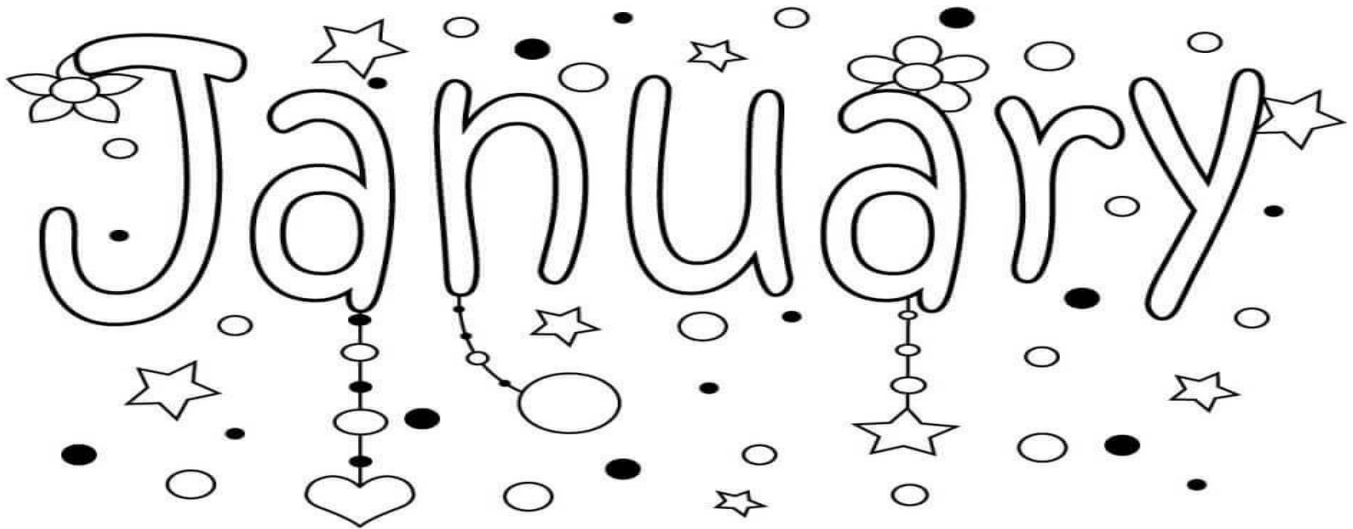


# **FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**January 2025**



**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**

## **January Dates to Remember**

**January 1 New Year's Day, World Day of Peace**

**January 5 Twelfth Night/Epiphany Eve**

**January 6 Epiphany/Three Kings Day**

**January 7 Orthodox Christmas Day**

**January 12 The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

**January 19 World Religion Day**

**January 20 Inauguration Day, Martin Luther King  
Jr. Day**

**January 12 The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

**January 27 International Holocaust Remembrance  
Day**

**January 29 Chinese New Year**

**FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
3355 MacArthur Road Whitehall, PA 18052  
610 435 0451**



## *A note from the pastor*

*“And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’” (Revelation 21:5)*

As we enter this New Year, let us cultivate an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the blessings in our lives, often taken for granted. May we cherish one another, our health, warmth, silence, beauty, creativity, friendship, family, community, and those who stand by us in difficult times—the list is truly endless.

Let us enhance our resolutions for 2025 by making worship a part of our daily lives, living with hearts filled with wonder and awe, and waking up each morning dazzled by grace.

Many New Year’s resolutions tend to be broken or abandoned within the first few weeks. However, what if we committed to enriching our spiritual lives? Imagine prioritizing our spiritual well-being by:

- Practicing hospitality every day
- Immersing ourselves in scripture
- Seeking new ways to serve personally and communally
- Dedicating time to pray for one another
- 

Let’s strive to uplift someone each day, express gratitude to those around us, forgive those we hold grudges against, and extend that same forgiveness to ourselves. We can set meaningful prayer goals for ourselves and our families in 2025.

Experts say setting goals transforms behavior, sharpens focus, sustains momentum, and fosters a sense of self-mastery. Ultimately, this journey leads us to surrender more of our lives to the Holy Spirit, who guides us into a fuller existence. May 2025 be a year of profound growth and maturity for our faith and congregation. Let us wholeheartedly share the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the world in every way we can, both personally and communally. May we all follow the Son wherever He leads us.



# Worship with us

**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!**

**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**
    - ♦ **Services at 10:00 AM**

♦  
**Learning Ministries” Day, sponsored by the NEPS Faith Formation Resource Ministry Team, will be held Saturday, January 25, 2025 at Jordan Lutheran Church, Orefield, starting at 9:00 AM.**

**The theme “What does it mean to be a Christian in a culture that Challenges our faith?” There are nine workshop sessions to be chosen from. The details of each are located in our office or <https://nepasynod.org/learning-ministries-day/>**

**There is a cost of \$35. If you are interested, Please contact Joanne for registration. The deadline is January 2025.**

## EPIPHANY

### What is the Meaning of "Epiphany"?

Epiphany means "appearance or manifestation." Throughout the world, Christians celebrate it 6 - 12 days after Christmas Day. Many countries refer to it as "Three Kings Day." On this day, Western Christianity recognizes Christ's manifestation to the Gentiles. The Gentiles were represented when The Magi visited the child Jesus and showed how God's gift of the Good News is for everyone. Eastern Christianity observes Jesus' baptism on this day. His baptism revealed his identity to mankind. Epiphany celebrates God revealing himself to the world in the East or the West.

### Origin and History of Epiphany

To understand Epiphany's origin, we need to look at the Church Calendar's history. In the first century, the earliest Christians set aside one day a week as the Lord's Day. We observe this day on Sunday. In the second century, they established Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. Lent was a period of time set aside for penitence and the training of new Christians. Easter observed Christ's death and celebrated His Resurrection, followed by Pentecost, where the church focused on triumph and victory.

In the third century, the early Church leaders established Epiphany. This holiday celebrates and recognizes Christ's birth, baptism, the adoration of magi, and the first miracle at Cana. It wasn't until the end of the fourth century that early Christians began observing Christmas and Advent. Christmas became the time to celebrate Jesus' birth. Advent is the four-week period of time before Christmas. It is used to prepare hearts to receive Jesus.

As we can see, Epiphany originated from the earliest Church leaders and has a spiritual meaning. The Church Year begins at Advent. From then, through Pentecost, Christians concentrated on the life and work of Christ. For the rest of the year—Pentecost to Advent—the church year focuses on the teachings of Christ and their applications to the Christian life. The ultimate purpose of the church calendar ensured that Christians covered the entire breadth and depth of the Gospel in the course of a year. The six-month period from Advent to Pentecost covers all six major events: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost.

### Traditions of Epiphany Celebration

Since epiphany means manifestation, early celebrations honored any of the four manifestations of Christ. His birth, the adoration of the Magi, Jesus' baptism, and the first miracle at Cana, where Jesus turned water into wine.

These four manifestations reveal God to mankind. At his birth, the angels bore witness, and the shepherds, representing Israel, bowed before Jesus. The visit of the Magi revealed Jesus to the Gentiles. The Holy Spirit descended at His baptism, and God declared Jesus' identity. The first miracle at the Wedding in Cana revealed Jesus' divinity over nature. God disclosed himself to humankind through the person of Jesus. He made himself known so we might know him.

Traditions observing Three Kings Day vary worldwide and have changed over time. During the Middle Ages, celebrations focused on the Magi's journey. In 1336 Italy, one would find processions, ceremonies, nativity plays, and carnivals. Some folklore and customs of Epiphany throughout the world include children receiving gifts on this day rather than on Christmas Day. In some Spanish-speaking countries, three kings deliver gifts, not Santa Claus. On Twelfth Night, as it is known in some countries, children would leave a shoe and a bit of straw on their doorstep. They would find their shoe filled with gifts and the straw gone.

Some traditions on Epiphany around the world include eating a "Kings Cake" with a trinket baked inside. Whoever finds the trinket, is King or Queen for the day. Who wouldn't want to be royalty for the day, right? It also points our hearts to our status as a royal priesthood, as Peter writes in 1 Peter 2. France calls it the Feast of Kings; in Spanish-speaking countries, it is called Three Kings Day.

In other culture's past centuries, Twelfth Day, or January 6, marked the end of the Christmas season with feasts and masquerades. Eastern Orthodox Christians called it the "Feast of Lights" to reflect their belief that baptism happens because of spiritual illumination. Today, some people use Epiphany to take down their Christmas decorations and store them away for the next year. The Common Book of Prayer has readings for churches to read to mark the Epiphany season. Many of these readings focus on God revealing himself to his creation.

### **A Prayer for Epiphany**

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for revealing yourself to us. We shout for joy and worship you with gladness. We come before with joyful songs and join with the angels as they say, "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to men." We receive your peace and comfort. As we continue into the new year, we ask that we remember your divinity and revel in your identity. You are a miracle-working God, and so we ask you to do a mighty work of internal transformation in our lives. Change us to be more like you. Let our words and the meditation of our hearts be pleasing to you. Just as the wise men followed the star, so we commit to following you. Lead and guide us. Comfort and heal us. Let our hearts be set on you as you reveal more and more of yourself to us. We adore you and give you glory.

In your name,

Amen

### **A Time of Revelation**



Epiphany is a time of revelation. Jesus revealed himself to the Israelites and the Gentiles, represented by the Wise Men. God doesn't play favorites but receives all whose hearts long for him. May we open our hearts to receive revelation from God this year. May we rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. May we reveal the reason for which we have hope and celebrate the epiphany of the Lord in our lives.

## **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. Shopping, wrapping baskets, visiting and calling businesses for donations are just a few. If you have limited time and are not available the weekend of the event, any help prior to that weekend is appreciated as well.

Many hands are needed and you will make new friends at every turn. Thank you and God Bless you!

## **Inclement Weather**

When you wake up on a Sunday morning and the weather is uncertain: snow, ice, etc., check out our website at [www.faitthon145.org](http://www.faitthon145.org) or Channel 69 WFMZ–TV. If a decision is made to cancel our Worship Service, the notice will be posted by 6:00 AM

## **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 of when Miller Keystone informs us of our date

## **IT'S OUR CODE**

Please remember if you or a family member are in the hospital to give your church code “224” to the attendant. This will help us to continually be in touch. Thank you.

# **THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU**

## **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA A BIG SUCCESS!**

THANK YOU JOANNE GANTZ-JALOWIECKI FOR THIS WONDERFUL EVENT!  
CRAFTS WERE A HIT—THANK YOU WENDY HESS, CATHY HALLER, SHIRYL DECKER  
THANK YOU TO OUR FABULOUS KITCHEN HELP  
THANK YOU ERNIE HALLER FOR YOUR FABULOUS PHOTO TAKING AND DELIVERY  
AND TO OUR MEMBERS AND FAMILIES  
WHO HELPED MAKE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA A NEW FAITH TRADITION

AND AS ALWAYS, A BIG SHOUTOUT TO OUR TIRELESS PROPERTY COMMITTEE  
THESE MEN ARE AMAZING! YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH THEY DO!

DAN HERZOG—THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION  
AND CONTINUING SERVICE TO OTHERS

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO SO TIRELESSLY AND CHEERFULLY  
WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE NOT ONLY OUR SPECIAL EVENTS BUT OUR DAY TO DAY OPERA-  
TIONS RUNNING SMOOTHLY

THANK YOU TO THE SCOUTS WHO HELP US WITH EVENTS AND OFFER SCOUTING  
OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COMMUNITY HERE AT FAITH

THANK YOU TO JENNIFER, WHO HAS FACED NUMEROUS MUSICAL CHALLENGES  
THROUGHOUT QUITE A BIT OF TIME.  
THE SEARCH FOR THE ORGANIST CONTINUES.  
THANK YOU JEN FOR YOUR SECURING SUBSTITUTES THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS

THANK YOU, KARLA BILLIG, FOR THE MOST ADORABLE REINDEER FOR OUR SHUT INS AND  
FOR YOUR STUFFING THE BEARS FOR THE PEDIATRIC CANCER UNITS.  
YOUR CREATIVITY IS SO APPRECIATED.

THANK YOU, BOB BILLIG, FOR MAKING THE ADVENT LOGS FROM SOME OF THE WOOD FROM  
OUR ORGAN  
AND

THANK YOU TO PASTOR FOR HER WEDNESDAY EVENINGS ADVENT WORKSHOP

THANK YOU TO OUR, MISS MARILYN REESE, FOR HER GENEROUS DONATION OF HER QUILT  
PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE ORGAN FUND

## Worship Teams for January 2025

**JANUARY 5**

**JANUARY 12**

**JANUARY 19**

**JANUARY 26**

<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Diane Batza and Cathy Haller	Barb Yurasits And Pat Masonheimer	Charlene Frack and Gloria Senchak	Shel and Judy Ehret
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	Judy Ehret	Joanne Gantz-Jalowicki	Gail Herzog	Zac Keenan
<b>LECTOR</b>	Karen Blayle	Heidi Carr	Karen Blayle	Kindall Wann
<b>GREETER</b>	Dan Herzog	April Spaits	Charlene Frack	Dan Herzog
<b>FLOWER SPONSOR</b>	Cathy Haller	Nelson and Kathy Schaffer	Pat Wal- schburger	Charlene Frack
<b>BULLETIN SPONSOR</b>	Cathy Haller	Nelson and Kathy Schaffer	Pat Wal- schburger	Charlene Frack



# JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDA	FRI	SAT
			1 6:00 PM Eagle Scouts	2 6:00 PM Cub Scouts (PH) 6:45 Bell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	3	4
5 Sunday School: 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM <u>Music and Worship</u> 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) Noon: light lunch and communion  6:45 PM Boy Scouts (PH)	10 6:00 PM Eagle Scouts	11 6:00 PM Cub Scouts  6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	12	13
14 Sunday School: 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM AA 7:00 PM (PH)	15 <u>10:00 AM Social Ministry</u> 1:00 PM Piece Workers  6:00 PM Brownies <u>7:00 PM Executive Council</u> 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	18 6:00 PM Cub Scouts (PH) 6:45 Bell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	19	20
21 Sunday School: 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM 7:00 PM AA (PH)	22 1:00 PM Piece Workers  6:00 PM Brownies <u>7:00 PM Church Council</u> 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) 6:45 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 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			



Grant Bartholomew	1/2
Bevin King	1/4
Melissa Kotsch	1/4
Rachael Carr	1/5
Ernest Haller, Jr.	1/6
Barbara Kotsch	1/6
Sally Buchmiller	1/8
Joanne Gartner	1/10
Kathryn Schaeffer	1/10
Lois Hower	1/14
Patricia Masonheimer	1/14
Amanda Bashore	1/15
Charles Knechel	1/18
Christine Gartner	1/19
Sheldon Ehret	1/22
Kimberly Ryan	1/25
Robert Brandt III	1/27
Pamela Blacker	1/31
Brian King	1/31

*Happy Anniversary*

alamy

ALAMY.COM

Lawrence and Susan Peters 1/23