

# March

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



## MARCH NEWS

We welcome Pastor June Wann who was voted in as our Pastor during February's congregational meeting

Pastor June begins preaching April 21, 2024

Please join us to celebrate our time with Pastor Peggy. Pastor Peggy's last service with us will be April 14th.

**The Rev. Peggy Wuertele**  
Interim 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

## Dates to Remember

**March 8** is International Women's Day

**March 10** is the start of **Daylight Saving Time**

**March 10** also marks the start of **Ramadan**, which begins at sundown

**March 15** is the **Ides of March**

**March 17** is **St. Patrick's Day**.

**March 19** is the **spring equinox** marking the beginning of spring.

**March 24** is **Palm Sunday**, last Sunday of Lent.

**March 29-31** are known as the **Borrowing Days**. According to lore, the last three days of March have a reputation for being stormy.

**March 29** is **Good Friday**.

**March 31** is **Easter Sunday**.



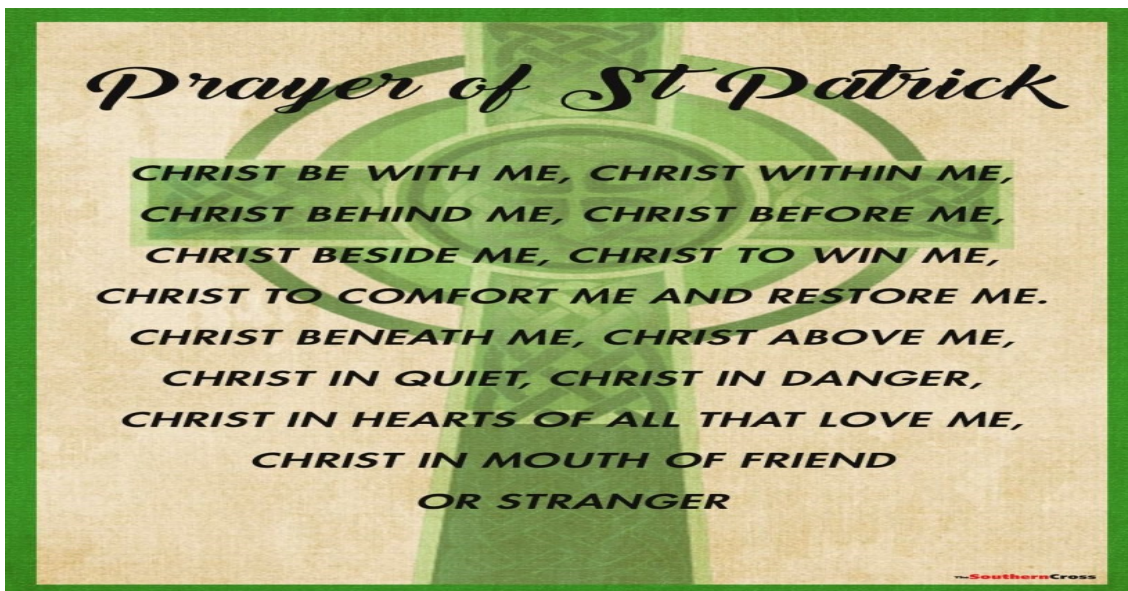
## A Note from Pastor Peggy

This month we mark my favorite saint's day, St. Patrick's Day. When I was a kid my dad would let us skip school, to celebrate and my dad would paint his hair green! We usually celebrate today with a dinner of corned beef and cabbage and we listen to Gaelic music.

The story is that Patrick had been a shepherd, and somehow he came to Ireland, where he shared his Christian faith and converted many pagans. He was never canonized because he lived during the fifth century, before the Catholic Church laws. However, he is recognized as a saint by the Roman Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran and Orthodox Churches.

There are many prayers attributed to St Patrick. The most famous is "St Patrick's Breast-plate". There is a version in our hymnal. It is a prayer for protection. On March 17th take a moment to think of all the saints who have spread the gospel throughout the world and give thanks.

Pastor Peggy



# 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
  - ♦ 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!**



## EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, March 24, 2024

9:15 am

Outside (weather permitting)

Available to Faith's Families

Ages 1 – 12

Please sign up with Claudette by March 17

All participants invited to join in the processional

For Palm Sunday worship at 10:00 AM



The confirmation classes and their parents

And the iron chefs

Invite you to

Join us for

Easter breakfast

Sunday, March 31, 2024

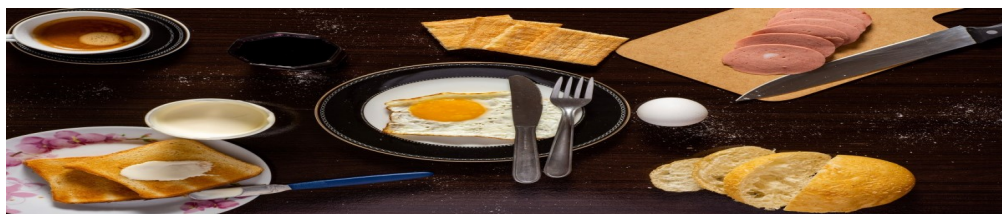
8:00 am – 9:15 am

In blacker hall

Scrambled eggs, potatoes, bacon, sausage

Baked goodies

Donations designated for Lutheran Disaster Relief





We were pleased to have Roslyn Kuba, Executive Director of Family Promise with us on Sunday, February 25. She shared valuable information about the program with members in attendance. If you weren't there, check out the video from the service that day to see her message.

Faith will be hosting the Family Promise families from **Sunday evening, April 14 to Sunday morning April 21**. As our guests, we will provide them with dinner, overnight accommodations, and "pack and go" breakfast at Faith each day. They will be with us during the week from 5PM – 6AM weekdays and 5PM - 7AM on the weekend.

The sign up sheet for the week is in the narthex. Please consider volunteering as you can. Here is the help that's needed:

**+ Set Up & Clean Up before and after our guests are at Faith**

Help will be needed for about an hour or so on Saturday 4/13 (Time TBD) and Sunday 4/21 (After worship service)

**+ Dinner Meals**

Entree, sides, and dessert (suggestions will be provided along with number of attendees for dinner) The meal needs to be dropped off at Church by 5:30PM.

**+ Dinner Servers and Clean Up\***

Arrive at 5:30PM. Put out food for guests. Eat and interact with guests. Clean up. Leave when Overnight Hosts arrive at 7:30PM.

**+ Overnight Hosts\***

One male and one female is needed to stay over at the church each evening (7:30PM – 6AM).

\* Volunteers for these opportunities require clearances and must attend a 1 hour training session with Family Promise (which will be held at our church on Sunday, April 7 immediately after service).

*Check the weekly bulletin for food donations that may be needed for the week.*

**Questions?**

**Please feel free to contact Coordinators:  
Pat Himmelwright 484-553-4311 or Cindy Rowan 908-672-1565**

# FAITH IN ACTION



## \* **Whitehall - Copley School Program**

Our collection continues for school supplies of all kinds. Donations can be dropped off in the Social Ministry Collection Center in the narthex. We will be hosting a “Back to School Shopping Event” at Faith in August for needy children in the area.

## \* **Whitehall Hunger Initiative**

Faith will serve as a host to the Whitehall Hunger Initiative Program at church on May 5, 2024. Save the Date and look for more opportunities to serve coming soon!

## \* **Faith Food Box Program**

Items for Easter boxes are needed! There is a need of non-perishable items (**mashed potatoes, canned vegetables, and cake mix/icing**) which can be dropped off in the Social Ministry Collection Center (right off the narthex by the entrance to the church) or in the church office Monday – Thursday 9AM-3PM. Also, there is a need for **5-8 pound hams** that can be dropped off at the church office for refrigeration. Please be sure to have items at the church **no later than March 24.** THANKS!



" *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*" (Matthew 25:35-40)



# NEPA SYNOD

## NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD

### STRONGER TOGETHER

The word **synod** comes from a Greek word meaning “*to travel a common road, to walk together.*” The congregations, the people, and the ministries in our expansive geographical region of the Northeastern area of Pennsylvania, this is synod.

Our local ministry and witness includes **250+ Congregations** and **3 Synod Authorized Worshiping Communities**, **9 Mission Districts**, and over **119,000 people**. The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod is part of Region 7 of the ELCA.

### OUR PURPOSE:

Encountering and sharing God’s word of love given in Jesus Christ – encouraging lives of service.

### OUR COMMITMENTS:

**Deepen the spiritual lives of people** to help them see God at work and help others see that too.

**Build a network** that uses our gifts, skills, and resources to maximize what we can do together and strengthen congregations in their ministry.

**Develop leaders, both lay and ordained**, who are equipped and engaged in God’s mission in daily life.

**Enhance lives of service** to deal with social needs and issues that arise in local communities or across the synod.

**Strengthen the work being done with children, youth, and families** to support ministries as they engage their communities.

We are the largest Lutheran church in America bearing the legacy of Martin Luther’s small act of questioning the status quo that ignited the Protestant Reformation. We express our commitments through Confessions of Faith, rely on the Old and New Testaments for connection with God and the world and base our governance and teachings on the Book of Concord

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America A social statement...

Adopted by more than a two-thirds majority vote (803-30) as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the fourth Churchwide Assembly

We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America share with the Church of Jesus Christ in all times and places the calling to be peacemakers. In the liturgy of Holy Communion we pray “for the peace of the whole world,” asking, “Lord, have mercy.” Our petition unites faith in the Triune God with our world’s sufferings and hopes.

### FOR PEACE IN GOD’S WORLD

At the end of a tumultuous and violent century, we share with people everywhere hope for a more peaceful and just world. With this statement on international peace, we strive to strengthen our global perspective as individual Christians and as a church body, in spite of strong currents that push us to turn in on ourselves. As our world discards the mind-set of the Cold War and faces the new threats and opportunities of a changing time, we join with others in searching for what makes for peace. Most importantly, this statement recalls that the basis of the Church’s peace-calling is in God’s final peace, the peace of God’s eternal reign. That calling is to proclaim the Gospel of God’s final peace and to work for earthly peace. This statement understands earthly peace to mean relationships among and within nations that are just, harmonious, and free from war. It offers direction as we act to keep and to build earthly peace. We confess that too often we have fallen short in our responsibility for peace. We pray for forgiveness, and for the faith that in love acts for earthly peace. We dedicate ourselves anew to pray and to work for peace in God’s world.

### THE GOD OF PEACE

The biblical narrative reveals God’s resolve for peace. God created all things and gives unity, order, and purpose to a world of different creatures. All humans are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), made for life in community—with God, with others, and with the rest of creation. All humans also are bound together in sin. Sin, the rupture in our relation with God, profoundly disrupts creation. Centeredness in self, rather than in God, destroys the bonds of human community. In bondage to sin, we fall captive to fear. Sin entangles our social structures.



The Bible describes the power of sin: ingratitude, deceit, distrust, hatred, greed, envy, arrogance, sloth, corruption, debauchery, aggression, cruelty, oppression, and injustice.

## FOR PEACE

These violate community and generate killing and war. God nonetheless preserves the world, limiting the effects of sin, bringing good even out of evil and making earthly peace possible. Through the Law, the sovereign God of the nations holds all responsible for their neighbor, protects community, and blesses creation ever anew. God works often in hidden and inscrutable ways. God's judgment comes upon a sinful humanity for failure to live together justly and peacefully, and calls all to repentance and faith in God. God's just wrath against all that causes chaos and destruction is in the service of the divine resolve for peace. God's resolve for peace was manifested in a new way through one people, chosen to be a blessing to all. Through the people of Israel, God acted so as to reconcile creation, promising a reign in which peace and justice will kiss each other (Psalm 85). God's promise is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Rejected by humans, Jesus was confirmed by God who raised him from the dead in the power of the Holy Spirit, so that "on earth" there might be "peace" (Luke 2:14). In bringing this peace, Jesus taught love for one's enemies; he reached out to the oppressed, downtrodden, and rejected of the earth; he prayed for his enemies while himself being rejected on the cross; Above all, through Jesus' violent death, God redeemed the world, "for...while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son" (Romans 5:10). This reconciling love of enemy discloses how deeply peace is rooted in who God is. The cross of Christ enacts God's resolve for peace once-for all. "The God of peace" suffers with and for a suffering and sinful world so that all of creation will enjoy the loving community of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. "The Gospel of peace" (Ephesians 6:15) heals our broken relationship with God, removing the ultimate root of violence and injustice. The Gospel breaks down the dividing walls of hostility among people, creates a new humanity—making Christ Jesus "our peace" (Ephesians 2:13-22)—and promises the reconciliation of all things in Christ.

The peace of the Gospel is the final peace God intends for all. The baptized community already takes part in this peace through the Word and faith as it hopes for creation’s fulfillment in “a new heaven and a new earth” where death and pain “will be no more” (Revelation 21:1, 4). God’s steadfast resolve for peace encompasses our time as it does all times. In creation and redemption, through Law and Gospel, God’s faithful love acts for peace.



PRAYERS FOR



PEACE



**From Valley Youth House**

**Thank you for donating Gift cards, Bluetooth Speakers, Blankets, and Games in support of our Holiday Gift Drive 2023. Your valued donation at \$1000.00 makes a significant difference in our ability to provide programming to young people in desperate need of our services.**

**Thank you for supporting our mission to be the catalyst for youth to achieve their desired future through genuine relationships that support families, ensure safe places, and build community connections.**

**Sincerely,**

**Christina J. Schoemaker, MBA, XCFRE**

**Dear Members of Faith Lutheran Church,**

**Thank you for your generous gift in support of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries. Because you care enough to make a difference in the lives around us, Diakon is able to continue delivering critical charitable services such as quality care for seniors and programs for children and families who depend on these services.**

**Gratefully,**

**Stacy M. Klann  
Director of Advancement**

**Dear Friends,**

**On behalf of the Lehigh Conference of Churches, thank you for your contribution for the year of 2023 to support our neighbors in need..**

**Yours in Christ  
Pastor Genie Watson**

**Many many thank you's for all the cards, warm wishes, support as I continue to recover from shoulder replacement surgery. Thank you Faith Family for all your love and support.**

**Karla Billig**



## Worship Teams for March 2024

Mar3
Mar 10
Mar 17
Mar 24
Mar 28
Mar 29
Mar 31

	Mar3	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24	Mar 28	Mar 29	Mar 31
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Cindy Rowan and Gloria Senchak	Linda Johnston and Diane Batza	Barb Yurasits and Rosemarie Haffner	Pat Masonheimer and Gloria Senchak	Cathy Haller and	Cathy Haller	Diane Batza and Cathy Haller
<b>Acolytes and Crucifers</b>	Owen Keenan and Kingston Rivera	Kendall Bashiore and Samantha Cave	Gavin Kishbaugh and Luke Knechel	Luke Knechel and Samantha Cave			Kingston Rivera and Owen Keenan
<b>Lectors</b>	Karen Blayle	Girl Scouts		Many Stivers			Laura Blacker
<b>Narthex Greeters</b>	Charlene Frack and April Spaits	Judy Paine	Sara Laub	Charlene Frack and April Spaits			Dan Herzog
<b>Assistant Ministers</b>							
<b>Bulletin Sponsors</b>	Gail and Dan Herzog In honor of Their 50th wedding anniversary						Pam and Laura Blacker In loving memory of wonderful mother and father, in laws, and grandparents, Grace and Harold Blacker
<b>Flower Sponsors</b>	Pam Blacker In honor of grandson, Jack's, 5th birthday			Linda Schadler In honor of daughter Vickie Lynne;s birthday			Pam and Laura Blacker In loving memory of wonderful mother and father, in laws, and grandparents, Grace and Harold Blacker

# MARCH CALENDAR 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 Food prep	2 Basket social
3 <b>BASKET SOCIAL</b> Sunday School: 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM AA 7:00 PM (PH)	4 1:00 PM Piece Workers 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH)	5 Light lunch and pew communion noon, 1:00 pm 10:30 AM Prayer Group (TGP) 6:45 PM Boy Scouts (PH)	6 6:00 PM Eagle Scouts	7 6:00 PM Cub Scouts (PH) 6:15 Bell 7:00 PM Christian Ed 7:30 Senior Choir	8	9
10 <b>Clocks go ahead</b> Sunday School: 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Fellowship mtg AA 7:00 PM	11 1:00 PM Piece Workers 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH)	12 10:30 AM Prayer Group (TGP) 6:45 PM Boy Scouts (PH)	13 6:00 PM Eagle Scouts	14 6:00 PM Cub Scouts (PH) 6:45 Bell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	15	16 Rental PH
17 PH rented Sunday School: 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM 7:00 PM AA (PH)	18 1:00 PM Piece Workers 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH)	19 10:30 AM Prayer Group (TGP) 6:45 PM Boy Scouts (PH) 7:00 PM <b>Church Council</b>	20 6:00 PM Eagle Scouts	21 6:00 PM Cub Scouts (PH) 6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	22	23 PH rental
24 Sunday School: 9:00 AM <b>Easter Egg Hunt 9:15 am</b> Worship Service 10:00 AM AA 7:00 PM (PH)	25 1:00 PM Piece Workers 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH)	26 10:30 AM Prayer Group (TGP) 6:45 PM Boy Scouts (PH) 7:00 PM Church Council	27 6:00 PM Eagle Scouts	28 6:00 PM Cub Scouts (PH) 6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	29	30
31 <b>Easter Breakfast 8:00—9:15 am</b> Sunday School: 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM 7:00 PM AA (PH)						

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Frederick Scott 3/1  
Lynn Mickey 3/3  
Valencia Rivera 3/4  
Catherine James 3/5  
Avery King 3/5  
Dawn Youwakim 3/6  
Todd Yurasits 3/10  
Timothy Laub 3/11  
Jennifer Kishbaugh 3/13  
Lucille Reichard 3/13  
Dorothy Scott 3/14  
TinaMarie Keenan 3/15  
Diane Finley 3/18  
Wayne Grim 3/19  
Jaden Youwakim 3/19  
Hilari Stahler 3/21  
Dayne Kishbaugh 3/24  
Kay Fenstermaker 3/27  
Karen Blayle 3/30

## ANNIVERSARIES

Gail and Dan Herzog 3/2  
Margy Muthard 3/26

