

# The Good News

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



Dear Brother's and Sister's in Christ,

In Love God calls us to behold all of His Holy Word. That is not easy in a world that is so addicted to its own desires and dedicated to its own definitions of love.

Yet, the Love of the Holy Spirit is clear and repeated. It says: John 14:16 *"If you love me, you will obey what I command."* And 1 John 5:2 *"This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands."*, 1 John 5:3 *"This is love for God: to obey his commands."* Again in 2 John 6 *"And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands."*

The motive is always love from God's forgiveness in Christ Jesus and love for God in Christ Jesus. For God loved us first. 1 John 4:10 *"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."* Our Loving Savior Jesus leads us to share the true Love of God in this fallen and passing world. Jesus teaches this over and over again. He said in John 13:35 *"love one another: just as I have loved you, you also*

*are to love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

You are doing such a great job of this and I would like to thank

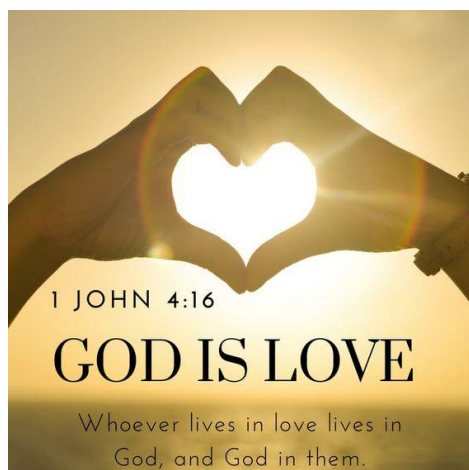
you for doing so and encourage you to continue to do great work in these actions of Love.

Following is a great article on welcoming people into the church. You are doing many of these suggestions already. The list below contains additional ideas that you might not have tried, or maybe just need to refresh in doing them. We all need a Savior. We all have a Savior in our Resurrected Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Remember everyone is going through trials that no one knows about. God wants us to remember this and encourage one another. We remember when we show love to others Christ considers it showing love to Him.

**REMEMBER:** *The command to love one another is found 14 times in the New Testament.*

HERE ARE 21 SUGGESTIONS:

1. TRY TO GREET EVERYONE including members you don't know. AT LEAST try to say good morning or good evening, or wave or give a smile.
2. Every church MEMBER is a host and not a guest. Making visitors feel welcome is primarily the responsibility of members, not the NEBULOUS "church."
3. The most important person for a visitor to talk to in order to feel at home in a new church is YOU. It is not the pastor, or the greeter, but a regular member.
4. Treat first time visitors as guests of God, not strangers.
5. Look people in the eye and SMILE.
6. Take the initiative, don't wait for others to initiate conversation with you. Introduce yourself.
7. Learn people's names and try to remember them.  
*(However, the average person forgets someone's name is less than 90 seconds. So do not be hard on yourself. And do not avoid the person because you have forgotten their name way too many times. Just keep being friendly and throughout the years you will eventually remember their name.)*



8. Don't just talk to those you know or to relatives. Remember that every member of your church is part of the family of God, your family. You might not feel the need to reach out but others need your love and friendship as part of the family of God.
9. Ask questions and learn about your guests and others you don't know. For example, "Do you live here in..... ? Have you always lived here?"
10. Listening is a very effective way to show love. Give them your full attention.
11. Remember that some people are introverts so try not to come on so strong that they feel uncomfortable
12. Also greet children
13. Let children be children. (crying, playing, singing!) and don't expect them to be grown-ups.
14. Leave the designated back pews for people with small children so they can leave the Sanctuary without being embarrassed.
15. Invite visitors to the fellowship meal, Bible Study, etc.
16. Help visitors find seating that suits the needs of their family
17. Help first time visitors by being their tour guide and helping them find worship resources. Visiting a new church is like a cross-cultural experience, even for those of us who have visited dozens of other churches.
18. Invite people to fill out your church's visitor registration card or guest book.
19. Tell people you're glad they are here.
20. Pray for them throughout your week.
21. Remember how Christ has loved you and cares about you. Imitate Jesus' love. Imagine how Jesus would greet every person.

We all need love and encouragement. When you reach out to others to encourage them it can be a blessing to you as you wrestle through all life's struggles.

As in Love we hold to all of God's Holy Word, praise God for His Love and sharing that Love with those in the world around us.

*Pastor Love*

From The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Stewardship Ministry

## *Whose Is It Anyway?*

If you have ever bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a "title search." Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you'll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, "That's mine: I had it first."

You can't understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Your neighbor's possessions are *his*: you don't have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership *to you*? Paul says, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price" (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God's leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since *you* belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.



# Faith Lutheran Church Council

## Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 8th, 2024

Present: Pastor Love, Terry Seidler (President), Mike Baumann (Vice-President), Lillie McCulloch (Secretary), Bonnie Grueneberg (Evangelism), Rod Dahlke (Elders), Cheryl Dahlke (Education), Barry Krenz (Trustees)

Vice-President, Mike Baumann called the meeting to order. Pastor opened with a prayer and devotion. Meeting minutes from February were reviewed. A motion for approval was made, seconded, and passed.

President - There is a vacant elder position that needs to be filled, the position's term ends in 2026. The council is to appoint an elder to fill this position per the bylaws. Terry would like to work with Rod to discuss this with members to compile a list of men willing to take on the position, with the intention to present a name to appoint at the next council meeting. Terry was able to meet with past-president Mike to review to-do's, and scheduling the dual-parish meeting is still in the works.

Trustees - Barry provided updates on continued maintenance of the building. All exit signs have been updated/replaced as indicated and all have battery backup as well. The trustees are in the process of collecting estimates to replace the air conditioning units. Urban Construction and United Structures are providing estimates for a 32ft x 36ft addition to the north end of the church. Grounds cleanup will start when spring arrives. Barry has an upcoming meeting with our insurance representative from Church Mutual to review current policies and potential changes. Lawn mowing services for the church and cemeteries are arranged for the summer.

Elders - Rodney provided a brief update, elders are looking ahead to VBS and assisting with the program. The idea was also proposed to compile an updated church directory, information to be collected via survey - bulletin insert or postcard. Pastor proposed working on an entirely new directory (including pictures), it has been 7 years since the last photo directory update.

Board of Education - Sunday School ended on Palm Sunday.

Stewardship/Evangelism - Currently collecting supplies for Gospel TLC & Haven House, Easter cards were sent out to all the shut-ins, and a 100th Birthday celebration was held for Mabel Marquardt. The new website is coming along very well, Bonnie anticipates it will be live for public viewing by the end of the week. The Ark Encounter trip planned for November 1st-3rd overlaps the annual pancake breakfast. This is a circuit-wide trip with multiple churches involved, so the best option would be to reschedule the pancake breakfast (many who assist with the breakfast will likely be on the trip). October 20th or November 10th have been proposed as potential reschedule dates for the pancake breakfast, the elders will discuss if either of these dates are a feasible option. Sleep in Heavenly Peace build is June 29th, Bonnie proposed that we fundraise to sponsor several beds - the goal being \$1000.

Pastor - Confirmation Class starts May 19th, there is currently 1 confirmand. Iron Sharpens Iron had a great turnout once again and Pastor continues to encourage attending bible study as well.

Treasurer - Balance reports for February and March were reviewed, the ending balance for March was \$30,099.08.

Old Business - No old business to discuss.

New Business - Provide appreciation gifts for the Sunday School teachers (Patti & Cheryl). The next regular council meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2024 at 7:30pm.

A motion for adjournment was made, seconded, and passed. The meeting closed with a prayer from Pastor Love.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lillie McCulloch  
Council Secretary

# 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 715-536-9743 (home)

715-203-5733 (cell)

### ALTAR GUILD MAY SCHEDULE

May 1 – May 6 Chris Pfaff and Phyllis Beilke

May 7 – May 20 Keith and Pat Wendt

May 21 – June 3 Carol Hein and Sally Hannemann

## May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>MARK YOUR CALENDARS DUAL PARISH MEETING Tuesday, August 13 6:30 p.m. at St. John's</b>			<b>1</b> 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith 7:00 p.m. Youth Meeting at Faith	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
			<b>5</b> 10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Bible Class	<b>6</b> 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion	<b>7</b> 6:30 p.m. Women of Faith	<b>8</b> 10:00 a.m. AbleLight 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith
<b>12</b> 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Bible Class	<b>13</b> 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Elders' Meeting	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith 7:00 p.m. Youth Meeting at Faith	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Bible Class 4:30 p.m. ISI at Pine Ridge Restaurant, Merrill	<b>20</b> 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion	<b>21</b> 6:00 p.m. Trustees' Meeting	<b>22</b> 10:00 a.m. AbleLight 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Bible Class	<b>27</b> MEMORIAL DAY NO MONDAY WORSHIP	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Confirmation Sunday June 2</b>



**YOUTH MEETINGS**

**Wednesdays, May 1 and May 15**  
at 7:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church

**30-HOUR FAMINE**

**May 10-11**

Start at St. John - Merrill at 7 p.m. Friday  
End at St Paul - Irma at 7:15 p.m. Saturday  
Join us Friday evening through Saturday evening for group building, hunger-beating, community serving fun!

**ACTION CITY**

**Wednesday, June 19**

Begin at St. John-Merrill at 9 a.m.  
Return at 8 p.m.

We will stop at Irvine Park and Zoo, eat lunch, go to Action City and have dinner Oakwood Mall

**SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE BED BUILD**

**Saturday, June 29**

Group needs to sponsor a minimum of 20 beds at a cost of \$5000, hopefully with the help of local businesses. The beds that are built stay within the community. The Ladies' Society at Immanuel Corning has raised \$1000 to be used for the build! THANK YOU! This could be a challenge for each of our congregations to raise \$1000 to hit our \$5000 goal.



**Audio Video**

**FAITH AUDIO VIDEO MAY SCHEDULE**

Sunday, May 5	Karen & Gene Pagel
Monday, May 6	Rodney Dahlke and Lee Pfaff
Sun., May 12 & Mon., May 13	Bonnie Grueneberg
Sunday, May 19	Bonnie Grueneberg
Monday, May 20	Rodney Dahlke and Lee Pfaff
Sunday, May 26	Bonnie Grueneberg and Evelyn Reinhardt
Monday, May 27	No Service
Sun., June 2 & Mon., June 3	Bonnie Grueneberg



# May 2024 Elder, Usher, Greeter, Scrip Schedule

**Sunday, May 5 10:15 a.m.**  
 Elders Rodney Dahlke, Lee Pfaff  
 Ushers Bob and Bernice Porath  
 Greeter Bob Porath  
 Scrip Bernice Porath

**Monday, May 6 6:30 p.m.**  
 Elders Jim Beilke, Joe Heisinger  
 Usher Ed Stiver  
 Greeter Ed Stiver  
 Scrip Debbie Stogbauer

**Sunday, May 12 10:15 a.m.**  
 Elders Mike Beilke, Mark Porath  
 Usher Keith Wendt  
 Greeter Duane Grunenwald  
 Scrip Cindy Krenz

**Monday, May 13 6:30 p.m.**  
 Elders Jason Westfall, Rodney Dahlke  
 Usher Gene Mootz  
 Greeter Gene Mootz  
 Scrip Cindy Braatz

**Sunday, May 19 10:15 a.m.**  
 Elders Jim Beilke, Randy Braatz  
 Ushers Brian and Lynn Klug  
 Greeter Brian Klug  
 Scrip Lynn Klug

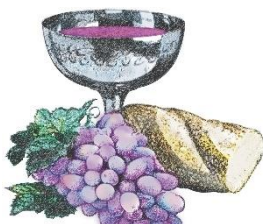
**Monday, May 20 6:30 p.m.**  
 Elders Joe Heisinger, Mike Beilke  
 Usher Amanda Heisinger  
 Greeter Amanda Heisinger  
 Scrip Cindy Braatz

**Sunday, May 26 10:15 a.m.**  
 Elders Lee Pfaff, Mark Porath  
 Ushers Keith Wendt, Leroy Laabs  
 Greeter Sandy Laabs  
 Scrip Becky Rajek

**Monday, May 27**  
 NO MONDAY WORSHIP

**Sunday, June 2 10:15 a.m.**  
 Elders Jason Westfall, Rodney Dahlke  
 Ushers Bob and Bernice Porath  
 Greeter Bob Porath  
 Scrip Bernice Porath

**Monday, June 3 6:30 p.m.**  
 Elders Lee Pfaff, Jim Beilke  
 Usher Chris Stogbauer  
 Greeter Chris Stogbauer  
 Scrip Deb Stogbauer



## HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, May 5 10:15 a.m.  
 Monday, May 6 6:30 p.m.  
 Sunday, May 19 10:15 a.m.  
 Monday, May 20 6:30 p.m.  
 Sunday, June 2 10:15 a.m.  
 Monday, June 3 6:30 p.m.



### ELDERS

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



May 22 Jason Hoffman  
 Avery Dahlke  
 Anthony Calmes  
 May 23 Joy Marquardt  
 May 24 Randall Braatz  
 May 26 Jothon Olson  
 May 28 Scott Pfaff  
 May 30 Joyce Rusch  
 Tanya Hannemann

**ST. JOHN'S BIRTHDAYS**

May 9 Laura Seliger  
 May 11 Mike Seliger  
 May 13 Frankie Mootz  
 Philip Vogel  
 May 14 Florence Williamson  
 May 15 Nick Blennert  
 May 16 Dan Grenwalt  
 May 20 Kolton Faber  
 Ron Lang  
 May 26 Jayden Henrichs  
 May 28 Nichole Blennert

**FAITH BIRTHDAYS**

May 1 Turner Bonnell  
 May 2 Jacob Dahlke  
 May 3 Linda Heisinger  
 Ashlynn Semling  
 May 4 Elizabeth Wegner  
 May 5 Rebecca Rajek  
 Evelyn Reinhardt  
 May 6 Terry Bauer  
 May 7 Hunter Dux  
 Penny Bauer  
 May 8 Steven Baumann  
 Jane Bauer  
 Casey McCulloch  
 Hannah Blum  
 May 12 Casey Baumann  
 May 13 Breanne Semling  
 May 15 Jeremy Williams  
 May 18 Keith Williams

**FAITH ANNIVERSARIES**

May 3  
 Lee & Diane Pfaff 55 years  
 May 28  
 Hans & Linda Heisinger 47 years  
 May 28  
 Lillie & Casey McCulloch 5 years  
 Keith & Christine Williams 38 years  
 May 29  
 Brian and Marillyn Luedtke 48 years

**ST. JOHN'S ANNIVERSARIES**

May 21  
 John & Kathy Sturm 41 years  
 May 25  
 Fred & Lynn Harder 50 years  
 May 30  
 Steve & Joy Free 37 years

*Thank You*

Thank you to Pastor Love and everyone at Faith who helped to make my 100<sup>th</sup> birthday a special one. Thank you to the Evangelism and Stewardship Board for the cake and birthday treats, flowers and balloons and to everyone who signed cards and sent well wishes. Thanks also to Terry Seidler for all of his time and extra help with the flowers and palms. It truly made my day a memorable one. God's blessings to you all.

Mabel Marquardt

*"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!" Psalm 118:29*



# 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

Bob Burish 715-573-7078

Mark Czech 715-409-9174

Jeremy Fromm 715-574-2003

## Christian Day Care

Patti Beilke 715-539-8120

## Elder of the Month

Don Gille 715-573-8197

## Setting the Lord's Table

Misty Vogel

May 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>MARK YOUR CALENDARS</b> <b>Dual Parish Meeting</b> <b>Tuesday, August 13</b> <b>6:30 a.m. at St. John's</b>			<b>1</b> 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith 7:00 p.m. Youth Meeting at Faith	<b>2</b> 6:30 p.m. Mary Martha Guild	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Bible Class	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>11</b> <b>YOUTH EVENT 30 Hour Famine</b> Begin at St. John-Merrill at 7 p.m. Friday End at St. Paul-Irma at 7:15 p.m. Saturday	
<b>12</b> 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Bible Class	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. Elders' Meeting	<b>15</b> 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith 7:00 p.m. Youth Meeting at Faith	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 4:30 p.m. ISI at Pine Ridge Restaurant, Merrill	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Bible Class	<b>27</b> MEMORIAL DAY	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	





- † In memory of **JOHN HERMAN II** from Sarah Herman , Wendy and Genny
- † In memory of **MR. and MRS. FRED SEIDLER** from Marlene Krenz
- † In memory of **LYLE GAST, HENRY and EDNA HOFF, HERMAN and CAROLINE GAST** from Delores Gast
- † In memory of **HAROLD RUSCH** from Joyce Rusch
- † For **unending blessings** from Barry and Cindy Krenz
- † In **gratitude** from Duane Gruenewald
- † For **continued blessings** from Jim and Lydia Goetsch
- † In memory of **CLARENCE and ELAINE SCHULT** from Randy and Cindy Braatz
- † In **thankfulness** from Chris and Deb Stogbauer
- † For **blessings** from Bruce and Nada Pfingsten
- † In **gratefulness** from Jim and Phyllis Beilke
- † In memory of **BRUCE HEIN** from Carol Hein
- † In honor of their **55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary** on May 3 from Lee and Diane Pfaff
- † In memory of **MR. and MRS. ART KRAUSE** from Gloria Werner
- † In memory of **JAMES SCHLUETER** from Judy Schlueter
- † In memory of **DEANNA KOEBE** from James W. Koebe
- † In memory of **TIMOTHY PAGEL** from Gene and Karen Pagel
- † In memory of **LLOYD and DORIS, LEONARD and LAVINE, and VINCE McCULLOCH** from Leon and Beth Bartelt family
- † In memory of **WALTER WOLLER** from Dorothy Woller
- † In honor of **MABEL MARQUARDT'S 100<sup>th</sup> birthday**, all the palms and Easter flowers for Palm Sunday from Mabel Marquardt

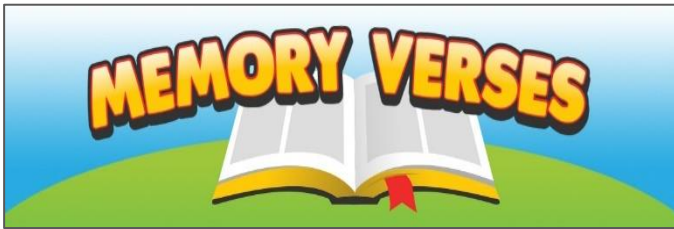


**GIFT**  
Special gift donation of a case of wine from **Lee and Diane Pfaff**  
in honor of their **55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary** on May 3.



### **Thrivent Choice**

Recent gift from Thrivent Choice to support the work of the church. Members directing their gifts to Faith include: **Phyllis Buch, Barry and Cindy Krenz, LeRoy Laabs, Susan Pankow, Joyce Rusch, Brian Wilke, and Joe Zuelsdorff**  
If interested in becoming part of Thrivent Choice, call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say, "Thrivent Choice."



**Week of May 5, 2024**

**Matthew 6:9–13**

Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.”

**Week of May 12, 2024**

**Mark 10:45**

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

**Week of May 19, 2024**

**Acts 2:38–39**

“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

**Week of May 26, 2024**

**Numbers 6:24–26**

The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face to shine upon you  
and be gracious to you;  
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you  
and give you peace.



Choir Rehearsals at Faith will be held Monday evenings following worship services through May 20. There will be no choir meetings in June, July and August.



**DUAL  
PARISH  
MEETING  
Tuesday,  
August 13**

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



**ISI  
Men's  
Ministry  
Meeting**

**Sunday May 19 4:30 p.m.  
Pine Ridge Restaurant,  
Merrill**









THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

# Pray For Us Calendar

## LCMS MISSIONARIES ON HOME SERVICE — MAY 1-15

Every other year, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) international missionaries spend approximately two months in the United States on "home service." During this time, they reconnect with the individuals, congregations and groups who support their mission work. Home service also gives them a period of rest and renewal and the chance to spend time with their families.

*Remember God's work through missionaries on home service as you pray:*

- 1.** for the LCMS missionary families who will be on home service. Ask the Lord to keep them safe during their travels.
- 2.** for God's hand to guide and bless the details and logistical arrangements that are a necessary part of missionary home service, such as transportation and housing.
- 3.** for missionary families to be able to visit as many congregations and other groups as possible, while managing their limited time in the United States.

welcome missionaries into their churches for mission presentations, Sunday school, children's messages, celebration luncheons, Bible studies and other activities.

- 8.** that congregations and other groups would experience a revitalized interest in praying for missionaries and supporting their work, especially after visiting with them face-to-face and hearing about what God is accomplishing through them.
- 9.** that as missionaries share their experiences, the listeners would consider serving as a missionary themselves — in a short-term, long-term or career capacity.
- 10.** for the families of visiting missionaries, that they would enjoy their time together and mutually encourage one another.
- 11.** for God to comfort and sustain the missionaries who are not able to see family and friends in the United States this year. May the

Holy Spirit comfort them with His presence and assurance of God's calling to serve far from home.

- 12.** that missionaries would have an easy transition back to life in the United States — even for a short time during home service — with minimal effects of reverse culture shock.
- 13.** that the Lord would raise up supporters for missionaries who are struggling to finding the resources necessary for their ministry.
- 14.** with thanksgiving for the many forms of support and the joys the Lord provides to missionary families as they serve Him.
- 15.** that the conversations started during home service would continue long after the missionary has returned to the mission field. Pray that through ongoing communication, missionaries and supporters would encourage one another.



## MAY *Pray For Us Calendar*

### PARTNER CHURCHES — MAY 16–31

The LCMS has 38 partner churches around the world. A partner church is a church body with which the LCMS has full altar and pulpit fellowship. Many LCMS partner churches also are members of the International Lutheran Council, a worldwide association of confessional Lutheran church bodies. Some LCMS partner churches came into existence through LCMS-supported mission efforts, while others have historic roots that pre-date the LCMS or that are sourced in the mission efforts of other Lutheran church bodies.

*Remember God's work in His Church as you pray:*

**16.** for all LCMS partner churches, some of which only have a handful of congregations. Pray that they would never feel alone in their service to Christ and His Church.

**17.** for LCMS partner churches in Latin America and the Caribbean. Pray that God's Word would continue to spread throughout these countries to bring the Body of Christ together in fellowship and to be witnesses to His love.

**18.** for LCMS partner churches in Africa. Pray that God would strengthen Lutheran Christians in this region to carry out their work for His name's sake.

**19.** for LCMS partner churches in Asia, that God would guide and strengthen Lutheran Christians

in this region, especially in areas where it is difficult or dangerous to do His work.

**20.** for LCMS partner churches in Eurasia. Pray that God would continue to use His Word as a light to those in darkness and as a stronghold for the life of His Church.

**21.** with thanksgiving for all the missionaries who serve partner churches, that they would remain faithful in their tasks and be witnesses to the Gospel through acts of mercy.

**22.** for those who serve in leadership positions in LCMS partner churches around the world, as they guide, nurture and shepherd their people.

**23.** for the laypeople of LCMS partner churches around the world, that they would be fulfilled by God's Word and Sacraments.



**24.** that God would continue to raise up faithful servants for His Church in locations around the world.

**25.** for the Lutheran church bodies around the world interested in fellowship with the LCMS. Pray that God would guide the consideration process according to His will.

**26.** in thanksgiving for those who pray continually for those who serve where spreading God's Word is difficult or dangerous.

**27.** for Lutheran churches around the world that are dealing with strife between their members. Pray that the Lord would guide them to a peaceful resolution that would strengthen their witness to the community.

**28.** for the Lutheran churches in Eurasia as they seek to minister

to the refugees in their midst. Pray for safety for both the church workers and the refugees.

**29.** for all projects currently going on in LCMS partner church bodies, that each one would have the volunteers and resources necessary to carry out the work of the church as it shows mercy and provides physical and spiritual care for people around the world.

**30.** for safe travel between and within countries in each world region. Pray that pastors, missionaries, medical teams and all who travel to assist partner churches would be kept safe and healthy, that the Gospel might be proclaimed to the far corners of creation.

**31.** for all those still living in darkness, that the Gospel will be their light and life.

Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at [lcms.org/prayforum](https://lcms.org/prayforum) or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.





# Living Proof

*..in view of God's mercies...*

## May

### Daily Reading Plan



- Day 1: Romans 12:1-2
- Day 2: Romans 12:9-10
- Day 3: Romans 12:11-13
- Day 4: Romans 12:14
- Day 5: Romans 12:15-17
- Day 6: Romans 12:18
- Day 7: Romans 12:19-20
- Day 8: Romans 12:21
- Day 9: Romans 13:8-10
- Day 10: Romans 13:11-14
- Day 11: Romans 14:13
- Day 12: Romans 15:1-6
- Day 13: Romans 15:7-13
- Day 14: 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
- Day 15: 1 Cor. 13:4-7
- Day 16: 1 Cor. 15:58
- Day 17: Galatians 5:16-18
- Day 18: Galatians 5:19-26
- Day 19: Galatians 6:1-5
- Day 20: Galatians 6:6-8
- Day 21: Galatians 6:9-10
- Day 22: Ephesians 4:1-6
- Day 23: Ephesians 4:20-24
- Day 24: Ephesians 4:25-28
- Day 25: Ephesians 4:29-32
- Day 26: Ephesians 5:1-2
- Day 27: Ephesians 5:3-5
- Day 28: Colossians 3:1-3
- Day 29: Colossians 3:5-11
- Day 30: Colossians 3:12-14
- Day 31: Colossians 3:15-17

*Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.*

*Romans 12:1*



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*I love to tell the*  
**STORY**