

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

DECEMBER  
2025

## Table of Contents

From the Pastor's Desk-----	3-4
Church Council Highlights,	
Synod Assembly Invitation, Wi-Fi-----	4
FLC Projects Campaign, Mitten Tree,	
Christmas Worship Schedule, Prayer Sisters 2026 -----	5
2026 Offering Envelopes & Directories available,	
Annual Reports Deadline,	
Christmas Cheeseball Spread Sale, Quotes -----	6
Toledo Symphony Orchestra Christmas Concert,	
Conversations with Croghan, Christmas Musical Prog. -	7
Thank You, 2025 Year of Listening Memory Verse	
Snow Emergency Reminder -----	8
Altar Guild, FLCW news,	
Faith Filled Travelers Trips 2026 -----	9
Fellowship & Sew Day, Prayer Chain Available,	
Prayer Requests, Noisy Offering -----	10
December Birthdays & Anniversaries-----	11



### 2025 Church Council

<b><u>President:</u></b> Dave Kocsis	<b><u>Vice-President:</u></b> Marie Reiselt
<b><u>Secretary:</u></b> Laurie Krynock	<b><u>Treasurer:</u></b> Ann Waggoner
<b><u>Elders:</u></b> Carol Trick, Amy Wagner	
<b><u>Trustee:</u></b> A.J. Green	
<b><u>Deacon:</u></b> Mike Fought	
<b><u>Endowment:</u></b> Randy Koch, Larry Leow, Debra Clark, Mike Schneider, Roy Burgoon, Marie Reiselt, Pastor Tim Miller	

# The Messenger

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church  
www.faithfremont.org



DECEMBER 2025

---

## From the Pastor's Desk...

Greetings children of God.

Each year, my wife and I look forward to Christmas, and the opportunity to decorate the house. I think I get that from my mom, who started decorating our house in the middle of November. For me, once the Thanksgiving holiday passes and the tree and decorations are up, I spend a lot of time reminiscing about past Christmases. One tradition many people follow is the use of an Advent calendar. As a child, I saw it as an opportunity to get a piece of candy on each of the 24 days leading up to Christmas. But now that I'm older, my appreciation for the Advent calendar has grown along with my understanding of its meaning. Advent means "the coming of Christ." For Christians, the four weeks leading up to December 25 are an opportunity to recognize the significance of Jesus' birth and prepare our hearts and minds for his second coming.

A great place to figure out what Advent should look like is the story of Jesus' birth in Luke 2. In Luke 2:10-11, an angel declares to the shepherds, *"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you: he is the Messiah, the Lord."* Out of God's great love, he sent his one and only Son to earth as a gift for us. Jesus came, lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and then overcame death. Because of Jesus, we have life, hope, joy, and peace.

For Mary and Joseph, there were no rooms available. They had to find a place for Jesus to be born. If we aren't equally as intentional about making a place for Jesus in our lives, the next four weeks fly by, and Christmas will be gone. The holiday season is a chaotic time. There's parties and gatherings to plan and attend, and there are presents to buy, all in addition to the normal responsibilities of everyday life. Slowing down to spend time with God takes effort. If we want to have time to

reflect on all God has done and prepare for all God wants to do in the future, it's imperative that we make it a priority to spend time with God.

When the shepherds heard of Jesus' arrival, they stopped tending their flocks and hurried to visit him. As soon as they saw him, they made known what had been told to them about Jesus and as they returned to their fields, they praised God and spread the good news that Israel's long-awaited Savior had arrived. This Advent and Christmas, let's follow their example by celebrating the gift of Jesus with everyone we can. As we gather with coworkers, friends and family, be sure to share with them how the birth of Jesus over 2,000 years ago is still impacting our lives today and invite them to experience Jesus for themselves.

God's blessings for a peaceful and joyous Advent and Christmas,  
Pastor Tim

### **CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – NOVEMBER 18, 2025**



## **Council Notes**

- Fundraising for the new roof has been very successful due to the generosity of our congregation. To date we have reached and exceeded our goal of \$20,000 set for the end of the year -

which means we will receive the matching funds offer of \$20,000 for a total of \$40,880 so far! All this was achieved in a month and a half. Thanks to everyone who helped reach this important goal!!

- Door installation for the narthex has been completed. Next step would be the new openers for the Fellowship Hall.
- December meeting will include and welcome new council members.

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2026** – We are asking for two people to be our representatives at the Synod Assembly next year on Saturday, May 30, 2026. It will be from 9 am to 6 pm. Please see Dave Kocsis or Pastor Tim if interested.

**CHECK IN AT FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH!** Faith has Wi-Fi 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.

**IN OCTOBER, WE LAUNCHED OUR FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**PROJECTS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**, taking 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. Thanks to your generosity, and the generosity of a donor who believes in this mission, so far, we've raised \$40,880 towards our ultimate goal of \$250,000! If you would like to contribute to this, simply note on your offering or gift that it is for the Faith Lutheran Projects Campaign.

**THE MITTEN TREE** is up and any mittens and gloves will go to Atkinson Elementary School. Other items, such as hats and scarves, will go to Pontifex and/or Liberty Center.



**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** – Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at the 8 a.m. service.

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA** – Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, at the 10:30 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 28, 2025:** There will only be a 9 a.m. service this day with celebration of Holy Communion and Sunday School to follow.

**PRAYER SISTERS FOR 2026** – You have the opportunity to be matched up with a prayer sister for 2026. 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.

**2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available in the narthex. If you have not picked yours up yet, please do so.

**UPDATED CHURCH TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES AND THE F.L.C.W. PROGRAM BOOKLETS** for 2026 are available in the narthex for you as well.

**ANNUAL REPORTS DEADLINE** – In order to put the Annual Report into your hands a week earlier than the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, the **deadline** to have all committee reports submitted to the office **is Sunday, January 4, 2026**. Please plan accordingly. Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS CHEESEBALL SPREAD SALE** – Trinity United Methodist Church, 204 N. Wayne St., Fremont, will take orders for cheeseball spread November 22 through December 14, 2025. The spreads include the following flavors: Dried Beef, Cheddar, Onion Horseradish, Cranberry Walnut, Peanut Butter/Chocolate. They are \$10.00 each. To order, or if you have questions please call – 419-32-8167.

### **QUOTES**

"Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas."

—Dale Evans

---

"Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts."

—Janice Maeditere

---

"Jesus did not come to make God's love possible, but to make God's love visible."

—Author unknown

---

"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."

—Calvin Coolidge

## **TOLEDO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Grace Lutheran Church, 705 W. State Street, Fremont is once again hosting the Toledo Symphony Orchestra. This year's concert will be held on **Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m.** in the church Sanctuary. We hope you will be a sponsor for this event. The cost of bringing the Toledo Symphony to Fremont is \$13,000.00. Please help underwrite this fine musical program with your generous contribution. The sponsor categories are listed on the letter found on the Women's Bulletin Board in the coat room area. Checks should be made payable to Grace Lutheran Church, earmarked for the Toledo Symphony, and mailed to 705 W. State St., Fremont, OH 43420. Tickets will be mailed 3 weeks prior to the concert. **Deadline for underwriting contributions is December 5<sup>th</sup>.** Sponsor Reserved Seating tickets are NOT transferable to General Admission seating. We thank you for your consideration. The Symphony Committee.

## **TICKETS FOR THE TOLEDO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** are available



November 3<sup>rd</sup>, for the December 18<sup>th</sup> concert at 7 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church. They are available to purchase in the church office: \$15/adults; \$10/Seniors (65 and up) & students (18 and under).

**CONVERSATIONS WITH CROGHAN:** Join us for Insights into Trusts & Wills on December 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Sandusky County Chamber of Commerce, 1245 Napoleon Street, Fremont, Ohio.

**A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL PROGRAM** directed by D. Greg Fox and hosted by the Christian community of the greater Port Clinton area will be celebrated on **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.**, and will be hosted at Trinity United Methodist Church, 135 Adams Street, Port Clinton. Greg's program will feature the Voices of Freedom Choir, a youth choir, with a narration from the gospel of Luke. This is a community-wide event and **ALL are welcome**. Following the program, there will be refreshments served in the Fellowship Hall. TUMC invites your participation in making some homemade delectables for this fellowship gathering. Please contact Heather at Trinity (419-732-3161) regarding your intent on providing refreshments. Your support for this community-wide Christmas musical program is greatly appreciated.



**DURING THIS SEASON OF GRATITUDE,** I want to say “Thank You!” for all the overwhelming love and support we received through Paul’s journey with cancer and his passing. From the visits from Pastor Tim, Communion the many, many cards, hugs, phone calls to check up or just listen. Those that visited with him so I could run errands, the offer of rides if needed. The wonderful funeral dinner, beautiful service...The offer to watch the dog. Faith Lutheran Church is truly a family and I can sincerely say: I am Thankful for the blessings called Faith Church. Cindy Zorn.

**BLESSINGS AND THANKS TO ALL FROM OUR FAITH CHURCH FAMILY -** for the cards, flowers, and visits to Sharon at Valley View during her stay and continued stay there. Thank you especially to Pastor Tim for his visit and bringing Holy Communion. Your thoughts and prayers are so very welcomed and appreciated. Please continue the prayers as this journey continues, but we know our God is with us along with all of you. It means so much! God’s Peace and Blessings be with all of you! With all our Love, Sharon and Luis Peña.

**2025: THE YEAR OF LISTENING MEMORY VERSE: ISAIAH 55:3A**

***“Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live...”***

**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.*





### **ALTAR GUILD:**

A Big Thank You to Bonnie Overmyer and Debra Fahle for your service on the Altar Guild during the month of November – You are greatly appreciated!

December's Altar Guild Members are Annie, Allison & Lauren Gazdecki.

*Ginger Walker - Altar Guild Chair*

### **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN NEWS**

#### **CHRISTMAS IN TIMES OF WAR – A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS**

**Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at 7 p.m. we will hear about Christmas in the Trenches from Mike Gilbert. This presentation invites us to reflect on how Christmas has been observed during times of conflict – not a retreat from suffering, but as a bold declaration of faith. This reflection will remind us that the true meaning of Christmas – God's love breaking into a broken world – has never been more powerful than when celebrated in the shadow of war. We will also have our December General Meeting of the women this night beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Lounge. **ALL ARE WELCOME!** Please plan to join us. Light refreshments will be provided.

The next FLCW Board meeting will be February 2, 2026 at 7 p.m.

### **FAITH FILLED TRAVELERS TRIP**

#### **COMING IN 2026**

**Days on the St. Lawrence River** – Remember, the first trip for this year which was canceled, **will take place in August of 2026**. It is a very beautiful area near the Thousand Islands, New York. Information will be forthcoming and will be sent out, so please begin saving. Blessings to all, Yvonne Vogel, 419-307-1774.



### **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 Fellowship Hall 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.



**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 was collected on November 16th, \$148.30. 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.



## *DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS - 2025*

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



### *Happy Anniversary!*

Dec. 3, 1994	Rhonda & William Taylor	31 years
Dec. 12, 2015	Susan & Brandon Barker	10 years
Dec. 23, 1988	Luis & Sharon Peña	37 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 & 10:30 a.m.

9:15 a.m. Fellowship Time and

Sunday School

Holy Communion Celebrated: Every Sunday

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

---

## Core Values –

F aithful fellowship

A ffirming worship

I ntentional service

T ransformative growth

H onoring tradition