

AUGUST 2024

# The Good News

Newsletter for ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

FROM  
THE  
PASTOR



## What is Truth?

In John 18:37-38, we read *“Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”*

With our world today, and so many competing ideologies, we may wonder what really is the truth. There is nothing new about this question. We can see since the fall of humanity this question arises again and again. Pontius Pilate asks that same question. During Pilate's time there was also so much political, religious, and societal corruption. As societies and nations rise and fall throughout time and throughout the world, the answer has always been the same. Jesus said in John 14:6, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

In John 8:31-32, Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, *“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

We are set free when we know that Heaven is our home, that Jesus Almighty's sacrifice forgives every sin of the repentant believer.

Jesus Christ teaches again and again that the Word of God is what is real truth.

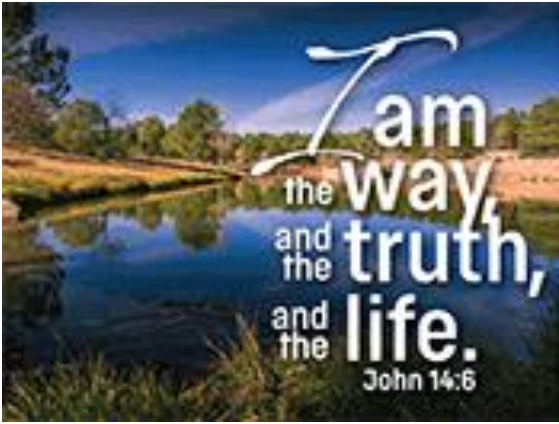
Praying to His Heavenly Father on behalf of His disciples, He said this: *“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth”* (John 17:17). Christ Jesus said the Word *“cannot be broken”* (John 10:35).

Moreover, the Word of God is eternal truth *“which lives and abides forever”* (1 Peter 1:23).

Do a Word Search in the Bible and note how many times of “Truth” occurs.

The Old Testament refers to the Almighty as the *“God of truth”* (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalms 31:5; Isaiah 65:16).





This truth can be proven. Look at the newest picture (above) from the James Webb telescope. How did the Bible get this right? Psalm 8:3-4 “When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?” (See also Hebrews 2:6) The Bible has always taught that without God we are truly insignificant. But with Him, our Almighty Creator, we have the gift of eternal life. Look what God can do. Time and space are not an issue for God. Praise and thank You, Jesus Christ, for You are Our Creator and Redeemer! (John 1, Colossian 1, Hebrews 1)

What is Truth? It is Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of sins, and strength to live each day through Him.

May we each be growing in that grace and truth.

*Pastor Love*

From The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, LCMS Stewardship Ministry – [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)

## *Mercy and Grace Lead to Generosity*

“Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift” (2 Cor. 9:15)! This is St. Paul’s exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church’s response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his request for support for the church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God’s mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul’s call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthians’ joy filled Jerusalem’s need.

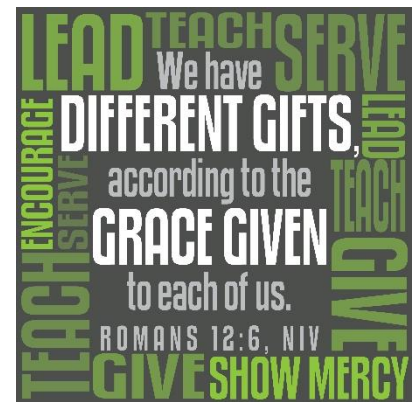
This is the reality of stewardship. Because of God’s generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross for us, we are to be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we receive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord’s. He is the creator and the giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives.

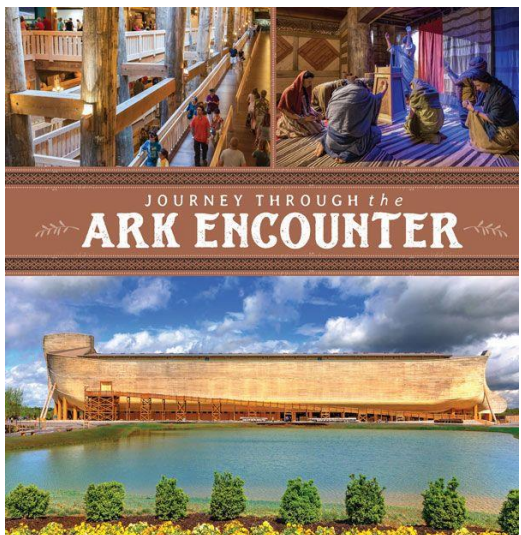
It sounds easy. And it is. But then again it isn’t. Stewardship is easy because it is God’s work. Through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives; we receive. And like our generous Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to us to love and serve others.

But stewardship is also difficult. That is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that what I have is mine to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature. It is our selfishness and our greed. How can we who have been given everything — life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine sonship, an eternal inheritance — be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gospel.

For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes. He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come.

The church is a mercy place. It’s a place where God’s mercy in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, is given and received. For us who believe it means forgiveness, life and salvation in the face of sin, death and the power of the devil. Here in the church, we inhale God’s mercy in Word and Sacrament, and exhale this same mercy in love and service to our neighbor. And that is an enduring, joyful thing to do. Our joy fills our neighbor’s need because His joy filled ours (Heb. 12:2). Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!





## Circuit 6 Family Tour Ark Encounter November 1-3, 2024

**Trip Highlights Include:**  
**Ark Encounter and Navy Pier**  
**Two Breakfasts, One Lunch**  
**Lodging for Two Nights**  
**Motorcoach Transportation**  
*\*Driver gratuity is not included*

Price per Person:			
Quad - \$335.00	Triple - \$350.00	Double - \$390.00	Single - \$505.00
Youth ages 11 – 17	Quad - \$320.00	Triple - \$335.00	Double - \$375.00
Children ages 10 – 3	Quad - \$280.00	Triple - \$295.00	

Contact Bonnie Grueneberg at 1-715-613-0003 or Jeremy Lee at 715-536-2477 for more information or to reserve your seat - \$150.00 deposit is due within 10 days of making your reservation Final payment is due October 1st. Checks should be made payable to Circuit 6 Youth and mailed to: Jeremy Lee , W4837 Lincoln Drive, Merrill, WI 54452

For more detailed information about the Ark Encounter please check out this website.  
[www.arkencounter.com](http://www.arkencounter.com)



## Memory Verse Challenge

### Week of August 4, 2024

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

### Week of August 11, 2024

John 6:40

For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

### Week of August 18, 2024

Romans 10:17

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

### Week of August 25, 2024

Acts 4:12

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.





## **UPCOMING DATES**

Sunday, August 11

### **DUAL PARISH OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

at St. John's 10 a.m.

*Bring a dish to pass. St John's will provide burgers and brats.*

Tuesday, August 13

### **DUAL PARISH MEETING**

at St. John's 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 29

### **POLKA SERVICE**

at Faith 10:00 a.m.



### **T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE**

Faith and St. John's have a new joint parish logo. T-shirts have been printed with the logo. They can be

purchased on Sundays at church. There is no charge for the t-shirts but asking for a free will donation.

If anyone has **EYE GLASSES AND/OR CASES** that are no longer used, there is a Lion's Eye Glass Bucket in the coat room at Faith. All glasses and cases can be put in the bucket. Any questions, contact Beth (715-574-0190) or Leon Bartlet (715-574-1161) of the Maine Lion's Club.



## **SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE BED BUILD**



**SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE**

and "Apply for a Bed".

With a total of over 70 volunteers, we built 32 beds! If anyone knows of a family that could use some beds for their children, they can either contact me or they can go to the Sleep In Heavenly Peace website

Members from our congregation that volunteered were: Tim Bartelt and Chris Stogbauer on Friday; Barry & Cindy Krenz, Joe & Alice Zuelsdorff, Randy & Cindy Braatz, Steve & Jessica Pfaff and family and Don Voight - all on Saturday.

## **NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!**



**BOOK SALE**  
Marathon County  
Public Library,  
Wausau.

### **July 31 – August 4**

Open to the Public

### **Thursday, August 1**

9:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

### **Friday, August 2**

9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### **Saturday, August 3**

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

*Saturday ONLY – Bag Dale \$6*

Thousands of like-new and gently used books, movies, music CDs and more. Proceeds used to support library programs.

# Faith Lutheran Church

15425 South County Road K Merrill, WI 54452

Church e-mail: [faithmerrillwi@gmail.com](mailto:faithmerrillwi@gmail.com)

## Pastor Donald Love

Office Phone 715-536-5443

Home Phone 715-722-0540

Cell Phone 1-815-922-0397

## Pastor's Office Hours

Mon. and Tues: Home

Wednesday: Faith

Thursday: St. John's

## Church Office Hours

Tues. and Thurs. 9 a.m.-12 noon

Mon., Wed., and Fri. varies

## Emergency Contacts

Terry Seidler 715-536-9742 (home)

715-203-5733 (cell)

### ALTAR GUILD AUGUST SCHEDULE

August 1 –12 Keith and Pat Wendt

August 13 – 26 Carol Hein and Sally Hannemann

August 27 – Sept. 9 Jeri Raddatz and Sandy Laabs

### August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Bible Study	5 6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion	6	7	8	9	10
11 10:00 a.m. DUAL PARISH Outdoor Worship at St. John's	12 6:30 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting	13 6:30 p.m. DUAL PARISH Meeting at St. John's	14	15	16	17
18 10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Stewardship and Evangelism Meeting	19 6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion	20	21	22	23	24
25 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Bible Study Women of Faith Summer Outing	26 6:30 p.m. Worship	27	28	29	30	31
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p><b>POLKA SERVICE</b>  <b>Sunday, September 29</b>  <b>10:00 a.m. at Faith</b></p> </div>						

# August 2024 Elder, Usher, Greeter, Scrip Schedule

## Sunday, August 4 10:15 a.m.

Elders Mike Beilke, Kyle Young  
 Ushers Joe and Alice Zuelsdorff  
 Greeter Marlene Krenz  
 Scrip Cindy Krenz

## Sunday, August 11 10:00 a.m.

DUAL PARISH OUTDOOR WORSHIP  
 at St. John's

## Sunday, August 18 10:15 a.m.

Elders Joe Heisinger, Jason Westfall  
 Usher Leroy Laabs, Carol Hein  
 Greeter Sandy Laabs  
 Scrip Cindy Krenz

## Sunday, August 25 10:15 a.m.

Elders Mike Beilke, Rodney Dahlke  
 Ushers Bob and Bernice Porath  
 Greeter Bob Porath  
 Scrip Bernice Porath

## Sunday, September 1 10:15 a.m.

Ushers Randy Braatz, Joe Heisinger  
 Elders Amanda Heisinger, Keith Wendt  
 Greeter Susan Porath  
 Scrip Cindy Braatz

## HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, August 4 10:15 a.m.  
 Monday, August 5 6:30 p.m.  
 Sunday, August 18 10:15 a.m.  
 Monday, August 19 6:30 p.m.  
 Sunday, September 1 10:15 a.m.

## Monday, August 5 6:30 p.m.

Elders Jim Beilke, Lee Pfaff  
 Usher Ed Stiver  
 Greeter Ed Stiver  
 Scrip Debbie Stogbauer

## Monday, August 12 6:30 p.m.

Elders Jim Beilke, Randy Braatz  
 Ushers Cindy Braatz, Gene Mootz  
 Greeter Gene Mootz  
 Scrip Cindy Braatz

## Monday, August 19 6:30 p.m.

Elders Mark Porath, Kyle Young  
 Usher Chris Stogbauer  
 Greeter Chris Stogbauer  
 Scrip Debbie Stogbauer

## Monday, August 26 6:30 p.m.

Elders Lee Pfaff, Jim Beilke  
 Usher Keith Wendt, Gene Mootz  
 Greeter LuAnn Kleinschmidt  
 Scrip Debbie Stogbauer

## Monday, September 2

NO WORSHIP SERVICE  
 Labor Day

### ELDERS

Rodney Dahlke, chairman  
 Randy Braatz, secretary  
 Jim Beilke, Joe Heisinger, Mike Beilke,  
 Lee Pfaff, Mark Porath,  
 Jason Westfall, Kyle Young

## VIDEO SCHEDULE JULY

Sunday, August 4 Bonnie Grueneberg  
 Monday, August 5 Bonnie Grueneberg  
 Monday, August 12 Lee Pfaff  
 Sunday, August 18 Bonnie Grueneberg  
 Monday, August 19 Lee Pfaff  
 Sunday, August 25 Bonnie Grueneberg  
 Monday, August 26 Gene Mootz  
 Sunday, September 1 Bonnie Grueneberg





**ST. JOHN'S BIRTHDAYS**

August 5 Amalia Bloch  
 August 6 Bonnie Lang  
 August 8 LeeAnn Arneson  
 August 12 Jerry Berenz  
 August 14 Noreen Schulz  
 Misty Vogel  
 August 15 Lynne Harder  
 August 17 Todd Henrichs  
 August 24 Shawn Henrichs

**FAITH BIRTHDAYS**

August 1 Christine Pfaff  
 August 2 Brenda Baratka  
 Sharon Jaeger  
 Ronald Schult  
 August 3 Cindy Krenz  
 Hazley Bonnell  
 August 4 Jean Wayda  
 Walter Leuenberger  
 August 5 Jace Olson  
 August 6 Aubrie Zortman  
 August 8 Lucas Kleinschmidt  
 August 12 Lucas Young-Schade  
 August 13 Harold Woller  
 August 15 Kendel Semling  
 Todd Zunker  
 August 16 Marci Borchardt  
 August 17 Miles Dux  
 Thomas Porath  
 Amanda Heisinger  
 August 18 Michaela Sturm  
 August 20 Karen Rajek  
 Phyllis Buch  
 August 21 Nicole Wilke  
 Arlo Dux  
 August 22 Ryan Dux  
 August 24 Randy Baguhn  
 Cheryl Dahlke  
 August 25 Phyllis Zocher  
 August 26 Cindy Luedtke  
 August 29 Kyle Zulliger

**FAITH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

August 7  
 William and Jean Wayda 42 years  
 August 14  
 Josh and Sarah Klug 3 years  
 August 25  
 Bob and Bernice Porath 62 years  
 August 26  
 Todd and Cherie Zunker 29 years  
 August 28  
 Gerhard and Sally Hannemann 59 years  
 Terry and Linda Seidler 42 years  
 John and Carol Wegner 53 years  
 August 30  
 Travis and Natalie Klug 10 years

**ST. JOHN'S WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

August 26-  
 Steve & Nancee Emmerich. 29 years



**FREE Well Water Test Kits Available**

The Lincoln County Health Department is offering a one-time well water project that

provides free water test kits to individuals that meet income criteria and have a well in Lincoln County. For more information, contact the Lincoln County Health Department at 715-539-1364 or 715-536-0307



**WATER TEST**



# St. John's Lutheran Church

134058 County Road L Athens, WI 54411  
715-536-1810

Church e-mail: [stjohns486@gmail.com](mailto:stjohns486@gmail.com)

## Pastor Donald Love

Office Phone 715-536-5443

Home Phone 715-722-0540

Cell Phone 1-815-922-0397

E-mail

[church7663@sbcglobal.net](mailto:church7663@sbcglobal.net)

## Pastor's Office Hours

Mon. & Tues. Home

Wednesday Faith

Thursday St. John's

Friday Off (Family Day)

## Elders

Mark Czech 715-409-9174

Jeremy Fromm 715-574-2003

Don Gille 715-573-8197

## Christian Day Care

Patti Beilke 715-539-8120

## Elder of the Month

Bob Burish 715-573-7078

## Setting the Lord's Table

Joy Free

## August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 10:00 a.m. DUAL PARISH OUTDOOR WORSHIP at St. John's	12	13 6:30 p.m. Dual Parish Church Meeting at St. John's	14	15	16	17
18 8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 8:30 a.m. Worship	26	27	28	29	30	31
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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

# Pray For Us Calendar

## CHURCH WORKERS — AUGUST 1–15

**Pastors; deaconesses; Lutheran school teachers; directors of Christian education, Christian outreach and family life ministry; parish musicians. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is blessed with many faithful church workers who assist and lead people in participating in the fulfillment of the Great Commission, while building up the Body of Christ.**

*Remember God's work through the Synod's church workers as you pray:*

- 1.** with thanksgiving for the many dedicated church workers in the LCMS, who share in our joys and sorrows. Ask the Lord to comfort and defend them from every assault of the devil.
- 2.** for the Synod's pastors, that they would hold fast to the Word of God and find strength to continue preaching God's truth in an increasingly anti-Christian culture.
- 3.** for the Synod's deaconesses. Pray that they would be equipped with all things needful to love and serve people in every situation.

for students and incorporate the Gospel message into each and every day.

- 8.** for directors of parish music, that they would find joy and satisfaction in their work of enhancing the worship life of the church.
- 9.** for the Synod's commissioned lay ministers, who work under a pastor's guidance to support a church's efforts in evangelism, Christian education, parish administration and other areas that are God-pleasing.
- 10.** for missionaries, who leave home and family to work in faraway lands. Ask God to give them strength, wisdom and protection as they do His work.
- 11.** for those involved in Specialized Pastoral Ministry, who serve the ill, imprisoned, aging, troubled and isolated. Give thanks for their service to people in the midst of tragedy or crisis.

**12.** for military chaplains, who put themselves in harm's way to minister to members of our armed forces. Ask God to keep them safe as they share Christ's love with our servicemen and women.

**13.** for the health and well-being of all church workers, that they would utilize opportunities for rest and renewal.

**14.** with thanksgiving for every person who volunteers in a congregation as an elder, an usher, a Sunday school teacher or in another capacity. Praise God that He calls His people to support full-time church workers in a variety of ways.

**15.** with thankful hearts for the blessings God gives to His people through full-time church workers. These faithful men and women care for us, pray for us and teach us the Word of God.



## AUGUST Pray For Us Calendar

### THE CHURCH — AUGUST 16-31

"The Church is the congregation of saints [Psalm 149:1] in which the Gospel is purely taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered. For the true unity of the Church it is enough to agree about the doctrine of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments" (Augsburg Confession VII).

*Remember God's work through the Church as you pray:*

**16.** with thanksgiving to God for raising up voices in every age and generation as He continues to call people to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**17.** that God would raise up in our own time faithful pastors and church workers who will preach Jesus Christ crucified and risen, for the edification of His people and for the sake of those not yet of the faith.

**18.** with thanksgiving that God does His bidding through unworthy and unlikely people. Pray that He would keep us from thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought and keep us focused on the proclamation of the Gospel.

**19.** that God would give us faith so that we may not fear in times of trouble nor fall away in times of prosperity.

**20.** for the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above to be given to us, so that

God's Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edification of Christ's holy people.

**21.** that the Church would work together in God-pleasing unity and that their joint efforts would further God's kingdom.

**22.** for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.; and other institutions that prepare servants for the Church, that they would properly prepare men and women to serve God and His Church.

**23.** with thanksgiving for every person and organization that supports the work of the Church. The prayers and financial support of God's people enable the Gospel to be shared at home and around the world.

**24.** for young people, that the Lord would lead them to serve Him and bless His people.

**25.** for us, that when we are tempted to focus on the things



of the world or on ourselves, God would direct our attention to His Word and will.

**26.** with thanksgiving that God continues to strengthen us through His Word and Sacraments.

**27.** with thankful hearts to God for sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross and rise again so that we might have the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life.

**28.** that we would joyfully study the Sacred Scriptures as a light to our path and gratefully make



use of the Lutheran Confessions to help us understand and apply the Scriptures.

**29.** with thanksgiving for shepherds in the Church's history and pastors today, whom God uses to guide His flock.

**30.** that God would keep all Christians from being led astray by false teachings, and instead bring them to a deeper knowledge of Him.

**31.** that we all would be given a trust in the saving Gospel and a great passion to spread its joy with others in our lives.

Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at [lelm.org/prayforus](http://lelm.org/prayforus) or call 888-843-6267 to request a copy.





# Made to Worship

## August

### Daily Reading Plan

- Day 1: Psalm 96:1-2
- Day 2: 1 Chronicles 16:23-31
- Day 3: Deuteronomy 8
- Day 4: Deuteronomy 10:21
- Day 5: Jeremiah 20:13
- Day 6: Psalm 75:1
- Day 7: Psalm 71:8
- Day 8: Psalm 99:1-9
- Day 9: Deuteronomy 29:18
- Day 10: 1 Samuel 15: 22
- Day 11: Isaiah 29:13
- Day 12: Psalm 29:1-11
- Day 13: Nehemiah 9:5-6
- Day 14: Psalm 86:9-10
- Day 15: 2 Kings 17:38-39
- Day 16: Psalm 100:1-5
- Day 17: Daniel 3:8-18
- Day 18: Psalm 66:4
- Day 19: Psalm 96:9
- Day 20: Isaiah 12:5
- Day 21: Psalm 71:8
- Day 22: Daniel 2:20
- Day 23: Psalm 150:6
- Day 24: Matthew 6:24
- Day 25: John 4:21-24
- Day 26: Romans 12:1-2
- Day 27: Hebrews 12:28-29
- Day 28: Revelation 14:7
- Day 29: Colossians 3:16-17
- Day 30: Hebrews 13:15
- Day 31: Revelation 4:8-11

*Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.*

*Psalm 29:2*



**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**15425 South County Road K**  
**Merrill, WI 54452**

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