

# THE EVANGEL



**FAITH EVANGELICAL**

**LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**421 E. Vine Street**

**Wilmington OH 45177**

**Ph: 937-382-2460**

*December 2025*

## *From the Pastor's Pen...*



Tis' the season....

Every December, we roll into Advent decorating the church. We roll into Advent preparing for the coming of Christ not as a child, yet it is about the coming of Christ that started 2,000 years ago in an already but not yet fulfilled situation.

Tis' the season of waiting and preparing for Christ to enter more fully into our lives.

What are you doing to prepare this Advent? Maybe you are putting out the Advent wreath and planning to light the candles reflecting on your faith of old. It is a practice to prepare oneself for Christ's coming. Some people may have an Advent Calendar with various goodies for each day as we head into Christmas.

Tis' the season...

For me, this Advent is about listening to the Holy Spirit and engaging with God asking what needs to be done every day. Who is Christ in our lives? Do we spend time reflecting upon this. As we prepare for Christ to come again, reflecting upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit is key and vital to our future as a church. As I learned from a seminary professor of mine, the future of the church has been and always will be the Holy Spirit. The Spirit's guidance leads us to abide in Christ and live in Christ's grace.

This is most definitely a challenge, yet it is the one every Christian is called to do. We are to love God and to love our neighbors. When we prepare for Advent, how are we demonstrating love for those around us? It isn't about judging their love. It is about being a loving presence to them when they don't show us love. It is about being caught up in Christ's love for us.

Tis' the season...

It is a time to share gratitude. It is a time to share thanks. Also, it is a time for forgiveness for those who have done us harm. It is a time to let go of the past and be caught up in Christ's love that is still breaking through today.

*Pastor Joel Richter*

## WORSHIP/MUSIC NEWS

November 16, 2025

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! I'm an old traditionalist. I do not put up the Christmas tree right after Halloween(All Saints Day) until I celebrate Thanksgiving. I am one who feels we need to take time to be thankful for everything we have. I am especially thankful for my Lord for all he has done for me. I also am thankful for my family, friends and all people like our farmers, doctors, nurses, police officers, fire fighters, my church family, my health and the health of family and others. Thanksgiving was always a time for a big dinner with family and lots of food to share. Don't forget we are always taking donations of canned goods and staple items for our Faith Lutheran Church pantry. So, If you are like me, take time to be thankful before you start your Advent journey towards Christmas.

**November 23 is Christ the King** celebration Sunday and after church we decorate the church for Advent. Yes, I know what I just said above, but here at Faith I don't think we will find people to decorate on Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup> to have the Church ready for the first Sunday of Advent so while we have people here after Church, we ask everyone to help make it go quickly.

Just a reminder, **Midweek Advent Services** with Pastor Joel will be December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Advent is the season to prepare the way of the Lord so don't forget to watch!

Sundays in Advent with the Kyrie being the Procession are:

November 30<sup>th</sup>

December 7<sup>th</sup>

December 14<sup>th</sup>

December 21<sup>st</sup>

Christmas Eve December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Anyone wishing to do special music must provide the name of the piece and what it is (duet, piano, etc) by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Christmas Day December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – We celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ

December 28<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas – Carol Sunday

January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Epiphany Sunday – remove the decorations after church.

So as you see, this is a very busy time of the year and one of the most favorite of many. Enjoy all your time with family and friends and don't take one day for granted. We've lost many church members and I have lost friends and I realize how very precious life is, so remember to say "I love you, I miss you, I'm here for you and make that extra effort to reach out to a loved one you haven't seen or spoken to in a while and pray for others. It will make your day and theirs. Happy Thanksgiving!



See you in Church  
Your Organist,  
Tammy Maynard

## Addresses for our Shut-ins & Military

Caroline Wesbrook  
347 Florence Ave  
Wilmington, OH 45177

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

A1C Danielle Riley  
402 9<sup>th</sup> St. Unit 51999  
Dover AFB, DE 19902



### BIRTHDAYS

Keith Earley	12/3
Kari Thompson	12/3
Kathy Giacobbi	12/5
Lynn Ackerman	12/8
Chuck McKay	12/8
Beth Mitchell	12/12
Jordan McKay	12/13
Savannah Lisk	12/14
David Brannum	12/21
Danny Carroll	12/22
Andrew Kolodziej	12/23
Doug Campbell	12/24
Brittany Kessler	12/28
Cindy Running	12/29

### ANNIVERSARIES

Mike & Kim Sprouse	12/10
Nick & Kim Bailey	12/30

### 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!

## **IN OUR PRAYERS....**

Zachary Jewell  
Sue Newman  
The Zeckser Family  
Caroline Wesbrook  
Donna Thorp  
Carolyn Baur  
Bob Minnish  
Randy Gray  
Harlene Rein

Donna Barnhart  
Vickie Morgan  
Chuck McKay  
Ron & Sue Jenkins  
Gerald & Pat Schultz  
Shayna & Kara Spurrier  
Corey Giacobbi  
Cathy Morrison  
Steve Vincent

**10/29/25**

### **Johnda**

Darrell Smith  
Terry Dupuis  
Nicki Camp  
Marcia Spack  
JoAn Davis  
Jenny  
Debbie Holnaider  
Jess and Matt Stanley  
Michelle Roads  
Rick Roberts  
Macey Williams  
Anthony Stevens  
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  
Julie Minney  
Bentley, Lynne Eirons  
Kristin Foster  
Sue Zurface  
Russ Burton

### **Friend of Kathy Giacobbi**

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  
Friend of the Riley's  
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)  
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	Member of FLC
Amanda Riley	Member of FLC
Ben Thompson	Member of FLC
Parker Haley	Nephew of Amy Wilson
Nick Gumley	Grandson of Ruby Fisher
Rebecca Carter	Cousin of the Brannum Family
Derrick Izor	Cousin of Michelle Kasten
Isabella Grimm	Friend of Danni Riley
Kayla Wilson	Friend of the Riley family
Liz Gray	Friend of Danni Riley
Mia McCarty	Friend of the Riley Family
Gabe Rine	Nephew of the Sweet family
Tyler Luddon	Nephew of Kathy Giacobbi

**Congratulations** to Kinsey & Danny Carroll upon the birth of their daughter, Larkyn Elizabeth, born on November 1st. Larkyn joins big brother Case. Maternal grandparents are Terri & Larry Roberts

**In Christian Sympathy To....**

Please pray for Madonna Johnson, her husband Terry and their family upon the death of Madonna's sister-in-law, Lillia Klosterman. Please hold the family in your prayers for peace and comfort.

**In Christian Sympathy To....**

Please pray for Ben Zella, and his wife Diane and their family upon the death of Bens sister, Rita Holland. Please hold the family in your prayers for peace and comfort.

**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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

[www.facebook.com/FaithLutheranChurchofWilmington](http://www.facebook.com/FaithLutheranChurchofWilmington)

*Your offering may be mailed or done online by going to*

<https://www.flcwilmington.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 2025 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 October our food pantry helped 66 adults, 45 seniors and 19 children (130 total people - 55 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.

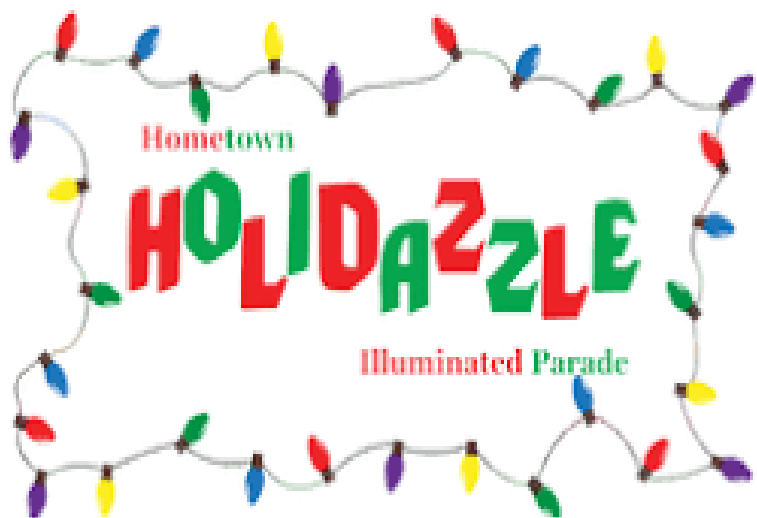
## **Food Pantry Donations 2025**

December-Toilet Paper



Kids Club will be held on the third Sunday of the month. 6pm to 7pm. See you December 21<sup>st</sup>!!!

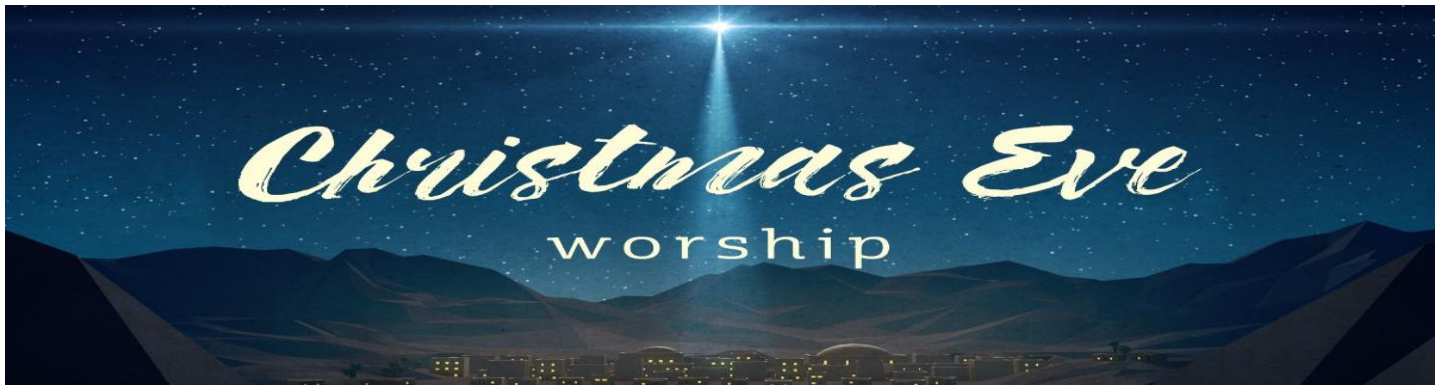
Come for an Advent celebration on Sunday, December 14, beginning at 5 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. A dessert to share with the group would be greatly appreciated. Homemade or store bought; doesn't matter. Please R.S.V.P. with the church office by Sunday, December 7.



**If you would like to watch the parade this year in a group, please let Becky Sweet know so that we can come up with a location and potentially plan for a meal. Text/call 419-612-5199**

**Date is November 29<sup>th</sup> before 7pm.**





**Traditional Christmas Eve Service Wednesday, December 24th at 7pm  
with Communion and candlelight.**



**This service will be one service December 28<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am  
In place of the sermon, we will have Lessons & Carols.**

**VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**  
**December 2024**

ALTAR GUILD		COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	
Date	Name	Date	Name
12/7/25	Diane Zella	12/7/25	
12/14/25	Kathy Vincent	12/14/25	
12/21/25	Yvonne Spurrier	12/21/25	
12/28/25	Madonna Johnson	12/28/25	

GREETERS/USHERS		LECTOR 830	
Date	Name	Date	Name
12/7/25		12/7/25	
12/14/25		12/14/25	
12/21/25		12/21/25	
12/28/25		12/28/25	

LECTOR 1045		COFFEE HOSTS	
Date	Name	Date	Name
12/7/25		12/7/25	
12/14/25	Beth Mitchell	12/14/25	
12/21/25		12/21/25	
12/28/25		12/28/25	

ACOLYTES		Christmas Eve	
Date	Name	Date	Name
12/7/25		G/U	
12/14/25		Com Asst	
12/21/25		Lect.	
12/28/25		Acol	
		AG	Lynn Ackerman

ALTAR FLOWERS		READINGS	
Date	Name	Date	Name
12/7/25	Shelly McKay in celebration of Chuck's Birthday	12/7/25	Isa 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-7, 18-19; Rom 15:4-13; Matt 3:1-12
12/14/25		12/14/25	Isa 35:1-10; Ps 146:5-10; James 5:7-10; Matt 11:2-11
12/21/25	Doug Cacmpbell in memory of Darlene Campbell	12/21/25	Isa 7:10-16; Ps 80:1-7, 18-19; Rom 1:1-7; Matt 1:18-25
12/28/25	Giacobbi family in memory of Kevin Pfeifer and Gary Giacobbi	12/28/25	Isa 63:7-9; Ps 148; Heb2:10-18; Matt 2:13-23

Church, Holidays in United States

Dec 2025 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
8:30am - Worship @ Faith 9:30am - Adult Sunday 10:45am - Worship	10am - Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm - NA meeting	6pm - Girl Scouts @ Faith	9am - Quilting Club @ 10am - Food Pantry Open	6pm - Girl Scouts	6:30pm - Fiber Guild @	9am - Ladies Bible Study
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:30am - Worship @ Faith 9:30am - Adult Sunday 10:45am - Worship	10am - Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm - NA meeting	6pm - Girl Scouts @ Faith	9am - Quilting Club @	6pm - Girl Scouts 6pm - Worship Com 7pm - Council @ Faith		9am - Ladies Bible Study
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:30am - Worship @ Faith 9:30am - Adult Sunday 10:45am - Worship 5pm - Advent dinner	10am - Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm - NA meeting	6pm - Girl Scouts @ Faith	9am - Quilting Club @ 10am - Food Pantry Open	11am - Kiwanis @ Faith 6pm - Girl Scouts		9am - Ladies Bible Study
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:30am - Worship @ Faith 9:30am - Adult Sunday 10:45am - Worship 6pm - Kids Club	10am - Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm - NA meeting	6pm - Girl Scouts @ Faith	Christmas Eve 7pm - Christmas Eve	Christmas Day Office Closed	office closed	9am - Ladies Bible Study
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Lessons & Carols 9:30am - Worship Service	10am - Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm - NA meeting	6pm - Girl Scouts @ Faith	New Year's Eve	New Year's Day Office Closed	6:30pm - Fiber Guild @	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](http://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](http://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](http://www.southernohiosynod.org)

For national news: [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Rev. Yehiel Curry*

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

**\*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](mailto: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