



Forward With Faith

Faith Lutheran Church

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!

October 2026



From the PASTOR



Worship
Every Sunday
at 10:30

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

Sun October 4
10:30 Worship Service

Tues. October 6
10:00 am Bible Study

Sun October 11
10:30 Worship Service

Tues. October 13
10:00 am Craft Ministry
12:00 pm Let's Do Lunch
at Hofbrauhaus in Helen

Sun October 18
10:30 Worship Service
Family Promise meals start today
Oct. 18th-24th

Tues. October 20
10:00 Bible Study

Sun October 25
10:30 Worship Service
Reformation

Tues. October 27
10:00 Craft Ministry

Happy Birthday October



1 Mickey Sweeney*
Ted James
4 Pastor Mike*
31 Beth Castongia*

*friend of Faith

According to the Evangelical Lutheran Workshop (ELW), "Commemorations illuminate various aspects of the church's life and mission through the lives of women and men who have followed Christ in succeeding generations." On October 7 we commemorate Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg (1787), pastor in North America and on October 15 Teresa de Avila (1582), teacher and renewer of the Church.

According to the Living Lutheran, "Henry Melchior Muhlenberg (1711-1787) was a prominent American Lutheran pioneer pastor, church planter, organizer, administrator, liturgist and chronicler... Born in Einbeck, Germany, Muhlenberg was educated at Göttingen University, where he experienced a personal religious awakening. During a brief teaching tenure at the Francke Foundation in Halle, he became an ardent pietist, aspiring to go as a missionary to India. He was ordained in 1739 and served as assistant minister and director of the orphanage at Grosshennersdorf from 1739 to 1741, before he accepted the call to go to Pennsylvania... When Muhlenberg died in 1787 he left behind a church that was both demonstrably Lutheran and American. He certainly deserves to be called the founder of North American Lutheranism." (Peter Vethanayagamony. Living Lutheran October 11, 2018. Accessed September 28, 2026).

According to Catholic Online, Saint Teresa of Avila, "Born on March 28, 1515, in either Ávila or the nearby town of Gotarrendura, Saint Teresa of Ávila entered the world at a time of deep religious upheaval and renewal in the Church... Alongside her work as a reformer, Teresa became one of the Church's greatest spiritual writers. Her autobiography, The Life of Teresa of Jesus, recounts her journey of conversion and prayer. In The Way of Perfection, she offers practical guidance for those seeking to grow in holiness. Her masterpiece, The Interior Castle, describes the soul as a castle with many dwelling places, leading ultimately to union with God at its center.

Through these works, she teaches that prayer is not reserved for a few but is the path by which every soul can encounter the living God... Saint Teresa of Ávila's life stands as a powerful witness to the transforming love of God. Through suffering, perseverance, and unwavering trust, she discovered that the deepest truth of the Christian life is found in prayer. Her words continue to echo through the centuries, inviting every soul into that same intimacy with God: let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you, all things are passing, God alone suffices.” (Catholic Online. Accessed September 28, 2026).

As we read the life and ministry of saints as Henry Melchior Muhlenberg and Teresa of Avila, we are grateful for their dedication and life example as disciples of Christ. Also, we are tempted to mark a distance between us and them; we think we will never measure up and match their accomplishments. That is true, but not because we are less than... but because our callings are different and nobody (yet) knows enough of us to tell who we are and how our lives embody service to Christ and to the Church. Reformation Sunday is always special for us as Lutherans, we celebrate the banner of Luther's Reform movement: Christ, Scriptures, Grace, Faith, and Glory only to God. We are inheritors of the teachings, sacrifice and life examples, and prayers, of many Christians throughout XX centuries. We know of and commemorate the lives of the very few, but we do not forget the lives of the many anonymous Christians who have set foundations, nurtured, and passed on their Faith upon us. This year as our congregation has done in the past, In Reformation Sunday, we celebrate the years we have being doing ministry, 35 years of ministry! We are grateful for the vision, commitment, and sacrifice of the original charter members; those with us and the ones who have entered the Triumphant Church in heaven. I hope that the memory and deeds of the founders of our congregation continue inspiring us to preserve their heritage and, as God calls us, continue their work of preaching the Gospel, celebrating Sacraments, and service to the world in the name of Christ. Numbers are always important, even might be indicators of God's presence and the efficiency of our human work. Though let us never forget that with God, each one of us, in our own way and together, can become instruments of change, renewal, and reform to our Church and to the world.

Have a blessed and meaningful Reformation Celebration!

Happy 35 years of ministry Faith Lutheran!





Family Promise Update

October 18-24 is our week at the Family Promise House.

Please consider helping one day with a meal or part of a meal. Another way you could help is deliver a meal. We have money to purchase food if you could just help with getting it there.

Sign up to help in the Fellowship Hall.

The Family Promise sign up board with the dates is on the wall by the kitchen

For information talk to Bill or Marty

11th annual GREAT HELEN DUCK RACE

October 24th Race begins at 4:00PM

At Paul's Margarita Deck in Helen

Fun time for all and a great way to help Family Promise continue to provide services to the homeless in

White and Habersham County.

Bill Inman has tickets available.

1 duck for \$10 or 5 ducks for \$40.

Grand Prize \$5,000 for the first duck 2nd and 3rd place ducks win prizes valued at over \$750.



Notes from the Council

Council meeting minutes dated August 16th:

A committee has been formed to nominate members to serve on the 2027 church council. Please notify Pam or Sue if you would like to serve. Four new members are being sought.

We are actively searching for a new office assistant. The process is going well. If you would like to apply, the application is available on the Faith Lutheran Church website www.faithchurchga.com, or see Whitney, Suzi, or Tony for details.

The council has determined that November will be a month of Faith Visioning and Strategic Planning. Activities will include prayer groups, bible studies, open forums, and strategic planning meetings with all members who wish to participate. The goal is to develop a three year ministry plan. The process will culminate in an outside facilitator who will conduct a seminar with suggestions for a plan of action and realistic measurable goals.



We will Celebrate Reformation on October 25, 2026

Faith Lutheran Church was founded on Reformation Sunday 35 years ago. We will honor the vision of those who came before us, highlight our historical milestones, and give thanks to God for His unending grace that sustains us. We will have a special pot-luck meal after service celebrating the Reformation.

Please join us and don't forget to wear red!



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Bible Readings from the Lectionary for October 2026

	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
October 4	Isaiah 5:1-7	Psalm 80:7-15	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
October 11	Isaiah 25:1-9	Psalm 23	Philippians 4:1-9	Matthew 21:1-14
October 18	Isaiah 45:1-7	Psalm 96:1-9[10-13]	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
October 25 (Reformation Sunday)	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalm 46	Romans 3:19-28	John 8:31-36

What's happening at Faith



CRAFT AND OUTREACH MINISTRY

Our Crafty ladies
meet on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday
October 13th & 27th at 10:00 am
Come and join us for conversation and help with
our project, right now we are working on seasonal
wreaths made of strips of cloth tied on wire
wreath's.



Women's Bible Study

We meet on the 1st. & 3rd. Tuesday
October 6th and 20th
at 10:00 am

We would love to have some new faces in our group.
We are using our devotional book as a starting point
You are welcome to join us



Let's do Lunch Tuesday October 13, 2026 at 12:00

at

Hofbrauhaus in Helen

last month we had dessert at
Barb Moser's house after lunch.
Thanks Barb for hosting us.
We had a great time!



BREAD FOR THE FOOD PANTRY



Amount we have
given to the Food Panty
for Bread thru September 21 is
2,032 loaves at \$3,132.33
we are now paying \$1.52 a loaf



As we approach Reformation at the end of October we thought you might like some information on the Luther Seal. The most enduring symbol of the Lutheran Reformation is the seal that Luther himself designed to represent his theology. By the early 1520s, this seal begins to appear on the title page of Luther's works. Here is how Luther himself explained its meaning: First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but the heart its natural color. It doesn't destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17). The heart should stand in the middle of a white rose. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). This rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed. Around the field of blue is a golden ring to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.

(From: Letter from Martin Luther to Lazarus Speng-ler, July 8, 1530 [WA Br 5:445]; tr. P. T. McCain).

All Saints' Day Announcement

We celebrate All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 1. We will take this opportunity to remember and honor the faithful departed from the past year, while also celebrating the communion of saints and God's promise of eternal life.

Please share the names of those cherished saints, (family and friends), who have passed on to eternal life, where suffering and death are no more, with Marty or Pastor Alfredo by October 26.

October



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10:30 Service Pentecost 19 Green	5	6 10:00 Bible Study	7	8	9	10
11 10:30 Service Pentecost 20 Green	12	13 10:00 Craft Ministry 12:00pm Lunch at the Hofbrauhaus in Helen	14	15	16	17
18 10:30 Service Pentecost 21 Green Faith council meets today	19	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 Reformation Sunday wear Red Celebration Meal after church 	26	27 10:00 Craft Ministry	28	29 Clarkeville Soup Kitchen See Stephanie	31	

Worship Help October

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

	Oct. 4	Oct. 11	Oct. 18	Oct. 25
Worship Asst.	Janice Bridges	Whitney Hutchinson	Bill Inman	Pam Romesser
Reader	Suzi Anderson	Janice Bridges	Whitney Hutchinson	Signe Erne
Usher	Lynn Graham Bill Inman	Suzi Anderson	Don Waara Marty Schmehling	Suzi Anderson
Altar Guild	Pam Romesser	Barb Moser Sue Falls	Lynn Graham Bill Inman	Arline McWhinney Marty Schmehling
Communion Bread	Alexandra Oviedo	Marty Schmehling	Chris Smith	Alexandra Oviedo
Service Team	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4

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Faith Lutheran Church
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Faith Lutheran Church

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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 al Joyfully to serve

Core Values:

Grace

discipleship

Inclusivity

Grow in Prayer

Worship