

**DECEMBER 2025**

# hello DECEMBER

**FAITH EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
3355 MACARTHUR ROAD  
WHITEHALL, PA 18052  
610 435 0451**

**The Rev. June E. Wann  
Pastor**

**Robert Billig  
President, Church Council**

**Zach Keenan  
Vice President, Church  
Council**

**Secretary  
Judy Ehret**

**Margy Muthard  
Treasurer**

**Jordan Bucks  
Organist**

**Joanne Gantz-Jalowiecki  
Financial Secretary**

**Jennifer Kishbaugh  
Director Of Music**

**Claudette Nia  
Office Administrator**

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **December Holidays**

December 6 is Saint Nicholas Day. The patron saint of children is the model for Santa Claus and gift-giving.

December 7 is National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

December 8 is Bodhi Day in the Buddhist calendar, celebrating Buddha's enlightenment; it's celebrated in a way that's similar to how Christians celebrate Christmas to honor Jesus Christ.

December 13 is St. Lucia's Day, which has long been associated with festivals of light. Before the Gregorian calendar reform in 1752, her feast day occurred on the shortest day of the year (hence the saying "Lucy light, Lucy light, shortest day and longest night").

December 14 marks the beginning of Hanukkah this year, the 8-day Jewish festival of lights.

December 15 is Bill of Rights Day.

December 17 is Wright Brothers Day.

December 21 is the Winter Solstice—the astronomical day when the hemisphere is tilted as far away from the Sun as possible. Starting in ancient times, people celebrated the rebirth of the Sun event through Yule.

December 25 is Christmas Day, a Christian holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ.

December 26 is Boxing Day (Canada, UK) and the first day of Kwanzaa.

On the last evening of the year, December 31, kiss the person you hope to keep kissing!



“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever has always been one of my favorite children’s chapter books, and the 2024 movie remake of this classic book did not disappoint! The characters were well cast, and the message of the true meaning of Christmas was still strong. While the movie took me back in time to Christmas as a naive elementary school girl in pigtails experiencing the book, I did not expect how I would connect to the same storyline as an adult now well aware of the world and all its distractions and uncertainty.

I found myself connecting with the mom, and lastminute pageant director, Grace. Grace found herself in a position of “saving” the local Christmas pageant when the long-time director was unable. Grace faced numerous challenges with this task, from figuring out how to pull off “the best Christmas pageant ever” to managing the high expectations of church members, the community, and beyond. But the biggest challenge came in the form of the six unchurched Herdman children who were a constant source of trouble around town and who had spontaneously put themselves in the lead roles of what they called a “bible play.” As the weeks before Christmas unfolded and each rehearsal came and went, there were many concerns about how the pageant would unfold. As Grace and her daughter discussed the situation on their front porch, Grace said, “I don’t know what is going to happen. Mary and Joseph weren’t so sure either.”

As we step into this season of Advent and prepare our hearts for Christmas, uncertainty might be a familiar companion. We encounter distractions, face challenges, and grapple with all kinds of uncertainty, often feeling as though the future is shrouded in the unknown. In these moments, it’s comforting to remember that even Mary and Joseph—called by God for an extraordinary purpose—didn’t have all the answers. They had no roadmap—only faith to guide them. Yet, in their weariness and uncertainty, God continually showed up. Not in the grand halls of kings or a perfectly executed Christmas pageant, but in the humble manger of Bethlehem and the miracle of Jesus’ birth.

Like Mary and Joseph, we might not know what lies ahead. The world around us can be filled with distractions and noise that pull us in many directions, often leaving us feeling lost or weary. But in the midst of this uncertainty, one truth remains: God always shows up.

Instead of allowing the world’s distractions to steer us off course, we are invited to focus on our faith—a steady compass that always points to Jesus. When we feel unsure, overwhelmed, or distracted, we can remember to center our hearts on Jesus. God’s presence brings peace, God’s Word provides direction, and God’s love offers the strength we need.

This Advent season, choose to follow the light of Christ, trusting that God will show up and guide us through every uncertainty and despite every distraction. Just as God led Mary and Joseph, God will lead us too. As the youngest Herdman and head angel, Gladys, said (boldly and with lots of enthusiasm), “Hey! Unto you a child is born! Go see the baby!” May your journey through Advent to the birth of Jesus at Christmas be full of Christ’s light, love, and peace!



**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT FORUM AT 9:00 AM**

**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 is and has been 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!**

**Christmas Eve Services**

**4:00 PM and 7:00 PM**

**Special Music 3:30 PM and 6:30 PM**



**IF YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO IS IN NEED OF A FOOD BOX,**  
**PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE**

**St John's, MacArthur Rd, Mickleys will be closing its doors in 2026.  
This year, December 24th, St John's will be offering an 11:30 PM Candlelight Christmas Service.  
All are welcome. Celebrate in our original Sanctuary.**

**This would be a great opportunity to learn more about the church and serve in a leadership position.**

**Retired music teacher (35 1/2 years in the NW Lehigh School District). Synodical Authorized Lay Minister, in my 22nd year serving Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Kempton. (Jerusalem is a Union Church, and I preach there every other Sunday). I'm in my 14th year of directing the Pioneer Band of Allentown. I've been a member of Faith since 1994. In the past I have served two terms on FELC council and was President for two years. I was on the Worship and Music committee, sang with the choir, and served as Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Worship Assistant, and delegate to the Synod Assembly. Currently I am finishing up my first three-year term on the FELC church council and currently serving as the Council President. I am on the Mutual Ministry team, Fellowship Committee, choir, bell choir, lector, numerous other functions, and Worship Assistant. I have served as a supply minister for FELC Worship services and helped lead bible study groups for the Hot Dogs and Hymns**

### Judy Ehret

I have been a member of Faith for 48 years, during which time I've been involved in handbells, choir, HR committee and Worship and Music. In addition, my husband, Shel and I are involved in community work, the Whitehall Food Pantry and Meals on Wheels.

When Shel and I met, we were both transplants from other areas, and Faith has truly been our family that we chose. Everyone has embraced our family; watching our children grow up and Shel and I grow old(er). It is my wish to share that sense of God's love and commitment that this church represents.

### *Shel Ehret*

I have been a member of Faith for 50+ years during which time I've been involved in handbells, choir, Worship and Music, Finance and Property committees.

When Judy and I met, we found Faith to be our "Home Away from Home". It is my wish to continue to work to see the church grow.





# Join us for a fun ADVENT GATHERING

Join us after church on  
December 14 and Decem-  
ber 21 for a fun advent  
gathering!

Join us for soup, learning,  
fellowship, and an advent  
craft!

All are welcome to join  
us!!!

Please sign up in the nar-  
thex or call the church of-



**THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS WHOSE STEWARDSHIP IS VALUED**

**ALTAR GUILD**

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

**CRAFT FAIR COMMITTEE**

**SOCIAL MINISTRY**

**QUILTERS/PIECE MAKERS**

**FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

**FUND RAISING COMMITTEE**

**PRAYER GROUP**

**MUSIC AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

**BAKERS AND KITCHEN CREW**

**ALL OUR REGULARS WHO ALWAYS SHOW UP TO HELP**

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

**HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Looking for opportunities to give back? Volunteer!**

**Always welcoming committee participants, volunteering in the kitchen for special events, learning the process of preparation for Sundays and special events, choir, bell choir, Lectors, Greeters**

**See anyone on Council, Pastor, or stop by Church office!  
Faith needs you!**

**Upcoming events**

**First Day of Advent Sunday, November 30**

**Annual Christmas Tea Sunday, December 7 2-4 pm**

- **Baking December 2 and 3**
- **Set up Friday or Saturday December 5 and 6**

**Breakfast with Santa Saturday, December 13 9-11 am**

- **Set up Friday**

**Congregational Meeting Sunday, Dec 14 post service**

**Christmas Eve services Wednesday, December 24 at 4 pm and 7 pm**

## SCOUTING NEWS

First, we had our joint November camping trip between our AOL's (our oldest cubs from the Pack who will cross over into the Troop early next year) and our Troop at Camp Redtail in Whitehall Nov. 14th - 16th. The campout saw a number of our troop members work to complete rank skills before our Court of Honor in December, and we were able to see several of them advance in rank as a result. While the kids worked on rank skills, several of the leaders present managed to make a "Campsgiving" meal of turkey and gravy, stuffing, green beans, and a cake, all prepared in Dutch ovens. We're looking forward to gaining some new members into the Troop at our cross-over event in the Spring.

We've also seen one of our scouts, Collin Paone, successfully complete his Eagle Board of Review this past Thursday, 11/20. Collin's project entailed the completion of a trail improvement on the D&L Trail at the North Catasauqua entrance, including a picnic area with two picnic tables, an information kiosk, and a bicycle repair station with pump. We have several other scouts currently working towards getting projects approved for work in the coming months.

Yours in Scouting,

Pete Paone

Scoutmaster - Troop 32

### WIRED RIBBON REQUESTED

Our Basket Social is coming up in March.

Please drop off wired ribbon in the office M-Th 9am to 3pm.

Now is a great time to fill up baskets with holiday sales. March will be upon us before we know it!

Thank you, Chris Schmidt, for your generous donation of forty plus turkeys for our Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes.

We are humbled by your generosity. Thank you from our grateful recipients.

God is good! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

The annual Christmas tea is 2:00 pm December 7, 2025. Tickets are \$12 and now are available through the office or your hostess.

SIGN UP FOR ADVENT WORKSHOPS AFTER SERVICE, NOV 30, DEC 14, DEC 21



**In preparation for upcoming congregational meeting December 14th**

<b>Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church</b>				
<b>Income and Expense Comparison</b>				
			<b>Projected</b>	
	<b>Budget</b>		<b>YTD</b>	<b>Budget</b>
	<b>2025</b>		<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense Income</b>				
<b>Current &amp; Benevolence</b>	\$ 157,720		168,674	175,220
<b>Rental Income</b>	18,720		18,520	18,720
<b>Special Quarterly</b>	23,000		13,062	16,900
<b>Sunday School</b>	180		259	180
<b>Total Income</b>	199,620		200,514	211,020
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>Administration Salaries</b>	57,300		57,858	57,936
<b>Christian Education</b>	11,135		9,280	-
<b>Benevolence</b>	22,340		21,850	19,340
<b>Maintenance</b>	92,912		159,576	100,394
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	12,950		12,614	12,950
<b>Music Ministries</b>	27,400		25,251	26,480
<b>Office Expense</b>	15,856		19,459	15,856
<b>Pastoral Ministries</b>	105,987		97,120	110,341
<b>Total Expense</b>	345,880		403,009	343,297
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	(146,260)		(202,494)	(132,277)
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Other Income</b>				
<b>Non Budget Income</b>	43,870		34,496	45,860
<b>Transfers</b>	120,000		196,000	105,000
<b>Capital Improvement</b>	-		-	-
<b>Total Other Income</b>	163,870		230,496	150,860
<b>Other Expense</b>				
<b>Rental Property</b>	-		243	-
<b>Non Budget Expense</b>	21,125		23,387	21,125
<b>Capital Improvement</b>	8,000		-	-
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	29,125		23,630	21,125
<b>Net Other Income</b>	134,745		206,865	129,735
<b>Net Income</b>	\$ (11,515)		4,371	(2,542)

# **WORSHIP TEAMS FOR DECEMBER**

**DEC 7**

**DEC 14**

**DEC 21**

**DEC 24 4PM**

**DEC 24 7PM**

**DEC 28**

<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	<b>Cathy Haller and Gloria Senchak</b>	<b>Diane Batza And Linda Johnston</b>	<b>Judy And Shel Ehret</b>	<b>Linda Johnston And Charlene Frack</b>	<b>Cathy And Sabrina Haller</b>	<b>Barb Yurasits And Pat Masonheimer</b>
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	<b>Ben Brandt</b>	<b>Shel Ehret</b>	<b>Judy Ehret</b>	<b>Gail Herzog</b>	<b>Kindall Wann</b>	<b>Zach Keenan</b>
<b>LECTOR</b>	<b>Jennifer Reiner</b>	<b>Kindall Wann</b>	<b>Jennifer Reiner</b>	<b>Gail Herzog</b>	<b>Kindall Wann</b>	<b>Kindall wann</b>
<b>GREETER</b>	<b>Dan Herzog</b>	<b>April Spaits</b>	<b>Charlene Frack</b>			<b>Dan Herzog</b>
<b>FLOWER SPONSOR</b>	<b>Mike And Carol Miller</b>					
<b>BULLETIN SPONSOR</b>	<b>Mike and Carol Miller</b>					

~~NOVEMBER 2025 CALENDAR~~  
**DECEMBER 2025**

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Nov 30 ADVENT	1 <u>1:00 PM Piece</u> <u>makers</u> 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH) 1	2  <u>10:00 AM</u> <u>Prayer Group</u> <u>Light lunch and</u> <u>Communion</u> 6:45 PM Boy Scouts	6:00 PM Eagle Scouts 3	4 6:00 PM Cub Scouts <u>6:15 pm Bell</u> <u>Choir</u> <u>7:30 pm senior</u> <u>choir</u>	5	6
7 ADVENT Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Altar Communion 2pm Christmas tea 7:00 PM AA	8 <u>1:00 PM Piece</u> <u>makers</u> 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH)	9  <u>10:00 AM</u> <u>Prayer Group</u> 6:45 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM <u>Exec Council</u>	10  6:00 PM Eagle Scouts	11 6:00 PM Cub Scouts <u>6:15 pm Bell</u> <u>Choir</u> <u>7:30 pm senior</u> <u>choir</u>	12 Set up Break- fast With Santa	13 <u>Breakfast</u> <u>With</u> <u>Santa</u> <u>9-11</u> <u>Trotter</u> <u>Wedding</u> <u>3 PM</u>
14 ADVENT  Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM  7:00 PM AA	15 <u>1:00 PM Piece</u> <u>makers</u> 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH)	16 Veteran's Day  <u>10:00 AM</u> <u>Prayer Group</u> 6:45 PM Boy Scouts <u>Church Council</u>	17  6:00 PM Eagle Scouts	18 6:00 PM Cub Scouts <u>6:15 pm Bell</u> <u>Choir</u> <u>7:30 pm senior</u> <u>choir</u>	19	20
21 ADVENT  Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM  AA 7:00 PM	22 <u>1:00 PM Piece</u> <u>makers</u> 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH)	23  <u>10:00 AM</u> <u>Prayer Group</u> 6:45 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	24 <u>CHRISTMAS EVE</u>  <u>3:30</u> <u>Special music</u> <u>4 PM Worship</u> <u>Service</u> <u>6:30 PM Special</u> <u>Music</u> <u>7 PM Worship</u> <u>Service</u>	25 <u>CHRISTMAS</u>	26	27
28  Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM 7:00 PM AA (PH)	29 <u>1:00 PM Piece</u> <u>makers</u> 6:00 PM Brownies 7:00 PM Pioneer Band (BH)	30  <u>10:00 AM</u> <u>Prayer Group</u> 6:45 PM Boy Scouts	31 New Year's Eve			



ANNIVERSARIES

RIVERA, OMAR & HEATHER 12/09

COLBURN, THOMAS & JANET 12/21

WEHR, JR, DENNIS & MELISSA 12/28



BIRTHDAYS

BUSKIRK, NANCY 12/01

WONDERLY, CATHERINE 12/01

MILLER, CAROL 12/02

MILLER, MICHAEL 12/04

KOTSCH, KATHRYN 12/06

HOLOBUSKY, JEFFREY 12/10

ASBATH, DARLENE 12/11

RESH, OLIVER 12/15

TROTTER, HALE 12/15

HESS, RICHARD 12/16

HOLOBUSKY, BRIAN 12/16

GRIM, SAMANTHA 12/20

SENCHEK, GLORIA 12/23

HERZOG, GAIL 12/24

MILLER, COLTON 12/29

ECKHART, RALPH 12/30

GARTNER, RICHARD 12/30

HALLER, SABRINA 12/30