

THE EVANGEL



FAITH EVANGELICAL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

421 E. Vine Street

Wilmington OH 45177

Ph: 937-382-2460

January 2026

From the Pastor's Pen...



A New Year brings new beginnings.

What are you looking for this year?

How do we encounter God entering our lives?

This is a time for resolutions.

What resolutions are we making?

Do we usually keep them?

This year is time to listen to the Holy Spirit guiding us.

What is God asking from us?

When we hear it, will we gratefully follow?

These questions do not have to just be questions for once a year. They are powerful to ask all year round. This past summer, we spent a lot of time on gratitude. It is important to continually return to gratitude and asking where Christ is leading us? This leads to accepting of a future allowing us to follow Christ in the present and into a future that transforms our lives by his love and grace.

Just a few weeks ago, we encountered the presence of Christ as a child. A simple child changes everything. How has this child changed your lives? Christ's presence changes everything.

Pastor Joel Richter

WORSHIP/MUSIC NEWS

December 23, 2025

Merry Christmas everyone! Hope you had a wonderful time with family and friends and celebrated the birth of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. This time of year is usually joyful for many, but remember to keep those in our prayers who have lost loved ones especially at this time of year. I lost my Dad around Thanksgiving time many years ago and my mom right after New Years' in 2022 so this time of year is hard. Many people become depressed so reach out to those you know to let them know they are not alone and that it is okay to still grieve their lost. I depend on the love of my family and friends and the many good memories I have of them. That gets me through along with the loving arms of Jesus keeping me focused. So, extend yourself and let them know you are there for them. Jesus taught us that.

We want to thank **Lani Brannum** and **Grace Brannum** for their duet for Christmas Eve along with **Lydia Moon** on piano and **Becky Riley** singing. It is such a treat when we have members that share their talents. We are truly blessed.

Just a heads up. We are in the process of updating the key control for our church. We are planning on installing keypads for easier access in the sacristy and office. Please be patient and cooperative. We are in the process of collecting keys as there are so many out there, we need to either reissue or pitch some as the new locks/system is installed. Your key may or may not work – that is why we must take inventory. This action is in accordance with council and the Safety/Security committee so please, work with us on this. The goal is to keep everyone safe at Faith Lutheran therefore, hopefully once locks are changed and keypads installed, we will not have numerous keys out. We will reissue keys to the appropriate individuals that need them.

Some upcoming dates to remember. Yes – Lent is not far away with our Soup Suppers starting up.

January 4th, 2026 Epiphany Sunday – remove the decorations after church.

January 11th, 2026 – the Baptism of Our Lord

February 15, 2026 – Transfiguration Sunday

February 22, 2026 – 1st Sunday of Lent

March 29, 2026 – Passion Sunday (we will need readers for that Sunday so please help us out)

Again, I hope everyone had a good Christmas. Look forward to 2026 and take time to stop and think what you want for 2026. One good thing is to volunteer – especially if you have never tried it before. Many thanks to our Altar Guild servants who have been so busy these last couple of months with changing the paraments. Also to our acolytes, lectors, kitchen staff, ushers and greeters and all those who have served the Lord. And especially Pastor Joel who leads us.



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

Sandy Kaup	1/06
Portia Vincent	1/09
Luke Johnson	1/10
Dee Rein	1/11
Rini Vulgamore	1/12
Terri Roberts	1/15
Brian James	1/19

ANNIVERSARIES

Rick & Amy Wilson	1/07
Jack & Carolyn Connor	1/20
Randy & Cindy Running	1/30

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

12/7/25

**Trenda
Natalie**

12/01/25

Edwin Crone

12/7/25

**Trenda
Natalie**

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

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

**Co-worker of Lani Brannum
Friend of Grace Brannum**

Grandfather of Savannah Lisk

**Co-worker of Lani Brannum
Friend of Grace Brannum**

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

Lynn Turner
Daniel Payne
Julie Minney
Bentley, Lynne Eirons
Kristin Foster
Sue Zurface
Russ Burton

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
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

In Christian Sympathy To....

Please pray for the family of Caroline Wesbrook. Caroline passed away 11/25. Please hold the family in your prayers for peace and comfort.

In Christian Sympathy To....

Please pray for Ron Johnson, his wife Mary Jane and their family upon the death of their grandson, Robert Johnson. 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

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

January-Canned Soup

March-Canned Vegetables

May-Canned Tuna

July-Canned Fruit

September-Canned Pasta Sauce

November-Canned Beans

February-Toilet Paper

April-Tissues

June-Hand Soap

August-Dish detergent

October-Laundry Detergent

December-Toilet Paper



Kids Club will be held on the third Sunday of the month. 6pm to 7pm. See you January 18th!!!

Your help is needed on January 4th after the 10:45am service to help take down the Christmas decorations. As with set up, many hands make for light work. Please take the time to help!!



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE JANUARY 2026

ALTAR GUILD	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>
1/4/26	Yvonne Spurrier
1/11/26	Lynn Ackerman
1/18/26	Madonna Johnson
1/25/26	Kathy Vincent

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>
1/4/26	
1/11/26	
1/18/26	
1/25/26	

GREETERS/USHERS	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>
1/4/26	
1/11/26	
1/18/26	
1/25/26	

LECTOR	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>
1/4/26	
1/11/26	
1/18/26	
1/25/26	

LITURGIST	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>
1/4/26	
1/11/26	
1/18/26	
1/25/26	

COFFEE HOSTS	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>
1/4/26	
1/11/26	
1/18/26	
1/25/26	

ACOLYTES	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>
1/4/26	
1/11/26	
1/18/26	
1/25/26	

SUNDAY SCHOOL	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>
1/4/26	
1/11/26	
1/18/26	
1/25/26	

ALTAR FLOWERS	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>
1/4/26	The Riley's In memory of Danny Riley
1/11/26	
1/18/26	
1/25/26	

READINGS	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>
1/4/26	Isa 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-7,10-14; Eph 3:1-12; Matt 2:1-12
1/11/26	Isa 42:1-9; Ps29; Acts 10:34-43; Matt 3:13-17
1/18/26	Isa 49:1-7; Ps 40:1-11; 1 Cor 1:1-9; John 1:29-42
1/25/26	Isa 9:1-4; Ps 27:1,4-9; 1 Cor 1:10-18; Matt 4: 12-23

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
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	New Year's Day Office Closed	6:30pm - Fiber Guild @	9am - Ladies Bible Study
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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 6pm - Worship Com 7pm - Council @ Faith	Youth quake	9am - Ladies Bible Study
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Youth quake 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 @	11am - Kiwanis @ Faith 6pm - Girl Scouts		9am - Ladies Bible Study
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30am - Worship @ Faith 9:30am - Adult Sunday 10:45am - Worship 6pm - Kids Club	Martin Luther King Jr. Day 10am - Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm - NA meeting	Pastor Joel Cont Ed. 6pm - Girl Scouts @ Faith	9am - Quilting Club @ 10am - Food Pantry Open	6pm - Girl Scouts		9am - Ladies Bible Study 10am - Margaret Johnson
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Pastor Joel Vacation 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		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