



Faith Lutheran Church & Campus Ministry

January 2026

From the Pastor

New beginnings. Fresh starts. Re-engagement.

There is something very exciting about the month of January. Turning the page to a new month and a new year always seems so full of possibility! It's as if the universe is at work re-energizing hearts and minds for what is to come. Perhaps there is a new opportunity to be seized, a challenge to be accepted, or an obstacle to finally overcome. Maybe it's a change of scenery, a change of circumstances, or a change of heart coming your way.

Clearly for this congregation there is a new pastor on the horizon. A call committee will be formed in February and begin their important work. But even without a permanent pastor, there is still a mission for everyone at Faith to

focus on: sharing the love of Christ in the community and on the campus of Miami U! One way we can each do this is to invite others to join us and encourage people to come and check out Faith. Tell others about the new and exciting things that are in the works. We want as many people as possible to be along for this exhilarating ride!

Let's begin 2026 with positive attitudes and expectations, trusting God will make known God's desire for Faith and for you. May each of us be open to the new things the Spirit is working in our lives, in the congregation, and in the world.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Karn

Staff

Transitional Pastor - Karn S. Carroll

Office Manager - Kim Taylor

Director Chancel Choir - Julie Froude

Director of Christian Life - Lara Haines

Custodian - Joy Tipton

Congregation Council 2025

President - Ted Caudill

Vice President - Cindi Bixler

Treasurer - Annie Caudill

Secretary - Kathy Jennings

Media - George Davis

Christian Life - John Perkins

Social Action - Brenda Stevens

Faith Lutheran Church

420 South Campus Ave
Oxford, Ohio 45056
513.523.3808



Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, January 25

All members are invited to attend the annual meeting and help celebrate all that God has done through Faith this past year. Pledges of time, talent and treasure for 2026 will be collected and blessed during worship and the meeting will begin after the postlude.



January President's Message from Ted

Hello everyone. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. The season is about joy and finding that joy around us. I see it in Christmas lights and decorations, in the people around me, and in the story of Christ's birth. May God grant us all feelings of joy and peace this Christmas season.

I'd like to start my message this month with some very **joyful news about the Giving Tree**. The Talawanda Social Work Team had 63 families in need this Christmas. That totaled 182 children. We committed to providing fifty \$25 gift cards to help meet that need. We exceed that. Below is a breakdown. If you're looking to feel good give it a good read.

Seventy-Seven \$25 gift cards were donated totaling **\$1,925**

Four Families received the gift cards we donated. Each family had 3 children of mixed ages from 6-16 years old. One family is new to the area and this is their first Christmas in the United States.

One day after giving our donation to Chris Robertson, the THS Social Worker, sent me this email:

I reached out yesterday to one of the families these cards are going to and she cried. Her husband just lost his job and their car broke down so this came at the perfect time to have a great impact on this family and their Christmas holiday. These 3 kids, 1 boy and 2 girls will get Christmas this year because of your church. These parents don't have to live with guilt and shame of not providing their children a Christmas. Now they can focus on their other problems and trying to enjoy the holiday. Thank you and your church!

This has even helped me as being able to help people through tough times and getting to see the impact of generosity like this fills me with hope and helps keep me motivated that we are making a difference one family at a time. Have a great day.

I'm proud of us. This is making an impact. It's making a difference and spreading Christmas joy.

In addition to the Giving Tree, I also have **good news to share about Campus Ministry**. Paston Karn applied for a grant through the synod and we were awarded **\$12,000**. This is the type of budget that our Campus Ministry really needs to get off the ground. This sort of money can be used for retreats, fellowship, and spiritual growth. I think we are priming the pump to reinvigorate our campus ministry. Lindsey and Mason have set up good groundwork and this award will allow us to provide some exciting opportunities.

I'd also like to remind everyone to please set aside the dates for both **Mary Alice's and Lara's** celebration. Please be on the lookout for those upcoming dates. Thank you to both of them for such faithful service over many years. We, as a congregation, are grateful for their gifts and talents.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that the **Call Committee Interest forms** are both in the Narthex and in the office. They can be turned in to the office until February 8. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity.

Faith's Table

Each month Faith is one of 5 area congregations that provides a free community meal and basic household necessities to families in need. Faith offers this meal next on Wednesday, January 14. Set up begins at 5:00 pm and food service begins at 5:30 pm. Gifts of hospitality, cooking, baking, and serving are most appreciated to ensure this time is one that blesses our community. If you are able to help with the dinner, there will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex/lobby. If you are able to donate some household items like paper towels, dish soap, feminine products, or hygiene items, please place them in the box outside of the sanctuary. We will need 2 extra people to serve and take the food in takeout boxes to Winter house. Thank you for your generosity!

Mary Alice Mawer Retirement Reception on Sunday, January 4

A reception in celebration of Mary Alice's music ministry at Faith will be held after worship on Sunday, January 4. Mary Alice retired on November 30 from her position of Director of Music at Faith. Her gifts have been graciously shared for many years and will be missed.



Church Directory Update- Photos and Information Needed

Members and Regular Attenders- If you have not yet had the chance to update your information for the new church directory, please stop by the church office or give Kim a call (513-523-3808). It is our goal to have a new printed church directory available at the annual meeting. Campus Ministry students: we want your information, too! Please send a photo and your contact info to faithlutheranoxford@gmail.com and be included!



Reception to Celebrate Lara Haines on Sunday, January 11

All are invited to a reception in honor of Lara's years of service to Faith Lutheran Church and Campus Ministry. Lara has faithfully served as the Director of Christian Education and Christian Life, bringing her joy and love of the Lord to all. Her gifts are now being called to use in other ways, but let us gather to let her know how much we have appreciated her!



Help Promote Faith Online

Did you know the more engagement a Facebook post gets, the more it is shared? If you are on Facebook, please click "like" on posts that are shared and select "going" when there are worship services or events you will be attending. The more the Faith group is used, the more reach it will have. Also, if you have not searched online for "Faith Lutheran Church and Campus Ministry" recently, please do and give a google review! The more positive reviews we have, the more likely someone new will come and check us out. Sharing a photo or two is even better. Thanks for helping spread the news that Faith Lutheran Church and Campus Ministry is an incredible congregation!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The Wednesday morning Bible study will begin again at 8:30 am on January 7, 2026 with a study of Acts, chapters 1-3. Please contact Beth Baer baerme@miamioh.edu for more information about the Zoom schedule.



Photos and Videos

Photos and videos may be taken during our services and events for use in church publications, on our website, or on social media to highlight Faith's ministries. By participating in church activities, you grant Faith Lutheran Church and Campus Ministry permission to use your likeness in these materials. Names will not be used, without explicit consent. If you prefer that your image not be used, please inform the church office.

Do You Read the Church Newsletter?

It takes a lot of time and energy to produce a monthly newsletter for the congregation. If you read this regularly and appreciate this form of communication, please email the church office.

(faithlutheranoxofrd@gmail.com) or call Kim (513-523-3808) and let her know. The response received will help the church understand if the newsletter is an effective and engaging form of communication.

Alcoholics Anonymous has been helping alcoholics recover for more than 80 years.

A.A.'s program of recovery is built on the simple foundation of one alcoholic sharing with another.

A.A. meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. This is a closed group. If you are interested in joining or learning more, please contact John. (jclover@woh.rr.com)

Al-Anon is a mutual support group for people whose lives have been affected by another person's drinking, please join us and explore the benefits from hearing how the Al-Anon principles have worked in many different circumstances. Al Anon meets every Monday at 7:30 pm. For more information please reach out to Sue (sclover@woh.rr.com) or John (jclover@woh.rr.com)

Lobby Refresh

The Lobby Refresh is almost complete! Thank you to Kathy, Don, Jim, Rich, Kim, and all who helped paint, install cabinets, assemble tables, and reorganize to give the lobby a well needed makeover. Enjoy the new space!

Undecorate on Sunday, January 4

The decorations for Advent and Christmas have been lovely, but it is now time to store them away until next year. If we all pitch in, clean up will be

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration

Oxford community's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration will be Mon. Jan. 19, 2026 at 10:30 AM at the Oxford Community Arts Center. The theme is "Through the Eyes of the Generations: Where is Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Dream Today?" The annual Dr. King Art Exhibition will open at 10 AM, featuring artwork from members of the community, with award recipients being announced during the celebration. This will be a family friendly event.

Serve on Council

Is God calling you to use your gifts and talents to provide leadership to this church? Faith needs to elect two new members to the Church Council. These positions would serve for the next three years. If you are interested in learning more about the responsibilities of council members or if you are ready to serve, please let Kathy J. or Pastor

January Birthdays

3	Ted Caudill
4	Jacob Freidline
5	Terry Schuurmann
16	Fred Schuurmann
18	David Clay
21	Sue Clover
28	Richard Bretz



January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Office Closed	2	3
4 10 a.m. Worship/ Communion Mary Alice Maw- er Retirement Reception	5 6:00 p.m. Property Committee 7:30 pm. Al Anon	6 7:00 pm A.A.	7 8:30 a.m. Bible study 6:00 pm Worship & Music	8 7:00-8:00pm Choir Practice	9	10
11 10 a.m. Worship/ Communion Lara Haines Celebration Reception Constitution	12 7:30 pm. Al Anon	13 7:00 pm A.A.	14 8:30 a.m. Bible study 5:00 p.m. Faith's Table	15 7:00-8:00pm Choir Practice	16	17
18 10 a.m. Worship/ Communion Constitution meeting	19 7:30 pm. Al Anon	20 7:00 pm A.A.	21 8:30 a.m. Bible study 6:00 p.m. Council meeting	22 7:00-8:00pm Choir Practice	23	24
25 10 a.m. Worship/ Communion Annual Meeting	26 7:30 pm. Al Anon	27 7:00 pm A.A.	28 8:30 a.m. Bible study	29 7:00-8:00pm Choir Practice	30	31