



FAMILY of FAITH[™]

LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMC

January 2026

170 W. Davis Street • Tiffin, Ohio 44883-1337

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JOINING HANDS

Vol. 16 Issue 1 №. 184

Worship

Sundays 10:00 AM
Holy Communion

January 4 Second Sunday after Christmas
1 Kings 3:4-15
Ephesians 1:3-14
Luke 2:41-51

January 11 Baptism of Our Lord
Isaiah 42:1-9
Romans 6:1-11
Luke 4:1-13

January 18 Second Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 49:1-7
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Luke 4:14-21

January 25 Third Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 9:1-4
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Luke 8:15

Sunday School

Sunday School
9:00 AM

From Pastor Phil

Renewal in a New Year

After a frustrating delay, it looks like the renovation will be a reality soon unless something unexpected occurs. It is exciting to think about moving into a building of our own even if it has taken longer than hoped.

With renovation, there must be rededication. I do not mean rededication of a building. Rededication to our mission. We must never forget that Family of Faith exists to connect people with Jesus, God's Word, and Each other. The building was never the goal. This mission has always been our purpose and our call.

This has been true in all our various locations. This is what has made Family of Faith what it is. It has never been the place we meet. It has always been about the God we serve and the Gospel we share. Now we have a new opportunity to renew that mission.

This is not mostly about us. It is the people we can reach and serve. It is not having a church building. It is about being a church of the neighborhood, not a building in it. We are not crossing a finish line. We are stepping up to a new starting line.

I am not trying to put a damper on any enthusiasm or deny anyone a chance to celebrate. We should have joy and give praise for what is being provided for us. Let us be happy as we draw nearer to the date.

Yet, let us move quickly to be thinking of how God would have us use what is provided. Let us reimagine what Family of Faith can be in this place of making connections; to Jesus, to the Word, and to Each other. What will it mean to be a good neighbor. How will we move forward in such a way as to give God glory and not Family of Faith. How does a renovation become a rededication and renewal of mission begun years ago and continuing to be vital today?

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistants



January 4 Tom & Beth Nahm
 January 11 Tom & Beth Nahm
 January 18 Tom & Beth Nahm
 January 25 Tom & Beth Nahm

Lectors



January 4 Tom Nahm
 January 11 Kathy Arnold
 January 18 Jeff Shuey
 January 25 Jim Vassar

Communion Bread Bakers



January 4 Mike Chlodewitsch
 January 11 Julie Elchert
 January 18 Kathy Falter
 January 25 manna

Coffee Brewers



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

Happy Birthday

January 4
 Austin Stombaugh
 January 8
 Joey Steininger, III
 January 9
 Mason Dutton
 January 10
 Teresa Traxler
 January 11
 Pat Karcher
 January 12
 Danny Schirack
 Shirley Smith
 January 13
 Makenzie Felske
 Gunther Kissell
 Luann Schirack
 January 23
 Tom Stover
 January 24
 Dave Dickman
 Bob Kline
 January 29
 Lisa Yoder
 January 31
 Amanda Melick



Getting the building completed and the inspections filed is only part of the task of being ready to go. We will have a useable space, but it won't be in useable condition without elbow grease.

1. We need a crew to finish moving out of the mall and theater. This will involve loading and unloading a truck.
2. We need to get dust off the things that have been stored at 170 West Davis. We need cleaning crews.
3. We have cabinets to assemble for storage in the new space.
4. We need to carry items into the renovated space and arrange them.
5. We have a kitchen to organize.
6. We have worship space to arrange.

This is all hands-on-deck. We have desired this space and now it's time to step up and make it happen. Let Linda Grover, who is coordinating this work, know your availability.

Spiritual Growth Opportunities

Youth Sunday School

January 4 - Two Houses
January 11 - Wedding Banquet
January 18 - Things Lost
January 25 - Good Samaritan



Women of Faith will meet Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 4:00 PM at Zo Redman's house, please bring an appetizer to share.



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.



Our January Mission Outreach Baskets we will be Household items and non-perishable goods for Salvation Army.



Mid-Week Bible Study

We will resume midweek adult discussions at 1:30 and 7:00 pm on January 6. Location to depend upon renovation timeline, but initially at pastor's house. Discussion will be considering the letter to Timothy, a young church leader, about what it means to be a faithful church. Everyone is invited.

Above and Beyond

The delay of the HVAC along with the sewer and office furnace projects has increased our building and facility budget. We are exploring options to recoup expenses related to the HVAC delay. This has put pressure on our fund availability. Please consider end of the year or new year giving.

Also remember, we are not through with the long-term renovation project. We have phase two which is the classroom section and phase three for the worship center area to complete. Consider making this a part of your financial planning as we move forward.

Facility Update: In development apart from the renovation project, two building issues have been discovered. The first was the clogging of the line from the building to the sewer, which is our responsibility as building owners. Less costly options were tried, but in the end the old line had to be replaced. While disappointing, it is fortunate that this was found before we moved in and began operations. The second issue was the failure of the furnace that is independent of the HVAC that was heating the office and front work area. This also had to be replaced. Both systems are now functioning correctly

Renovation Update: As many of our members know, the HVAC unit that has delayed our renovation project is in and is being installed. Our contractors have been working hard to complete the installation, complete things like walls or flooring, and finish their part of the project. All of this takes time. It is not like bring in home units. Once the work is completed, the whole site will require site inspection. Please be patient and be in prayer, We are in the home stretch.



Family of Faith's Inclement Weather Policy is that we will cancel worship services when Seneca County is at a Level 3 Snow Emergency. And remember, anytime you feel that it is unsafe for you to travel, please stay home. We want our "Family" to be safe out on the roads.



Family of Faith is to help with the **Ecumenical Sharing Kitchen** on Monday, January 5, 2026, and Thursday, January 8, 2025, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 46 Madison Street, Tiffin. Five to Six volunteers are needed. Two should come at 10:30a.m., and the remaining volunteers at 11:00 a.m. Please let Dave Murray know if you are able to volunteer.



Thank You's

Thank you to Family of Faith Congregation for their continued support of the Youth Sunday School program. The children truly enjoy the program and look forward to being in our new facility.

Family of Faith Youth

Thank you to Family of Faith for your patience and care as I heal up. A special thank you to the worship team for covering Sundays and Christmas Eve. I appreciate the carols, cards, and other acts of kindness. Hopefully, I will be more active again come the New Year.

Pastor Phil

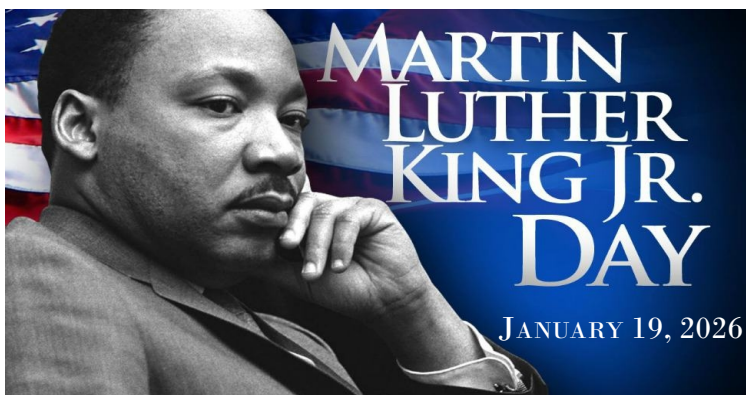
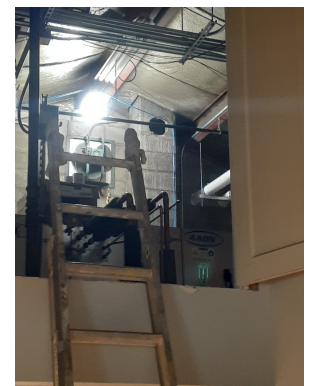


A New Year's Prayer

Lord, we look toward you, our hope, our peace, and our comfort in this New Year. As we enter into the unknown of the coming year, we ask for your guidance and wisdom. Illuminate our path with your light so that we may walk in your ways and make choices that align with your will. Help us to seek first your kingdom and trust that all other things will be added unto us. Amen.



We are getting closer, some photographs of the progress



Vision Team Highlights

● **Pastor's Report - Pastor Phil: Health Update:** Pastor Phil said that he is still doing physical therapy and is doing better. He is done with speech therapy.

● **Finance - Mike Cholodewitsch:** Mike reported on the balance in the building fund and the checking account.

● **Facilities - Tom Nahm: Sewer Line:** Tom reported that the sewer line has been repaired. They started Monday and finished Wednesday. A section of the street did need to be removed and replaced so the bill was higher than expected.

Fire System and Monitoring: Randy will contact the monitoring company.

● **Worship - Kathy Falter:** Pastor Phil said that our Christmas Eve service will be held at Faith United Methodist church on North Sandusky Street at 7:00 p.m. The hymns will be printed in the bulletin.

● **Spiritual Development - Melissa Jameson:** Melissa requested that a thank-you note to the kids that have been coming to Sunday School be published in the next newsletter. Also, after we move, adult Sunday School will resume.

● **Congregational Care - Dave Murray:** No Report

● **Outreach - Julie Engle:** Julie reported that this month can goods and paper products are being collected for the Salvation Army. Next month we will be collecting money for the baby bottle project. Pastor Phil thanked Julie for keeping things going during this state of flux.

● **Volunteer Coordination/President's Report - Randy Schwartz:**

Randy reported that he still needs to find a president and chair for the Spiritual Development committee.

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

Linda said that there will be a "blessing box" placed outside. It will be painted white with colored hand prints by the Sunday School kids.

Linda purchased cupboards that need to be put together. Some will go in the entrance way, along with a coat rack, and some in the class rooms.

The HVAC system did arrive last Monday. It has already been moved onto its platform.

Connection Team: Pastor Phil said that the open house will be held in the Spring.



We will have our **Annual Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, January 25, 2026, with a make-up day of the first Sunday in February.



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

Prayer Requests: 419.619.6904

or e-mail: hietgirl1@aol.com

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

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Vision Team President: Randy Schwartz