

# THE EVANGEL



**FAITH EVANGELICAL**

**LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**421 E. Vine Street**

**Wilmington OH 45177**

**Ph: 937-382-2460**

*April 2026*



He is risen. He is risen indeed...

Since Easter happens early in the month, we cannot move directly to praising the Lord. When I was growing up, Pastor Greg and other pastors would often say that we cannot get to Easter without Good Friday. To miss Good Friday is to forget the central part of the story—the cross.

Over the past few months, in my studies and prayers, I have returned deeply to exploring and following what is called a theology of the cross.

What is a theology of the cross? At its core, it means that God is not revealed through human glory or power, but through suffering, weakness, and the crucifixion. During a Bible study, a pastor colleague kept telling us Lutherans that we are always putting Jesus back on the cross. My response was simple: Jesus on the cross is central to our faith. Without the cross, we have no faith. That is deeply Lutheran.

We often want to talk about the resurrection while bypassing the cross. We do not want to hear the cry, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” The idea of God in the midst of suffering may seem comforting, yet it also has a disturbing quality to it. We want the risen Lord without the pain and suffering of the crucified one. We think we understand Christ, yet the cross is still disturbing to ponder. God enters the pain and suffering of the world—and calls us to enter it too.

We cannot forget the cross. It is the place where God surrenders, accepting the pain and suffering of the world. Cruciform love transformed the world—and still does. Without the cross, there is no point to the Christian faith.

This story is not about human glory and victory. It is the foolishness of the cross, where Christ surrenders and accepts the brokenness, the pain, and the suffering of the world into his own body. Here we sit at the foot of the cross, wondering what comes next. We come to the tomb not knowing what comes next.

Then Christ appears and is risen.

When Christ arises, new life emerges from death. Christ does not leave the pain and suffering behind; he transforms it through resurrection. We know the risen Christ by his wounds.

While that sounds comforting, it disrupts the world. Cruciform love turns the upside-down world right side up.

*Pastor Joel Richter*

## WORSHIP/MUSIC NEWS

March 16, 2026

Hope everyone is staying warm and looking forward to a little bit of warmer weather. As they say, if you want to see all the seasons, just come to Ohio. We've had rain, freezing temperatures, snow, sleet, warm weather that changes in a day to freezing temps. Attendance has not been too low considering these ups and downs. We miss many of you but do understand not wanting to come out. It will soon be warm and you can come share worship with our Lord and your friends at Faith. Spring arrives March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Don't forget our last Wednesday Lenten Services at 7pm will be March 25<sup>th</sup> with Holy Week starting with **Passion Sunday on March 29<sup>th</sup>; Maundy Thursday-April 2<sup>nd</sup>** and **Good Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>** and the wonderful **Easter Morning April 5<sup>th</sup>**. Please come fill your soul, body and mind by listening to the word of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Whether at church or online, we all need the reassurance of our Lords' love for all of us during these very sad times in our county and world with the loss of life of our citizens in several tragedies.

**Dan Mohr** is doing a great job as Volunteer Coordinator for Faith. He is getting those vacant spots filled up and it is such a relief for Pastor Joel especially on Sunday when he is trying to prepare for worship so he does not have to worry about having volunteers to help with the service. Thank you, Dan., also, to **Jamie Knowles** for his ongoing Property repairs. If you see anything that needs attention, please let Jamie, Pastor, the office or myself know. Thanks!

Reminder to everyone that has keys to either the **outside or inside doors**. If you have not turned your key in/checked in with Becky in the office, please do so before the end of this month. Previously we gave out keys to anyone that wanted one, but due to new safety and security procedures that we need in place, we have to limit access to the church for your safety. We also are really trying to avoid rekeying the locks which will be expensive. We have the list of individuals that are to have keys/codes so if you have one – please turn it in or meet with Becky only. She is the clearinghouse for all keys for the Safety Committee.

Quick reminder, when you are in the sanctuary and church is about ready to start, please be careful about your conversations as the camera is picking up your conversations. Some things that are heard we don't want to broadcast.

In closing, please continue to pray for everyone especially our military. They need our prayers for protection – especially Amanda, Ben and Danni. Our world needs prayers for peace and to stop the violence everywhere. Love one another, as our Lord has loved 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 9<sup>th</sup> St. Unit 51999  
Dover AFB, DE 19902



### BIRTHDAYS

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| Shelly McKay     | 4/2  |
| Mariah Knowles   | 4/4  |
| Amanda Riley     | 4/5  |
| Jeremiah McKay   | 4/5  |
| Dennis Ling      | 4/6  |
| Ellen Christen   | 4/7  |
| Amy Carter       | 4/8  |
| Josh Riley       | 4/9  |
| Caroline Vincent | 4/10 |
| Cindy Smith      | 4/11 |
| Larkyn Johnson   | 4/11 |
| William Gray     | 4/12 |
| Bradford Bogan   | 4/14 |
| Kara Gherman     | 4/17 |
| Carolyn Bauer    | 4/19 |
| Jerry Griehm     | 4/19 |
| Christina Kaun   | 4/21 |
| Shelly Knowles   | 4/22 |
| Beth Ackerman    | 4/24 |
| Sue Newman       | 4/28 |
| Megan Sargent    | 4/28 |

### ANNIVERSARIES

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| Jamie & Shelly Knowles | 4/1  |
| Jeff & Judy Bennett    | 4/9  |
| Gerald & Pat Schultz   | 4/15 |
| Steve & Kathy Vincent  | 4/15 |
| Sam & Justin Roseberry | 4/27 |

**Starting in June  
the office will no longer be  
open on Fridays.**

**Office hours will be  
Monday -Thursday  
8am to 12pm.**

### **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

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

**3/15**

**The Ohio Air National Guard 121<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing**

**The Family of Curtis Angst**

**Co-Worker & Friend of Jerry Sweet  
& Ben Thompson**

**3/4**

**The family of Lisa Sweetman**

**Family & friends of those in the Clarksville fire**

**friends of the Riley's**

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

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

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 Jeryl Griehm, his children Michael and Carrie; and their families upon the death of Carolyn Griehm. Please hold the family in your prayers for peace and comfort

### **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](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 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](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 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**

April-Tissues

May-Canned Tuna

July-Canned Fruit

September-Canned Pasta Sauce

November-Canned Beans

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 April 19<sup>th</sup>!!!



**Easter Services April 5, 2026**  
**8:30am and 10:45am**



**Breakfast at 9:30am**  
**Bring a sweet treat to share**

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue   | Wed   | Thu   | Fri   | Sat   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29  | 30  | 31  | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |
|   |   |   | 9am - Quilting Club @<br>10am - Food Pantry Open            | 6pm - Girl Scouts<br>7pm - Maundy Thursday                      | 6:30pm - Fiber Guild @<br>7pm - Good Friday | Easter set up<br>9am - Ladies Bible Study           |
| 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  |
| Easter Sunday<br>8:30am - Worship @ Faith<br>9:30am - Easter Breakfast<br>10:45am - Worship | Easter Monday<br>Office closed<br>6:30pm - NA meeting | Carolyn Griebm Funeral<br>6pm - Girl Scouts @ Faith | 9am - Quilting Club @                                       | 6pm - Girl Scouts<br>6pm - Worship Com<br>7pm - Council @ Faith |   | 9am - Ladies Bible Study                            |
| 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 8:30am - Worship @ Faith<br>9:30am - Adult Sunday<br>10:45am - Worship                      | 10am - Ladies Bible Study<br>6:30pm - NA meeting      | 6pm - Girl Scouts @ Faith                           | Tax Day<br>9am - Quilting Club @<br>10am - Food Pantry Open | 11am - Kiwanis @ Faith<br>6pm - Girl Scouts                     |   | 9am - Ladies Bible Study<br>10am - Margaret Johnson |
| 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| 8:30am - Worship @ Faith<br>9:30am - Adult Sunday<br>10:45am - Worship                      | 10am - Ladies Bible Study<br>6:30pm - NA meeting      | 6pm - Girl Scouts @ Faith                           | 9am - Quilting Club @                                       | 6pm - Girl Scouts   |   | 9am - Ladies Bible Study                            |
| 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 1   | 2   |
| 8:30am - Worship @ Faith<br>9:30am - Adult Sunday<br>10:45am - Worship                      | 10am - Ladies Bible Study<br>6:30pm - NA meeting      | 6pm - Girl Scouts @ Faith                           | 9am - Quilting Club @                                       | 6pm - Girl Scouts   |   |   |

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

April 2026

| ALTAR GUILD |                                    | COMMUNION ASSISTANTS |      |
|-------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|------|
| Date        | Name                               | Date                 | Name |
| 4/5/26      | Madonna Johnson                    | 4/5/26               |      |
| 4/12/26     | Yvonne Spurrier                    | 4/12/26              |      |
| 4/19/26     | Kathy Vincent                      | 4/19/26              |      |
| 4/26/26     | Lynn Ackerman                      | 4/26/26              |      |
| 4/2/26      | <i>Maundy Thursday Diane Zella</i> |                      |      |

| GREETERS/USHERS |      |
|-----------------|------|
| Date            | Name |
| 4/5/26          |      |
| 4/12/26         |      |
| 4/19/26         |      |
| 4/26/26         |      |
|                 |      |

| LECTOR  |            |
|---------|------------|
| Date    | Name       |
| 4/5/26  | Josh Riley |
| 4/12/26 | Joey Sweet |
| 4/19/26 |            |
| 4/26/26 |            |
|         |            |

| LITURGIST |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| Date      | Name        |
| 4/5/26    | Becky Riley |
| 4/12/26   | Becky Sweet |
| 4/19/26   |             |
| 4/26/26   |             |

| COFFEE HOSTS |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Date         | Name        |
| 4/5/26       |             |
| 4/12/26      | Diane Zella |
| 4/19/26      |             |
| 4/26/26      |             |

| ACOLYTES |      |
|----------|------|
| Date     | Name |
| 4/5/26   |      |
| 4/12/26  |      |
| 4/19/26  |      |
| 4/26/26  |      |
|          |      |

| SUNDAY SCHOOL |      |
|---------------|------|
| Date          | Name |
| 4/5/26        |      |
| 4/12/26       |      |
| 4/19/26       |      |
| 4/26/26       |      |
|               |      |

| ALTAR FLOWERS |   |
|---------------|---|
| Date          | Name  |
| 4/5/26        | Tammy Maynard in celebration of Amanda & Josh Riley's birthdays |
| 4/12/26       | Steve & Kathy Vincent in celebration of their Anniversary       |
| 4/19/26       | Chuck & Shelly McKay in honor of the boys baptism               |
| 4/26/26       | Carolyn Horan in memory of loved ones passed                    |
|               |   |

| READINGS |   |
|----------|---|
| Date     | Name  |
| 4/5/26   | Acts 10:34-43; Ps 118:-2,14-24; Col 3:1-4; Matt 28:1-10             |
| 4/12/26  | Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Ps 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31              |
| 4/19/26  | Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 116:1-4,12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35 |
| 4/26/26  | Acts 2:42-24; Ps 23; 1 Peter 2:1-25; John 10:1-10                   |
|          |   |

## **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 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](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