

Faith Lutheran Church  
1187 C.R. 128  
Fremont, OH 43420-9797

**DECEMBER**  
**2024**

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## 2024 Church Council

**President:** Niki Wasserman      **Vice-President:** Dave Kocsis

**Secretary:** Annie Gazdecki      **Treasurer:** Cheryl Durnwald

**Elders:** Becky Fox, Carol Trick

**Trustee:** A.J. Green

**Deacon:** Dave Ring

**Endowment:** Phil Trick, Randy Koch, Larry Leow, Debra Clark,  
Mike Schneider, Dave Kocsis, Pastor Tim Miller

# The Messenger

*Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
www.faithfremont.org



DECEMBER 2024

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## From the Pastor's Desk...

Greetings children of God.

We have begun my favorite time of the year, the holiday season and Christmas. I have many fond memories of this time of year: cutting snowflakes out of paper and taping them to our living room windows, baking and decorating cookies with my mom, walking miles with my dad through snow that was knee deep or more (at least it seemed like miles), looking for that perfect Christmas tree, decorating our tree, and finally, barely sleeping on Christmas Eve as the anticipation of Christmas morning was palpable.

As I grew older, I began to develop a better understanding of Christmas and the “reason for the season” if you will, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And like many, I still get caught up in focusing on the manger, and the baby born there, especially when singing Christmas carols, like Away in a Manger, Silent Night, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Good Christian Friends Rejoice, etc. And that’s ok. There’s nothing wrong with celebrating the birth of Jesus, because without that happening, we have no hope for our future as our salvation is left in our hands, and that’s not good news for us.

So, in the hustle and bustle of preparing for Christmas parties and Christmas Day, in the chaos of shopping, decorating, cooking, and baking, in the nostalgic moments remembered because of things shared, seen, heard, smelled, or tasted, we need to intentionally take some time to look beyond the manger, to look past the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, and look with the same anticipation towards Jesus’ second coming. In this time of bright lights and shiny decorations, we need to look to the cross and remember the empty tomb. We need to remember during these complex and challenging times, in the only one in whom our hope is found, Jesus Christ.

Jeremiah 33:14 says, “*The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.*” Those days have come. The hope God promised came to the manger in Bethlehem, but that hope was sealed on Golgotha’s cross. During this Christmas season, celebrate the birth of Christ, relish in it, enjoy every moment with family and friends, but remember, our hope doesn’t stop at the manger, that’s only where it began. Because of the cross and our baptism into Jesus’ death and resurrection, our salvation is in his hands, and for us and all, that’s good news. May God bless you and yours this Christmas.

Peace,  
Pastor Tim

**CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – NOVEMBER 18, 2024**



- TruGreen contract renewed and boiler work complete.
- Choir room and contents have been treated for mold and new lighting and air purifier will be installed soon.
- December council meeting will include newly elected members to enjoy food, fellowship and passing position binders

**AIR CONDITIONING FUND** – The Air Conditioning Fund is being closed. Please direct your funds to another of our needed areas. Thank you.

**FUNDS YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO ON THE “SPECIAL” LINE OF YOUR OFFERING ENVELOPES:**

- |   |                      |                        |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|
| Food Pantry                               | Habitat for Humanity | Prayer Shawl Ministry  |
| Share ‘N Care                             | Initial              | Pastor’s Helping Hand  |
| Memorials                                 | Liberty Center       | Tanzania Scholarships  |
| Faith Youth                               | Sunday School        | Music Enhancement Fund |
| Endowment                                 | Community Outreach   | Thanksgiving Offering  |
| Card Ministry                             | New Housing Ohio     | Ash Wednesday          |
| Sound System                              | Christmas Offerings  | Lenten                 |
| Christ Care                               | Maundy Thursday      | Faith Fellowship Club  |
| FLCW Fellowship & Service (sewing ladies) |                      |                        |
| Handicap Accessibility Updates            |                      |                        |

**ANNUAL REPORTS DEADLINE** – In order to put the Annual Report into your hands a week earlier than the January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, the deadline to have all committee reports submitted to the office is January 5, 2025. Please plan accordingly. Thank you.



**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** – Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at the 8 a.m. service.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:** There will be a 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with Holy Communion. Offerings from these services and Thanksgiving offerings will go to ELCA – Good Gifts. Please invite your family, friends and guests as we celebrate our Savior’s birth.

**DECEMBER 29, 2024:** There will only be a 9 a.m. service this day with celebration of Holy Communion and Sunday School to follow.

**2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available in the narthex. If you have not picked yours up yet, please do so.

**CHURCH TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES AND THE F.L.C.W. PROGRAM BOOKLETS** for 2025 are available in the narthex for you as well.

**REMINDER...** *When Sandusky County is under a Level 3 Snow Advisory the church will be closed. This includes Sunday services as well as all weekday events, meetings and activities for that day. If we are under a level 1 or 2 snow emergency, the church will be open and if it's on a day of worship, we will have worship.*



**THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS** will begin studying the season of Advent on December 1<sup>st</sup>. All kids grades 9 – 12 are welcome. We meet in Room 8 on Sundays, and start around 9:30 a.m., giving you plenty of time to have some breakfast!.

**TERRA COMMUNITY CHOIR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT:**

Faith Lutheran Church Women’s Group are honored and blessed to Welcome back the Terra Choral Choir on **Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.** **All are welcome** to come and enjoy beautiful voices as well as light refreshments to prepare us for the upcoming Christmas Season. The women would welcome your help in providing cookies and brownies for this event. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

**GIBSONBURG AREA CHURCHES PRESENT THE 2024 DRIVE-THRU**

**NATIVITY** – Come view this FREE presentation of the Biblical Christmas Story as it “*comes to life*” in 9 scenes portrayed by individuals from the community. Drive past slowly in the **safety and comfort of your own vehicle** to view each scene as you listen to a recording from the Gospels of Matthew, Luke and John reminding us of the Good News that Jesus was born for everyone! (Narration is available in a **sanitized** cassette, CD or flash drive to accommodate all vehicles.) Dates are **Saturday and Sunday, December 7 and 8 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** Location is the Parking lot at Zion Lutheran Church, 500 S. Brentwood Ave., Gibsonburg, Ohio.



**TASTE OF THE SEASON DINNER AND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

featuring the music of the Fremont Ross Choir along with other seasonal musical talents will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 204 N. Wayne Street, Fremont on **Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**. Concert begins at 7:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public (a good-will offering is taken and donated). Dinner begins at 5:30 pm and will feature: Appetizers, Homemade Soup, Veal Cutlet Parmesan, Baked Pasta, Vegetable, Cheesecake Toll-house Dessert, and Beverage. Dinner tickets are \$16.00 and you may call Terri at 419-332-8167 for dinner reservations/tickets. Deadline for reservations is December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.



SUNDAY AFTERNOON  
1-4 pm

**DEC**

**15<sup>th</sup>**

**2024**

You drive past them and wonder, now come and see.  
More info at [LIFTCHURCHES.ORG](http://LIFTCHURCHES.ORG)





# BREAKFAST IN BETHLEHEM

**DEC. 7**  
**9-11 AM**

Sharing the story of long ago with our children today, we explore through the nativity story with games, crafts, biblical costumes and breakfast.

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**212 N. Clover St.**

Please bring a canned food item that will be donated locally. For more information contact [HeatherRHawn@gmail.com](mailto:HeatherRHawn@gmail.com)

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*The Toledo Symphony presents*

# A Community Christmas Concert

Friday, December 6, 2024 at 7PM  
at Grace Lutheran Church



Purchase Tickets at Grace Lutheran Church Office  
*(Office is located on Clover Street)*

Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm; Friday 9am-1pm

Adults \$10; Seniors (65 & Over) \$8; Students (18 & Under) \$5  
~ Cash or Check Only ~



## ALTAR GUILD:

A BIG Thank You to Bonnie Overmyer and Debra Fahle for giving special care to the Altar for the month of November. Your service is greatly appreciated.

December Altar Attendants are Annie, Allison and Lauren Gazdecki.

Altar Guild is looking for a couple people (men/women/teens) to prepare and straighten up the Altar for Sunday mornings. This is a wonderful spiritual one month commitment approximately an hour and half each week. Our group would enjoy having YOU join our great group. Contact Ginger at 567 201 3469

*Ginger Walker - Altar Guild Chair*

## HERE ARE THE GUIDING STATEMENTS for Faith Lutheran Church.



### Core Values –

F aithful fellowship  
A ffirming worship  
I ntentional service  
T ransformative growth  
H onoring tradition

Mission Statement – Equip all to become God’s agents of change in the world.

Vision Statement – A community freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Tagline – Gather, Grow and Go

Narrative Paragraph – At Faith Lutheran Church, we honor tradition by immersing people into faithful fellowship, affirming worship, intentional service, and transformative growth, to equip all to become God’s agents of change in the world, so all may gather, grow and go, creating a community freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

CHECK IN AT FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH! Faith has WiFi for everyone to use – find Faith (guest) and the password is: welcometofaith  
Be sure to like the Facebook **Faith Lutheran Church - Fremont, Ohio** page and keep up to date with all of the latest happenings.



### FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE SEW DAY

Come out and join the fun. We meet the first and third Thursdays of the month and begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. but come and leave whenever you wish. We work on quilts, health kits and sewing kits. Greeting cards are made and are available for purchase in the Lounge for a donation. Come join the fun!



### PRAYER CHAIN IS AVAILABLE FOR YOU!

Please remember that we have a working prayer chain ready and waiting to pray for you or your loved ones in whatever way you would like. Our prayer warriors will lift you up in prayer to receive God's Blessings. To request prayer or to be a prayer warrior, please contact Barb Kocsis at 567-219-2603 or e-mail her at dbkocsis@gmail.com. Thanks.



REQUESTS  
— FOR —  
PRAYER

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please contact the Church Office to include or continue an individual prayer request. Each prayer request will remain in the bulletin for 4 Sundays. At that time, you may contact the Office to continue. Thank you for your assistance.



### NOISY OFFERING UPDATE –

***“Change for Change”*** The Noisy Offering collected on November 17th, was \$157.48. The Noisy Offering is given so Children from our Companion Parish of Bumila Lutheran Church have the opportunity to attend school in the Mpwapwa Region. Thank you for your support of the children of our sister congregation in Bumila, Tanzania.

## FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN NEWS

FAITH WOMEN'S GROUP are excited for their upcoming program on Tues, Dec 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Trinity Lutheran Church and School from Toledo has a special program that interacts at various settings such as hospitals, nursing homes, and schools to name a few. Nancy is the special handler of two golden retrievers, Claudia and Lorenzo, who have had special training to be comfort dogs. ALL are welcome to come and hear how this program came about and enjoy the love from two beautiful dogs. The women will meet in the lounge at 6:30 p.m. for their December General Meeting prior to the program. Please join us.

The next FLCW Board meeting will be February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 at 7 p.m.



IF MY PEOPLE – As our prayer group gathers we have our conversations with God, praising him, offering thanks for all he is and all he does and putting our cares and concerns before Him. One of those concerns is this country of ours and the cares of the entire world. We ask that you join us in a 40 day prayer journey for our leaders and the future of our country, using the ‘If My People’ devotional.

“If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

(2 Chronicles 7:14)

These devotionals will be distributed on Sunday mornings at worship and will be available on the shelf in the narthex. We hope that you will pray with us as we continue our faith journey. Blessings to you.



**THANK YOU** - We'd like to thank everyone who donated clothing, blankets, cash and other items this last month to help the people of North Carolina. We loaded over 40 boxes and bags on the 21 ft. trailer our son Dan pulled behind his 3/4T pickup down and back. The 17 men and women from Journey Church spent most of their time digging mud out of basements and garages and cutting up trees and hauling them out of people's yards.

I would like to thank the Sew Ladies for their extra day of work so we could send 24 quilts down. Also thank you to Deb Fahle and Kim Smith for helping sort and box up the donations and to everyone for their prayers for a safe journey. I'm sure the memories from this experience will be with them for a long time. Dan said the pictures don't do justice to the reality of it all.

Teri & Larry Hinline

**PRAYER SISTERS FOR 2025** – You have the opportunity to be matched up with a prayer sister for 2025. Prayer sisters keep in touch with each other throughout the year. This can mean meeting for lunch or dinner, sending greeting cards, praying for each other regularly and anything else fun that you can think of to do together. **It really is quite rewarding!** If you would like to have a prayer sister please let Barb Kocsis know (567-219-2603). Thank you.



## THE INCARNATION

At the center of Christmas is Jesus, both fully God and fully man. “In Bethlehem, humility and glory in their extremes were joined,” wrote pastor R.G. Lee (1886-1978). When Jesus came to earth, Lee explained, he descended:

- from the heights of glory to the depths of shame,
- from the wonders of heaven to the wickedness of earth,
- from exaltation to humiliation,
- from the throne to the tree,
- from dignity to debasement,
- from worship to wrath,
- from the halls of heaven to the nails of earth,
- from the coronation to the curse,
- from the glory place to the gory place!

“Born in a stable! Cradled in a cattle trough! Wrapped in swaddling clothes of poverty!” Lee wrote. “No room for him who made all rooms! [No] place for him who made and knows all places! Oh, deep humiliation of the Creator — born of the creature, woman! But in his descent was the dawn of mercy. Because we cannot ascend to him, he descends to us.”



### A GLORIOUS HOPE

Let us today go down to Bethlehem, and in company with wondering shepherds and adoring Magi, let us see him who was born King of the Jews, for we by faith can claim an interest in him, and can sing, “*Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.*” Jesus is Jehovah incarnate, our Lord and our God, and yet our brother and friend; let us adore and admire. ...

Let us reverently bow before the holy Child whose innocence restores to [humankind] its ancient glory; and let us pray that he may be formed in us, the hope of glory.

—C.H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening*



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS - 2024

- 2-Dale Copley
- 3-Kathleen McClain
- 6-Dean Schneider
- 7-Connie Longanbach, Ruth Ann Seibert
- 8-Sandra Reed
- 10-Linda Stine
- 12-Jeff Buhrman
- 13-Nancy Krumnow
- 15-Debra DeMars, Gary Cooper, Rebecca Sterling
- 16-Miranda Garlock
- 18-Jackson Fought, Yvonne Vogel
- 19-Macie Riehl
- 25-Millie Fetterman
- 27-Thomas Miarer
- 29-Larry Leow



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Dec. 3, 1994	Rhonda & William Taylor	30 years
Dec. 12, 2015	Susan & Brandon Barker	9 years
Dec. 23, 1988	Luis & Sharon Peña	36 years



# Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

1187 CR 128 Fremont, OH 43420

Please call the church office if you need  
Pastoral Care.

Church Office: 419-332-6820

Pastor Tim Miller

E-mail: [pastortim.L.miller@gmail.com](mailto:pastortim.L.miller@gmail.com)

Church E-mail: [faithchurch@amplex.net](mailto:faithchurch@amplex.net)

Website: [www.faithfremont.org](http://www.faithfremont.org)

Facebook: Faith Lutheran Church-Fremont, Ohio

## Office Hours:

Pastor's schedule – Monday thru Thursday

Secretary's schedule – Tuesday thru Thursday

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



Worship 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

Holy Communion Celebrated: Every Sunday

Newsletter Articles Due: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month

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### Core Values –

F aithful fellowship

A ffirming worship

I ntentional service

T ransformative growth

H onoring tradition