	02/06
SMITH, ELLEN	02/06
KISHBAUGH, AURORA	02/10
REINER, JENNIFER	02/10
ZELLNER JR, WAYNE	02/10
HOWER, DENNIS	02/11
COLBURN, EVAN	02/12
BACHMAN, NANCY	02/17
BACKUS, LORRAINE	02/18
RUCH, KAREN	02/18
KEENAN, OWEN	02/22
KEENAN, ROBERT	02/22
SHECKLER, ROBERTA	02/24
BRANDLE, ROXANNA	02/25
HALLER, CATHERINE	02/28
SCHAEFFER, NELSON	02/28

**February is not explicitly mentioned in the Bible, but it corresponds to a time of winter and agricultural significance**

**Key biblical events that may align with February include the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple and potentially the beginning of Noah's Flood.**

**Spiritual themes for February often revolve around purification, preparation for Lent, love, and the gradual increase of light.**

One event that some scholars associate with February is the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, known as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. According to Jewish law, this would have occurred 40 days after Jesus' birth (Luke 2:22-38). If we accept the traditional date of December 25th for Christ's birth, then this event would fall on February 2nd, which is when many Christian traditions celebrate the Feast of the Presentation.

This event holds powerful spiritual significance. It marks the moment when Simeon, guided by the Holy Spirit, recognized the infant Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah, proclaiming Him as "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel" (Luke 2:32). This recognition of Jesus as the light of the world aligns beautifully with February's position at the cusp of winter and spring, when the days begin to noticeably lengthen in the Northern Hemisphere.

Another event that some traditions place in February is the beginning of Noah's Flood. Although the Bible does not provide a specific date, some interpretations of the Hebrew calendar suggest that the rains may have begun in what corresponds to our late January or early February. This timing would align with the rainy season in the Middle East.

From a spiritual perspective, these events – whether or not they occurred precisely in February – offer us powerful lessons. The Presentation reminds us of the importance of dedicating our lives to God and recognizing Christ's light in our world. The story of Noah teaches us about faith, obedience, and God's promise of renewal after times of trial.

February is an opportunity to deepen your faith and prepare your heart for spiritual growth, much like the earth prepares for the new life of spring. While February may not be explicitly mentioned in Scripture, we can draw rich spiritual themes and lessons from this time of year, informed by both biblical wisdom and the rhythms of God's creation.

February often marks the deepest part of winter in many regions, yet beneath the surface, life is quietly preparing for spring's renewal. This natural cycle echoes the spiritual truth found in Isaiah 43:19, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" February invites us to cultivate patience and hope, trusting in God's unseen work in our lives even in seasons that feel barren.

The theme of purification, associated with the Feast of the Presentation, is relevant. Just as Mary underwent ritual purification, we too are called to continual spiritual cleansing. As 1 John 1:9 reminds us, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

February, with Valentine's Day, focuses on love. While this holiday isn't biblical, it can remind us of God's supreme love and our call to love others. As Jesus taught, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" (John 13:34). Lastly, as the days begin to lengthen, February can symbolize the gradual increase of spiritual light in our lives. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness will have the light of life" (John 8:12). This month can inspire us to seek and reflect Christ's light more fully.

February's position at the end of winter in the Northern Hemisphere can be a metaphor for the Christian journey from darkness to light. As the days begin to lengthen, and we anticipate the coming of spring, we are reminded of the hope and new life through Jesus. This natural transition aligns beautifully with our spiritual progression during Lent to the Easter celebration. In the Christian context, this aligns with our teachings on sanctification and the ongoing process of being made holy through Christ. It reminds us that our faith journey is one of continuous growth and transformation.

Let us embrace February as a time to deepen our faith, prepare our hearts for the Lenten journey, and anticipate the new life and hope that Christ brings. May we use this month to draw closer to God and to one another in Christian love and fellowship.

*Grow  
in Christ*



This resource is provided to assist congregations in prayer in times of wildfires.

Courtesy of ELCA

### Prayer in Times of Wildfires

Holy God, in you alone we find safety and shelter. Be a sure refuge to all suffering from wildfires. Grant courage, protection, and favorable weather to firefighters and emergency responders; embrace with supportive communities all who are newly displaced or homeless; comfort those grieving all that has been destroyed and give patience to those who are anxious, not knowing when relief will come. Heal your whole creation, that out of flame and ashes new growth will spring forth. We pray through Jesus Christ, our life and our strength. Amen.

