

THE EVANGEL



FAITH EVANGELICAL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

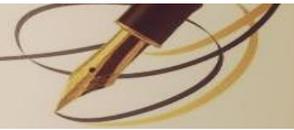
421 E. Vine Street

Wilmington OH 45177

Ph: 937-382-2460

February 2026

From the Pastor's Pen...



I love you. I am sorry. Please forgive me. Thank you.

These phrases capture the Hawaii practice of Ho'oponopono, which is about reconciliation and forgiveness. I have encountered them multiple times in my life while praying the phrases. They really capture the essence of the gospel, which is forgiveness and reconciliation.

Matthew 19:21-22 states,

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

When I read scripture like this, it is a reminder that faith is about forgiveness and multiple chances to let love be the guide of our lives. It starts with hearing that God loves you and me. God love each of us as we are. When we encounter that, we can send our love back to God and see the failings in our own life. We aren't here to point out everyone else's faults. We are to look into the mirror and determine our own faults and find reconciliation. When we see errors, we apologize and ask forgiveness.

The point of asking forgiveness is an amends making process. It is an effort to change behaviors. As you can see, it doesn't always happen right away like Peter alludes to happening. It may take time and that is ok.

This reminds me of Ted Lasso, especially a scene where a soccer player had written his opinions online. Then people randomly destroyed his restaurant that he opened because they disagreed with him. His father comes in from Nigeria. While they are talking, he shares his anger and frustration with his father wondering what to do.

His father says forgive them. That will make them the most frustrated because they want a response. Forgive them and move on when someone harms you personally.

Forgiveness is the way of Christ in the gospel. When looking at problems in our lives and in the world, following Christ means that we must look at what forgiveness would like in any and all situations. When we receive forgiveness, the response is thank you. When others accept our forgiveness, encourage simple thanks. This is what forgiveness and reconciliation calls us to do.

Pastor Joel Richter

WORSHIP/MUSIC NEWS

January 15, 2026

Joyous Epiphany season to everyone! We have welcomed the Light of our world – Jesus Christ! The Wiseman have ventured to see the baby born in Bethlehem to present their gifts. Let us all live in the Light and share and care for each other. Transfiguration is February 15th which isn't very far from now and then we will enter the Lenten season. We especially want to thank everyone that helped take down the Christmas decorations and store them for another year. We jumped right in and it took about 35 minutes to get everything down, stored and back to the basement so thank you to each of you who stayed behind and helped. It sure does go so much faster when people step up and help with it.

Don't forget, starting February 18th, our Wednesday night services will begin with Ash Wednesday service at 7pm (remember no soup supper that night). Then February 25th, March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th will be our Soup Supper nights followed by the Lenten service "Savior, Servant, Friend" worship series. Please plan to attend and share some fellowship time and hear the word of the Lord.

Looking down the road, we will be doing the Passion Readings on Sunday March 29th. There will be sign up sheets for that and also for Holy Week services so please sign up to read.

We will once again go to one service in the summer from June 7 (Patio Service) through September 6th. Feedback and attendance numbers from last year was good so we will have one service at 930am. September 14th through the rest of the year services will be at 830am and 10:45am.

We are still in Phase One of the updating of the key situation and digital access in the church. This will be an ongoing project. If you have a key to either the inside or outside doors, you must check your keys with Becky only and either turn it in or be issued new ones. This applies to everyone. If we cannot get everyone's keys back, we will be forced to rekey the entire church, which will be VERY costly so please help us and get this done ASAP. Target date is to have it completed by January 31st.

We also have been blessed with hearing devices that you can use during the service. If you need one, we can get one signed out for you before the service. We tried them out and they are pretty awesome so don't be afraid to ask.

We are once again reminding everyone, we need volunteers to sign up to help make our services go smoothly. **YOU** are Faith Lutheran Church and we all share the love of Christ together. By signing up, you will serve the Lord by offering yourself at our services to help out. If you look in the bulletin and see a blank space by the "volunteering today" section, ask Pastor, or me or council members what you can help with. We will be so happy that you did!



See you in Church
Your Organist,
Tammy Maynard

Addresses for our Shut-ins & Military

AS2 Amanda Riley,
1030 N.E. Cordero Place
Oak Harbor, WA 98277

A1C Danielle Riley
402 9th St. Unit 51999
Dover AFB, DE 19902



BIRTHDAYS

Jason Wilson	2/2
Dee Campanella	2/3
Zander Johnson	2/3
Shayna Spurrier	2/4
Harlene Rein	2/6
Phoebe Ackerman	2/9
Harrison Sargent	2/10
Diane Zella	2/16
Rhonda Wheasler	2/19
Lydia Wolf	2/19
Roby Ruppert-James	2/20
Dakota Vulgamore	2/20
Tom Cline	2/21
Nathan Giacobbi	2/21
Jamie Knowles	2/23
Lani Brannum	2/27

ANNIVERSARIES

A poster for a 'Souper Bowl Challenge' canned food drive. The background is a green football field with white yard lines and the number '30' painted on the grass. A red football sits on the field. The text is in white and green. The main title 'SOUPER BOWL CHALLENGE' is in large, bold, white letters. Below it, 'CANNED FOOD DRIVE' is in a smaller, white, italicized font. The text below that is in green: 'We are collecting soup for the Food Pantry and doing a collection of donations on who we think will win the Super Bowl. Please bring food in before church on February 8th. Please feel free to make a cash donation for the teams once they are determined. We will have a spot for collection. Can you help us tackle hunger?'

**SOUPER BOWL
CHALLENGE**
CANNED FOOD DRIVE

We are collecting soup for the Food Pantry and doing a collection of donations on who we think will win the Super Bowl. Please bring food in before church on February 8th.

Please feel free to make a cash donation for the teams once they are determined. We will have a spot for collection.

Can you help us tackle hunger?

Pastor Joel will be in the office Monday-Thursday

If you are sick for any reason – please stay home or do not come to Church if you are apprehensive about your health. If you have a temperature or do not feel well – **PLEASE** – do not come to church – stay at home. Also please stay at home if a person in your household is ill or running a fever. This is for any illness, also meaning please do not enter the building even if you think no one is here. We have vulnerable members in the congregation. You may not know the health conditions of your neighbors in the pews. With this in mind, love your neighbor by staying home.

IN OUR PRAYERS....

Zachary Jewell
The Zeckser Family
Ron & Sue Jenkins
Carolyn Baur
Randy Gray
Shayna & Kara Spurrier
Gerald & Pat Schultz
Corey Giacobbi
Sue Newman

1/4/26

**The Lawson Family
Family of Rodney Bennett**

12/30/25

Cori Orahood

Tereta & Edward
Terena & Gary
Elaine & Terry Yurejchuk
Darrell Smith
Terry Dupuis
Nicki Camp
Marcia Spack
JoAn Davis
Jenny
Debbie Holnaider
Jess and Matt Stanley
Michelle Roads
Rick Roberts
Pat Sands & family
Barry Thurston
Bonnie Ward
Michelle
Lori Heitzenrater
Hunter Wilson
The Lambcke Family
Bill Lewellen
Jennifer Johnson
Staff and Patients Zinga Children's Hospital
Claire Cavender
Lynn Turner
Daniel Payne

Vickie Morgan
Diane Zella
Donna Thorp
Bob Minnish
Cathy Morrison
Harlene Rein
Steve Vincent
Donna Barnhart
Kathy Giacobbi

**Friends of the Riley's
Former member of FLC**

Sister of Josh Riley

Friends of FLC
Friends of FLC
Friends of FLC
Brother in law of Amy Wilson
Brother of Tammy Maynard
Friend of the Riley's
Cousin of Kathy Vincent
Sister of Ben Zella
Friend of David & Lani Brannum
Cousin of Kathy Giacobbi
Friends of the Brannums
Friend of Corey Giacobbi
Friend of FLC
Sister of Linda Hall
Friend of Josh Riley
Friend of Diane Zella
Sister in law of Lani Brannum
Family friend of the Newman's
Friend of the Riley family
Friends of the Riley family
Brother-in-law of Kathy & Steve Vincent
Daughter in law of Ron Johnson
Cousin of Harrison Sargent
Friend of the Riley Family
Brother of Dave Payne (Rhonda Wheasler)

Julie Minney
Bentley, Lynne Eirons
Kristin Foster
Sue Zurface
Russ Burton

Daughter of Vickie Morgan
Family of Donna Thorp
Granddaughter of Don & Sue Newman
Friend of Becky Riley
Friend of Josh & Becky Riley



Members, family, and friends serving in military



Danni Riley
Amanda Riley
Ben Thompson
Parker Haley
Nick Gumley
Rebecca Carter
Derrick Izor
Isabella Grimm
Kayla Wilson
Liz Gray
Mia McCarty
Gabe Rine
Tyler Luddon

Member of FLC
Member of FLC
Member of FLC
Nephew of Amy Wilson
Grandson of Ruby Fisher
Cousin of the Brannum Family
Cousin of Michelle Kasten
Friend of Danni Riley
Friend of the Riley family
Friend of Danni Riley
Friend of the Riley Family
Nephew of the Sweet family
Nephew of Kathy Giacobbi

A Note from Pastor Joel

If you need to borrow items from the church, please be sure to contact the church office beforehand. This helps us in a few important ways: we can make sure the item isn't already in use or scheduled to be used, and it allows us to keep track of what has been borrowed and by whom.

We're happy to share resources when possible—please know that this isn't meant to discourage use, just to help us stay organized and be good stewards of what we have.

As a reminder, the Church Council decided a few years ago that our plastic tables would not be available for loan.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me directly. Thank you for your understanding and support!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our service will be recorded Live on Facebook and posted in Flocknote.

www.facebook.com/FaithLutheranChurchofWilmington

Your offering may be mailed or done online by going to

<https://www.flwilmington.com/donationsofferings>

Volunteers Needed-There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for Greeters/Ushers, Communion Assistants and Lectors. Please check the dates and see if you are available to volunteer a Sunday.

The 2026 Altar Flower Chart Has Been Posted On The Bulletin Board In The Narthex. Sign up on your preferred Sunday and indicate if they are given “in memory of...”; “in celebration of...” or “in honor of...”- A \$20 donation is suggested. Thank you!

Welca Website: The website Womenoftheelca.org has very good articles, including Daily Grace, which may be of interest to you. Check it out! Café is an award-winning web-based magazine (boldcafe.org) for young adult women who are interested in how faith relates to issues women face today.

Kroger Community Rewards Program:

08/01/25-10/31/25 **\$62.94 contributed to the youth group fund.**

A Kroger Plus card is needed to enroll. See office for more information or:

You may re-enroll via phone at 1-866-221-4141.

To enroll, go to: www.krogercommunityrewards.com A successful sign-in will take you to a page with a first paragraph entitled **Kroger Community Awards**. In the text of the paragraph click where it says “click here”. You will then be on a page “Find Your Organization”. In the first box, type **QG123** or Faith then click search. **Choose Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church** and then save.

Food Pantry News : For the total of the month of November our food pantry helped 72 adults, 51 seniors and 40 children (163 total people - 63 families). If you would like to learn more about volunteering for this ministry, see Jack Connor or Terri Roberts. To help supplement our Food Pantry this year, we are asking the congregation to bring a different product each month as shown below.

Food Pantry Donations 2026

February-Toilet Paper

March-Canned Vegetables

April-Tissues

May-Canned Tuna

June-Hand Soap

July-Canned Fruit

August-Dish detergent

September-Canned Pasta Sauce

October-Laundry Detergent

November-Canned Beans

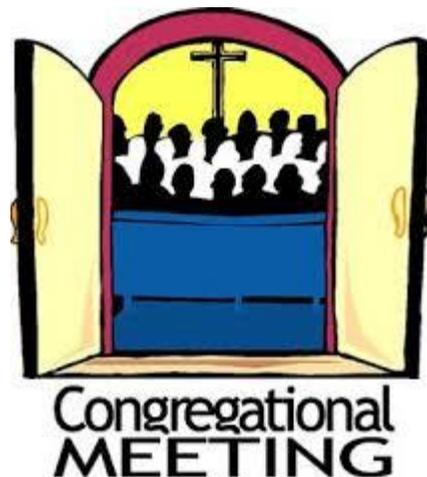
December-Toilet Paper



Kids Club will be held on the third Sunday of the month. 6pm to 7pm. See you February 15th!!!

**Mark your calendars for the Congregational Meeting
February 15, 2026 at 9:30am**

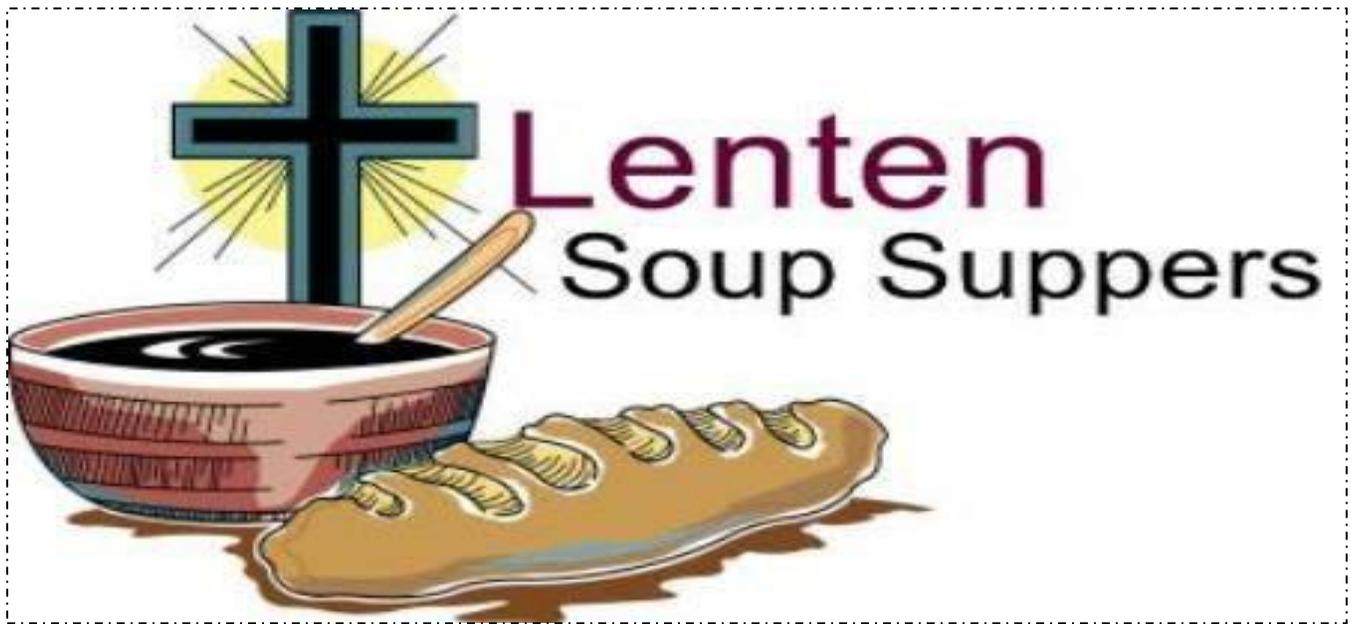
This will be in Fellowship Hall and refreshments will be provided.



Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner is on February 17 this year from 5 pm to 8 pm. Our youth will be hosting the event to raise money for the Youth Group. This helps them go to Youth Quake, the ELCA National Youth Gathering and other fun activities. Please come out for an evening of food, fellowship and fun.

**Ash Wednesday service
February 18th at 7pm**





Lenten Soup Suppers begin on Wednesday, February 25th and continue each Wednesday through March 25th.

Please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex either to provide soup or be part of the kitchen cleanup detail following the meal.

Worship Service to follow at 7pm



Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

830am & 10:45am



Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

7pm



Good Friday

April 3, 2026

7pm



Easter Services April 5, 2026

at 8:30am and 10:45am

Breakfast at 9:30am

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE
February 2026

ALTA R GUILD		COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	
Date	Name	Date	Name
2/1/26	Diane Zella	2/1/26	
2/8/26	Madonna Johnson	2/8/26	
2/15/26	Yvonne Spurrler	2/15/26	
2/22/26	Kathy Vincent	2/22/26	
2/18/26	Lynn Ackerman-Ash Wed		

GREETERS		LECTOR	
Date	Name	Date	Name
2/1/26		2/1/26	
2/8/26		2/8/26	Joey Sweet
2/15/26		2/15/26	
2/22/26		2/22/26	

USHERS		COFFEE HOSTS	
Date	Name	Date	Name
2/1/26		2/1/26	
2/8/26		2/8/26	Diane Zella
2/15/26		2/15/26	
2/22/26		2/22/26	

ACOLYTES		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
Date	Name	Date	Name
2/1/26		2/1/26	
2/8/26		2/8/26	
2/15/26		2/15/26	
2/22/26		2/22/26	

ALTAR FLOWERS		READINGS	
Date	Name	Date	Name
2/1/26	Tammy Maynard in honor of Fred Dupuis Heavenly birthday	2/1/26	Micah 6:1-8; Ps 15; 1 Cor 1:18-31; Matt 5:1-12
2/8/26	Diane Zella in memory of her Mother	2/8/26	Isa 58:1-12; Ps 112:1-10; 1 Cor 2:1-16; Matt 5:13-20
2/15/26		2/15/26	Exod 24:12-18; Ps 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matt 17:1-9
2/22/26	Steve & Kathy Vincent	2/22/26	Gen 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Ps 32; Rom 5:12-19; Matt 4:1-11

Church, Holidays in United States

Feb 2026 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Pastor Joel Vacation 8:30am - Worship @ Faith 9:30am - Adult Sunday 10:45am - Worship	2 10am - Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm - NA meeting	3 6pm - Girl Scouts @ Faith	4 9am - Quilting Club @ 10am - Food Pantry Open	5 6pm - Girl Scouts	6 6:30pm - Fiber Guild @	7 9am - Ladies Bible Study
8 8:30am - Worship @ Faith 9:30am - Adult Sunday 10:45am - Worship	9 10am - Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm - NA meeting	10 6pm - Girl Scouts @ Faith	11 9am - Quilting Club @	12 6pm - Girl Scouts 6pm - Worship Com 7pm - Council @ Faith	13	14 Valentine's Day 9am - Ladies Bible Study
15 8:30am - Worship @ Faith 9:30am - Congregational 10:45am - Worship	16 Presidents' Day 10am - Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm - NA meeting	17 Fat Tuesday 5pm - Pancake Dinner 6pm - Girl Scouts @ Faith	18 Ash Wednesday 9am - Quilting Club @ 10am - Food Pantry Open 7pm - Worship	19 11am - Kiwanis @ Faith 6pm - Girl Scouts	20	21 9am - Ladies Bible Study
22 8:30am - Worship @ Faith 9:30am - Adult Sunday 10:45am - Worship	23 10am - Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm - NA meeting	24 6pm - Girl Scouts @ Faith	25 9am - Quilting Club @ 6pm - Soup Supper 7pm - Lenten Worship	26 6pm - Girl Scouts	27	28 9am - Ladies Bible Study

CHECK OUT FAITH'S FACEBOOK PAGE

You do not have to be a member of Facebook to access our page - just type www.facebook.com/FaithLutheranChurchofWilmington into your browser window and you will be taken directly to the page.

WEB NEWS

For congregational news, go to: www.flcwilmington.com

On-line giving now available through our website.

**Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church is in
the Southern Ohio Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

For synod news: www.southernohiosynod.org

For national news: www.elca.org

ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Rev. Yehiel Curry*

Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod: *Rev. Suzanne Dillahunt*

****ALL Meetings/Events/Projects must be booked
thru the office to be added to the calendar****

DEADLINES

Bulletin Announcements–Wednesday by 11:30 a.m.

Newsletter Calendar– No later than third Sunday of the month.

Email: faithelca@swohio.twcbc.com



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
421 East Vine Street
Wilmington, Ohio 45177

Forwarding Service requested

Moved or moving? Tell your Church

OUR MISSION:

To Share God's Love

To Care For Each Other

To Reach The World for CHRIST

WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY 8:30am & 10:45am

**Youth Sunday School,
& Catechism (gr. 6-8) classes (SEP-MAY)
Adult Sunday School (All Year)**

Phone 937-382-2460