



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

1187 C.R. 128 & U.S. Rt. 20

Fremont, Ohio 43420

Pastor Tim Miller

93.1FM

Church: 419-332-6820

faithchurch@amplex.net

www.faithfremont.org

18th Sunday after Pentecost

October 12, 2025

Setting 8 & 3 with Holy Communion

*Congregation please stand as you are able.

Introduction

It's a miracle! Multiple miracles! The waters of holy baptism have healed us. The body and blood of Jesus in holy communion have made us clean. We have died with Christ and been raised with him. For all this we have returned to offer thanks. From this place we are sent on our way rejoicing to share the good news.

(8:00) Prelude: *Wonderful, Merciful Savior* **D. Rodgers and E. Wyse**

(10:30) Prelude: *All the Heavens Tell God's Glory* **John Barr**

Welcome & Announcements: Joys and Concerns

Signing of the Pew Register by all present.

***(8:00) Gathering Song:** *Give Thanks* **TBOB 65**

Give thanks with a grateful heart.

Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

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Give thanks.

***(10:30) Gathering Song:** *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*

ELW 864

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C: **Amen.**

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Merciful and loving God,

C: **we are your stiff-necked people.**

We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others.

We turn away from the poor.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.**

Amen.

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.

In the name of ✚ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C: **Amen.**

***Kyrie**

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

P: For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain.*

- P: That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain.*
- P: For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain.*
- P. For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain.*

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty and most merciful God, your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading:

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

Naaman, a Syrian general, suffers from leprosy. In this passage Elisha miraculously cures his illness, but only after Naaman realizes, with the help of his servants, that he also needs healing for his pride. This foreign general then acknowledges the sovereignty of the God of Israel.

R: A reading from 2 Kings, the fifth chapter.

¹ Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from a skin disease. ² Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his skin disease."

⁷ When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his skin disease? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

⁸ But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, “Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.” ⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha’s house. ¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.” ¹¹ But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, “I thought that for me he would surely come out and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God and would wave his hand over the spot and cure the skin disease! ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³ But his servants approached and said to him, “Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, ‘Wash, and be clean?’” ¹⁴ So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

^{15a, b, c} Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.”

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 111

¹ Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

² **Great are your works, O LORD,
pondered by all who delight in them.**

³ Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴ **You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵ You give food to those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.

⁶ **You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷ The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

- ⁸ **They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**
- ⁹ You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.
- ¹⁰ **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise
endures forever.**

Second Reading:

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Though Paul is chained as a prisoner, the word of God is never shackled or confined. Timothy is encouraged to proclaim that word of freedom in an honest and upright life as well as in his teaching and preaching.

R: A reading from 2 Timothy, the second chapter.

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, ⁹ for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹ The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

he cannot deny himself.

¹⁴ Remind them of this, and warn them before the Lord that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***Gospel**

Luke 17:11-19

Jesus' mission includes making people clean again. Unexpectedly, a Samaritan healed of leprosy becomes a model for those who would praise and worship God and give thanks for God's mercy.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 17th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: ¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³ they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine?" ¹⁸ Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Sermon

***Sermon Hymn:** *We Come to You for Healing, Lord* **ELW 617**

*Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Prayers of Intercession

R: Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

R: Gracious God, you lead your people to faith. Remind the church that your word flows into the world. By your Spirit, teach the church to share the word of God for the sake of the world. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Creating God, you provided cleansing and healing waters for Naaman. Water the earth's lands in parched places. Restore clean water to all communities, and guide the work of all who advocate for safe and abundant water supplies. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Righteous One, you bring justice and wholeness throughout the world, and your righteousness endures forever. By your spirit, guide leaders of all nations and lands to right relationship with you and with one another. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Merciful God, you know the needs of your people. Show mercy to those suffering in the world. Comfort those in need of your healing, *especially those we name at this time (Pause for 10 seconds for people to be named)*. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Life-giving God, you free us by your word. Help us, by your Spirit, to be transformed to live your word of freedom honestly and uprightly in our teaching, preaching, and serving. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Holy God, thank you for the witness of those who have died in faith. Guide us to trust in the baptismal promise of resurrection in Christ. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

R: We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(10:30) Sr. Choir:

O God, My Faithful God

D. Paxton

***Offertory:**

We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise

TBOB 234

We bring the sacrifice of praise, into the house of the Lord.

We bring the sacrifice of praise, into the house of the Lord.

And we offer up to You, the sacrifices of thanksgiving;

And we offer up to You, the sacrifices of joy.

***Offering Prayer**

P: Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

***The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us
the way of everlasting life.

***Thanksgiving at the Table**

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

- P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
- P: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
- P: Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.
- P: Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
- C: Amen.**

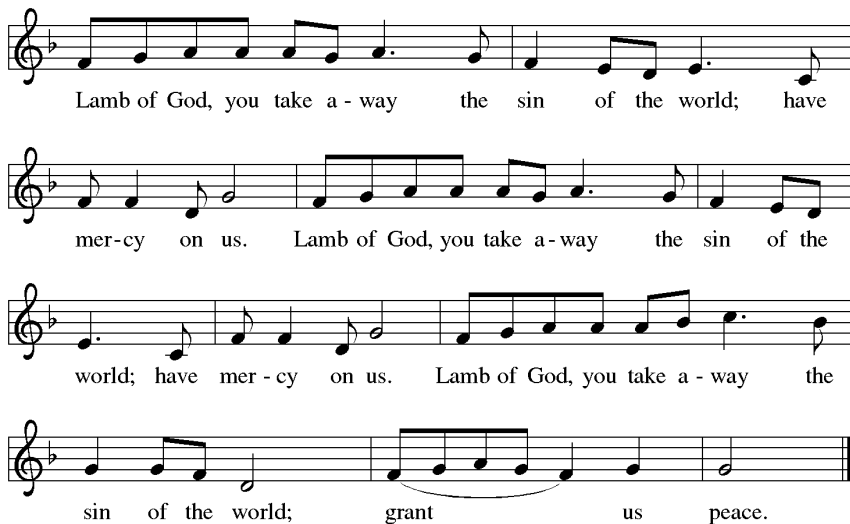
***Lord's Prayer**

- P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
- C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

***Invitation to Communion**

- P: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

Lamb of God



Distribution of Communion

Communion will be continuous. The ushers will invite you to come forward by the center aisle. You will be handed the bread with the words, "The Body of Christ given for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!". Step to the Communion Assistant and take the cup. They will speak the words, "The Blood of Christ shed for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!" Empty cups may be placed in the basket as you return to your seat by the side aisle.

If you prefer gluten- free bread, please let the Pastor know. If you prefer grape juice, please let the Communion Assistant know. If you prefer not to receive or have children who have not yet received, please let the Pastor know and he will offer a blessing.

(8:00) Praise Choir:

Evidence of Grace

Gwyn Williams

(10:30) Communion Hymns:

ELW 863 *My God, How Wonderful Thou Art*

ELW 620 *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*

***Post Communion Blessing**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

***Prayer After Communion**

P: O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions
with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Blessing**

P: The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

***(8:00) Sending Song:**

Be Not Afraid

1. You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety, though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign lands and all will
understand.
You shall see the face of God and live.

Chorus: Be not afraid. I go before you always.
Come follow me, and I will give you rest.

2. If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the pow'r of hell and death is at your side,
know that I am with you through it all. **Chorus**
3. Blessed are your poor for the Kingdom shall be theirs.
Blest are you that weep and mourn, for one day you shall laugh.
And if wicked tongues insult and hate you all because of me,
blessed, blessed are you. **Chorus**

***(10:30) Sending Song:** *Now Thank We All Our God* **ELW 840**

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

***(8:00) Postlude:** *Be Not Afraid*

***(10:30) Postlude:** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* **John Barr**

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WELCOME! Today we give thanks to God for our pastor—whom He has given us “according to His heart” (Jeremiah 3:15, KJV), to lead, teach and care for His people with faith and love. May this time of worship bless him, even as he continues to bless us.

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given in honor of our 48th Wedding Anniversary by Dave & Marilyn Ring.

OUR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING to vote for council and endowment committee members and to approve the spending plan for 2026 is going to be on **Sunday, October 19 at 9:15 a.m.** in the fellowship hall in between services. Please plan to attend.

THE NORTHWESTERN OHIO SYNOD ANNUAL FUND is a way for us to live out our shared mission. Together, we are “*Sent by the crucified and risen Jesus to make disciples, equip leaders, strengthen parishes, and nurture new communities, for the renewal of Northwestern Ohio and the world*”. Each gift to the **Annual Fund** is dedicated to local mission and ministry and remains right here in Northwestern Ohio, providing resources to strengthen parishes and equip new leaders. Please prayerfully consider joining Bishop Daniel, the Synod Staff, Synod Council, and Conference Deans in supporting this important work. Please give today through this link: <https://nwos-elca.church> or by mailing a check to: **Northwestern Ohio Synod, 1701 Tiffin Ave, Findlay, OH 45840.**

WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH of our **Faith Lutheran Church Projects Capital Campaign**, a bold step toward protecting our facility with a new roof for the next 25+ years, transforming our fellowship entry way into a more accessible and welcoming one, and revamping our sanctuary sound system to enhance and improve our worship experience.

And here's the exciting part, a generous donor believes in this mission so strongly that they're willing to match the first \$20,000 raised! That means your support right now will go twice as far. Our initial goal is to raise \$20,000 by the end of 2025, and when we reach that goal, because of our generous donor, we'll have raised \$40,000!

To contribute to this, simply note on your offering or gift that it is for the **Faith Lutheran Projects Campaign**.



CANTATA TIME!!! The Senior Choir is inviting all interested persons to join in singing Celebrate the Child Who Is the Light, a Christmas musical created and arranged by Tom Fettke, which combines well-known carols and narration of the Nativity with contemporary songs filled with seasonal praises. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, October 15th, from 8:05-9:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. A few Saturday morning rehearsals may be scheduled closer to the performance date. We will perform on Dec. 21st at the 10:30 a.m. service. Please contact Darla Brown at 419.680.6717 if you have any questions and would like more information.

ROCKY RIDGE FALL SOCIAL GATHERING – ALL ARE WELCOME!

Location: Vacant lot corner of Third & Rocky Ridge Road

Date & Time: **Sunday, Oct. 26th**, from 5-6 p.m.

Food: FREE hot dogs, chips, donuts & cider

As well as free raffles!

Bring a lawn chair.

Hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church of Rocky Ridge

Event made possible by a grant through a generous donation from the Stewardship of Life Institute; with co-sponsors of Kindling Faith at ULS and the ELCA Churchwide Office.



FLC Women's Thank Offering Sunday will be **November 9th, 2025**.

We welcome Cheryl Paeth to share the message and a representative will be here from Flag City Honor Flight to receive our proceeds from the Souper Soup Cookoff and Silent Auction. We will also recognize our Veterans at this Service. Please pick up your Thank Offering envelopes in the Narthex.

YOU'RE INVITED TO A LUTHERANS & PASTORAL CARE GATHERING

sponsored by the Portage Valley Federation of Lutheran Men (PVFLM) on Saturday, **November 1, 2025**. Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. and PVFLM History by Victor Schuerman at 10:00 a.m. at Luther Home of Mercy's Emmanuel Lutheran Center, 3557 U.S. Rte. 20, Lindsey, OH 43442. RSVP by Friday, 10-24 to 419-836-7741.

PRAYING DAILY



For healing and hope: Joan Bolen, Patty Carrigan, Mary Ann Diekman, Denny Fahle, Millie Fetterman, Della Humbarger, Denny Krumnow, Laurie Krynock, Bill Leutenegger, Mike Masella, Dean May, Stan Moyer, Nancy Mylander, Gary Overmyer, Sandie Reed, Ken & Gloria Root, Bob Schneider, Bill Seibert, Becky Sterling, Janet Tressler, Linda Woessner. Dorothy Hartford, Eric Paul, Teri Titkemeier.

For the Family of: Paul Antesberger

For our Military: Noah Egbert, Troy Halfhill, Jade Kayser, Daniel Linder, Tony Rozzi, Christopher Templeton, & Joshua Tooman.

For our Bishops: Bishop Christian Ndossa, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and NWOS Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Staff

For our partner congregation in Bumila, Tanzania

And its pastor: Pastor Peter Magasi



FALL FESTIVAL AT HOPEWOOD PINES

(LMC) – Come celebrate the fall season with us on **TODAY, Sunday, October 12**, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at our annual Fall Festival. Enjoy a wagon ride through camp, sample tasty apple butter, grab a meal, and let the kids have fun in the supervised children's activity area. This year we are excited to offer craft vendors, food trucks (Wagner Pork

Stand, Schmidt's, Dos Hermanos, Bubble Tea Co.) beer vendors (Hoof Hearted Brewery), and so much more! Also, enjoy our pumpkin and mum patch while you are there. Come and buy pumpkins and mums of all shapes and sizes and even bring them to paint during our festival! We are located at 2790 State Route 61, Marengo, OH 43334. Free Entry. All proceeds from the day go to Camperships (Camp Scholarships). Last year, thanks to your generosity, 269 campers were able to attend camp. Help us make camp accessible to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. Every contribution matters – thank you for your support!



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, 500 S. Brentwood Drive, Gibsonburg, Ohio invites you to their Craft Fair on **Saturday, October 25th**, from 9 a.m. to

3 p.m. Lunch is available from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. See you There!

SWISS STEAK DINNER – St. John's Lutheran Church, 450 N. Rocky Ridge Rd., will host a Swiss Steak Dinner (Drive-Thru only) on **Sunday, October 19th**, serving from 11:30 a.m. until sold out. Dinner cost is \$15 and includes 2 Swiss Steak Patties with sides and Homemade Pie! Proceeds to benefit Ottawa County Holiday Bureau. A Thrivent Financial Action Team grant will be used toward expenses. Hope to see you there!

ASSISTING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Parm Boyer **Pianist:** Becky Fox
Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown **Flautist:** Marilyn Ring

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
<u>Greeter:</u>	Marg Schwartz	Yvonne Vogel
<u>Lector:</u>	Lillian Harder	Evan McBride
<u>Acolyte:</u>	Lillian Harder	Eric McBride
<u>Communion:</u>	K. Paeth/C. Paeth	C. Trick & M. Reiselt
<u>Counters:</u>	Ann Waggoner* & Judi Neill	
<u>Fellowship Time Host:</u>		
<u>Altar Guild:</u>	Sarah Quaintance & Nicole Weiker	
<u>Ushers:</u>		

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK

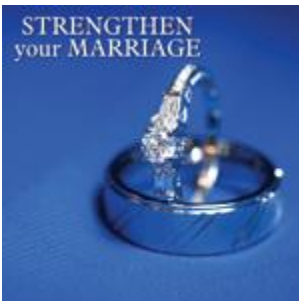
Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Parm Boyer
Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown

8:00 a.m. **10:30 a.m.**

Greeter: Heidi/Andrew Tooman Gazdecki Family
Lector: Annie Gazdecki Ken Walker, Jr.
Acolyte: Greyson Tooman

Communion: A. Gazdecki/M. Fought R. Brown & G. Walker
Counters: Marie Reiselt* & Nicole Weiker
Fellowship Time Host: Church Council
Altar Guild: Sarah Quaintance & Nicole Weiker
Ushers: Jim & Kim Smith Dave & Marilyn Ring

MAKE YOUR GOOD MARRIAGE GREAT! Enhance your communication skills with a Marriage Encounter experience! Join us November 7 - 9, 2025 at Fairfield Inn & Suites in Streetsboro, Ohio, with meals catered by local Honeybaked Ham and Ruby Tuesday restaurants. Apply now at GodLovesMarriage.org or contact Dale & Ruth Mortensen at d.r.mortensen@sbcglobal.net or 440-734-6312 for more information. Pre-registration is required – don't miss out!



FAITH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF – Oct. 12 to Oct. 19

Sunday

Oct. 12-----8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time

Monday

Oct. 13-----8 a.m. Men's Group in Fellowship Hall
 10 a.m. Valley View – Tea Time with God
 11:30 a.m. FLCW Visitation at Bob Evans

Tuesday

Oct. 14-----

Wednesday

Oct. 15-----6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
 7:30 p.m. Sr. Choir
 7:30 p.m. Praise Choir

Thursday

Oct. 16-----9-3 p.m. Fellowship & Sew Day
 3 p.m. Christ Care

Friday

Oct. 17-----5:30 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday

Oct. 18-----9:15 a.m. Christ Care
 2:30 p.m. Wedding of Madison Jones & Hunter Kinchy

Sunday NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

Oct. 19-----8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 a.m. Congregational Meeting in Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, OCT. 5, 2025: ATTENDANCE: 112 – OFFERING: \$3,815.52

GOSPEL MESSAGE

October 12, 2025
18th Sunday after Pentecost

On Common Ground

Ten people are healed by Jesus, but only one returns to thank him. That is the central tension of today's gospel story. But there is also a twist, one we may have missed if we were not listening closely: the one who thanked Jesus was a Samaritan.

The faithful of Jesus' time would have known all about the hostility between Judeans and Samaritans. The conflict between the two groups stretched back generations and generations. It was animosity so entrenched that people probably did not remember the specifics of the fight. They just knew they hated the other side. A Judean would never associate with a Samaritan, much less heal one of them.

But as we see in this story and others throughout the gospels, Jesus did not seem to care about the labels the world assigned to people: scribe or Pharisee, sinner or tax collector. Jesus also did not stop to consider whether the person was from Judea or Samaria. He looked into the eyes of all who came to him and saw directly to their humanity. He brought healing and wholeness to everyone.

Just as Jesus told the Samaritan, he could tell us, too, that our faith makes us well. God gives us faith that overcomes the destructive words of the world, allowing us to transcend barriers and labels and to recognize the humanity in each individual. God is also calling us as a whole community to go and seek out the Samaritans of our own time and place—anyone whom the rest of the world rejects and reviles—and show them the same compassion and mercy we have received.

God's love makes us whole. Words can hurt, but thanks to Jesus, words can heal too. More often than not, we will find common ground through God's power to heal, even among the Samaritans.