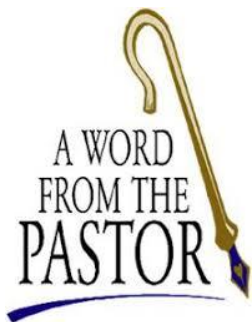


APRIL 2026

The Good News

Monthly Newsletter for St. John's Lutheran and Faith Lutheran Churches

Resurrection of Christ



One of the foundational facts and teachings of the Gospel is the Resurrection of the Son of God. If Christ be not risen, our faith is vain (1 Cor. 15:14). The whole of the New Testament revelation rests on this as an historical fact. On the day of Pentecost Peter argued the necessity of Christ's resurrection from the prediction in Ps. 16 (Acts 2:24–28). In His own discourses, also, our Lord clearly foretells of His own resurrection (Matt. 20:19; Mark 9:9; 14:28; Luke 18:33; John 2:19–22).

The evangelists give accounts of the facts connected with that event, and the apostles, also, in their public teaching rest their entire message upon it. Ten different appearances of our risen Lord are recorded in the New Testament. They may be arranged as follows:

- (1.) To Mary Magdalene at the tomb by herself. This is recorded at length only by John (20:11–18), and alluded to by Mark (16:9–11).
- (2.) To certain women, "the other Mary," Salome, Joanna, and others, as they returned from the sepulcher. Matthew (28:1–10) gives an account of this. (Comp. Mark 16:1–8, and Luke 24:1–11.)
- (3.) To Simon Peter on the day of the resurrection. (See Luke 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5.)
- (4.) To the two disciples on the way to Emmaus on the day of the resurrection, recorded fully by Luke (24:13–35. Comp. Mark 16:12, 13).
- (5.) To the ten disciples (Thomas being absent) and others "with them," at Jerusalem on the evening of the resurrection day. One of the evangelists gives an account of this appearance, John (20:19–24).
- (6.) To the disciples again (Thomas being present) at Jerusalem (Mark 16:14–18; Luke 24:33–40; John 20:26–28. See also 1 Cor. 15:5).
- (7.) To the disciples when fishing at the Sea of Galilee. Of this appearance also John (21:1–23) alone gives an account.

(8.) To the eleven, and above 500 brethren at once, at an appointed place in Galilee (1 Cor. 15:6; comp. Matt. 28:16–20).

(9.) To James, but under what circumstances we are not informed (1 Cor. 15:7).

(10.) To the apostles immediately before the ascension. They accompanied Him from Jerusalem to Mount Olivet, and there they saw Him ascend “till a cloud received Him out of their sight” (Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50–52; Acts 1:4–10).

It is worthy of note that Scriptures give distinct details how Christ gave them many opportunities to test the fact of His resurrection. He conversed with them face to face. They touched Him (Matt. 28:9; Luke 24:39; John 20:27), and He ate bread with them (Luke 24:42, 43; John 21:12, 13).

(11.) In addition to the above, mention might be made of Christ’s manifestation of Himself to Paul at Damascus, who speaks of it as an appearance of the risen Saviour (Acts 9:3–9, 17; 1 Cor. 15:8; 9:1).

It is implied in the words of Luke (Acts 1:3) that there may have been other appearances of which we have no record.

The resurrection is spoken of as the act (1) of God the Father (Ps. 16:10; Acts 2:24; 3:15; Rom. 8:11; Eph. 1:20; Col. 2:12; Heb. 13:20); (2) of Christ Himself (John 2:19; 10:18); and (3) of the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 3:18).

The resurrection is a public testimony of Christ’s release from His undertaking as ransom for our sin, and an evidence of the Father’s acceptance of His work of redemption. It is a victory over death and the grave for all His followers.

The importance of Christ’s resurrection will be seen when we consider that if He rose the gospel is true, and if He rose not it is false. His resurrection from the dead makes it clear that His sacrifice was accepted. Our justification was secured by His obedience to the death, and therefore He was raised from the dead (Rom. 4:25). His resurrection is a proof that He made a full atonement for our sins, that His sacrifice was accepted as a satisfaction to divine justice, and His blood a ransom for sinners. It is also a pledge and an earnest of the resurrection of all believers (Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 6:14; 15:47–49; Phil. 3:21; 1 John 3:2). As He lives, they shall live also.

It proved Him to be the Son of God, inasmuch as it authenticated all His claims (John 2:19; 10:17). *“If Christ did not rise, the whole scheme of redemption is a failure, and all the predictions and anticipations of its glorious results for time and for eternity, for men and for angels of every rank and order, are proved to be false. ‘But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept.’ Therefore the Bible is true from Genesis to Revelation. The kingdom of darkness has been overthrown, Satan has fallen as lightning from heaven, and the triumph of truth over error, of good over evil, of happiness over misery is for ever secured.”* ~ Hodge.

With reference to the report which the Roman soldiers were bribed (Matt. 28:12–14) to circulate concerning Christ’s resurrection, “His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we slept,” Matthew Henry in His “Commentary,” under John 20:1–10, aptly observes, “The grave-clothes in which Christ had been buried were found in very good order, which serves for an evidence that His body was not ‘stolen away while men slept.’

Robbers of tombs have been known to take away ‘the clothes’ and leave the body; but none ever took away ‘the body’ and left the clothes, especially when they were ‘fine linen’ and new (Mark 15:46). Any one would rather choose to carry a dead body in its clothes than naked. Or if they that were supposed to have stolen it would have left the grave-clothes behind, yet it cannot be supposed they would find leisure to ‘fold up the linen.’”



*May God bless you as you live in the light of the
Resurrected Son of God. Pastor Don Love*

A Better Way

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn't necessary because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won't be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one's income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

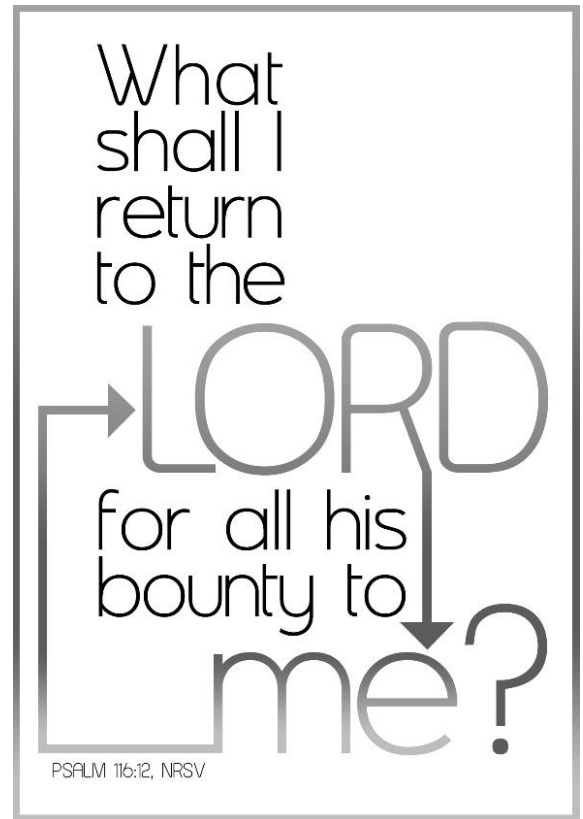
But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.



Faith Lutheran Church

15425 South County Road K

Merrill, WI 54452

Church e-mail: faithmerrillwi@gmail.com

Church website: faithlutheranmerrill.com

Pastor Donald Love

Office Phone 715-536-5443

Home Phone 715-722-0540

Cell Phone 715-350-3871

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)

715-203-5736 (cell)

ALTAR GUILD APRIL SCHEDULE

April 1 - 6 Jeri Raddatz & Sandy Laabs

April 7 - 20 Phyllis Buch & Deb Stogbauer

April 21 - May 4 Gene and Karen Pagel

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion at St. John's	2 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Faith 6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Faith	3 <i>Good Friday</i> 1:00 p.m. Worship at Faith 6:30 p.m. Worship at St. John's	4 6:00 a.m. - 6 p.m. Easter Vigil at St. John's
5 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at St. John 10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Faith	6	7 1:00 p.m. Women of Faith	8 10:00 a.m. Ablelight 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith	9 10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's	10	11
12 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Bible Class 11:15 a.m. Stew/Evg Meeting 12:15 p.m. Inspired Singles at Faith	13 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting	14	15 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith	16 10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's	17	18 LWML Spring Rally at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church - Gleason
19 10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Bible Class 2:00 p.m. Softball League Meeting at Faith	20 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion	21	22 10:00 a.m. Ablelight 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith	23 10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's	24	25
26 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Bible Class 6:30 p.m. Living River Concert at Faith	27 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Worship	28	29 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith	30 10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's		

APRIL

Birthdays and Anniversaries

ST. JOHN'S ANNIVERSARIES

April 15
Dave & Barb Czech 43 years

FAITH ANNIVERSARIES

April 10
Steven & Laurie Goetsch 27 years
April 20
Kelvin & Tammy Baumann 41 years
April 21
Ryan & Jessica Baguhn 19 years
April 22
Mark & Pamela Pester 27 years
April 26
Rodney & Cheryl Dahlke 40 years

ST. JOHN'S BIRTHDAYS

April 1 Jen Seliger
Isabella Zastrow
April 2 Nancee Emmerich
April 30 Steve Kleinschmidt

FAITH BIRTHDAYS

April 4 Dean Schlag
Joseph Calmes
April 5 Robert Porath
April 8 Jody Maulson
April 9 Cole Rajek
Molli Wicke
April 10 Joe Heisinger
Lynn Klug
Mikayla Klade
LeeAnn Pfaff
April 12 Khloe Olson
Koi Olson
April 14 Jessica Schade
April 15 Kevin Goetsch
April 16 Emma Anderson
Karen Olson
April 17 Vickie Bartelt
Cassidy Reinhardt
April 18 Katherine Stoeckmann
Keith Williams
April 19 McCoy Klug
Marjorie Radenz
Ann Stoeckmann
Mollie Pester
April 24 Michael Baumann
April 25 Brian Grueneberg
April 26 Loyd Kleinschmidt
April 28 Brian Schade
April 30 Audrey Steckling



Saturday, April 18
8:15 a.m. – Noon
at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Gleason
Guest Speaker

Abbey Dall Lukowski
Executive Director of Frederick Place
Topic *"Helping the Homeless in the Northwoods"*
Bring Gifts from the Heart for the Homeless Shelter. Also collecting Stamps for Missions and Eyeglasses for MOST Ministries

April 2026 Schedule for Elders, Ushers, Greeters and Scrip

*THURSDAY, April 2 11:00 a.m.

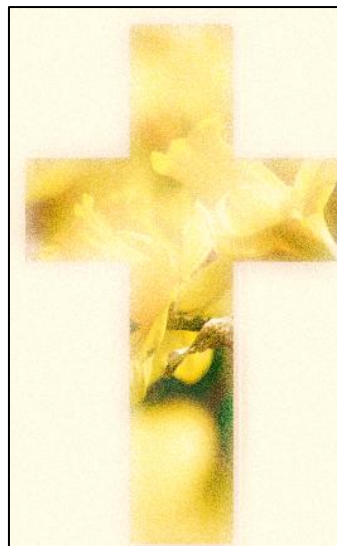
Elders Lee Pfaff, Rodney Dahlke
 Ushers Leroy Laabs, Karen Pagel
 Greeter Gene Pagel
 Scrip Cindy Krenz
 Audio Cindy Braatz

*THURSDAY, April 2 6:30 p.m.

Elders Mark Porath, Kyle Young
 Ushers Chris Stogbauer, Ed Stiver
 Greeter Ed Stiver
 Scrip Deb Stogbauer
 Audio Joe & Amanda Heisinger

FRIDAY, April 3 1:00 p.m.

Elders Lee Pfaff, Rodney Dahlke
 Ushers Leroy Laabs
 Greeter Leroy Laabs
 Scrip Cindy Krenz
 Audio Evan Roubal



*Easter Sunday, April 5 10:15 a.m.

Elders Mike Bielke, Mark Porath
 Ushers Brian and Lynn Klug
 Greeter Brian Klug
 Scrip Lynn Klug
 Audio Bonnie Grueneberg

Sunday, April 12 10:15 a.m.

Elders Joe Heisinger, Kyle Young
 Ushers Karen Pagel, Bernice Porath
 Greeter Gene Pagel
 Scrip Bernice Porath
 Audio Evan Roubal

Monday, April 13 6:30 p.m.

Elders Jason Westfall, Rodney Dahlke
 Usher Ed Stiver
 Greeter Ed Stiver
 Scrip Cindy Braatz
 Audio Rodney Dahlke

*Sunday, April 19 10:15 a.m.

Elders Joe Heisinger, Jeff Laabs
 Ushers Amanda Heisinger, Carol Hein
 Greeter Amanda Heisinger
 Scrip Becky Rajek
 Audio Bonnie Grueneberg

*Monday, April 20 6:30 p.m.

Elders Kyle Young, Travis Klug
 Ushers Chris Stogbauer, Ed Stiver
 Greeter Chris Stogbauer
 Scrip Deb Stogbauer
 Audio Lee Pfaff

Sunday, April 26 10:15 a.m.

Elders Joe Heisinger, Mike Bielke
 Ushers Brian and Lynn Klug
 Greeter Brian Klug
 Scrip Cindy Krenz
 Audio Bonnie Grueneberg

Monday, April 27 6:30 p.m.

Elders Jason Westfall, Travis Klug
 Ushers Ed Stiver
 Greeter Ed Stiver
 Scrip Deb Stogbauer
 Audio Cindy Braatz

ELDERS

Rodney Dahlke, chairman
 Mike Beilke, secretary
 Joe Heisinger, Jeff Laabs, Kyle Young, Lee Pfaff,
 Mark Porath, Jason Westfall, Travis Klug

HOLY COMMUNION

Maundy Thursday, April 2 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
 Easter Sunday, April 5 10:15 a.m.
 Sunday, April 19 10:15 a.m.
 Monday, April 20 6:30 p.m.



Easter Vigil

**Saturday,
April 4 at
St. John's**

**6 a.m. –
6 p.m.**

30 minute
silent prayer
sessions.
There will be
printed

prayers available if you care to use them. Or there will be prayer topics available and you can come up with your own prayer.



Memory Verse

Week of April 5, 2026

Romans 10:9-10

Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Week of April 12, 2026

Ephesians 2:13-14

Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.

Week of April 19, 2026

Mark 12:29-31

Jesus answered, "The most important [commandment] is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Week of April 26, 2026

John 17:17

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Thrivent Choice®
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THRIVENT CHOICE GIFTS recently to Faith from Phyllis A. Buch, Joseph C. Calmes, Cheryl A. Dahlke, Gerhard A. Hannemann, Sally R. Hannemann, Sharon M. Kleinschidt, Sheila R. Klug, Barry D. Krenz, Cynthia S. Krenz, Joyce E. Rusch, and Joseph J. Zuelsdorff. Thank you for your support of the ministry of the church.



Living River Community Concert Sunday, April 26th at Faith.

The concert will be at 6:30 p.m. with a donation of a non-perishable food item suggested. *Ice Cream Social following the concert with vanilla ice cream with various toppings.*



**Tentative
upcoming
dates at
Faith:**

August 23rd – Back to School/Friendship Sunday

September 27th – Dual Parish Polka Service

October 28th – Reformation Service hosted by Faith at 7:00 p.m. (*Bars & Refreshments*)

November 1st – Pancake Dinner

St. John's Lutheran Church

134058 County Road L

Athens, WI 54411

715-536-1810

Pastor Donald Love

Office Phone 715-536-5443
Home Phone 715-722-0540
Cell Phone 1-715-350-3871

Pastor's Office Hours

Mon. & Tues. Home
Wednesday Faith
Thursday St. John's
Friday Off (Family Day)

Elders

Mike Schultz 715-539-0995
Mark Czech 715-409-9174
Don Gille 715-573-8197
Jeremy Fromm 715-574-2003
Bob Burish 715-573-7078

Elder of the Month

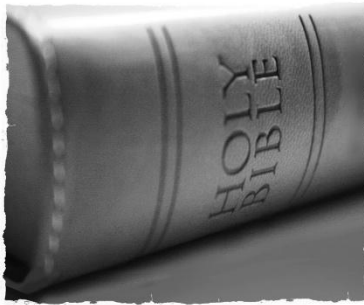
Don Gille 715-573-8197

Setting the Lord's Table

Joy Free

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion at St. John's 7:15 p.m. Mary Martha Guild	2 Maundy Thursday 11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Commuion at Faith 6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Commuion at Faith	3 Good Friday 1:00 p.m. Worship at Faith 6:30 p.m. Worship at St. John's	4 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Easter Vigil at St. John's
5 Easter Sunday 8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at St. John 10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Faith				9 10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's		
12 8:30 a.m. Worship 12:15 p.m. Inspired Singles at Faith			15 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith	16 10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's		18 LWML Spring Rally at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church - Gleason
19 8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 2:00 p.m. Church Softball League Meeting at Faith			22 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith	23 10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's		
26 8:30 a.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Living River Concert at Faith			29 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith	30 10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's		



April 2026

Daily Bible Readings

- **April 1**
1 Timothy 1–3
Psalms 73:1–28
Proverbs 12:10
- **April 2**
1 Timothy 4–6
Psalms 74:1–23
Proverbs 12:11
- **April 3**
2 Timothy 1–4
Psalms 75:1–10
Proverbs 12:12–14
- **April 4**
Titus 1–3
Psalms 76:1–12
Proverbs 12:15–17
- **April 5**
Philemon 1
Psalms 77:1–20
Proverbs 12:18
- **April 6**
Hebrews 1–4
Psalms 78:1–25
Proverbs 12:19–20
- **April 7**
Hebrews 5–8
Psalms 78:26–45
Proverbs 12:21–23
- **April 8**
Hebrews 9–10
Psalms 78:46–58
Proverbs 12:24
- **April 9**
Hebrews 11–13
Psalms 78:59–72
Proverbs 12:25
- **April 10**
James 1–5
Psalms 79:1–13
Proverbs 12:26
- **April 11**
1 Peter 1–5
Psalms 80:1–19
Proverbs 12:27–28
- **April 12**
2 Peter 1–3
Psalms 81:1–16
Proverbs 13:1
- **April 13**
1 John 1–5
Psalms 82:1–8
Proverbs 13:2–3
- **April 14**
2 John, 3 John, Jude
Psalms 83:1–18
Proverbs 13:4
- **April 15**
Revelation 1–3
Psalms 84:1–12
Proverbs 13:5–6
- **April 16**
Revelation 4–7
Psalms 85:1–13
Proverbs 13:7–8
- **April 17**
Revelation 8–11
Psalms 86:1–17
Proverbs 13:9–10
- **April 18**
Revelation 12–14
Psalms 87:1–7
Proverbs 13:11
- **April 19**
Revelation 15–17
Psalms 88:1–18
Proverbs 13:12–14
- **April 20**
Revelation 18–19
Psalms 89:1–13
Proverbs 13:15–16
- **April 21**
Revelation 20–22
Psalms 89:14–37
Proverbs 13:17–19
- **April 22**
Genesis 1–4
Psalms 89:38–52
Proverbs 13:20–23
- **April 23**
Genesis 5–8
Psalms 90:1–91:16
Proverbs 13:24–25
- **April 24**
Genesis 9–12
Psalms 92:1–93:5
Proverbs 14:1–2
- **April 25**
Genesis 13–17
Psalms 94:1–23
Proverbs 14:3–4
- **April 26**
Genesis 18–20
Psalms 95:1–96:13
Proverbs 14:5–6
- **April 27**
Genesis 21–23
Psalms 97:1–98:9
Proverbs 14:7–8
- **April 28**
Genesis 24–25
Psalms 99:1–9
Proverbs 14:9–10
- **April 29**
Genesis 26–28
Psalms 100:1–5
Proverbs 14:11–12
- **April 30**
Genesis 29–31
Psalms 101:1–8
Proverbs 14:13–14





LENTEN SEASON – BABY CARE KITS

Stewardship and Evangelism at Faith will be collecting items to make Baby Care Kits that can be given to Homeless Shelters or to Haven in Merrill. Each week during Lent, we will be collecting items that are needed. Items to be collected could be as follows: Diapers, Light weight cotton T-shirts, Receiving blankets, Socks or booties, Bath-size bars of gentle soap, Sleepers and Cotton blend hand towels. Sizes can be from 6 – 24 months. Your special gifts may be placed in the crib in the overflow area by April 4.

Food For Kids at St. John's Lutheran Church



To help bridge the "hunger gap" when Maple Grove School is not in session (Easter break), please bring kid-friendly, nonperishable items such as mac and cheese, cereal, oatmeal, canned soups, fruits, and vegetables.

Drop the items in the designated box in the narthex
by **March 29, 2026.**

Thank you very much!

Evangelism/Stewardship Committee



Singles



Fellowship

Inspired Singles

Sunday, April 12
12:15 p.m.
at Faith

Pizza and Prayer
Singles of all ages
are welcome!

A
DRAMATIC
EASTER
MUSICAL

Bow the Knee



at Zion Lutheran Church in the
Town of Easton, Aniwa... just East
of Wausau, on Saturday, March 28
at 7:00 p.m. and Palm Sunday,
March 29 at 2:30 p.m.



Palm Sunday, March 29

8:30 a.m. Worship at St. John's

10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith

Maundy Thursday (Wednesday), April 1

6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion at St. John's

Maundy Thursday, April 2

11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Faith

6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Faith

Good Friday, April 3

1:00 p.m. Worship at Faith

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

Saturday, April 4

6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Easter Prayer Vigil at St. John's

Easter Sunday, April 5

8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at St. John's

10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Faith

In Memory



The two stained glass pieces above the side doors leading into the sanctuary at Faith have been placed in memory of Mabel Marquardt, a member of Faith (formerly Zion) Lutheran Church, 1946-2025. She would have celebrated her 102nd birthday on March 24th of this year.

The piece over the south door, entitled "The Lord is my Shepherd", is representative of her favorite chapter in the Bible, Psalm 23. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; he makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul." Psalm 23:1-2. The piece depicts a lamb lying on soft green grass with a shepherd staff behind it. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father - and I lay down my life for the sheep." John: 10:14-15.

The second stained glass piece located over the north door, depicting an open Bible, is entitled "Search the Scriptures". The title is taken from the words on her confirmation plaque, Search the Scriptures, which she took to heart. "And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 3:15. The red bookmark on the Bible with the cross in the center symbolizes the blood of Christ given and shed for all for the forgiveness of our sins.

The pieces are bordered on each end by a single green vine. Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me." John 15:5.

The background color in the oval of each piece is blue and gold representing the radiance of Christ and the color of the sky as Jesus ascended into heaven. The darker blue color surrounding each oval is a reminder of the cleansing water of baptism. Before His ascension into heaven Jesus appeared to His disciples and gave them this command: "Go then to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I will be with you always; to the end of the age." Matthew 28: 19-20.

Just as the light shines through the colors of the glass to reflect its beauty, the light and love of Jesus shines through all of us each day by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We would like to thank the artist who created the stained glass pieces, Marilyn Meyn of Wausau, for her talent, commitment and dedication to the project.

May the peace of the Lord be with you all.

The Mabel Marquardt Family

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