



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

WHITE OAK,
PENNSYLVANIA

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 8, 2026

One in a Thousand



Gathering water from the well is something the Samaritan woman did regularly, habitually even, drawing water up in a bucket hundreds, maybe thousands of times over the course of her life. But this time, this one in a thousand times, is different. While she is busy doing the mundane work of life, she is suddenly confronted by the Messiah—there in the flesh, asking her for a drink of water!

These forty days of Lent interrupt our regular routine and our habits, confronting us with the presence of God in Christ on his journey to the cross and, ultimately, the resurrection. This interruption of our own daily work calls us to see this Jesus who reaches out to us, promising “a spring of water gushing up to eternal life” (John 4:14). Through fasting, almsgiving, and prayer, we embrace interruptions in the regular patterns of our lives, sparking curiosity about where and how God is at work in our world, and where we are being called.

This text also shows us that Jesus may be present in unexpected ways in the faces of unexpected people. We may expect to hear the gospel from our pastor, synod bishop, or other church members. But do we have ears to hear the gospel proclaimed in the voice and experience of our neighbors—especially among neighbors too often pushed to the margins of our communities? Are we ready to encounter the signs of the gospel bubbling up outside the walls of our churches?

And like the Samaritan woman, are we ready for that one in a thousand times when the gospel feels so near and so powerful that all we can do is go out and tell everyone we know about this living water? May this Lent interrupt our habits, draw our attention to the unexpected, and send us out to proclaim the love of God to all our neighbors!

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Wendy S. Farone

Assisting Minister: Loran Bohman

Lector: Denise Price

Organist: Drew Pogyor

Altar Care: Loran Bohman

The Sanctuary Light: is given to the glory of God the Cottle Family in memory of Frances E. Sayers and Penny S. Morgan.

The Columbarium Light: is given to the glory of God the Cottle Family in memory of Frances E. Sayers and Penny S. Morgan.

Hymns for Sunday

Entrance Hymn **ELW 777 Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty**

Hymn of the day **ELW 332 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say**

Communion Hymns **ELW 447 O Blessed Spring**
ELW 480 O Bread of Life from Heaven

Sending Hymn **ELW 618 Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer**

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.

March 1, 2026 Attendance: 37

Bible Study Attendance: 17

Offerings:

Weekly Need: \$3,300.00

March 1, 2026: \$5,710.00

Installation of Leaders in the Congregation

The assembly is seated. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

P: The following people have been elected [by the congregation] to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

A representative of the congregation reads the offices and names of those who are to be installed.

Lay Assistant: We, the congregation of Faith Lutheran, have voted to install the following as members of our **Congregational Council: Judy Haliko, Bob Bodenlos, Katrina Syske, Joyce Thomas, and Daisy Shields.**

The presiding minister continues.

P: A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

P: You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

P: You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your council duties, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

The presiding minister addresses those being installed. Council Members face forward toward the altar and the pastor.

P: On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the office of Church Council

to which you have been elected?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your elected leaders,

and will you share in the mutual ministry

that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

Congregation: We will, and we ask God to help us.

Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.

I now declare you installed as council members of this congregation.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace,

that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

Amen.

The service continues with the prayers of intercession. Prayers are included for the newly installed leaders. After the greeting of peace, the newly installed leaders return to their places.

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Faith Announcements:

Today, we will be installing the new council members! Congratulations to the new additions! A meet and greet coffee hour will follow.

Considering Membership at Faith Lutheran?

We're grateful you've been worshiping with us, and we'd love to walk with you as you explore becoming part of our Faith Lutheran family. Membership is a way of rooting yourself in a community of prayer, service, and shared discipleship. It's also a chance to learn more about our Lutheran tradition, our mission in White Oak, and the many ways you can use your given gifts to serve God and neighbor.

If you're interested in learning more, Pastor Wendy will be hosting a brief conversation for prospective members in the coming weeks. This is an informal time to ask questions, hear about next steps, and get to know others who are discerning the same call to membership. **INSTALLATION OF NEW MEMBERS** will take place during the Worship Service on April 26, 2026, followed by a Reception of Welcome.

To express interest or ask questions, please speak with Pastor Wendy or contact the church office. We look forward to welcoming you more deeply into the life we share in Christ.

Please join us for Wednesday Night Soup Supper every Wednesday evening from 5:30-6:30! Then from 6:30-7:00 pm, there will be Pastor's Series: Lectio Divina (Divine Reading): Cultivating a deeper connection with God through scripture. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex each week for 2 to 3 people to bring the soup and dessert of their choice.

Lenten Project for 2026 will be Bucks for Backpacks! Mission Agape has taken on a backpack program, providing weekend backpacks of food for children within the McKeesport School District. The cost to provide backpacks is \$5 a weekend or \$20 a month. Currently, there are 100 children on this list, which means \$2,000 a month is needed for the backpacks. Requests have been made to Mission Agape to double the number of children, which means \$4,000 a month to cover the costs of the backpacks. Mission Agape plans to work with local legislators to gain support. But we at Faith can help too!

Field trip to Mission Agape has been scheduled! Be at church by 1:45 pm on Friday, March 13th, to carpool to Mission Agape for 2 pm. Their food distribution takes place in the sanctuary of the church (all the pews

have been removed). They may have people go downstairs to their fellowship hall area. The parking lot is NOT flat, and they may have folks park in a certain place to accommodate those coming for the food distribution.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 21st, and April 18th from 4-7 pm. \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Dinner comes with spaghetti and meatballs, bread, salad, dessert, and a drink. Dine in and take out available. Take-out will not include a drink. Sign-ups for spaghetti dinners will be posted. Set up, bake sale, servers, kitchen help, kitchen prep, and clean up are all needed to make spaghetti dinners a success.

New members installation on April 26th. There will be a coffee hour afterward to welcome and get to know the new members!

Pastor's Podcast- New episode!

Understanding Church: Using the Gifts that God Gave You

<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: March 19, 2026, at 12:30 pm.

Bible Study Updates!

On March 10th at 10:00 am, we will be watching a movie! Please bring snacks and drinks to share. The movie will be 2 hours long.

Synod Announcements: (further information at swpasynod.org)

Chrism Mass

Tuesday, March 31: 10 AM

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (328 6th St, Pittsburgh, PA, 15222)

Renewal of vows and blessing of oils will take place at this combined observance of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh and our synod. Bishop Melissa Stoller is preaching, and Bishop Ketlen A. Solak is presiding. Ministers are invited to vest (red/scarlet) and process. A clergy luncheon will follow the liturgy; a \$10 donation to cover the cost of the lunch is appreciated.

Lutheran Disaster Response Trip

May 3-9, 2026

Camp Lutheridge: Asheville, NC

Our Synod's Lutheran Disaster Response Team will be traveling for a second time for a week of mission work to help restore and rebuild communities across Western North Carolina affected by Hurricane Helene. This trip is open to adults (18 and over), all experience levels welcome! Cost will be \$200 per person; a deposit of \$100 will be collected at registration to secure your registration. Pastor Roger Steiner is coordinating our registration process and can be reached at 412-913-9391 for questions. **Register by February 28th.**

Save the Date:

SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2026

Friday, June 12 & Saturday, June 13

In-Person at PennWest California

(Registration Opens March 15)

ELCA Young Adult Gathering Leadership Team

June 26 - July 2, 2027, in Minneapolis

Applications for the 2027 Young Adult Gathering Leadership Team is now open for ages 18-35. Open positions include Program Lead, Worship & Community Life Lead, and Small Group Lead, as well as several positions for the Communications Team and Music Team.

Synod Youth Mission Trip

July 5-8: Johnstown, PA

Open to youth who have completed grades 6-12, with an opportunity for rising juniors and seniors to serve as Disciple Leaders. Our team will also meet up with the Nebraska Synod youth. More information is coming soon.

Community Announcements: All activities held at the White Oak Community Center, 1798 Lower Heckman Rd

Yoga Class: Mondays & Wednesdays at 11:00 am

Cardio Drumming: Tuesday the 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, & 31st at 1:00 pm

Gentle Exercising: Tuesday the 3rd & 10th at 2:30 pm

Coffee Hour: Thursday the 12th & 26th at 9:30 am

Monthly Meeting: Wednesday the 11th at 1:00 pm-guest speaker, Alyssa from Synergy Energy

Prayer List January - March 2026

All Military & Families

Nikki Amhurst

Katie Bachinger

Becky Ball

Beth Brucker

Jean Bickerstaff

Jean Bodenlos

Don Cain

Barry D

Brad D

Kara Eaton

Rose Gombas

Bill Grimm

Jerry Groves

Eric Harshman

Rhoda Jones

Renee K

Ken K

Ellio Keiser

Nancy Kimling

Bill Kimling

Tom Lauffenburger

Berty McMillen

Georgina McMarlin

Charlie Morgan

Marlene Newman

Hanna Pitchford

Helen Pula

Chris Ragsdale

Corey Rhodes

Tracy Scott

Sandy Seitz

Maxine Smith

Steven T

Joanne Tomco

Patty Warnick

Linda Weese

Theresa Zell

Jim Zink

Nick

Trapletti Family

Quinn Family

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

Upcoming Commemorations

Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.