



FAMILY of FAITH

LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMC

October 2025

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JOINING HANDS

Vol. 15 Issue 10 №. 181

Worship

Sundays 10:00 AM
Holy Communion

- October 5 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
Romans 8:18-25
Luke 17:1-10
- October 12 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Ruth 1:1-19a
Romans 8:28-34
Luke 17:11-10
- October 19 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 32:22-30
Romans 8:35-39
Luke 18:1-8
- October 26 Reformation Sunday
Revelation 14:6-7
Ephesians 2:1-11
John 8:31-36

Sunday School

Sunday School
9:00 AM

From Pastor Phil

Distractions

One of the strategies of the powers of evil is to distract the saints of God. Distractions can take many forms. The goal of the distraction is to get the people of God to pay so much attention to the distraction that the mission of the church is weakened or neglected. If energy, emotion, and time can be siphoned away from mission and onto the distraction it is a victory for the enemies of God.

Distractions are very much like the buzzing of an insect in your room at night. You know the thing you need most is sleep. You know the buzzing insect is not a major problem but a persistent annoyance. You turn on the light and try to deal with the distracting pest, but you can't find it. But no sooner do you turn out the lights there it is again, BUZZZZZZ. After lying there awake for much of the night you get up in the morning not ready for the day.

We have a major distraction that is taking away our focus on mission and siphoning energy away from being ready for mission. It is not an insect in the room. It is more like a buzzsaw in our ear. It threatens to disrupt who we are. The seeds it plants of frustration, anger, tensions or stress, cynicism, and blame casting are weeds in the garden of God. The distraction is the delays in the manufacture, testing, shipping, and installation of an HVAC system essential to the opening of our new facility. The power of the distraction over our mission is the choices we make in how we respond to the distraction.

I confess I have not always made the right choices. I have allowed it to affect my attitude, my motivation, and my energy for ministry. I don't think I am the only one. Please join me in prayer, in accountability to each other, and in carrying each other's burdens so this distraction becomes an opportunity to mature rather than a cause for discouragement and potentially destructive responses.

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistants



October 5 Lynn & Dan Miller
 October 12 Lynn & Dan Miller
 October 19 Lynn & Dan Miller
 October 26 Lynn & Dan Miller

Lectors



October 5 Kathy Arnold
 October 12 Jim Vassar
 October 19 Dan Miller
 October 26 Tom Nahm

Communion Bread Bakers



October 5 Mike Cholodewitsch
 October 12 Robin & Dave Dickman
 October 19 Kathi Heyman
 October 26 manna

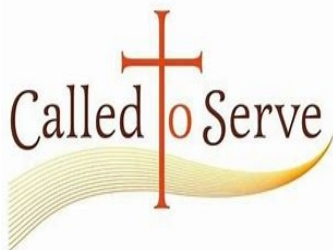
Coffee Brewers



The Java Café is open, with coffee being served Barista style and with snacks available.

Happy Birthday

October 1
 Tim Bridinger
 Delainey Mandeville
 October 3
 Mike Cholodewitsch
 October 5
 Macie Stine
 October 9
 Amanda Schwartz
 October 10
 Lois Huffman
 October 11
 Lisa Kissell
 October 21
 Kathy Falter
 Stacey Kiesel
 October 28
 Trey Shuey
 October 29
 Jeff Shuey



Vision Team Leadership

The Vision Team provides leadership for the ministry of Family of Faith and oversees the call of the pastor. Vision Team leaders must be members of Family of Faith. Vision Team members serve a three-year term after which they must be off the team for a minimum of one year. Spouses cannot serve on the Vision Team at the same time.

At our annual meeting in January, we will be affirming the call of multiple new Vision Team member overseeing the ministries of facility, finance, and spiritual development as well as the office of president. Between now and then a search will be conducted to identify from our family those who will provide that leadership. Please be in prayer for that search and if God may be calling you to be one of those new team members.

Spiritual Growth Opportunities

Youth Sunday School

October 5 - Ascension

October 12 - Pentecost

October 19 - Disciples helping the Community

October 26 - Philip and the Ethiopian



Women of Faith will meet Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 7:00 PM at Melissa's house.



If you need a ride to church on Sundays, can provide a ride, please let David Murray know. Also, if you can visit any of our shut-ins, please let David know.

Mid-Week Bible Study Cultural Narratives - Christian Alternatives We continue to contrast culture and faith in our midweek discussions Tuesdays at 1:30 and 7:00 pm. Get pre-session reading material and confirmation of location by emailing pastor at: pastormoerdyk@gmail.com

October 7 Performance or Grace

October 14 Superstition or Faith

October 21 Heaven or Hell

October 28 Heavenly Mind but No Earthly Good?



Yard Work at 170 West Davis

As we move into the fall, there will be yard work and landscaping to do at 170 West Davis.

These will be coordinated through our Facilities Team. If you can help out, please

talk to Tom Nahm or email the office and we will pass on the information.



Donate Beverages for Open House

While the date for the open house at 170 West Davis is still to be finalized, take advantage of sales of canned soda/pop, or bottled Iced

Tea or Water (no 2-liters or other large containers - single serve only) to donate to the food component of the event. Keep these at home until we occupy the building. Many thanks to those who can participate.

Renovation Update - Manufacture, testing, and shipping of our HVAC unit has been delayed again pushing our probable occupancy date into November. We have been in close communication with our contractor and architectural firm regarding what steps can be taken and if there are any options available to us. We are also in discussion about further communications that might be appropriate. We are told the delay is the result of supply chain issues of component parts for manufacture as well as a re-tooling of the manufacturing software that has had unanticipated glitches. We know this is testing the patience of everyone involved.

In the meantime, a blockage has been discovered between the building and the city sewer line. This is outside of the renovation contract and is our responsibility as property owners. We have consulted two firms and the city to determine the nature and extent of the problem. We know there is a significant breakthrough or roots into the line near the exit into the city sewer, but there are indications that there could be other damage to the line that cannot be determined without excavation. As frustrating as it is to have another issue to deal with, better now than a month or two after we move in.

Tasks that the contractor can do prior to the HVAC system continue to be addressed to ensure as fast as an occupancy as possible after HVAC installation. There is estimated to be two-three weeks of work that cannot be done until the system is delivered.

Above and Beyond Our last draw on our financing will be completed in October. All expenses beyond that will come from what is left in the building fund. Once the project is complete, that fund will be almost fully expended.

The Above and Beyond opportunity for the facility will remain ongoing as the current renovation is only the minimum required to move into the facility. The next phase will be the establishment of multiple spaces for Sunday School, meetings, and small group ministries within the congregation or with the neighborhood. The third phase will be the large worship and ministry space.

We can only proceed with these phases when either we pay down the current debt so we can apply for more financing or when the building fund increases to where we can pay for it ourselves. A very rough estimate (subject to changes in construction costs between now and then) for the next phase is at least \$250,000.

Please consider continued regular giving to Above and Beyond as well as special larger giving through legacy or estate planning.



Our October Mission Outreach Baskets will be Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. There will be a basket of empty boxes for you to take and fill and a basket for your filled boxes.



You may have seen news reports about the surge of interest in Christianity at Ohio State and other universities across the country. It is also happening here in Tiffin. CRU is a national

campus ministry organization with outreach at both Heidelberg and Tiffin Universities. This fall both campuses have seen gatherings for worship and Bible Study in excess of 100 students per event. When Pastor Phil was called to Family of Faith, he was asked by the congregation to make his presence on campus a part of our outreach. In addition to being a frequent speaker on both campuses, for the last three years he has served as the local spiritual and leadership resource to the student leadership councils of CRU at both institutions. Last spring over twenty students helped us move our things from the mall to 170 West Davis. Please give praise and continue to pray for what God is doing in our local universities.



Thank You's

Family of Faith,

I want to thank Tom Nahm for bringing communion to us at the Willows at Tiffin each month! There are 4 of us residing here at this time and we appreciate Tom remembering us!

Looking forward to coming back to church

Phyllis Burks



Family of Faith is a family inside of a much larger Family of God. It is good to have gatherings of the people of God from many small families in order to celebrate the larger family together. The Encounter Nights are an invitation to do just that with other Christians here in Tiffin. While I will be out of town that weekend, I encourage the Family of Faith to attend.

Brothers and Sisters of Family of Faith,

October marks two significant anniversaries for me in my time here at Family of Faith. Ten years ago, you trusted me to be your pastor. Those ten years have seen many changes and many more lie ahead as we move into neighborhood ministry. In my time here, you have proven time and time again that you are a family and not just a religious organization. You have taken opportunities to grow in faith and share the faith. You have lived up to your name. It has been my honor and privilege to be your pastor.

October 8 marks the anniversary of Peggy's death. This family has been gracious and supported during her months of treatment and to me in these months since her death. As I have been on my grief journey there have been times when I have not been there for you as I feel I have been in the past. You have been very patient and understanding. It means a lot to me.

Thank You,

Pastor

Vision Team Highlights

● **Pastor's Report - Pastor Phil:** Pastor Phil said that there were 120 kids attending the CRU meeting at Heidelberg and 90 kids at Tiffin University.

The Visitation Team keeps him informed when a member is in the hospital or scheduled for surgery. When he met with the Call Committee it was agreed that he would take care of ministry needs.

Pulpit Supply: Pastor said that he will need a pulpit supply on October 12. He will write the sermon for someone to read. It was decided to have the next Vision Team meeting on October 5.

● **Finance - Mike Cholodewitsch:** Mike distributed the Balance Sheet dated September 13, 2025, and a Profit and Loss document dated January 1 through September 13, 2025.

● **Facilities - Tom Nahm: Sewer Line:** Pastor Phil reported that there are tree roots in the main sewer line between the building and the street. We don't know what the actual issue is; therefore, we are having Darr's come in with their camera to scope it. It is either a crushed/broken tile or tree roots. The city's sewer line runs down the middle street and that is clear. There is a blockage at the edge of the street and that is our problem. If we have to dig up the street, we will have to pay to repair it. The clean-out doesn't need to be changed.

Handicap Parking: three signs have been installed on the Oak Street side of the building.

● **Worship - Kathy Falter:** Kathy reported that she has readers and communion assistants lined up for 2026.

● **Spiritual Development - Melissa Jameson:** Start of Sunday School: Melissa said that she met with Linda Grover and they would like to start kid's Sunday School on September 28. Randy will contact Dale to let him know that we will need to use the activity space again. The curriculum hasn't been decided on yet. The two classes will be combined.

● **Congregational Care - Dave Murray:** Dave reported that his committee hasn't had much to do lately. We will be helping at the Sharing Kitchen the Monday before Thanksgiving. Also, we may have the dessert sale on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

● **Outreach - Julie Engle:** Julie reported that we will be collecting items for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas boxes in October.

● **Volunteer Coordination/President's Report - Randy Schwartz:** Randy reported that he has someone in mind for the Finance Committee. Several names were considered for the other committee chairs that will be vacant.

● **Other Business: 170 West Davis Update**

Renovation Update: Pastor Phil reported that someone from 5 Star did a walk-through last Friday to see if there is anything else they can do before the H/VAC system arrives (painting, electrical, etc.).

Transition Team Update: Pastor Phil reported that Linda Grover purchased several storage cabinets from Ameriwood.

Connection Team Update: Community Open House Date - the open house will be held two weeks after Phase 1 has been inspected.

Sunday School and Worship Times recommend holding at 9:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Sign Proposal: Pastor Phil distributed two options for the outside sign. It will be steel.

Room Setup: the worship area can only be set up one way – facing east.

Interior Cross: Melissa made the motion to keep the wooden cross in storage for now so it isn't damaged, Mike seconded; all agreed. Pastor Phil distributed a picture of a banner with a cross to be used behind the altar.

Space Utilization: a monthly calendar will be used to keep track of the different activities

Neighborhood Familiarity: Pastor suggests we walk and/or drive through the neighborhood to learn the streets



Deadlines: Bulletins - Thursday each week.
Newsletter - the 25th of each month.

Please be mindful of the deadlines, so that the production of these important materials can be done in a timely fashion.

Contact Information

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Praying Angels Ministry
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or e-mail: hietgirl@aol.com

Office Hours: The church office is open from 2-5PM, through the week.

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E-mail: pastormoerdyk@gmail.com

Vision Team President: Randy Schwartz