



Forward With Faith

Faith Lutheran Church, Cleveland, GA

Our Vision:

As disciples of Christ,
we are inspired and
empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we are witnesses of the Gospel of Grace,
and we act boldly to serve in our community and the world.



Invite!

Nurture!

Send!

Serve!

August 2026



**Worship
Every Sunday
at 10:30**

**Our call in connection is
717-908-1943**

**Sun. August 2
10:30 Worship Service**

**Tues. August 4
10:00 am Bible Study**

**Sun August 9
8:30 Fath 101 Class with breakfast
10:30 Worship Service**

**Tues. August 11
10:00 am Crafts
12:00 pm Let's do Lunch Sunflower
in Cleveland**

**Sun August 16
10:30 Worship Service
We welcome new members this Sun.
Congregation Council meets after
church**

**Tues. August 18
10:00 Bible Study**

**Sun August 23
10:30 Worship Service**

**Tues. August 25
10:00 Crafts**

**Sun August 30
10:30 Worship Service
Pot Luck after church**

Happy Birthday



August

23 Cyril Martin
27 Tony Pridemore

*friend of Faith

From the **PASTOR**

August 2026



Alexandra loves waterfalls. We went to visit Toccoa Falls this week, though she couldn't immerse into the falling water, still she enjoyed the amazing sight and sound of one of God's wonderful works of creation! I am a little more cautious and water bodies, either waterfall, seashores, rivers, creeks, and even children's home pools, get my respect. We are in the middle of Summer, we can enjoy God's creation everywhere and every time we tune our senses on, Nature is full of life!

The rhythm and cycles of life speak of God's creative powers and loving providence. Contrary to what a philosophical approach proposed by Aristotle and neo-Aristotelians, in which God created the universe and set the laws for its unfolding, so God can think about Godself for eternity, the universe itself and our Christian tradition teaches that God continues creating and sustaining mighty works every day. We call this a doctrine of the Immanence of God, which means that God in creation and providential care for the universe, including human beings, continues with, within, and for us.

Contemplating and caring for God's creation, suddenly we are touched by pain, uncertainty, and sadness. Then we are immersed into questions of why and the meaning of human life. For some people these seasons of life are "tests" to our faith. We also may rationalize these seasons of life and make God, others, and ourselves, responsible for what we experience...for our pain and sadness. I read somewhere time ago that if something, besides death, make us human, it is pain and suffering. Since childhood we are taught that pain is unnatural to us, so we reinforce our instinct to avoid pain with a social expectation telling us that we shouldn't have pain and suffering. Nothing is far from the reality that our human condition, that becoming humans, includes seasons and times of suffering. It might help us to cope and live with suffering categorizing suffering by degrees; this may help us to endure suffering and make it more tolerable. At the very top of degrees of suffering, death is paramount; because death is real, irreversible, and natural.

We have been deeply touched and saddened by our dear brother Jeff's death. Jeff's story like all human stories, does not end with death. Here is where faith comes like a treasure, and even better if it is faith in God. According to our Christian faith, God became human in Jesus of Nazareth, lived and taught us how to live as children of God. Jesus died and resurrecting conquered death... and Christ risen today accompanies us in our joys and sufferings.

For us, and because of God's love in Jesus Christ, death has not the last word; though real and painful as it is, death is just a transition to the loving arms of God; where and with whom we hope for a new life free of pain and suffering. Right now, for us who grieve, prayer, sharing our grief and accompanying Jeff's family and one another, is the faithful path to cope with and live this season of suffering. Amen.

- Pastor Cuiedo



Family Promise



We served meals the week June 7th through the 13 at the Family Promise House. Thank You to all who provided meals on last minute notice as some families moved in the day before we were due to provide meals. You all stepped up again as usual! Good work Faith! Our next week to serve will be in October. More to follow as the week approaches.



Lutheridge Camp offers summer camps for students of all ages and is located near Asheville N.C. on 160 acres of scenic land. A ministry of the ELCA, this camp welcomes all to share in the experience to become closer to God and offers a chance to refresh before going back into the world to make a difference! Over the years our congregation has sent eleven Faith Lutheran children and/or grandchildren to camp, for a total of 24 separate awe-inspiring, God filled weeks! This year Parker Clancy and Trinity Sims went to Lutheridge for a week in June. All registration fees are paid from Faith's Youth Assistance fund which is funded mostly by Signe Erne. Our Youth Assistance Fund is sufficient to pay for registration fees, but there is always a need to cover transportation costs, well fitting shoes, bug repellent, medical exam requirements, etc., if you are able to contribute to the fund at any time throughout the year. Please keep our church camps, camp staff, and all our precious campers in your prayers as they are closing up the 2026 camping season.

Faith Lutheran
Church Orientation
Class



Sunday 09
August at
0830

Saturday August 9th we will be conducting our inaugural **Faith 101 Class**. This class will be begin at 0830 in the fellowship hall and breakfast will be provided. The Faith 101 class is an orientation class for any prospective members who are considering joining the church. We will welcome potential new members and introduce them to the church's mission, beliefs, and involvement opportunities here at Faith. Pastor Oviedo will focus on our church history, doctrine, and ways to serve internally as well as outreach ministries. Please sign up if you plan to attend and share experiences with your ministry here at Faith!

From the Council President

Blessings to you all. Over the past few months the council has been working hard on a few projects. We are happy to have the website up and running. We will be updating the website periodically for maximum local exposure, accuracy, and current events. The facilities are always a topic of discussion. We are looking into gutter cleaning and screening followed by pressure washing to keep the building looking nice as well as staining of the handicap ramp and railing improvements. The lightening protection is completed. We have placed our new church signage on the front of the church. Check it out! We have a newly updated church directory and have copies available for you.

One of the tasks we are tackling with new business is a review of our bylaws, constitution, and continuing resolutions for clarification, contradictions, and possible consolidation. We also unanimously moved to support the "Back to School Bash" with other area local churches to provide "stuffed back packs" to those local children in need.

Pastor Oviedo has identified some areas in which we need to address as he provides a fresh look at our current processes. Pastor also reported we have also had an increase in the number of visitors! Thank you all for all you do for our church that moves mountains.

- Andy Meyer



*We Honor the life of
Jeff Anderson
Who went home to his Lord
On July 8, 2026.*



*Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.
We remember him fondly for his willingness to be
of help to all, sharing his time and talents by
ushering, making food for our fellowship time at
Faith, and assisting at the White County Food
Pantry.*



What's happening at Faith

CRAFT AND OUTREACH MINISTRY



Our Crafty ladies
meet on the second & forth Tuesday
August 11th & 25th
At 10:00 am

We are in the process of looking for different ways we can work this Ministry to serve in our community, create fellowship for all our members and learn new ideas. Anyone wanting to spend some time with other members and friends of Faith in this type of ministry are welcome. We have done many different things over the years and it is time to refresh what we do.

All ideas are welcome!

We have done, crafty items to sell and give away, quilts and no sew throws, decorated our fellowship hall for all seasons and keep it looking good. and more!!!



Women's Bible Study

We meet on the first & Third Tuesday
August 4th & 18th
At 10:00 am

Consider trying out our Bible study group, drop in any time and give us a try. We are working our way thru Romans right now.



BREAD FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

Amount we have
given to the Food Pantry
For Bread

Thru July 13, 2026 is 1,558 loaves
at \$2,375.60

the cost of a loaf of bread had risen to \$1.62

Dog Days of Summer

The "Dog Days of Summer" has roots in ancient Greece and Rome, where people associated the rising of the Sirius (the Dog Star) with the hottest, most oppressive period of summer, believing it caused extreme heat, drought, and unrest. The National Weather Service forecasts a 60% chance of above normal temperatures across Georgia during the month of August.

We, as Lutherans, may see this as a metaphor for spiritual trials and periods of intense heat in the spiritual life, similar to the Israelites' journey through the desert. May we take these "Dog Days of Summer" to find spiritual renewal and remember that the Lord walks with us! Take the time to hydrate, rest, read, and maybe take care of those indoor projects we wanted to accomplish but have put off. One day soon, we will walk outside and the cool wind will be present and our spiritual development will be ready to

flourish! Just remember to hydrate and Persevere in prayer during this time.



- Stephanie Pridemore



*Let's do Lunch Tuesday
The Sunflower in Cleveland
Please join us
At noon on August 11, 2026*

We have the final numbers!!

We collected \$585 for
The Back to School Bash



Suzi will write a check for the \$3,940 given by members of Faith for Naomi's matching College tuition fund. There will be an additional 1,500 matched by Toccoa Falls College, giving Naomi a total of \$5,440 toward her schooling for this next year.



Bible Readings from the Lectionary for August 2026

	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
August 2	Isaiah 55:1-5	Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
August 9	1 Kings 19:9-18	Psalm 85:8-13	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
August 16	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	Psalm 67	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28
August 23	Isaiah 51:1-6	Psalm 138	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20
August 30	Jeremiah 15:15-21	Psalm 26:1-8	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28

August

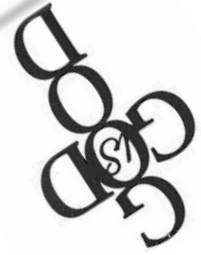


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:30 Service Pentecost 10 Green	3	4 10:00 Bible Study	5	6	7	8
9 8:30 Faith Class 101 10:30 Service Pentecost 11 Green	10	11 10:00 Craft Ministry 12:0PM Let's do Lunch The Sunflower in Cleveland	12	13	14	15
16 10:30 Service New members welcomed Pentecost 12 Green Faith Council Meeting	17	18 10:00 Bible Study	19	20	21	22
23 10:30 Service Pentecost 13 Green	24	25 10:00 Craft Ministry	26	27	28	29
30 10:30 Service Pentecost 14 Green Pot Luck	31					

Worship Help August

Let me know if you need to change your date. Marty

	Aug. 2	Aug. 9	Aug. 16	Aug. 23	Aug. 30
Worship Asst.	Chris Smith	Don Waara	Janice Bridges	Whitney Hutchinson	Pam Romesser
Reader	Janice Bridges	Signe Erne	Phil Howey	Bill Inman	Whitney Hutchinson
Usher	Lynn Graham Bill Inman	Suzi Anderson Chris Smith	Don Waara Marty Schmehling	Suzi Anderson Chris Smith	Lynn & Gary Latz
Altar Guild	Arline McWhinney Marty Schmehling	Pam Romesser	Barb Moser Sue Falls	Lynn Graham Bill Inman	Arline McWhinney Marty Schmehling
Communion Bread	Marty	Chris	Marty	Chris	Marty
Service Team	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Pot Luck



Forward With Faith

Faith Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 3381
Cleveland, GA 30528



Faith Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 4114 Hwy 115 East Cleveland, GA 30528
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3381, Cleveland, GA 30528
Telephone, 706-865-3925
Pastor Alfredo Oviedo's Ph.# 828-290-4041
If no answer, please leave a message
email is alfredossjc@me.com

Mission of Faith:

To *invite* all people to celebrate God's blessings,
to *nurture* them with Christ's grace, love and fellowship,
and to *send* us all joyfully to *serve*.

Core Values:

Grace

Discipleship

Inclusivity

Grow in Prayer

Worship