



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!

May 2026



Worship
Every Sunday
at 10:30

Our call in connection is
717-908-1943
Participant 9988583#

Sun. May 3 10:30 worship service
Cinco De Mayo celebration
Fellowship Hall after church

Tues. May 5 10:00 Bible Study

Sun. May 10 10:30 worship service

Tues. May 12 10:00 ladies crafts
ministry

Sun. May 17 10:30 worship Service
Family Promise Starts today serving
Meals thru Saturday May 23

Tues. May 19 10:00 Bible Study

Sun. May 24 Pentecost
10:30 worship service

Tues. May 26 10:00 ladies crafts
ministry

Sun. May 31 Holy Trinity
10:30 worship service
Pot Luck this Sunday "Grillin" dogs & burg-
ers with ice cream and all the fixins.

Tues. June 2
10:00 Bible Study

From the PASTOR

May 2026



Dear Siblings and Friends,

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

As our lives unfold in a fast changing and unpredictable world, a message of stability, certainty, and hope we need to hear and share more than ever. And this is precisely what the Easter season in our liturgical calendar proclaims. Easter, like Spring seasons, comes to us colorful, vibrant, full of life, joy, and opportunities to celebrate God's life-giving promises like Christ's resurrection.

Though we might know that no Spring season could mitigate the impact of life events such as, a sudden accident, a family crisis, a natural disaster, loss of employment, a chronic illness' diagnosis and ongoing treatment, and palliative care and grief. These life events we pray to be delayed and be saved from, our human condition makes us aware that none of us is fully protected from all these life events...then the risen Christ invites us to have faith, trust in his loving presence and care.

Having faith and trusting God is not the magical answer to our life's crisis, challenges, and dilemmas, both as individuals and as a church. Sometimes having faith makes even more difficult to make sense of and move through life, for we can't understand why us and why we must go through such pain and suffering.

For times like these, Soren Kierkegaard, a 19th Century Lutheran philosopher and theologian from Denmark, speaking of a knight of faith, used a metaphor by saying that faith was like coming to a cliff hearing God's voice from the void saying "jump," of course we are afraid of jumping. If we choose to jump trusting God's, we will find that before getting to the bottom, in that free fall to the unknown, God's loving arms will hold us safe from harm.

When we are not ready to fully trust God, for whatever reason, God as always does, still loves and cares for us, and this is the point in time when belonging to and having a caring faith community will make the world of difference in our lives. And this is the kind of loving and caring community of faith we have in our congregation, and we continue working to grow in inclusivity, quality, and quantity.

As we pray, worship, fellowship, and serve together, and we know better each other and the communities we are called to witness to, we are in our way to articulate a common vision, mission, values, and a strategy to fulfill and enjoy our God's given call to proclaim our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Amen.

Happy Birthday



May

- 10 Connie Gerdts*
- 17 Gary Latz
- 24 John Rice
- 26 Brian Shroyer
- 29 Stephanie Pridemore

From the Council President

The council had a meeting on March 15th, 2026. We are looking into diversifying our current investment strategies and will form a Stewardship Resolution committee headed by 4 council members as well as Pastor Alfredo to develop a comprehensive plan to present to council.

We are exploring dates for the inaugural Celebration of Faith Lutheran Day. There will be more to follow on this topic.

There are several facility projects that are in the works or in need of discussion (lightening protection, siding damage). Gary Latz is the point of contact for all facility concerns.

Pastor appreciates your prayers and kindness for the use of the fellowship hall as temporary housing. Special thank you to Chris and Pat Smith for recommendation of a real estate agent and he is currently scheduling to see available homes in our area.

Finally, we will make sure to send out the agenda and congregation meeting minutes to all members of Faith prior to all congregational meetings to ensure transparency and promote awareness.

Thank you to everyone that helped make our Lent and Holy Week services successful.

- Andy Meyer



Do you have a gift for writing?
Would you like to submit an inspirational article for the Faith Newsletter?
We would love to hear from you!
Effective topics include navigating trials with Faith, highlighting volunteer stories, sharing God's providence, short reflections that have inspired you, or season specific content.
Please provide a short article to Stephanie or Marty by the 23rd of the month for submission in the following months newsletter. We look forward to sharing your gift with the congregation and friends of Faith.



Faith Lutheran Church Website Update

We have made significant progress on Faith Lutheran Church website. We have presented the website progress to the congregation during the April congregation meeting for input. If you have any input or ideas for the website content, please send Phil Howey (phillipbhowey@gmail.com) or Pastor Alfredo (alfredossjc@me.com) an email. We would also love any historical pictures or pictures from outreach ministries you may have saved.

Goals for the website:

- provide a positive first impression and give professional credibility to a viewer searching on the web for a Lutheran church in the area
- provide an information hub for calendars, newsletters, pictures, events, service times, etc. for members, friends and visitors
- Improve outreach by allowing people to see our mission, vision, offer online contact form submission and bilingual communication for our community
- Provide a digital connection with our members and friends of Faith 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, when our church office is closed
- Ultimately, attract new members through discovery

We will be collecting release forms in the coming weeks. We are looking forward to pushing the "publish" button and going live on the world-wide web!

Naomi Hodges had her recital at Toccoa Falls College on Thursday April 26



She did not play the piano but sang wonderfully. She is majoring in voice and choir at Toccoa Falls. She will be doing her student teaching at a school next year. She will also be with us this summer and through the school year. Her parents were there and some of us from Faith including Pastor who had to leave before pictures.

Our last lunch and reflections of Lent

We thank Pastor Alfredo for leading us thru Lent.

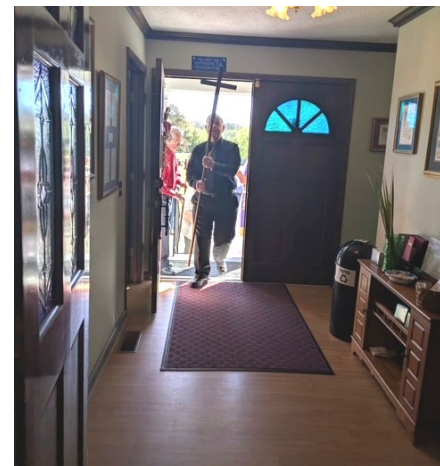


Our walk thru Holy Week



He is Risen! He is risen Alleluia !

We hope you feel refreshed and strengthened and you are experiencing a deeper connection in your faith journey. Thank you to all those who participated in Holy Week and all the services which led up to Easter Sunday.



What's happening at Faith



CRAFT AND OUTREACH MINISTRY

Craft Ministry

meet on the Second & Fourth Tuesday
May 12th and 26th at 10:00 am

We are looking at some new ideas for crafts
Would love some new suggestions
CHECK US OUT



Let's do Lunch

Tuesday May 12th

At Big Daddys in Cornelia
at 12:00 noon

Let's do Lunch in April was a trip to Toccoa. We had lunch at Pings, went to the Falls & Gathney Museum on Toccoa Falls College campus.

We invited all to join us for the day! It was a beautiful day!
We thank Mary and Richard Gathney for inviting us to come.



BREAD FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

Amount we have

Given to the Food Pantry thru April 20, 2026
922 loaves of bread at \$1,401.29

We appreciate the individual donations designated by member for bread purchase for Food Pantry



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study

We meet on the First & Third Tuesday
May 5th and 19th at 10:0 am

Interested in a discussion based on scripture or a morning devotion?

Come join us. Pastor Oviedo is with us.



Our next week for brining a meal to the Family Promise house is **May 17—23**.

We will have another week of meals **June 7—13**, then a break until October.

Sign up on the Family Promise board in the Fellowship Hall if you are able to help with a making a meal and delivery, Purchasing a meal and delivery, or monetary gift towards purchasing meals. All help is gratefully accepted.




Bible Readings from the Lectionary for May 2026



	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
May 3	Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 31:1-5,15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
May 10	Acts 17:22-31	Psalm 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
May 17	Acts 1:6-14	Psalm 68:1-10,32-35	1 Peter 4:12-14,5:6-11	John 17:1-11
May 24 (Pentecost)	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104,24-24,35b	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23
May 31 (Holy Trinity)	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Psalm 8	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20

May 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:30 Service 5 Easter Cinco De Mayo fellowship refreshments	4	5 10:00 Bible Study	6	7	8	9
10 10:30 Service 6 Easter Mother's Day	11	12 10:00 Crafts ministry	13	14	15	16
17 10:30 Service 7 Easter Council meets after church	18	19 10:00 Bible Study	20	21	22	23
Family Promise week, we will supply food for the families at the Family Promise Day Center House						
24 10:30 Service Pentecost (Scarlet)	25 	26 10:00 Crafts ministry	27	28	29	30
31 10:30 Service Holy Trinity 5th Sun. Pot Luck Grillin' & Ice cream						

Worship Help May

Let me know if you need to change your date or check your list of those who serve to find a sub, and let me know. Marty

	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Worship Asst.	Bill Inman	Pam Romesser	Chris Smith	Don Waara	Janice Bridges
Reader	Don Waara	Phil Howey	Bob Schmebling	Janice Bridges	Suzi Anderson
Usher	Suzi Anderson Jeff Anderson	Lynn Graham Bill Inman	Don Waara Marty Schmebling	Barb Moser Sue Falls	Lynn & Gary Latz
Altar Guild	Stephanie Pridemore Arline McWhinney	Pam Finke Pam Romesser	Barb Moser Sue Falls	Lynn Graham Bill Inman	Marty Schmebling Arline McWhinney
Communion Bread	Chris	Chris	Marty	Chris	Marty
Service Team	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	5th Sunday Pot Luck Grillin' & fixin's



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