



FAMILY of FAITH[™]

LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMC

October 2026

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JOINING HANDS

Vol. 16 Issue 10 №. 193

Worship

Sundays 10:00 AM
Holy Communion

- October 4 19th Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 5:1-7
Philippians 3:12—4:1
Matthew 21:33-46
- October 11 20th Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 25:6-9
Philippians 4:2-9
Matthew 22:1-14
- October 18 21st Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 45:1-7
Philippians 4:10-20
Matthew 22:15-22
- October 25 Reformation Sunday
Revelation 14:6-7
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

Sunday School

Sunday School
9:00 AM

From Pastor Phil

Trellis and Vine

For the last couple of years, we have had a focus on renovation as a tool for furthering mission. Now that we are in our partially renovated facility, we need to secure the other aspects of Family of Faith that support our mission.

In this newsletter you will find articles by the President and the Treasurer about what they see as ways to put our support of mission on stronger logistical ground. I urge you to read those and participate in the discussions of such matters.

My experience at Family of Faith is that it is made up of people who respond when there are needs and take initiative when there are things to get done. There are congregations where most of the people come to receive the services made possible by the pastor and a few key leaders. That is not the vision upon which Family of Faith was founded and has not been the way we historically have ever been.

I once read that the mission of a church has two aspects. Like a grape vine there must be the vine (the active and growing part of the mission) and a trellis (the hidden structure behind the vine which is the business side of church that supports the vine as it grows).

At Family of Faith we have four Ministry Teams that are the vine: Worship, Spiritual Development, Outreach, and Congregational Care. The trellis has three Ministry Teams: Finance, Facility, and Leadership Volunteers. For mission to be effective all seven teams need leaders to coordinate the team and team members who share the responsibilities.

This is a reminder to all of us that mission depends on each of us and each of us is gifted by God to be involved. Moving forward we need a strong trellis and a healthy vine.

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistants



October 4 Jeff Shuey & Jim Vassar
 October 11 Jeff Shuey & Jim Vassar
 October 18 Jeff Shuey & Jim Vassar
 October 25 Jeff Shuey & Jim Vassar

Lectors



October 4 Mary Lou Traxler
 October 11 Wanda Phares
 October 18 Jeff Shuey
 October 25 Jim Vassar

Communion Bread Bakers



October 4 Zo Redman
 October 11 Kathi Heyman
 October 18 manna
 October 25 Tom Nahm

Coffee Brewers



The Java Café is open with snacks available.

Happy Birthday

October 1
 Tim Bridinger
 Delaine Mandeville
 October 3
 Mike Cholodewitsch
 October 5
 Macie Stine
 October 9
 Amanda Schwartz
 October 10
 Lois Huffman
 Ruthi Walker
 October 11
 Lisa Kissell
 October 21
 Kathy Falter
 Stacey Kiesel
 October 27
 Jaret Nelson
 October 28
 Trey Shuey
 October 29
 Jeff Shuey



Two of you are out there who God has called and equipped to fill one of two leadership positions starting after our annual meeting in January. Members of the Vision Team head Ministry Teams that enable our mission to go forward. It is the team working together and not just one person that makes the ministry go. A good leader gathers people around them. A leader who knows he or she is not ready to do it all is a leader who we need, because he or she will bring people together in order to share the load and the joy. That is the kind of leader we need on our Worship and Congregational Ministry Teams. Is that you?

Spiritual Growth Opportunities

Youth Sunday School

October 4 -

October 11 -

October 18 -

October 25 -



Journey Through the Bible
Bible Explorers



Women of Faith will meet Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. here at the church.



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.



Women of Faith Garage Sale
Saturday, October 17, 2026,
starting at 8:00 a.m. All collected
items from the congregation must
be pre priced, be in good working
order, and include all pieces
(games, etc). We will also be collecting clean, gently used
clothing as a free will donation. Pre priced items need to be
dropped off at church by Sunday, October 11, 2026. ALL
UNSOLD ITEMS WILL BE DONATED TO A
COMMUNITY AGENCY. Proceeds from the sale will go
to a church ministry/need and a local community agency.
Contact Zo Redman or Beth Nahm with questions.



Trunk or Treat Pop Up Event

Family of Faith Church

Sunday, October 25, 2026

6:00-8:00 PM

Being held during Tiffin's Trick or
Treat. Another opportunity to meet
our neighbors. All are welcome.



October Mission Baskets

We are collecting items for Samaritans
Purse Operation Christmas Child. We
have OCC boxes ready for you to fill.
Keep in mind the guidelines below as you
purchase items for the OCC boxes.



How to Pack Your Shoebox Gift

As you prayerfully prepare to pack your shoebox gift, please remember that your shoebox gift will be an expression of God's love to a child. In fact, it may be the only gift the child receives. So, plan to pack quality items that will last, **and don't forget to make it FUN!**



1 SHOEBOX
Get a standard size shoebox to pack for a boy or girl. Need shoeboxes? Great preprinted boxes are available on our website.



4 PRAY
Most importantly, **pray** for the child who will receive your gift. Include a personal note and photo to delight the heart of the child.



2 "WOW" ITEM
Select a quality "wow" toy such as a doll, soccer ball with pump, or stuffed animal to bless a child.



5 DONATE \$10 PER BOX
A donation of \$10 per box is critical to cover shipping and other project costs. For easiest processing you can give online. If you use our **Follow Your Box** feature online, you can also discover the destination of your shoebox!



3 OTHER GIFTS
Pack full with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies.



6 DROP OFF
Take your shoebox gift to a local drop-off location during **National Collection Week, the third week in November**. Visit our website to find one near you.

SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/OCC



Shoebox Gift Suggestions

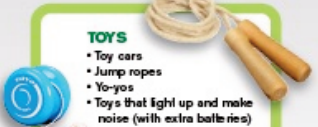
"WOW" ITEM

- Soccer ball with pump
- Doll
- Stuffed animal
- Shoes



TOYS

- Toy cars
- Jump ropes
- Yo-yos
- Toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries)



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toothbrushes
- Washcloths
- Combs
- Hairbrushes



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, and markers
- Notebooks and paper
- Coloring and picture books
- Solar calculators



ACCESSORIES

- Socks
- Sunglasses
- Jewelry and watches
- Flashlights (with extra batteries)



DO NOT INCLUDE

candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; scary or war-related items; seeds; food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items or glass containers; aerosol cans

GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.

VIEW COLLECTION & DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR SAMARITANS PURSE HERE: SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/OCCLINK

Samaritan's Purse
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF

Operation Christmas Child® is a project of Samaritan's Purse®.
Franklin Graham, President | 1-800-353-5949 | samaritanspurse.org
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10-2127-06



The Tiffin-Seneca Public Library is putting together a special community cookbook in celebration of America's 250th anniversary.

The commemorative cookbook, which will be published and distributed in 2027, will

highlight the recipes, traditions and memories that make the Tiffin and Seneca County community special. They are looking for favorite family recipes, recipes passed down through generations, local favorites, holiday traditions, church recipes, or any recipe that has a special story or connection to our community.

They would especially love to include recipes that have been shared at church dinners, holiday gatherings, community events or family celebrations over the years.

Recipes can be submitted in any of the following ways:

- Bring a copy to the Tiffin-Seneca Public Library. We can photocopy original recipes.
- Submit a recipe through our online form here: <https://forms.gle/6Hq4o6Mp9puLTbQs5>
- Email a scanned or typed recipe to tiffinlibrary@tiffinsenecalibrary.org

Everyone who submits a recipe will receive a copy of the cookbook when it is published in 2027. We hope to have all recipes compiled by the end of October.

Thank you for helping us preserve and celebrate the food, stories and traditions that make our community special.



We will celebrate Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2026, so remember to wear **RED** to church.



Sunday

October 25, 2026

Our 13th Annual Oktoberfest will be held Sunday, October 25, 2026, following Sunday Worship. We will be celebrating our German roots as Lutherans with an Oktoberfest which dates back to 1810.

We will have Bratwurst, Hotdogs, and Sauerkraut ready for everyone to enjoy. We are asking you to bring your favorite German dish, side dish, salad or dessert to share.

This event will be held at Family of Faith Lutheran Church, 170 W. Davis Street, following our 10:15 a.m. worship service. We hope that you will be able to join us!

**Gute Freunde!
Gutes Essen!
Sich Amüsieren!**



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.

New Ways to Give: Below are scannable QR Codes for giving to Family of Faith. This can be done right on your cell phone. Follow the prompts to complete your transaction and receive a receipt. You can give to one or both funds and if you are interested in setting up recurring monthly giving please speak to Shirley Smith.

These QR Codes are also available on our website.

Ministry Donation

Phase II Building Fund



A Word from Vision Team President . . .

Every so often I need to slow down and realign myself. What I mean by that is am I doing ok; my health, my emotions, my priorities. Am I taking care of myself. Am I sharing myself with others and if so, am I communicating in the right way by speaking gently, positively and building others up so that person(s) feel that they are worthwhile, needed, wanted.

Now let's change the I to WE. Are we, as members of the Family of Faith doing all of those (me things) as mentioned earlier? Maybe we need to look at US from the family perspective. Sometimes it's important to shake our lives up a bit which means get out of our day to day, week to week routines. Perhaps a trip to a random destination. Maybe change our reading from romantic books to mysteries. Others may choose to volunteer and still others decide to take some education classes to learn a new language, etc.

The point is; remaining healthy physically, emotionally, and spiritually requires us to make a change. Do something beyond our comfort range. The nice thing is we do it in small steps and when surrounded by friends and family for support those steps are not scary at all.

The Vision Team is approaching the end of the year with two members concluding their terms; leading two different ministries: WORSHIP and CONGREGATIONAL CARE. They have been unable to find a replacement. With no one to lead these ministries we will become weaker in our mission for Christ.

Oh sure, we will continue to function—minimally but not as effective as we have been.

Please, think and pray on your decision if asked. Every person has been given gifts from God. Allow Him to come out in you. Remember, YOU WILL NOT BE ALONE.

Jim Vassar, Vision Team President

Additional Expenses & Giving Opportunities

Since we've completed phase one and have started to settle into our new building, there have been a number of one-time expenses (some expected and some unexpected), and there will be a few more to come in the near future. On the heels of completing our financial obligation to Five-Star and RCM, our financial reserves are much smaller than they were before. Below is a list of some of these additional costs, both for the recent past and near future. As noted below, some of these expenses have already been offset by specific donations. For that, I want to extend a huge thank you to the individuals who stepped up to address those needs. I also would like to recognize that there have been numerous other in-kind donations that are not recognized below as could be seen many times over for the open house. I apologize in advance, because I'm sure I've missed some things.

For the items below that have not already been offset, please consider if there is anything that you might be willing and able to direct a special donation to. In this way, we can rebuild our reserves and be in a better position to handle the next unexpected expense that may be on the horizon. If you are able to take care of one of these items, please put in the memo what you are donating toward. Of course, you are always welcome to just make a general donation if you prefer.

Items include but are not limited to:

Items already covered by special donations

Post Cards for open house: 254.00
 Postage for postcards: approximately 500.00
 Gas Cards for open house: 250.00
 Signs for open house: 100.00
 Curtains & Banners: cost unknown
 Landscape plants & stone: cost unknown
 Exterior Paint: cost unknown
 Boxes to raise the screens: cost unknown
 Repair of Overhead door: 186.00
 Misc. other open house expenses: 180.00
 Future exterior sign: approximately 200.00
 (commitment received)
 Professional cleaning of chairs: 1463.00

Recent & future items to consider for special donations:

Alarm System Service contract: 1500.00
 HVAC Maintenance contract: 625.00
 Unexpected HVAC repair labor: 875.00
 Future Router: approximately 200.00
 Privacy Fencing near HVAC unit: approximately 300.00

Sincere Thank you!
 Dan Miller, Finance Team

Vision Team Highlights

● **Pastor's Report** - Pastor Phil: Vision Team Retreat: Pastor Phil wants to have a retreat after the annual meeting. We haven't had one for the last several years. It should last at least half a day. Now that we are here, we need to discuss where we are going, etc.

● **Finance** - Dan Miller: Dan is concerned about the trends. Giving is down this August compared to last year.

Current Financials: He gave the totals in the General Fund and Building Fund. We are struggling. There are several bills amounting to \$1300 that haven't been paid. Dan would like to move \$2000 from the Building Fund to the General Fund; all agreed. Pastor Phil wants us to use the General Fund to pay maintenance costs.

WIFI: the internet is now \$80/month instead of \$231/month from Spectrum. This price is good for five years.

Dan would like to create a list in the next newsletter of expenditures we have had over the last two months so that people can donate to a particular item if they wish.

Dan reported that Linda Grover is ecstatic about using the QR code to sell her handmade items.

● **Facilities** - Jeff Shuey: Friday Trash Pick-up: Jeff thanked the people who are taking the totes to the curb.

Sign Update: Jim will follow up on the status of the permit needed for the sign. The design for the sign has been approved.

Winter Parking Lot Clearance: Jeff will talk to Julie's husband to see if he can plow the snow in our parking lot.

HVAC Update: we are still waiting on the parts.

● **Worship** - Kathy Falter: Pastor Phil: Communicating Changes and Substitutes: Pastor Phil talked to Kathy regarding that if she changes readers she has to talk to both parties.

Sunday Morning Technology: only Pastor Phil and Teresa know how to turn on the screens, etc. Other people need to learn.

Plans for Thanksgiving and Christmas: Pastor Phil will contact Pastor Doug DeVoss regarding the Thanksgiving Eve service being held here.

● **Spiritual Development** - Beth Nahm & Zo Redman: Fall Programming: Zo reported that Amy Schwartz volunteered to teach the children's Sunday School. A decision hasn't been made regarding adult Sunday School yet.

Garage Sale: there are items in the Phase 3 area that we don't need so we'd like to have a garage sale. An

announcement will be made so the congregation can also donate items if they wish. We'd like to hold it the first part of October.

Linda Grover has items for the Operation Christmas Child donations.

Pastor Phil said that no one has come for the 7:00 p.m. Bible study session.

● **Congregational Care** - Dave Murray: Date of Oktoberfest: It was decided to have a potluck on October 25. Zo said that there will also be a "trunk or treat" activity that same day.

● **Outreach** - Julie Engle: October outreach: will be Operation Shoe Box. Last year we did 47 boxes, goal is to hit 50+.

Pastor Phil: Sharing Box: there will be a sharing box at the side door. Julie is putting a coat of polyurethane on it before it is placed outside.

Follow Up on Visitors to Open House: Pastor Phil has reached out to the person who wanted to talk to him, but hasn't been able to touch base yet. Teresa said that those wanting to receive the newsletter have been added to her list.

● **Volunteer Coordination** - Jim Vassar: Jim has asked several people regarding serving on the Vision Team next year, but no one has accepted.

● **President's Report** - No Report

Contact Information

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/Familyoffaithlcmc

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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