



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!



January 2024



Worship
Every Sunday
at 10:30
Our call in connection is
717-908-1943
Participant 9988583#
Want a recording of the Service
Contact Pastor Tim

- Sun. January 4
10:30 Worship Service
- Tues. January 6
10:30 Bible Study
- Sunday January 11
10:30 Worship Service
1 Epiphany
Baptism of our Lord
- Tues. January 13
10:00 Craft Ministry followed by Lunch
at the Rustic Cabin in Clarkesville
- Sun. January 18
10:30 Worship Service
2 Epiphany
- Tues. January 20
10:00 Bible Study
- Sunday 25
10:30 Worship Service
3 Epiphany
- Tues. January 27
10:00 Craft Ministry

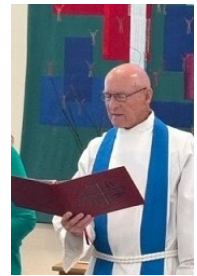
Happy Birthday



- January
- 11 Sandy Hutchinson
- 12 Sophie Stamet*^{*}
- 18 Janice Bridges
- 20 Joe Castongia
- 20 Sandy Farrow
- 24 Mary Goebel
- 24 Sue Falls

*friend of Faith

From the PASTOR—



Thank You Pastor Banitt

We have been blessed to have you as our Interim Pastor since September 8, 2024. You and Dixie have been a great joy to have here with us. Your sermons have been well done and kept us waiting for the next one! You have led us through this period of transition with wisdom and grace. Thank you for your countless hours you have given in service, both the seen and unseen work that goes into pastoring a congregation. We wish you and your family all of God's blessings on your next chapter. Your influence on our lives will not leave us. The door is always open for you to come back and visit.



Notes from the Council

What an incredible year at Faith! We appointed a call committee to begin the process of finding and recommending a new Pastor at the end of 2024. Thank you for those of you who served dutifully on this incredibly important committee (Bill Inman, Tony Pridemore, Lynn Graham, and Tina Freeburg, Whitney Hutchinson). By February, we announced a new financial secretary, Suzy Anderson, would assume the position from Janice Bridges. In March, the old ramp by the church was demolished (thank you Chris Smith!) due to safety concerns. By August, we sent \$5000 to an ELCA disaster relief fund in the aftermath of the deadly flooding in Texas. We also raised almost \$2000 to support a chicken husbandry project in Tanzania coordinated through the Schmehlings' granddaughter who is with the Peace Corps. Also, in August, we accomplished some church clean up: gutters were cleaned out, some siding repairs, and installation of a gutter guard on the office door. In September, we presented an estimate on the replacement of a steeple on the church and it was unanimously approved by the congregation! We expect this project to move forward in the coming months. November brought us to another unanimous vote to officially call Pastor Alfredo Oviedo to lead our congregation! We prayerfully discerned God's will through this process and found a spiritual fit with Pastor Oviedo. Finally, we installed a new sound system in the sanctuary just in time for our Christmas eve candlelight service and are thrilled with the results. Thank you to Phil Howey for all of your help. As the year draws to a close, we find ourselves filled with immense gratitude and wonder at all God has accomplished through us at Faith Lutheran Church. This has been a year of transition as we say farewell to Pastor Banitt and welcome Pastor Oviedo. We are humbled to serve alongside such a dedicated congregation.



It is with immense gratitude and joy we announce the arrival of our new Pastor.
WELCOME PASTOR ALFREDO OVIEDO
AND HIS WIFE ALESANDRA TO
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH!

After prayerful search, we believe God has called him to lead us into the next chapter of ministry at Faith. Pastor Oviedo brings a wealth of experience, a Doctorate level education in Ministry, a heart for servant leadership, a passion for teaching, and a gift of bilingual outreach for the community.

It's a New Year, and a New Beginning! Welcome 2026!

New beginnings can be both exciting and intimidating. They represent a chance to start fresh and make positive changes in our lives, but they also require us to let go of the familiar and step into the unknown.

As Christians, we can find hope and strength in knowing that God is with us in all things, including the new beginnings we face. In Isaiah 43:19, the Lord says, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" God is constantly at work in our lives, creating new opportunities and possibilities for us.



Advent at Faith

*Christmas Brunch
A great time had by all!*



Joyful giving at Faith this Christmas Season



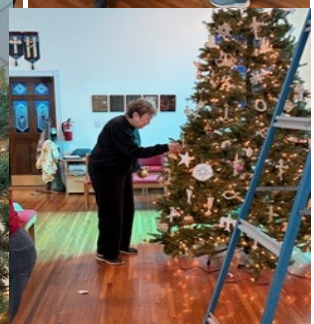
We reached the goal of 100 cans!
For Sharing and Caring in Cornelia



Decorating the Christmas Tree

Wednesday Advent Simple Lunch

Each Wednesday during advent we had a simple lunch followed by reflections focusing on our spiritual preparation for Christ's arrival. We explored themes of hope, joy, and peace through active participation.



What's happening at Faith



CRAFT MINISTRY

Our Crafty ladies will meet at
10:00 am on January 13 & 20

Come & Join us and see what we are up to this year.

Family Promise 2025 Statistics

Thank you all for the support, your time preparing and delivering meals is making a real difference!



BREAD FOR THE FOOD PANTRY



Amount we have given to the Food Pantry

Bread for 2025 thru December 15, 2025

3,128 loaves purchased for \$4,576.30

Note thanks to members who contribute to the bread fund we are able to make it thru the year



Let's do Lunch

Join us on January 13th
for lunch at

The Rustic Cabin restaurant in Clarkesville at noon! Hope to see you there!



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study

Meet on January 6 & 20
Come & Join us
Looking for new faces in our group.



Family Promise Update



January 18 thru 24, 2026 is our first week of the year to help feed the families at the house. Sign up on the board in the Fellowship hall to help with this project.



Thank You

A special thank you to our church council and our President Andy Meyer. Your leadership and dedication to guiding our church through the call process and your wisdom in steering our resources have been a true blessing. We are so grateful for your commitment. May God continue to bless you abundantly!






Bible Readings from the Lectionary for January 2026

	1st. Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
January 4	Jeremiah 31:7-14	147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:(1-9)10-18
January 11	Isaiah 42:1-9	29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
January 18	Isaiah 49: 1-7	40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
January 25	Isaiah 9:1-4	27:1, 4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23

January 2026



Lite Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy New Year 	2	3
4 10:30 Service 2 Christmas White	5	6 10:00 Bible Study	7	8	9	10
11 10:30 Service Epiphany Baptism of our Lord Green	12	13 10:00 Craft Ministry Lunch at the Rustic Cabin in Clarkesville	14	15	16	17
18  10:30 Service 2 Epiphany Green	19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday 	20 10:00 Bible Study	21	22	23	24
Family Promise week, we will supply food for the families at the Family Promise Day Center House						
25 10:30 Service 3 Epiphany Green	26	27 10:00 Craft Ministry	28	29 Clarkesville Soup Kitchen	30	31

Worship Help January

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

	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
Worship Asst.	Pam Romesser	Chris Smith	Don Waara	Janice Bridges
Reader	Bob Schmebling	Don Waara	Suzi Anderson	Whitney Hutchinson
Usher	Lynn Graham Bill Inman	Jeff Anderson Suzi Anderson	Don Waara Marty Schmebling	Pam Finke Suzi Anderson
Altar Guild	Marty Schmebling Arline McWhinney	Lynn Graham Bill Inman	Pam Finke Pam Romesser	Barb Moser Sue Falls
Communion Bread	Marty	Marty	Chris	Marty
Service Team	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4



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
Pastor Alfredo Oviedo
Email: faithlutheran@windstream.net

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