

JUNE 2026

The Good News

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

"Fun, Faith, and Celebrating Both the Summer and the Sabbath"

Praise God for Creating Summer! What are some of your funniest stories of summer vacations?

Here are just a few.

One man tells this story: "Driving across California, we stopped at a red light in a beautiful old western town. As I admired the elegant storefronts and beautiful scenery, I didn't notice that the light had turned green and back to red again. It was then that a police officer tapped on my window and said, "That's all the colors we got here."

As we celebrate this gift of summer and all it's wonderful colors and different places may we always be spiritually alert and pay attention to what God would have us pay attention to, that is our relationship with Him who created all this, and allows us to enjoy summer.

Another Funny summer story is by Doug Hisson, from Cypress, Texas. *On their way to a summer adventure "We got lost on a country road. We stopped to ask a farmer, "Is this the road to Waynesville?" "Yes, it is," he replied. As we started to drive away, we barely heard him add, "But you're going the wrong way."*

Throughout this summer make sure you're praying for God to direct you and that You are following what He would have you do. May God grant us all the strength and spiritual insight as we make choices so that in this life we travel, we may not be traveling farther from Christ and His Word, but ever closer to our Lord and Savior who traveled this life for the forgiveness of our sins and the gift of everlasting life.

Just one more true story told by George Doscher, Hillsborough, New Jersey: When I was a child—one of five—our parents left nothing to chance when preparing for our summer vacation. Lists were made and trunks packed weeks in advance. On the morning of the trip, a final check was made. When everything was deemed ready, we piled into the station wagon and began the six-hour drive. Then, sometime into the trip, our mother realized that something was missing: one of my sisters. We drove back home, where my father found her in the bathroom.

As we prepare for the summer may we never forget our number one priority and preparation is our relationship with Christ Jesus. God help us to make the proper room in our hearts, our schedules, and in all our plans to Worship the Maker of the starry nights, the sun rises, sunsets, and all that makes up the heavens and earth.

God directs us in the Third Commandment to remember, and not forget the Sabbath day to Keep it Holy. The Holy Spirit again specifically direct us in Hebrews 10:24-25 "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

As we celebrate the summer days and prepare for the day Christ calls us, it is Important to celebrate God who causes the summer to happen, and allows us to enjoy this great time of year. This will refresh and encourage us as we make the most of this time that we have on

loan from God. To the One Who has all our times in His Hands be all glory, honor and praise. May God give you a blessed Summer.

Pastor Love

If you are reading this newsletter I would like to ask you what are some of your funniest stories of summer vacations? Please share them with me sometime.



**JOIN US FOR VBS AT FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
15425 S. COUNTY ROAD K, MERRILL**

June 8 - 10, 2026

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

(Meal starting at 5:00 p.m.)

*Provided by Faith Lutheran Church, Merrill and
St. John's Lutheran Church, Hamburg*

**To Register: Call (715) 536-5443 - OR -
Online at www.myvbs.org/bibleadventures2026**

Bible Adventures



What Do You Want?

One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the “Shepherd Psalm.” There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don’t know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters).

We live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts.

Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here’s the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.



**THESE UPCOMING
SUMMER DAYS,
SHEPHERD LORD,
YOU LEAD US AMID
GREEN GRASSES AND
PEACEFUL WATERS TO
RESTORE OUR SOULS.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GOODNESS AND MERCY!**



ST. JOHN'S ANNIVERSARIES

- June 10 Robert and Marilyn Seefeld
54 years
- June 16 Rolly and Marlene Koppa
36 years
- June 22 Matt and Karen Zastrow
24 years
Doug and Sarah White
52 years

FAITH ANNIVERSARIES

- June 2 Aaron and Raegan Zuelsdorff
25 years
- June 11 Josh and Sarah Klug
4 years
- June 14 Peter and Marci Borchardt
23 years
- June 15 LeRoy and Sandra Laabs
63 years
- June 17 James and Phyllis Beilke
59 years
- June 19 Alex and Emily Klug
5 years
- June 23 Thomas and Patricia Porath
47 years

ST. JOHN'S BIRTHDAYS

- June 7 Tim Czech
- June 10 Carla Beams
Robert Seefeld
- June 21 Dawn Faber

FAITH BIRTHDAYS

- June 1 Robert Kufahl
Edgar Pfaff
- June 4 Bruce Laatsch
Beverly Baumann
- June 7 Sandra Laabs
Amy Westfall
Kira Zulliger
- June 8 Jean (Bauer) Witz
- June 9 Marissa Prahl
- June 11 Rev. William Ruhbusch
Mason Borchardt
Tammy Baumann
- June 14 Jeremy Zulliger
Jenny July
- June 16 Barry Krenz
- June 18 Linda Seidler
Bruce Krenz
- June 19 Connie Stiver
- June 20 Lorraine Steckling
- June 22 Steven Goetsch
- June 23 Aleksander Hein
- June 24 Michael Beilke
Mitchell Beilke
- June 26 Cindy Braatz



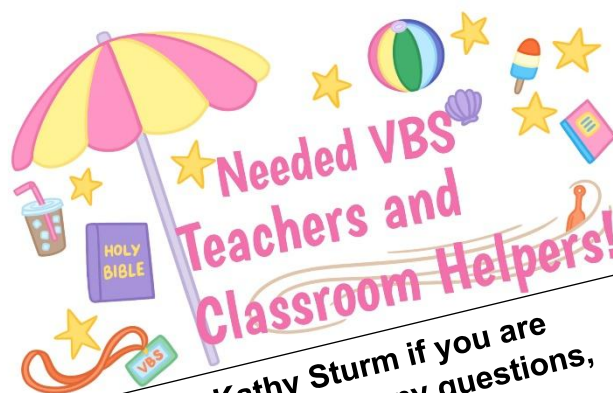
To the congregation of Faith Lutheran Church

Sometimes the simplest things mean the most.

Thank you for your kindness.

The Out Reach Committee of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in...
your diaper dona...
for our diaper closet.

OSLC
Linda Blake



Needed VBS Teachers and Classroom Helpers!

Contact Kathy Sturm if you are interested or have any questions, 715-443-2653

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 JUNE SCHEDULE

June 1 Keith and Pat Wendt

June 2 – 15 Susan Pankow & Karen Olsen

June 16 - 29 Jeri Raddatz & Sandy Laabs

June 20 – July 13 Phyllis Buch & Deb Stogbauer

June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
March 31 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Bible Class 4:00 p.m. Softball at St. John's	1 6:30 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting	2 1:00 p.m. Women of Faith	3	4 10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's	5 5:30 p.m. Inspired Singles Fish Fry Fellowship at Schult's Country Inn	6	
7 10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Bible Class 2:30 p.m. Softball at Immanuel	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: white;"> VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Faith </div>			10 10:00 a.m. Ablelight	11 10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's	12	13
14 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Bible Class 12:15 p.m. Inspired Siingles at Faith	15 6:30 p.m. Worship	16	17	18	19	20	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: white; margin: 0 auto; width: 80%;"> PASTOR ON VACATION May 16-30 </div>							
21 10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 2:30 p.m. Softball at Faith	22 6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion	23	24 10:00 a.m. Ablelight 6:00 p.m. Inspired Singles Pizza on the Patio Willow Springs	25	26	27 9:00 a.m. Build-A-Bed Lincoln County Fairgrounds	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: white; margin: 0 auto; width: 80%;"> PASTOR ON VACATION May 16-30 </div>							
28 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Bible Class 11:15 a.m. Stewardship and Evangelism Meeting 4:00 p.m. Softball at St. John's	29 6:30 p.m. Worship	30	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: white; margin: 0 auto; width: 80%;"> PASTOR ON VACATION May 16-30 </div>				

Bible Memory Verse



Week of June 7, 2026

1 Corinthians 6:20

You were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Week of June 14, 2026

Ephesians 5:8

At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.

Week of June 21, 2026

Colossians 4:2

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

Week of June 28, 2026

Isaiah 40:8

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

2026 Church League Softball							
Park/Time	5/10/2026	5/17/2026	5/24/2026	5/31/2026	6/7/2026	6/14/2026	6/21/2026
Faith	Team 2 Bye	Team 1 bye	MEMORIAL	Team 5 bye	Team 3 bye	Team 4 bye	Team 6 bye
1:00		3 v 5					7 v 1
2:30		4 v 2					4 v 5
4:00		6 v 7					2 v 3
Immanuel							
1:00	5 v 1				1 v 2	2 v 6	
2:30	6 v 4				7 v 4	5 v 7	
4:00	3 v 7				5 v 6	1 v 3	
St. John's							
1:00				7 v 2			
2:30				3 v 6			
4:00				1 v 4			
Park/Time	6/28/2026	7/5/2026	7/12/2026	7/19/2026	7/25/2026	8/1-8/2/2026	
Faith	Team 7 bye	4th of July					
1:00			Seed 1 v 2		Make-Up	Tournament	
2:30			Seed 3 v 4		Games	Saturday and	
4:00			Seed 5 v 6			Sunday	
Immanuel						Diamond	
1:00				Seed 1 v 3	Make-Up	Tournament	
2:30				Seed 2 v 4	Games	Saturday	
4:00				Seed 5 v 7		Diamond	
St. John's							
1:00	2 v 5				Make-Up		
2:30	6 v 1				Games		
4:00	4 v 3						
					1st team listed is home; home team umps		
2026 Teams					Umpire Rotation		
1	St. Paul's, Irma				1:00 umps	2:30	
2	Christ Lutheran, Merrill/Mtn of the Lord, Rib Mtn				2:30 ump	4:00	
3	St. Peter, Schofield/Grace, Maine/St. Paul's, Naugat				4:00 ump	1:00	
4	St. John's, Hamburg/Trinity, Athens/St. Marks, Wausau						
5	Immanuel, Corning/St. Paul, Hamburg						
6	St. Paul's, Pine River						
7	Our Saviour's, Merrill						
All games count towards season					Last 2 weeks of the League will be determined		
Games that determine tournament seeding					by the placement/seed your team is in after 6/28 games.		



Gift from Gerhard and Sally Hannemann to support the important work of the church. If interested in the Thrivent Choice program, please call 1-800-847-4836.



In memory of **RALPH SCHULZ**, a gift for the Scott Cemetery Fund from Phyllis Buch
 In memory of **RALPH SCHULZ**, a gift for the Home Purposes Fund from Ed and Connie Stiver

June 2026 Elder, Usher, Greeter, Scrip, AV Schedule

Sunday, May 31 10:15 a.m.

Elders Mike Bielke, Travis Klug
Ushers Leroy Laabs, Carol Hein
Greeter Leroy Laabs
Scrip Cindy Krenz
Audio Video Bonnie Grueneberg

*Sunday, June 7 10:15 a.m.

Elders Joe Heisinger, Jeff Laabs
Ushers Amanda Heisinger, Bernice Porath
Greeter Amanda Heisinger
Scrip Becky Rajek
Audio Video Bonnie Grueneberg

Sunday, June 14 10:15 a.m.

Elders Kyle Young, Travis Klug
Ushers Brian and Lynn Klug
Greeter Brian Klug
Scrip Lynn Klug
Audio Video Evan Roubal

*Sunday, June 21 10:15 a.m.

Elders Joe Heisinger, Mark Porath
Ushers Amanda Heisinger, Leroy Laabs
Greeter Amanda Heisinger
Scrip Bernice Porath
Audio Video Bonnie Grueneberg

Sunday, June 28 10:15 a.m.

Elders Lee Pfaff, Travis Klug
Ushers Karen Pagel, Carol Hein
Greeter Gene Pagel
Scrip Cindy Krenz
Audio Video Bonnie Grueneberg

Monday, June 1 6:30 p.m.

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

Monday, June 8 6:30 p.m.

No Service



Monday, June 15 6:30 p.m.

Elders Jason Westfall, Mike Bielke
Usher Chris Stogbauer
Greeter Chris Stogbauer
Scrip Debbie Stogbauer
Audio Video Lee Pfaff

*Monday, June 22 6:30 p.m.

Elders Jeff Laabs, Kyle Young
Usher Ed Stiver
Greeter Ed Stiver
Scrip Debbie Stogbauer
Audio Video Rodney Dahlke

MONDAY, June 29 6:30 p.m.

Elders Jason Westfall, Rodney Dahlke
Usher Chris Stogbauer
Greeter Chris Stogbauer
Scrip Debbie Stogbauer
Audio Video Cindy Braatz

HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, June 7 10:15 a.m.
Sunday, June 21 10:15 a.m..
Monday, June 22 6:30 p.m.

ELDERS

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

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
 Friday Off (Family Day)

Pastor's Office Hours
 Mon. & Tues. Home
 Wednesday Faith
 Thursday St. John's

Elders
 Jeremy Fromm 715-574-2003
 Mark Czech 715-409-9174
 Don Gille 715-573-8197

Elder of the Month
 Mike Schultz 715-539-0995
Setting the Lord's Table
 Marlene Koppa

June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
March 31 8:30 a.m. Worship 4:00 Softball at St. John's	1	2	3	4 10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Mary Martha Guild	5 5:30 p.m. Inspired Singles Fish Fry Fellowship at Schult's Country Inn	6
7 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 2:30 p.m. Softball at Immanuel	8	9	10	11 10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study	12	13
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Faith						
14 8:30 a.m. Worship 12:15 p.m. Inspired Singles at Faith	15	16	17	18	19	20
PASTOR ON VACATION May 16-30						
21 8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 2:30 p.m. Softball at Faith	22	23	24 6:00 p.m. Inspired Singles Pizza on the Patio at Willow Springs	25	26	27 9:00 a.m. Build-A-Bed Lincoln County Fairgrounds
PASTOR ON VACATION May 16-30						
28 8:30 a.m. Worship 4:00 p.m. Softball at St. John's	29	30	NO Church Council or Elders' Meeting this month at St. John's			
PASTOR ON VACATION May 16-30						



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — JUNE 1-30

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) officially began work in the Dominican Republic in 2004. Over the years, a group home was established to care for orphaned children with disabilities; congregations and mission plants were started; and a deaconess-training program was launched. The LCMS seminary in Santiago, Dominican Republic, trains students from around the Latin America region.

Remember God's work in the Dominican Republic as you pray:

1. for the seminary students who will enter the seminary this fall, that they would be able to acquire their student visas and other documentation needed to study in the Dominican Republic.
2. for seminary students and their families, that they would have a smooth transition to life in a new place away from family and friends. Praise God for these dedicated students who are willing to leave home to obtain a solid theological education.
3. that God would grant the seminary students determination and endurance, so that they might be diligent in their studies and make the most of their education.
4. for the women studying to be deaconesses, that the theological coursework and intensive practical experience would form them into capable and effective deaconesses.
5. that God would grant strength to our deaconesses as they support the work of pastors by caring for the poor, the marginalized and the sick.
6. with thanksgiving for all the faithful and generous people who have prayed or given of their time or treasures to make the seminary and mercy center a reality.

7. for the seminary professors, that they would be well-prepared to impart wisdom and knowledge to their students.

8. that the Spanish-language theological library at the seminary would be well used and a blessing to the students and faculty.

9. for the families of the professors, that they would adapt easily and find joy in a new country and culture.

10. for Lutheran congregations in Latin America, that they would be prepared to care for and support their pastors physically, mentally and spiritually.

11. for seminary students who are serving vicarages, that they would learn much from their experience and be better prepared for their future ministry.

12. for all the missionaries and leaders of the Dominican church, that they would discern God's

will so that they can build a firm foundation for the church for generations to come.

13. that God would raise up individuals and congregations to support our LCMS missionaries in the Dominican Republic.

14. that God would supply faithful and capable men and women to serve as missionaries, both in Latin America and around the world.

15. with thanksgiving for faithful men and women who have given up the comforts of home and family to faithfully serve on the mission field.

16. that many in the Dominican Republic would hear God's Word and believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Pray that they would attend worship each Sunday to receive the Word and Sacraments.

JUNE Pray For Us Calendar

17. that God would grant health and safety to all missionaries and their families.

18. that the Dominican Christians would continue to study God's Word and be strengthened to live faithfully and serve their neighbors in love.

19. with thanksgiving for the willingness of the Dominican people to hear and learn God's Word. By God's grace, the LCMS has established congregations and mission stations around the country.

20. that God would raise up many Lutheran school teachers and school administrators — especially from among the Dominican congregations — to meet the needs of the large number of eager students.

21. that the families of our Lutheran school children would also hear God's Word and be brought to faith.

22. with thanksgiving for the large and ever-growing number of students seeking education in our Lutheran schools in the Dominican Republic.

23. that the Lutheran mission churches in the Dominican

Republic would continue to grow and mature through regular worship and Bible study.

24. with thanksgiving for the many faithful Christians who regularly worship in our mission congregations.

25. with thanksgiving for Hogares Luteranos El Buen Pastor (Good Shepherd Lutheran Home), which provides a safe and nurturing facility for young people with developmental disabilities.

26. that God would grant patience and endurance for the faithful workers who care for the group home's residents. Praise God that He has used these wonderful young people to teach the Dominican Lutheran church about His love and mercy.

27. with thanksgiving that the residents of Hogares Luteranos El Buen Pastor have become active members of the local Lutheran church, where they are eager to hear God's Word and to serve in any way possible.

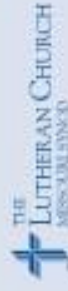
28. with thanksgiving for the willingness of faithful and gentle caregivers who serve the residents of Good Shepherd Lutheran Home.

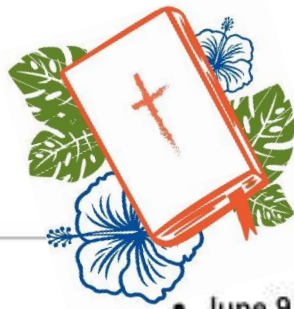


29. for all the mission work throughout the Caribbean and Latin America.

30. with thanksgiving that we are one in Christ with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Latin America.

Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at lcms.org/prayforus or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.





June

- **June 1**
Numbers 7
Psalms 119:156–176
Proverbs 16:14–15
- **June 2**
Numbers 8–10
Psalms 120:1–7
Proverbs 16:16–17
- **June 3**
Numbers 11–13
Psalms 121:1–8
Proverbs 16:18
- **June 4**
Numbers 14–15
Psalms 122:1–9
Proverbs 16:19–20
- **June 5**
Numbers 16–18
Psalms 123:1–4
Proverbs 16:21–23
- **June 6**
Numbers 19–21
Psalms 124:1–8
Proverbs 16:24
- **June 7**
Numbers 22–24
Psalms 125:1–5
Proverbs 16:25
- **June 8**
Numbers 25–26
Psalms 126:1–6
Proverbs 16:26–27
- **June 9**
Numbers 27–29
Psalms 127:1–5
Proverbs 16:28–30
- **June 10**
Numbers 30–32
Psalms 128:1–6
Proverbs 16:31–33
- **June 11**
Numbers 33–36
Psalms 129:1–8
Proverbs 17:1
- **June 12**
Deuteronomy 1–2
Psalms 130:1–8
Proverbs 17:2–3
- **June 13**
Deuteronomy 3–4
Psalms 131:1–3
Proverbs 17:4–5
- **June 14**
Deuteronomy 5–8
Psalms 132:1–18
Proverbs 17:6
- **June 15**
Deuteronomy 9–11
Psalms 133:1–3
Proverbs 17:7–8
- **June 16**
Deuteronomy 12–15
Psalms 134:1–3
Proverbs 17:9–11
- **June 17**
Deuteronomy 16–19
Psalms 135:1–21
Proverbs 17:12–13
- **June 18**
Deuteronomy 20–22
Psalms 136:1–26
Proverbs 17:14–15
- **June 19**
Deuteronomy 23–25
Psalms 137:1–9
Proverbs 17:16
- **June 20**
Deuteronomy 26–27
Psalms 138:1–8
Proverbs 17:17–18
- **June 21**
Deuteronomy 28–29
Psalms 139:1–24
Proverbs 17:19–21
- **June 22**
Deuteronomy 30–32
Psalms 140:1–13
Proverbs 17:22
- **June 23**
Deuteronomy 33–34
Psalms 141:1–10
Proverbs 17:23
- **June 24**
Joshua 1–2
Psalms 142:1–7
Proverbs 17:24–25
- **June 25**
Joshua 3–4
Psalms 143:1–12
Proverbs 17:26
- **June 26**
Joshua 5–6
Psalms 144:1–15
Proverbs 17:27–28
- **June 27**
Joshua 7–8
Psalms 145:1–21
Proverbs 18:1
- **June 28**
Joshua 9–10
Psalms 146:1–10
Proverbs 18:2–3
- **June 29**
Joshua 11–12
Psalms 147:1–20
Proverbs 18:4–5
- **June 30**
Joshua 13–14
Psalms 148:1–14
Proverbs 18:6–7



Faith Lutheran Church
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