



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

WHITE OAK,
PENNSYLVANIA

1656 Lincoln Way, McKeesport, PA 15131 + (412) 673-2296 + faithwhiteoak.com

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 11, 2026

Resistance Movements



Herod plotting to kill. John at the riverbank. Peter in Jerusalem. Judas at the table. Thomas behind closed doors. Nicodemus in the night. Family at home. Crowds in the streets. Quite a collection, but merely a sampling of a much longer list. There are plenty in the pages of the scriptures, and in the circles of our daily rounds: they—we—who are wannabe followers and wannabe saboteurs, the well-meaning and the conspiratorial, neighbors we like, others we refuse to trust, family we put up with (or don't),

coworkers we admire, mentors we respect, activists we fear, leaders we oppose. A lengthy list indeed. And this is what is shared among such a collection of souls: people standing in the way of, objecting to, arguing against Jesus. Road blockers.

Mystery floats in and over the murky baptismal ripples of the Jordan River. To this day, thousands throng to wade in those waters to receive, to remember, to renew, to celebrate baptism. Jesus came there too and was met by his cousin, the famous, wild, wandering baptizer, who tried to stop him. Make of John's protest what you will (humility, confusion, disagreement, panic, pride?), his inclination was to prevent Jesus' public repentance, Jesus' plain-to-be-seen-and-heard turning away from the expectations of the world order toward the divine imagination of God.

It is not always (more than likely rarely, though at times it surely is) evil intention that is the seed that grows to oppose God's invocation to take delight in merciful justice and breathe the spirit of righteousness. We clash, as John the Baptizer clashed (how often?), with heaven's hopes and blessings for all that God created in goodness, even as we are unmindful of our own dissent.

It is for us, in our moments and ways of objecting, that God—ever mindful of us—parts heaven's clouds, that we might see and hear the way of God's beloved Son.

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Wendy S. Farone

Assisting Minister: Daisy Shields

Lector: Kathy Morgan

Organist: Drew Pogyor

Altar Care: Loran Bohman

Altar Flowers: are given to the glory of God.

The Sanctuary Light: is given to the glory of God.

The Columbarium Light: is given to the glory of God.

Hymns for Sunday

Entrance Hymn **ELW 303 Brightest and Best of the Stars**

Hymn of the day **ELW 450 I Bind Myself Today**

Communion Hymns **ELW 311 Hail to the Lord's Anointed**
ELW 302 As with Gladness Men of Old

Sending Hymn **ELW 459 Wade in the Water**

Communion- If you need assistance or are unable to come to the communion rail, stay in your pew, and the Pastor will come to you. If you are unable to receive either the consecrated bread or wine, receiving either one is a complete and valid reception.

Membership- There are many ways to be connected with our congregation. Everyone is welcome to participate in any congregation activities, and anyone baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is welcome to Holy Communion. We welcome your membership request.

January 4, 2026 Attendance: 26

Bible Study Attendance: 16

Offerings:

Weekly Need: \$3,300.00

January 4, 2026: \$2,118.00

Faith Announcements:

New Gratitude List located on the bulletin board in the narthex! Pick up a pen and jot down anything that you're feeling grateful for.

We are grateful to Rich Willard for his donation of a projector for our use!

We are looking for a used, wooden dining room table with several chairs, in good condition, to create an extra meeting space within the lounge area. Please contact the office or Pastor Wendy if you have one.

Nominating Committee for New Council Members

The following Nominating Committee, chosen at last year's Annual Meeting, will present names for new council members: **Kristen Byzek, Margie Miller, Kristi Howard, and Joyce Thomas**. If you are interested in serving on the council, please contact Pastor Wendy or the Nominating Committee.

Annual Meeting Date: March 1, 2026, after worship.

Pastor's Podcast- New episode!

Understanding Church: Chatting with Bishop Melissa Stoller

<https://www.belc.org/podcast/> or wherever you listen to podcasts.

Welcome, Visitors and Guests,

We are glad you are here! We welcome you to participate fully in worship and to engage in all church activities. If you are considering joining as a member or have any questions, please get in touch with Pastor Wendy Farone at (412) 443-9122 (c), the Church Office at (412) 673-2296, or email flcpastorwendy@gmail.com. We look forward to speaking with you soon.

Everyone needs a church home and family. We hope to be yours!

Pastor Wendy

Council Meeting: January 15, 2026, at 12:30 pm

Bible Storytelling Updates!

On January 13th at 10:30 am, we will begin our study of Hebrews Chapter 10.

Prayer List January - March 2026

Nikki Amhurst
Katie Bachinger
Becky Ball
Jean Bickerstaff
Jean Bodenlos
Barry D
Kara Eaton
Rose Gombas
Heather Grantz
Bill Grimm
Jerry Groves
Eric Harshman
Renee K
Ken K
Ellio Keiser
Nancy Kimling
Bill Kimling

Teresa M
Berty McMillen
Georgina McMarlin
Marlene Newman
Helen Pula
Corey Rhodes
Tracy Scott
Sandy Seitz
Maxine Smith
Steven T
Theresa Zell
Nick
Filapose Family
Quinn Family

*Please email flwhiteoak@gmail.com for any additions or removals from this list.

Synod Weekly Announcements: Further Info at swpasynod.org

Installation of Pastor Terri Luper Church

Sunday, January 11: 3PM

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

3104 West Liberty Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 1521

Your prayers and presence are requested as Pastor Terri Luper Church is installed as pastor of Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries. Ministers are invited to vest and process; the color of the day is white. Refreshments to follow, RSVP to bethany-dormont@verizon.net.

Community Announcements

White Oak Senior Activities

Yoga Class-Mondays and Wednesdays-11 am to 12 pm

Gentle Exercise-Tuesdays 1/15, 1/20 & 1/27- 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Coffee Hour-Thursdays 1/15 & 1/29- 9:30 am to 11 am

Cardio Drumming- Tuesdays 1/20 & 1/27- 1 pm to 2 pm (**No Walk-ins**)

Monthly Meeting- Dr. Max Kisan- Wellness for Seniors-Wednesday 1/14- 1 pm to 3 pm

Upcoming Commemorations

Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968

Thursday, January 15, 2026

An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, died around 356

Saturday, January 17, 2026

One of the earliest of the Egyptian desert fathers, Antony gave away his sizeable inheritance and became a hermit. Later he became leader of a group of monks who devoted themselves to prayer, worship, and labor.

Pachomius, renewer of the church, died 346

Saturday, January 17, 2026

Born in Egypt, Pachomius became a Christian while a soldier. He became a hermit (a solitary monk) and organized others into a religious community. His rule for monasteries influenced later ones in both the Eastern and Western churches.