

# The Good News

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

FROM  
THE  
PASTOR



## *Information and Knowledge that Continually Gives Comfort, Courage, and Joy.*

Hope you had a great summer! This summer there was a lot of rain and sunshine. Possibly in our own personal life there may have been personal storms with a lot of heavy rain, and then moments when there was some comfort and joy shining like a summer sunrise.

At times life may seem a lot like the summer months. We have a lot of expectations.

There are rainy days and some good moments. Then it seems to be over all too quickly. We say "where did the summer go, or where did the time go?"

Especially this summer, the weather forecasts seemed to not be as accurate as they could have been. In this information age, wouldn't be great to have a forecast that could be a little more accurate so when you plan your outing it does not turn from a nice sunshine forecast to actually rain on our plans? Or the opposite may have happened. The forecast said it was going to rain, so you did not make plans to enjoy the outdoors, but then it turns out to be a great sunny day.

The Holy Bible is packed full of steady information and knowledge that can give you continual comfort, courage, and joy despite the rainy weather or inaccurate forecast of life.

It does not give false promises, but plainly teaches us that life will be complex, confusing, chaotic, and conflicted. Yet, there will many things each day that, if we collect them in our memory, we can truly thank and praise God for them.

If we make it a top priority to daily study the Holy Scriptures and then cling to the information and knowledge that God gives us in them, they will be a continual source of comfort, courage and joy.

Romans 15:4 says *"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."*

The Holy Spirit teaches us through the Holy Bible that we can praise God for the great moments in our life, and that God will carry us through the great storms of life with all its sudden thunder claps of challenges and dark difficulties.

In Holy Scriptures, Jesus Christ is our true, constant and continual source of comfort, courage and joy. Jesus so

accurately foretells what is going to happen. He informs the disciples that He will be betrayed, crucified and will rise on the third day. He then teaches them in John 16:33, *"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."* That Information and knowledge is for you. It is for all who turn away from the what is sin and cling to Christ, His Cross and the Word of God.

God in His Holy Word constantly calls us to follow what He judges as lawful, and not the constant changing feelings and desires of society. Know this for sure, feelings and desires that are judged to be acceptable by society today will soon or later change. Anybody who is serious student of history should be





able to acknowledge this reality. We are to be informed and know that this world with all its power will most certainly pass away and then we will all stand before the Judgement Throne of God. We are to know and be informed that He is not fooled like the shifting power plays for fallen humanity.

However, Jesus Christ and His Death and Resurrection for the forgiveness of our sins is a continual source of comfort, courage and joy for those who repent and rely on Him as Lord and Savior.

We can daily have the comfort and courage of knowing that God will add to us the strength that we need for each day. He will do this day by day. God will daily grant us the courage of knowing that by grace through faith in Christ, Heaven is our Home. So we are to make the most of our precious moments in this life that God has granted us.

By the Grace of God may we all have this knowledge comfort, courage, and joy.

*Pastor Love*

**From the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**

[lcms.org/stewardship](http://lcms.org/stewardship)

## *Stewards, Called to Forgiveness*

Human beings were created and redeemed to be stewards. Bearing the image of God (Gen. 1:26–28), the steward was created to reflect the Creator within creation. In a way, stewards are simply mirrors. Mirrors cannot do anything to the image that is placed in front of them.

A mirror was the first item in creation that embodied the computer term GIGO. “Garbage in, Garbage out.” In a computer, if you enter good data, you get a good result. You enter bad data; you will get a garbage result.

In photography, you can run an image through a filter, which can remove imperfections. Myriad apps allow for the option to cut people out, add people in and change backgrounds all in an attempt to make the perfect image. Mirrors cannot do that. They do not provide anything new. Mirrors are created to reflect, not process, an image. They simply reflect the person standing in front of them.



Stewards are like this. Created to reflect, a steward will reflect the God in front of them. The steward will either reflect a godly stewardship that holds that God is the owner of all things (Ps. 24:1) and is the One to whom they are accountable, or they will reflect the god of self and see the created order as something to be possessed, used, and in far too many cases, abused. It is not a question of IF the steward reflects, it is really a question of WHO is being reflected.

For this reason, the *Lutheran Service Book* has included a necessary hymn worthy of meditation: “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788). Its first verse reads:

*Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,  
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,  
For songs of praise for food and harvest press,  
While of Your richer gifts we're unaware.*

This is a fitting call to repentance for every steward. Our thankfulness is so often shallow. We get comfortable with the overflowing blessings we have entrusted to us by the Lord. These trusts are so many that the steward often forgets the One who entrusts them. Worse, with so many physical trusts evident, the steward loses sight of the greatest trust: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The failed steward sees so much plenty that they lose sight of the treasure: Jesus!

So, we confess our shallow thankfulness. In absolute, the imperfections of the failed steward are wiped away and a new image is sent into the world. We release our hold on stuff. We rethink our relationship with the created order and recall that it is all to be used FOR JESUS! This keeps the richer gifts in view, for us and for those we know and love who need Jesus.

## Faith Lutheran Church Semi-Annual Meeting July 28th, 2024

The semi-annual meeting of Faith Lutheran Church was called to order by President Terry Seidler. Forty-four members were in attendance. A meeting packet which included the pastor's report, meeting minutes and board and committee reports were distributed.

Pastor led us in prayer.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the annual meeting minutes as printed from January 28, 2024.

### **Pastor -**

#### Baptisms-

Madison Marie Klug - 5/19/24 Emma Lynn Hein - 4/21/24 Cecelia Elizabeth Klade - 6/9/24 Lucille Alexandria Klade - 6/9/24 Edgar Craig Pfaff - 7/14/24

#### Deaths-

Lorraine Raddatz 2/25/26-1/9/24 Charlotte Mootz 5/13/41-3/13/24

#### Transfers out-

Don Pagel

#### Transfers in-

Kyle & Kimberly Young & children; Kinsley, Kovyn and Konrad.

#### Confirmands-

Caleb Nicholey Ney 6/2/24

VBS had a great turnout! Youth have been a huge success as well with significant participation. There will be a guest speaker next Sunday about Labor of Love

A complete summary of activities is included in the meeting packet.

**Treasurer/Financial** -A report for January through June 2024 was included in the meeting packet. The final report indicated a total income of \$133,136.42, expenses of \$123,611.35, and income less expenses of \$9,525.07. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes.

**Audit** - The audit report indicated everything is reconciled, all bills have been paid in a timely manner and records were well organized. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the reports.

### **Board/Committee Reports**

**Elders** - Report included in the meeting packet. The move of the Pancake Breakfast date was discussed, Lee and Diane Pfaff have offered to donate scrambled eggs to add to the breakfast. There will be sign-ups coming out shortly for items needed for the breakfast.

**Trustees** - Report details included in the meeting packet.

**Education** - Report included in meeting packet.

**Stewardship/Evangelism** - Report included in meeting packet.

**Women of Faith** - Report included in meeting packet. October 12th there will be an LWML Rally held at St. John's in Hamburg.

**Altar Guild** - The group is doing well, Terry has great helpers to keep things running smoothly.

**L.I.F.E. Youth Group** - No written report. Terry is doing an excellent job with our youth program. July 2025 will be the next Youth Gathering.

**Scrip** - See report included in the meeting packet.

**Investment** - See report included in the meeting packet.

A motion to approve board and committee reports was received, seconded and passed.

**Old Business** - At the annual meeting a motion was made to change the church by-laws to increase the Board of Trustees spending limit without meeting from \$500 to \$2,000. This motion was voted on and passed.

**New Business** - New storage building: Chris Stogbauer reviewed the process of determining what amount of space would be needed, collecting estimates, and basics of what this structure would be. The floor was opened up for Q & A and discussion. A motion was made to move forward with the Urban Construction estimate and start the process to have the addition built. This motion was seconded and passed.

Bonnie Grueneberg has 2 years worth of DVD recorded services and bulletins, she is looking for guidance on the necessity to keep these or if they can be disposed of. Yvonne Duwe recommended looking into record keeping rules/guidelines/protocols for churches before moving forward.

Nominations are open for Circuit Visitor. A motion was made, seconded and passed to nominate Pastor Gillet of Tomahawk.

A motion to adjourn was received, seconded and passed.

Pastor Love closed with a prayer and led members with the Lord's Prayer and singing of the doxology.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lillie McCulloch, Council Secretary

## **Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Monday, August 12, 2024**

Present: Pastor Love, Terry Seidler (President), Mike Baumann (Vice-President), Lillie McCulloch (Secretary), Barry Krenz (Trustees), Cindy Braatz (Treasurer) and Jim Beilke (Elders).

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

President - A gentleman is requesting to view records of the church, Terry is wondering what the protocol should be for such a request. Guidelines were discussed and agreed upon within the council (no photos to be taken, no copies to be made, and documentation kept of all information he leaves with. The dual-parish meeting is tomorrow evening (8/13/24) at 6:30pm. The church ball games are done and ran smoothly and successfully.

Trustees - One of the air conditioners went out due to a bad condenser. Stainless Specialists was able to repair the unit. The new building addition is moving forward through Urban Construction, the next step is removing trees and completing the dirt work to prepare the space. A cemetery plot was sold in the north cemetery. Bruce Pfingsten is working with the trustees to start replacing the lights in the church, beginning with the kitchen. Other routine maintenance work continues to take place. They are still waiting to hear back on additional insurance for the stained glass windows in the church.

Elders - The new elder, Kyle Young, is working out very well. The service schedule has been set for September and reviewed; no service on Labor Day, polka service on 9/29/24 at 10am with chili luncheon to follow. October 20th will be the pancake breakfast, it was decided to not have communion that day to simplify things. Pricing for tickets will remain the same as last year (\$10/\$5). It was brought up to open a 'Church Addition Fund' so donations may be made towards that expense.

Board of Education - No update provided.

Stewardship/Evangelism - Chili luncheon sign-ups will be out after labor day. The plan is to set up tables and chairs Saturday morning prior. School supplies are currently being collected. There will be a fifth Sunday collection coming up, the donations will go to the Klade family. It is being discussed to purchase banners or signs of some sort with biblical verses/sayings to hang on the ball diamond fence during next years' season. There are currently 30 people signed up to attend the Ark Encounter trip at the beginning of November.

Pastor - Recent funerals - Cindy Luedtke and Scott Pfaff. The Labor of Love went very well. The dual parish outdoor worship service went well, 102 people attended the luncheon afterwards. The circuit forum will be held at Trinity on 9/22/24 at 1:30p if we'd like to send representatives. Pastor Joel Danner is stepping down as a circuit visitor.

Treasurer - Balance reports for July were reviewed, the ending balance for July was \$49,622.56. There was no report provided for June, Terry will contact Sharon to receive that report.

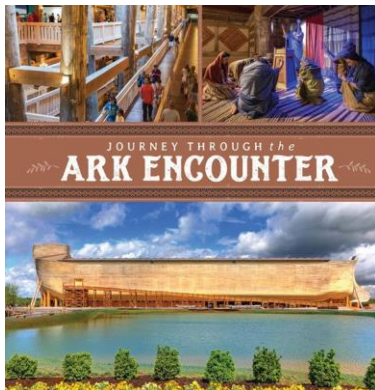
Old Business - No old business to discuss.

New Business - No new business to discuss.

The next regular council meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2024 at 7:30pm. There is a dual-parish meeting on August 13th at 6:30pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Lillie McCulloch, Council Secretary



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

**Trip Highlights Include: Ark Encounter and Navy Pier  
Lodging for Two Nights, Two Breakfasts, One Lunch  
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)

# Faith Lutheran Church

15425 South County Road K

Merrill, WI 54452

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

Church website: [faithlutheranmerrill.com](http://faithlutheranmerrill.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 SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

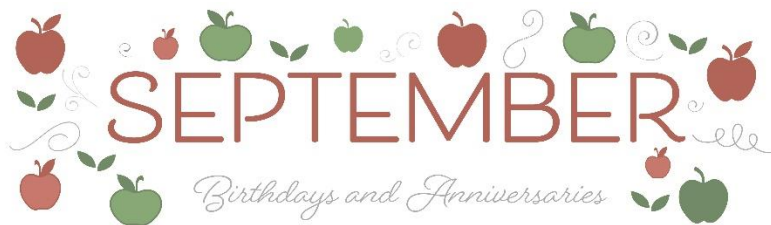
September 1-9 Jeri Raddatz and Sandy Laabs

September 10 - 23 Phyllis Buch and Deb Stogbauer

September 24 – October 7 Gene and Karen Pagel

## September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 10:15 a.m. <b>Worship with Holy Communion</b> 11:15 a.m. Bible Class	<b>2 LABOR DAY</b>  NO MONDAY WORSHIP	<b>3</b> 6:30 p.m. Women of Faith	<b>4</b> 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10:15 a.m. <b>Worship</b> 11:15 a.m. Bible Class ISI Men's Ministry @ Chris Stogbauer cabin. 4:30 p.m.	<b>9</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Worship</b> 7:30 p.m. Elders' Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. <b>Worship with Holy Communion</b> 11:15 a.m. Bible Class 12:15 p.m. Evangelism and Stewardship Meeting	<b>16</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Worship with Holy Communion</b>	<b>17</b> 6:00 p.m. Trustees' Meeting	<b>18</b> 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. <b>Worship</b> 11:15 a.m. Bible Study	<b>23</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Worship</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:00 A.M. Dual Parish <b>POLKA SERVICE</b> Chili Dinner following service	<b>30</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Worship</b>	 <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; text-align: center;"> <p><b>PANCAKE DINNER AND BAKE SALE</b>  <b>Sunday, October 20</b>  <b>11 a.m. – 1 p.m.</b></p> </div>				



# SEPTEMBER

*Birthdays and Anniversaries*

## FAITH BIRTHDAYS

September 1	Terrance Gaeu Macy Lentz
September 3	Kinsley Young
September 4	Katie Sturm
September 8	Mitchell Pester Christine Williams
September 12	Alex Klug
September 13	Gerhard Hannemann
September 14	Ezra Baguhn Mark Pester
September 15	Scott Semling
September 17	Ericka Braatz-Kretschmann LeRoy Laabs Patricia Porath
September 18	Michelle Gaeu Kyle Kleinschmidt
September 19	Timothy Wegner
September 21	Zachary Wayda
September 22	Debra Teske
September 23	Sean Luedtke
September 25	Lindsey Hein Zachary Kania
September 27	Ronan Powell Cynthia Christiansen
September 28	Madison Sturm
September 30	Delores Gast

## ST. JOHN'S BIRTHDAYS

September 2	Annette Jahnke DeAnna Mootz Randy Stack
September 21	Jeremy Fromm Terry Grenwald Lorraine Kleinschmidt Ramsey Wendt
September 26	Ella Berenz
September 27	Dave Czech
September 30	Sarah White Amy Wood

## FAITH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

September 2	Randall and Cynthia Braatz	36 years
September 3	Michael and Patricia Beilke	30 years
September 4	Barry and Cynthia Krenz	47 years
September 6	Jeff and Monica Stogbauer	16 years
September 20	Seth and Melissa Stoeckmann	10 years
September 26	Jacob and McKayla Dahlke	4 years
September 29	Kyle and Kim Young	12 years

## ST. JOHN'S WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

September 2	Bob & Lori Baumann	36 years
September 4	Elly & Sue Zastrow.	60 years
September 6	Matt & Jen Seliger.	29 years
September 10	Dave & Diane Hinz	48 years
September 20	Russell & Joyce Bloch	40 years

memorials  
& gifts

- In memory of **SCOTT PFAFF**, a gift to the Scott Cemetery and Beautification Fund from Phyllis Buch
- In memory of **DONALD HOFF**, a gift to the Special Purpose Fund from Elaine Hoff

*Thank You*

A big thank you to the kids at VBS for the lovely blanket. It made my birthday very special. God's blessings.

*Elvira Saeger*



# Sept. 2024 Elder, Usher, Greeter, Scrip Schedule

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

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

## Monday, September 2

NO WORSHIP SERVICE  
 Labor Day

## Sunday, September 8 10:15 a.m..

Ushers Jason Westfall, Mark Porath  
 Elders Brian and Lynn Klug  
 Greeter Brian Klug  
 Scrip Lynn Klug

## Monday, September 9 6:30 p.m.

Elders Mike Beilke, Lee Pfaff  
 Ushers Chris Stogbauer  
 Greeter Chris Stogbauer  
 Scrip Debbie Stogbauer

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

Elders Kyle Young, Jim Beilke  
 Ushers Bob and Bernice Porath  
 Greeter Bob Porath  
 Scrip Bernice Porath

## Monday, September 16 6:30 p.m.

Elders Randy Braatz, Joe Heisinger  
 Ushers Cindy Braatz, Gene Mootz  
 Greeter Gene Mootz  
 Scrip Cindy Braatz

## Sunday, September 22 10:15 a.m.

Elders Jason Westfall, Mark Porath  
 Ushers Leroy Laabs, Carol Hein  
 Greeter Sandy Laabs  
 Scrip Becky Rajek

## Monday, September 23 6:30 p.m.

Elder Jim Beilke  
 Usher Ed Stiver  
 Greeter Ed Stiver  
 Scrip Cindy Krenz

## Sunday, September 29 10:00 a.m.

*POLKA SERVICE & CHILI Dinner*

Elders Lee Pfaff, Randy Braatz  
 Ushers Cindy Braatz, Keith Wendt  
 Greeter Duane Grunenwald  
 Scrip Cindy Braatz

## Monday, September 30 6:30 p.m.

Elders Jim Beilke, Joe Heisinger  
 Usher Amanda Heisinger  
 Greeter Amanda Heisinger  
 Scrip Debbie Stogbauer

## Sunday, October 6 10:15 a.m.

Elders Jason Westfall, Mark Porath  
 Ushers Bob and Bernice Porath  
 Greeter Bob Porath  
 Scrip Bernice Porath

## Monday, October 7 6:30 p.m.

Elders Lee Pfaff, Jim Beilke  
 Ushers Keith Wendt, Chris Stogbauer  
 Greeter Chris Stogbauer  
 Scrip Debbie Stogbauer

## VIDEO SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 1 Bonnie Grueneberg  
 Sunday, September 8 Bonnie Grueneberg  
 Monday, September 9 Gene Mootz  
 Sunday, September 15 Bonnie Grueneberg  
 Monday, September 16 Lee Pfaff  
 Sunday, September 22 Bonnie Grueneberg  
 Monday, September 23 Lee Pfaff  
 Sunday, September 29 Bonnie Grueneberg  
 Monday, September 30 Lee Pfaff  
 Sunday, October 6 Bonnie Grueneberg  
 Monday, October 7 Gene Mootz

## HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, September 1 10:15 a.m.  
 Sunday, September 15 10:15 a.m.  
 Monday, September 16 6:30 p.m.  
 Sunday, October 6 10:15 a.m.  
 Monday, October 7 6:30 p.m.

## ELDERS

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



# 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  
Bob Burish 715-573-7078

## Christian Day Care

Patti Beilke 715-539-8120

## Elder of the Month

Don Gille 715-573-8197

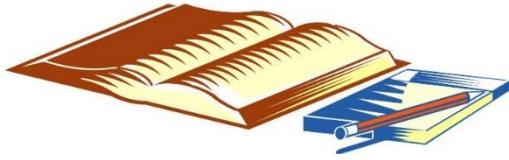
## Setting the Lord's Table

Misty Vogel

## September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith	<b>5</b> 6:00 p.m. Sunday School Teacher Meeting 6:30 p.m. Mary Martha Guild	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 SUNDAY</b> SCHOOL RALLY DAY 8:30 a.m. Worship <i>Special Fellowship Hour following worship</i> ISI Men's Ministry @ Chris Stogbauer cabin. 4:30 p.m.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. Elders' Meeting	<b>11</b> 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion <i>Sunday School during Sermon</i> 9:30 a.m. Bible Class	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:30 a.m. Worship <i>Sunday School during Sermon</i> 9:30 a.m. Bible Class	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:00 a.m. Dual Parish POLKA SERVICE at Faith <i>Chili Dinner following worship</i>	<b>30</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>PANCAKE DINNER AND BAKE SALE</b></p> <p><b>Sunday, October 20</b></p> <p><b>11 a.m. – 1 p.m.</b></p> </div> </div>				

# Confirmation Class



**CONFIRMATION CLASSES** will begin on Wednesday, **September 4 at 5:30 p.m.** for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders from St. John's and Faith. Classes this year are at Faith. There will be a parent meeting following class on September 4.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 is RALLY DAY** at St. John's for Sunday School. A special Fellowship Hour will follow worship. **SUNDAY SCHOOL** classes will resume at St. John's on **Sunday, September 15** during Sunday morning sermons. **SUNDAY SCHOOL** at Faith Lutheran Church will begin on **September 15 at 9:15 a.m.**



**Stay  
in the  
Word**



**BIBLE CLASSES** will resume after the Labor Day holiday at St. John's following worship at **9:30 a.m.**  
*All are welcome.*

## Dual Parish *Polka Worship Service*



**Faith Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday, September 29      10:00 a.m.**

*The service features liturgy, prayer, sermon and religious themed songs Carl Uttech and the Polish Cowboys will provide our music for the service The trio features Carl on the Concertina, John Uttech on the trumpet and base and Jim Mijal on the drums.*

**Service will be followed by a CHILI DINNER**

# IRON SHARPENS IRON

**PROVERBS 27:17**

As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens  
the countenance of his friend.

**Sunday September 8 at  
4:30 p.m.**  
Chris Stogbauer's cabin  
16050 N. 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Merrill



All You Can Eat  
**PANCAKE DINNER and BAKE SALE**  
**Sunday, October 20**  
**11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

*Homemade Potato Pancakes and Buttermilk Pancakes served with  
Scrambled Eggs and Breakfast Sausage*

**Adults - \$10    Children 6-12 - \$5**  
**5 years old and under – Free**  
*Carryouts available*

**Faith Lutheran Church**

Bible Memory Verse



# Memory Verse Challenge

## Week of September 1, 2024

Psalms 73: 25-26

Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

## Week of September 8, 2024

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

## Week of September 15, 2024

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

## Week of September 22, 2024

2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

## Week of September 29, 2024

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.



### 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.



## Grieving a loss?

Find hope and healing after the death of a loved one.

Join us at  
**GriefShare®**

Weekly grief support group

Where: Trinity Church 107 N. State St. Merrill Church Basement

Begins: Monday, September 9, 2024 (14 Sessions)

Time: 6:00 – 8:00PM

Contact: Manda Norman at 715-351-1399 or call Trinity Church to register. 715-536-5482  
-Open to the Community- [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org)

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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

# Pray For Us Calendar

## THE CREED — SEPTEMBER 1-15

We confess the three ecumenical Creeds, the Apostles', Nicene and Athanasian. We believe in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, three persons. Luther's explanation of the Apostles' Creed in the Small Catechism teaches important truths about God as our creator, redeemer and sanctifier.

*Rejoice in God's goodness in Christ as you pray:*

- 1.** Thank God that He is our loving heavenly Father.
- 2.** Thank God for His creation.
- 3.** Thank God for daily bread. Pray that all would be fed and clothed this day.
- 4.** Thank God for family. Pray that God would guide all families love each other with the love of God in Christ Jesus.
- 5.** Thank God for shelter. Pray for those who are without homes this day.
- 6.** Thank God for reason. Pray that learning and intellect

are always in service of God's Kingdom.

- 7.** Thank God for Jesus. He is our only Savior from sin, death and the power of the devil.
- 8.** Rejoice that Jesus is true man, that He can sympathize with our weaknesses.
- 9.** Rejoice that Jesus is true God, that our Savior is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- 10.** Repent of all your sins and trust that God forgives your sins through the blood of Jesus.
- 11.** Pray that God would empower you, by His Spirit, to live in righteousness, innocence and blessedness.

**12.** Thank God that He freely gives faith and salvation through His Spirit. Pray that all would hear the Word and be Baptized according to His will.

**13.** Thank God for the Holy Spirit. Pray that He would keep all in the true faith.

**14.** Thank God for the Church. Pray that she would remain faithful to her Savior.

**15.** Rejoice that God gives and sustains faith in the Holy Trinity. Rejoice that God is love.



## SEPTEMBER *Pray For Us Calendar*

### OFFICE OF THE KEYS/CONFESSION — SEPTEMBER 16-30

Jesus gave the office of the keys to the Church through His Apostles. Confession has two parts. First that we confess our sins, and second that we receive the forgiveness of our sins.

*Rejoice in the gifts of Confession and Absolution as you pray:*

- 16.** *That God would lead all sinners to repentance.*
- 17.** *Confess your sins before God. Trust that God forgives your sins through Christ Jesus.*
- 18.** *Thank God for your pastor and all pastors. Pray that God would grant them faith and strength in their Word and Sacrament ministry.*
- 19.** *Thank God for corporate confession and absolution each Sunday.*
- 20.** *Thank God for the opportunity for individual confession and absolution with your pastor.*
- 21.** *Thank God for the vocations He has given to you. Pray that you serve Him and your neighbor faithfully each day.*
- 22.** *Pray for all unbelievers, that they would repent and trust in Christ.*

- 23.** *Pray for all who are caught in unrepentant sin, that they would humbly confess their sins and receive holy Absolution.*
- 24.** *Pray for the Spirit to empower you to amend your sinful life, that all you think, say and do would please God.*
- 25.** *Thank God for the Church.* Pray that the Church remain faithful to the preaching and teaching of God's Word and the administration of the Sacraments according to God's will.
- 26.** *Pray for those who have stopped attending church.* Ask God to provide someone to share Christ with them and bring them back.
- 27.** *Pray for Christian parents, that they would model forgiveness and raise their children in the Christian faith.*
- 28.** *Pray for the strength to forgive people in your life.* Ask God to give the faith necessary to forgive as He forgives.



**29.** *Thank God that He always answers our confession with words of forgiveness and life.*

**30.** *Pray that Jesus would return quickly, that sin and death will soon be finally defeated, and God's people will dwell with Him forever.*

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






# Privileged Love

## September

### Daily Reading Plan



- Day 1: Ephesians 3:17-19
- Day 2: Isaiah 54:10
- Day 3: Psalm 86:15
- Day 4: 1 John 3:1
- Day 5: Deuteronomy 7:7-9
- Day 6: Zephaniah 3:17
- Day 7: Psalm 5:11-12
- Day 8: Ephesians 1:5-6
- Day 9: Psalm 107:8-9
- Day 10: 2 Chronicles 6:14
- Day 11: Psalm 36:5-7
- Day 12: Psalm 109:21
- Day 13: 1 John 4:9-10
- Day 14: Micah 7:18
- Day 15: 1 Chronicles 16:34
- Day 16: Ephesians 2:3-9
- Day 17: Lam. 3:22-23
- Day 18: Psalm 103
- Day 19: Psalm 139:1-12
- Day 20: Ephesians 1:3-8
- Day 21: Hebrews 10:19-22
- Day 22: Galatians 3:26-29
- Day 23: Romans 5:8
- Day 24: John 15:9
- Day 25: John 14:21
- Day 26: Romans 5:5
- Day 27: 1 John 4:7-8
- Day 28: Romans 8:31-32
- Day 29: Romans 8:35-39
- Day 30: Psalm 149

*That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:17-19*

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

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*Whatever you do, work at it with*  
**ALL YOUR HEART,**  
*as working for the Lord.*

— Colossians 3:23, NIV —