



*The*

# *Good News*

Newsletter for March 2026  
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – HAMBURG  
and FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH – MAINE

## *Love and Laughter in Lent*

Jesus taught in Luke 6:21 *“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.”*

Lent is the season where we focus and realize that Jesus Christ suffered so intensely, and so immensely for our forgiveness of sins and salvation. Yet, it is because of Jesus Christ suffering, death, and resurrection that we have hope and strength for each day as we look forward to the glory, love, and laughter of eternal life.

We do indeed weep too often as the devil, the world, and our own sinful nature heap trials and temptations in our life. We suffer the consequences of a fallen world and our own sinful choices. Yet, Christ came into our reality and He is a real help in time of trouble to all who firmly cling to Him in faith and follow all His Holy will. Psalm 41:1-3 says:

*<sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way,  
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,  
<sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.*

And in Matthew 28:27 *“Behold, I am with you until the end of the age.”*

Again, Jesus Christ was so very familiar with grief. Isaiah 53:3 teaches

*“He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;”*

Yet, Jesus Gives us an example to follow through the lingering challenges of life.

In Hebrews 12:2 says *“let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of*



*our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

Praise God for the forgiveness of our sins in Jesus Christ. May we repent each day of all that He judges as sin. Depend on all His sufferings, death and resurrection for the forgiveness of all our sins.

Make Lent a time when you truly stop, study, and mediate on all what Jesus went through for you and your forgiveness and salvation. Because of Christ we can know that every day no matter what season we are in, we can have love and laughter as we make the most of our

moments with our loved ones in this life as we trust and follow Jesus Christ and His Word to eternal life. Again, Heaven and Eternal Life will be a place of Love and Laughter for Jesus said *“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.”* Luke 6:21

God lead and guide us all. Have blessed Lenten Season.

*Pastor Love*

LCMS Stewardship

## *“We Praise You, O God”*

As a kid, I remember my Grandma and Grandpa Diepholz’ home with extraordinary joy. Family fun. Great food. A legacy of faith. One of my lasting memories of that house was the table that sat between their twin beds. It contained a lamp, a Bible, a catechism and a hymnal. These were well-worn, as Grandpa read to Grandma every night before they went to sleep! What a treasure these tools of faith are! Let us spend some time this month in the hymnal to help us better understand our life as Christian stewards! To do this, we will use LSB 785 “We Praise You, O God.”

*We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
In grateful devotion our tributes we bring.  
We lay it before You, and kneel and adore You;  
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.*

Stewardship is an act of worship. It flows from the grace and mercy we have received in Jesus! Faithful stewardship can never start with us. Our sinful nature will make us and our desires the center of our worship. Our tributes, our giving and our serving only flow from how the Lord Jesus has given of Himself for our sake! When we have this in clear view, our knees bow and our praises flow freely! All this flows from the Name that has been placed on us in Holy Baptism!



*We worship You, God of our Fathers, we bless You;  
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.  
When perils o’ertake us, You will not forsake us,  
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.*

Our stewardship that flows from what God has done for us in Jesus Christ is rooted in history. Passed from one generation to the next, stewards of the Gospel connect God’s provision in the past to His continued care in the present.

So often, the struggles we face are self-inflicted. While there are indeed perils that can shake us from outside of ourselves, we are more likely enduring the suffering that comes because of our own choices that are outside the Word and will of God! But even in these situations, the Lord who loves us will never forsake us. When we become selfish, self-serving and self-destructive, the Lord NEVER abandons! The Lord helps us to overcome the struggles in faith and win the victory the steward rejoices in!

*With voices united our praises we offer  
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.  
To You, our great redeemer, forever be praise!*

Stewardship is more than just an individual thing. There is a corporate nature to our steward life. We see this in the Divine Service. There, stewards of all ages, all economic strata and all languages are joined in the singular task of praise. This stewardship of praise flows from the altar to us, out into the world and then back to the altar! God's strong arm leads us in this stewardship 24/7. This makes stewardship, in all times and places, a matter of worship. We praise our Redeemer who has entrusted us with this great stewardship of the Gospel which forgives our sins, grants us new life and salvation. And this treasure we freely share for God's glory and the benefit of our neighbor!

## **Faith Lutheran Church Annual Meeting January 25th, 2026**

The annual meeting of Faith Lutheran Church was called to order by President Terry Seidler. 37 members were in attendance. A meeting packet which included the pastor's report, meeting minutes and board and committee reports were distributed for review by all members.

Pastor Love led us in prayer and devotion..

Secretary minutes were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the annual meeting minutes as printed from January 26, 2025.

### **Pastor -**

#### Baptisms-

Cooper Austin Prah - 2/15/2025  
Max Peter Prah - 2/15/2025  
Violet Evelyn Ermeling - 9/7/2025

#### Confirmands-

Darby Bonnell  
Evelyn Reinhardt  
Koi Olson  
Khloe Olson

#### Deaths-

Randall Braatz 1/12/2025  
Mabel Marquardt 5/9/2025  
Lloyd Kleinschmidt 8/29/2025

#### New Members-

Evan Roubal  
Nada Pfingsten  
Myron and Tracy Hollatz

The New Liturgical Year theme is "Say Yes!". There are multiple new groups starting up within the church and a lot of outreach work continues to go on as well. Shut-ins are being visited routinely and our dual parish services continue to thrive thanks to all involved. Reference the provided report for further details.

**Election** - A call for nominations from the floor was requested. Having none, ballots were distributed to members. Vice President nominee: Brent Reinhardt, Financial Secretary nominee; Cindy Krenz; Trustees nominees: Bruce Krenz, Kevin Kleinschmidt; Stewardship/Evangelism nominees: Gloria Zulliger, Joy Marquardt, Lynn Klug, Nada Pfingsten; Board of Education nominee: Karen Kleinschmidt; Board of Elders: Kyle Young, Mike Baumann, Travis Klug.

**Treasurer/Financial** - Report included in the meeting packet. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made, seconded and passed.

**Audit** - The audit report indicated everything is reconciled, all bills have been paid in a timely manner and records were well organized.

### **Board/Committee Reports**

**Elders** - Report included in the meeting packet.

**Trustees** - Report 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.

**Altar Guild** - The group is doing well, Terry has great helpers to keep things running smoothly but always looking for more volunteers..

**L.I.F.E. Youth Group** - Report included in meeting packet. L.I.F.E. Youth Group continues to work with the youth group from St. Paul's - Irma to co-sponsor two children through Compassion International. Gwen in the Philippines and Kwaku in Ghana. A detailed list of youth group activities from 2025 is included in the meeting packet.

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

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

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

**Budget** - The budget for each board was reviewed. The final budget for 2026 is \$208,719.27. A motion to approve the 2026 budget was made, seconded and passed.

**Old Business** - No old business to discuss.

**New Business** - President of Synod recommendations need to be made by mid February. Pastor Love's recommendation would be to continue to support President Harrison in consideration of the good work he has done so far. A motion to go forth with this was made, seconded and passed.

Election results for board and council positions were announced as follows:

Vice President - Brent Reinhardt

Financial Secretary - Cindy Krenz

Elder - Kyle Young

Elder - Travis Klug

Trustees - Kevin Kleinschmidt

Stewardship/Evangelism - Gloria Zulliger

Stewardship/Evangelism - Joy Marquardt

Stewardship/Evangelism - Nada Pfingsten

Education - Karen Kleinschmidt

A motion to destroy the ballots was made, seconded and passed.

The installation of new officers will take place during the church service next Sunday, February 1st, 2026.

The semi-annual meeting is scheduled for July 26th, 2026, following the church service.

The next dual-parish meeting will be held here at Faith on February 3rd @ 6:30pm

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed.

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

Lillie McCulloch  
Council Secretary

Faith Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 9, 2026

Present: Pastor Love, Terry Seidler (President), Cindy Braatz (Treasurer), Bonnie Grueneberg (Evangelism), Barry Krenz (Trustees), Karen Kleinschmidt (Education), Rodney Dahlke (Elder), Cindy Krenz

Terry called the meeting to order. Pastor opened with a prayer and devotion. Meeting minutes from December 8, 2025 were reviewed. Update minutes to say an older woman who previously contacted Pastor seeking financial assistance. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes with the correction being made. Motion carried.

Pastor – Inspired singles is going well. Freedom is the theme for Lent. Cory Rajek is doing the Bible Study on February 15 and also preaching.

Treasurer – The report was reviewed for January and showed an ending balance of \$17,945.89. Check for \$625.00 was never cashed. A motion was made and seconded to give the check to Cory and ask him how the check should be made out. Motion carried.

Elders – The services at Faith for Lent will be Thursday.

Trustees – Will need a new lawn mower at Scott cemetery. A motion was made and seconded to purchase a new lawn mower for Scott cemetery. Motion carried.

Update church constitution from \$500 to \$2000 for Elders. Working on changing lights. Furnace had problems and found the problem.

Education – Ordered new curriculum.

Stewardship/Evangelism – Serving refreshments after church on February 15. Will be doing baby care kits during Lent. Easter Sunday will be handing out jelly bean markers. Sunday, April 26 at 6:30 at Faith, Living River will be here.

Old Business – None

New Business – Church Council Secretary resigned. Will be one year term. Terry will ask some people if they are interested.

VBS will be June 8-10, 2026.

The next regular council meeting will be Monday, April 13 at 7:30 pm.

A motion for adjournment was made and seconded. Motion carried. The meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cindy Braatz  
Recoding Secretary



## *Stewardship and Evangelism at Work*

**Lenten Season – Baby Care Kits:** Stewardship and Evangelism 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 will 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. We will put a table up in the overflow area.

**Fifth Sunday Good-will Offering: Sunday, March 29:** Stewardship and Evangelism will be taking a Good-will Offering after church. Monies collected will be used to purchase other items needed for the Baby Care Kits.



Thrivent clients directing Thrivent Choice Dollars® to Faith Lutheran Church.\*

Thank you Judy Buch and Julaine Myska for your continued support of the church and our mission.



## **INSPIRED SINGLES**

Meeting on Sunday, March 8 at 12:15  
p.m. at Faith

Potluck followed by  
an afternoon of games

*For the singles of both congregations –  
bring a single friend*



## What About . . .

# Living Together Without Marriage

**I**ncreasingly, men and women choose to live as husband and wife without being married. This pamphlet will answer some questions asked about living together.

### What is marriage?

We learn from the Word of God that marriage is the life-long, exclusive union of one man and one woman, as husband and wife. Marriage is a part of God's creation. Thus, we read in God's Word, the Bible: "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh" (Gen. 2:24; cf. Matt. 19:5-6; Eph. 5:31).

Elsewhere we read, "Since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband" (1 Cor. 7:2). And, "Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral" (Heb. 13:4). Marriage is such a precious blessing that God inspired the Apostle Paul to describe marriage as a picture of Christ's relationship with His bride, the church (Eph. 5:22-33).

### Why is it wrong for a couple to live together without marriage?

Simply stated, a couple that lives together as man and wife without being married is sinning. God's Word is clear: "You must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. . . . Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more" (Eph. 4:17-19). Our Lord Jesus Christ once helped a woman living with a man who was not her husband to recognize that what she was doing was wrong (John 4:16-18).

Lutheran Christians believe that the sixth commandment, "You shall not commit adultery," means, "We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do; and husband and wife love and honor each other" (*Luther's Small Catechism* [CPH: 1986], p. 10).

All of this is another way of stating the obvious: Men and women are not to live together as husband and wife, unless they actually are husband and wife. This is as true for 80-year-olds as it is for 18-year-olds.

### Why does the church care about what two consenting adults do?

The church cares because God cares. The Lord's Word is very clear in its condemnation of sexual activity outside of marriage. Consider these passages:

"Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers. . . will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor. 6:9-10).

"Among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people" (Eph. 5:3).

"The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery. . . I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Gal. 5:19-21).

### Why is living together such a serious problem?

Because God's Word clearly shows that it is sinful for couples to live together without marriage, people who persist in behavior that God rejects and condemns as sin are choosing a course that may lead to eternal punishment. God's Word is clear: "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left" (Heb. 10:26).

And again, we read: "It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God. . . . The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life" (1 Thess. 4:3-7).

### Isn't the church being judgmental?

The church is declaring the truth of God's Word. On behalf of Christ and His people, pastors have the responsibility to speak clearly to couples living together and to proclaim the Word of God to them, both Law and Gospel. It is never easy for a pastor, or a congregation, to deal with couples who are living together without marriage. It is important for both pastors and congregations to deal with these situations pastorally and faithfully, in a caring manner. Couples, and their parents, are tempted to say, "So what? Everyone else is doing it; and besides, we live in changing times." In proclaiming the truth of God's

## What about Living Together Without Marriage?

Word about these situations, the church is being faithful, not judgmental.

### Shouldn't a couple find out if they are compatible?

Secular research has demonstrated that living together without marriage results in a relationship that is less stable and less fulfilling than marriage. Furthermore, couples who live together have a much higher risk of divorce when they finally do marry. Living together is a bad idea, even from a purely human perspective.

One study notes, "Those who cohabitate before marriage have substantially higher divorce rates than those who do not; the recorded differentials range from 50 percent to 100 percent higher" ("The Relationship Between Cohabitation and Divorce" [1992], *Demography*, 29:357–374). Studies conducted at Yale and Columbia Universities found that "the dissolution rate for women who cohabit premaritally with their future spouse is, on average, nearly 80 percent higher than the rates of those who do not" ("Commitment and the Modern Union," *American Sociological Review*, [1988], 53:127–138).

### How does the church deal with these situations?

The church, and the church's pastors, will inform couples living together without marriage that what they are doing is sinful. These conversations will take place in a loving manner; but in faithfulness to the Word of God, such conversations need to take place. These situations cannot be ignored or overlooked. It may be necessary to place unmarried couples living together under church discipline in order to help them realize the seriousness of the situation.

This response may offend people. They may become angry at the church, or the church's pastor. Sometimes an entire family is upset when a situation they have ignored is finally dealt with. The Word of God has a way of cutting through all issues and exposing our sinfulness. That is the work of the Law of God, which shows us our sin.

Offending people is certainly not the church's goal, nor is it the church's desire only to have people recognize their sin. The church wants people to see their sin, so that they may see their Savior. The proclamation of the Gospel is the church's highest priority. The church proclaims the Law of God so that people are able to hear and believe the good news that "The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). The church wants people to hear and believe the Gospel, for only the Gospel has the power to change lives and behavior for the better.

### How can a couple living together resolve the situation?

A couple living together without marriage needs to take concrete steps to end the situation. They may choose to separate, with no plans for marriage. They may choose to separate until they are married—hopefully soon.

It is important that they make a commitment to marriage counseling before their wedding, and perhaps also after their wedding. Some couples may choose to be married by an officer of the court. This is a completely valid marriage in the view of the church. Couples choosing this option are encouraged to have their marriage publicly recognized by the church as well. No matter what the decision, they will want to seek their pastor's counsel.

### What is the ultimate solution to this problem?

There are many solutions we can identify. Christian families need to understand what is right and wrong. Early on, parents need to speak with their children about God's expectations in regard to marriage.

Pastors and congregations will want to work patiently and lovingly with couples caught up in this sin. Concerned Christian congregations need to pray that the Holy Spirit will work in the hearts and lives of those involved in this lifestyle in order to break down their resistance to God's Word. Christian congregations must not ignore the problem, but must deal with it faithfully. Congregations need to speak about this matter.

Couples that recognize their sin need to hear God's comforting word of promise: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). If they choose to be married, they should do so with joyful confidence in God's forgiveness and His blessing on their marriage.

Scripture taken from the *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. © 1973, 1978, 1984, by the International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

— Dr. A. L. Barry  
President

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

# March 2026 Schedule for Elders, Ushers, Greeters and Scrip

## \*Sunday, March 1 10:15 a.m.

Elders Mark Porath, Mike Bielke  
 Ushers Brian and Lynn Klug  
 Greeter Brian Klug  
 Scrip Becky Rajek

## THURSDAY, March 5 11:00 a.m.

Elders Lee Pfaff, Rodney Dahlke  
 Ushers Beth Bartelt  
 Greeter Leroy Laabs  
 Scrip Cindy Krenz

## THURSDAY, March 5 6:30 p.m.

Elders Jeff Laabs, Joe Heisinger  
 Usher Amanda Heisinger  
 Greeter Amanda Heisinger  
 Scrip Deb Stogbauer

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

Elders Kyle Young, Travis Klug  
 Ushers Bernice Porath, Carol Hein  
 Greeter Carol Hein  
 Scrip Bernice Porath

## THURSDAY, March 12 11:00 a.m.

Elders Lee Pfaff, Rodney Dahlke  
 Usher Leroy Laabs  
 Greeter Beth Bartelt  
 Scrip Cindy Krenz

## THURSDAY, March 12 6:30 p.m.

Elders Mike Bielke, Jason Westfall  
 Usher Chris Stogbauer  
 Greeter Chris Stogbauer  
 Scrip Deb Stogbauer

## \*Sunday, March 15 10:15 a.m..

Elders Jeff Laabs, Joe Heisinger  
 Ushers Brian and Lynn Klug  
 Greeter Brian Klug  
 Scrip Lynn Klug

## THURSDAY, March 19 11:00 a.m.

Elders Lee Pfaff, Rodney Dahlke  
 Usher Beth Bartelt  
 Greeter Leroy Laabs  
 Scrip Cindy Krenz

## THURSDAY, MARCH 19 6:30 p.m.

Elders Mark Porath, Kyle Young  
 Usher Ed Stiver  
 Greeter Ed Stiver  
 Scrip Deb Stogbaue

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

Elders Mike Bielke, Travis Klug  
 Ushers Bernice Porath, Carol Hein  
 Greeter Carol Hein  
 Scrip Becky Rajek

## THURSDAY, March 26 11:00 a.m.

Elders Lee Pfaff, Rodney Dahlke  
 Usher Leroy Laabs  
 Greeter Beth Bartelt  
 Scrip Cindy Krenz

## THURSDAY, March 26 6:30 p.m.

Elders Joe Heisinger, Jason Westfall  
 Usher Amanda Heisinger  
 Greeter Amanda Heisinger  
 Scrip Deb Stogbauer

## Sunday, March 29 10:15 a.m.

Elders Jeff Laabs, Joe Heisinger  
 Ushers Amanda Heisinger, Carol Hein  
 Greeter Amanda Heisinger  
 Scrip Bernice Porath

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

Elders Lee Pfaff, Rodney Dahlke  
 Ushers Beth Bartelt, Leroy Laabs  
 Greeter Leroy Laabs  
 Scrip Cindy Krenz

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

Elders Mark Porath, Kyle Young  
 Ushers Chris Stogbauer, Ed Stiver  
 Greeter Ed Stiver  
 Scrip Deb Stogbauer

## FRIDAY, APRIL 3 1:00 p.m.

Elders Lee Pfaff, Rodney Dahlke  
 Usher Beth Bartelt  
 Greeter Leroy Laabs  
 Scrip Cindy Krenz

### HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, March 1 10:15 a.m. .  
 Sunday, March 15 10:15 a.m.  
 Maundy Thursday, April 2 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

### ELDERS

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



**ST. JOHN'S BIRTHDAYS**

- March 5 Bob Baumann
- March 9 Fred Harder
- March 12 Caleb Hoffman
- March 13 Sue Zastrow
- March 22 Jacob Hoffman
- March 24 Todd Wendt
- March 27 Marilyn Seefeld
- March 28 Beth Gille

**FAITH BIRTHDAYS**

- March 2 Lynn Anderson
- March 3 Alex Westfall  
Craig Teske
- March 4 Eugene Mootz  
Donald Schult
- March 5 Lauren Zuelsdorff  
David Springborn
- March 8 Joan Kleinschmidt  
Madison Klug
- March 9 Deborah Leuenberger  
Brent Reinhardt
- March 10 Phyllis Beilke
- March 12 Edward Stiver
- March 15 Seth Stoeckmann
- March 16 Jane Kleinschmidt
- March 17 Bonnie Grueneberg  
Allysen Semling
- March 18 Keith Wendt
- March 19 Kevin Kleinschmidt  
Coty Rajek
- March 23 Beth Bartelt  
Nancy Raddatz
- March 24 Brian Klug  
Mabel Marquardt
- March 25 Terry Seidler
- March 28 John Wegner  
Christopher Stogbauer
- March 29 Jessica Baguhn  
Bennett Dahlke
- March 30 Brian Luedtke  
Kaitlyn Beilke

**ST. JOHN'S WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

- March 3 Mike and Noreen Schulz  
41 years

**FAITH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

- March 7 Dale and Linda Janisch  
51 years
- March 31 Dale and Cindy Christiansen  
48 years



**AUDIO & VIDEO**

MARCH 2026 SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 1 – Bonnie Grueneberg  
 Thursday, March 5 (11 a.m.) – Cindy Braatz  
 Thursday, March 5 (6:30 p.m.) – Bonnie Grueneberg

Sunday, March 8 – Evan Roubal  
 Thursday, March 12 (11 a.m.) – Cindy Braatz  
 Thursday, March 12 (6:30 p.m.) – Bonnie Grueneberg

Sunday, March 15 – Bonnie Grueneberg  
 Thursday, March 19 (11 a.m.) – Cindy Braatz  
 Thursday, March 19 (6:30 p.m.) – Bonnie Grueneberg

Sunday, March 22 – Bonnie Grueneberg  
 Thursday, March 26 (11 a.m.) – Cindy Braatz  
 Thursday, March 26 (6:30 p.m.) – Bonnie Grueneberg

Sunday, March 29 – Bonnie Grueneberg  
 Thursday, April 2 (11 a.m.) – Cindy Braatz  
 Thursday, April 2 (6:30 p.m.) –  
 Friday, April 3 (1:00 p.m.) -

# 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 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 MARCH SCHEDULE

March 1 - 9 Chris Pfaff & Phyllis Beilke

March 10 - 23 Keith and Pat Wendt

March 24 - April 6 Jeri Raddatz & Sandy Laabs

## March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:15 a.m. Sunday School <b>10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion</b> 11:15 a.m. Bible Study	<b>2</b> NO MONDAY WORSHIP	<b>3</b> 1:00 p.m. Women of Faith	<b>4</b> 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith 6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal at St. John's <b>6:30 p.m. Worship at St. John's</b>	<b>5</b> 11:00 a.m. <b>Worship at Faith</b> 1:15 p.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal <b>6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:15 a.m. Sunday School <b>10:15 a.m. Worship</b> 11:15 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Inspired Singles at Faith. Potluck and afternoon of games	<b>9</b> NO MONDAY WORSHIP 6:30 p.m. Elders' Meeting	<b>10</b> 9:00 a.m. Trustees' Meeting	<b>11</b> 10:00 a.m. Ablelight 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith 6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal at St. John's <b>6:30 p.m. Worship at St. John's</b>	<b>12</b> 11:00 a.m. <b>Worship at Faith</b> 1:15 p.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal <b>6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:15 a.m. Sunday School <b>10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion</b> 11:15 a.m. Bible Study 4:30 p.m. ISI at Matt Seliger's syrup shack	<b>16</b> NO MONDAY WORSHIP	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith 6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal at St. John's <b>6:30 p.m. Worship at St. John's</b>	<b>19</b> 11:00 a.m. <b>Worship at Faith</b> 1:15 p.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal <b>6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:15 a.m. Sunday School <b>10:15 a.m. Worship</b> 11:15 a.m. Bible Study	<b>23</b> NO MONDAY WORSHIP	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10:00 a.m. Ablelight 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith 6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal at St. John's <b>6:30 p.m. Worship at St. John's</b>	<b>26</b> 11:00 a.m. <b>Worship at Faith</b> 1:15 p.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal <b>6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:15 a.m. Sunday School <b>10:15 a.m. Worship</b> 11:15 a.m. Bible Study	<b>30</b> NO MONDAY WORSHIP	<b>31</b>	<b>Mauddy Thursday: Worship with Holy Communion</b> <b>St. John's: April 1 6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Faith: April 2 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Good Friday. April 3</b> <b>Faith: 1:00 p.m. St. John's: 6:30 p.m.</b>			

Bible Memory Verse



Week of March 1, 2026

**1 Peter 2:24**

He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.

Week of March 8, 2026

**1 John 2:2**

He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Week of March 15, 2026

**Ephesians 2:4-5**

God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved.

Week of March 22, 2026

**Romans 5:1**

Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Week of March 29, 2026

**Romans 8:1**

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.



**IRON SHARPENS IRON**

**Sunday, March 15  
4:30 p.m.**

**Mark Seliger Sugar Shack**



In memory of  
**BERNARD  
STIVER**, a gift to  
the Parking Lot

Fund from Ed and Connie Stiver

**Daylight Savings Time  
Sunday, March 8 at 2 a.m.**



Spring forward in faith!  
CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS and  
*join us on time for worship.*



**LENTEN ORGAN  
MEDITATIONS**

**First Presbyterian Church  
406 Grant Street  
Wausau, Wisconsin 54403**

**Fridays from  
12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

*Come for a time of meditation and music  
during the lunch hour*

**March 6 - Patrick Burkhardt,  
Mark Schroeder, Isaac Tritz**

**March 13 - George Felty**

**March 20 - Dan Larson**

**March 27 - Bryan Higgins-Moe,  
Jacob Drengrer**

Sponsored by the Wisconsin River Chapter  
American Guild of Organists

[Facebook.com/AGO-Wisconsin-River-Chapter-154526781226983](https://www.facebook.com/AGO-Wisconsin-River-Chapter-154526781226983)

Free Will Offering

# St. John's Lutheran Church

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

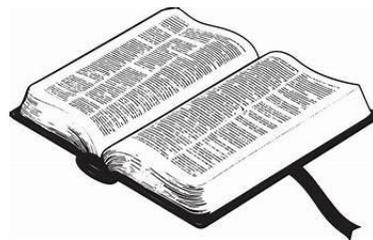
<b>Pastor Donald Love</b>	<b>Pastor's Office Hours</b>	<b>Elders</b>	<b>Elder of the Month</b>
Office Phone 715-536-5443	Mon. & Tues. Home	Mike Schultz 715-539-0995	Bob Burish 715-573-7078
Home Phone 715-722-0540	Wednesday Faith	Mark Czech 715-409-9174	<b>Setting the Lord's</b>
<b>Table</b>	Cell Phone 1-715-350-3871	Thursday St. John's	Diane Hinz
	Friday Off (Family Day)	Don Gille 715-573-8197	
		Jeremy Fromm 715-574-2003	

## March 2026

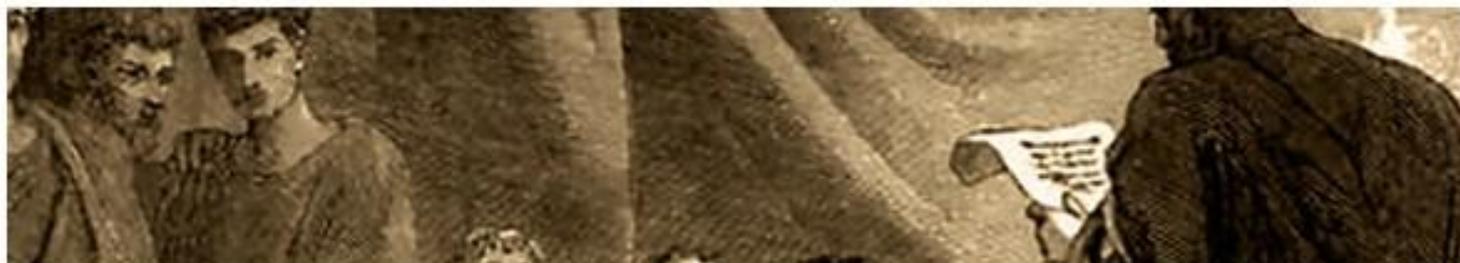
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 8:30 a.m.</b> <b>Worship with Holy Communion</b> <i>Sunday School during sermon</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 5:30 p.m.</b> Confirmation Class at Faith 6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal at St. John's <b>6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Worship at St. John's</b> 7:15 p.m. Mary Martha Guild	<b>5 11:00 a.m.</b> <b>Worship at Faith</b> 1:15 p.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's <b>6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Worship at Faith</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 8:30 a.m.</b> <b>Worship</b> <i>Sunday School during sermon</i> 12:15 p.m. Inspired Singles at Faith. Potluck and afternoon of games	<b>9</b>	<b>10 6:00 p.m.</b> Church Council 7:15 p.m. Elder's Meeting	<b>11 5:30 p.m.</b> Confirmation Class at Faith 6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal at St. John's <b>6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Worship at St. John's</b>	<b>12 11:00 a.m.</b> <b>Worship at Faith</b> 1:15 p.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's <b>6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Worship at Faith</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15 8:30 a.m.</b> <b>Worship with Holy Communion</b> <i>Sunday School during sermon</i> 4:30 p.m. ISI at Matt Seliger's sugar shack	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18 5:30 p.m.</b> Confirmation Class at Faith 6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal at St. John's <b>6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Worship at St. John's</b>	<b>19 11:00 a.m.</b> <b>Worship at Faith</b> 1:15 p.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's <b>6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Worship at Faith</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22 8:30 a.m.</b> <b>Worship</b> <i>Sunday School during sermon</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25 5:30 p.m.</b> Confirmation Class at Faith 6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal at St. John's <b>6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Worship at St. John's</b>	<b>26 11:00 a.m.</b> <b>Worship at Faith</b> 1:15 p.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's <b>6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Worship at Faith</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29 8:30 a.m.</b> <b>Worship</b> <i>Sunday School during sermon</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday: Worship with Holy Communion</b> St. John's: April 1 6:30 p.m. Faith: April 2 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Good Friday. April 3 Faith: 1:00 p.m.      St. John's: 6:30 p.m.			

# The Word of God

## March



- **March 1**  
Romans 7–8  
Psalms 44:9–26  
Proverbs 10:20–21
- **March 2**  
Romans 9–10  
Psalms 45:1–17  
Proverbs 10:22
- **March 3**  
Romans 11–12  
Psalms 46:1–11  
Proverbs 10:23
- **March 4**  
Romans 13–14  
Psalms 47:1–9  
Proverbs 10:24–25
- **March 5**  
Romans 15–16  
Psalms 48:1–14  
Proverbs 10:26
- **March 6**  
1 Corinthians 1–2  
Psalms 49:1–20  
Proverbs 10:27–28
- **March 7**  
1 Corinthians 3–4  
Psalms 50:1–23  
Proverbs 10:29–30
- **March 8**  
1 Corinthians 5–6  
Psalms 51:1–19  
Proverbs 10:31–32
- **March 9**  
1 Corinthians 7–8  
Psalms 52:1–9  
Proverbs 11:1–3
- **March 10**  
1 Corinthians 9–10  
Psalms 53:1–6  
Proverbs 11:4
- **March 11**  
1 Corinthians 11–12  
Psalms 54:1–7  
Proverbs 11:5–6
- **March 12**  
1 Corinthians 13–14  
Psalms 55:1–23  
Proverbs 11:7
- **March 13**  
1 Corinthians 15–16  
Psalms 56:1–13  
Proverbs 11:8
- **March 14**  
2 Corinthians 1–3  
Psalms 57:1–11  
Proverbs 11:9–11
- **March 15**  
2 Corinthians 4–5  
Psalms 58:1–11  
Proverbs 11:12–13
- **March 16**  
2 Corinthians 6–8  
Psalms 59:1–17  
Proverbs 11:14
- **March 17**  
2 Corinthians 9–10  
Psalms 60:1–12  
Proverbs 11:15
- **March 18**  
2 Corinthians 11–13  
Psalms 61:1–8  
Proverbs 11:16–17
- **March 19**  
Galatians 1–2  
Psalms 62:1–12  
Proverbs 11:18–19
- **March 20**  
Galatians 3–4  
Psalms 63:1–11  
Proverbs 11:20–21
- **March 21**  
Galatians 5–6  
Psalms 64:1–10  
Proverbs 11:22
- **March 22**  
Ephesians 1–2  
Psalms 65:1–13  
Proverbs 11:23
- **March 23**  
Ephesians 3–4  
Psalms 66:1–20  
Proverbs 11:24–26
- **March 24**  
Ephesians 5–6  
Psalms 67:1–7  
Proverbs 11:27
- **March 25**  
Philippians 1–2  
Psalms 68:1–18  
Proverbs 11:28
- **March 26**  
Philippians 3–4  
Psalms 68:19–35  
Proverbs 11:29–31
- **March 27**  
Colossians 1–2  
Psalms 69:1–18  
Proverbs 12:1
- **March 28**  
Colossians 3–4  
Psalms 69:19–36  
Proverbs 12:2–3
- **March 29**  
1 Thessalonians 1–3  
Psalms 70:1–5  
Proverbs 12:4
- **March 30**  
1 Thessalonians 4–5  
Psalms 71:1–24  
Proverbs 12:5–7
- **March 31**  
2 Thessalonians 1–3  
Psalms 72:1–20  
Proverbs 12:8–9





THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

# Pray For Us Calendar

## WORLDWIDE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION — MARCH 1-31

The LCMS provides theological education throughout the world by means of seminaries and missionaries. Scholars and leaders from foreign church bodies also come to the LCMS seminaries for advanced degrees, learning sound doctrine from the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions.

*Remember the centrality of God's Word as you pray:*

- 1.** for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, that all there might grow in the Word and prepare for the proper proclamation of the Word and administration of the Sacraments.
- 2.** for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., that the faculty might teach the Word in its truth and purity; and the students learn God's Word in preparation for ministry.
- 3.** for Christ's work throughout the world, that the Gospel might be proclaimed to all people and the forgiveness of sins delivered through the Means of Grace.
- 4.** for Concordia Seminary, Hong Kong, that people and

pastors might be trained there to proclaim the Gospel.

- 5.** for Martin Luther Seminary in Lae, Papua New Guinea, that God would strengthen and preserve the seminary to prepare the pastors of the Gutnius Lutheran Church to convict people with God's law and heal them with the word of Absolution.
- 6.** for Japan Lutheran Seminary in Tokyo, Japan, that our Lord, Jesus Christ, would make the seminary a place where the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity.
- 7.** for Concordia Theological Seminary in Nagercoil, India, that the Lord would preserve the seminary from all evil and lead it to become a bastion of the

Gospel against the attacks of the wicked foe.

- 8.** for Timothy Lutheran Seminary in Birip, Papua New Guinea, that the Lord would use the instructors to shine His Word upon the path of students preparing to serve His Church.
- 9.** for students and professors of Lutheran Theological Seminary in Baguio City, Philippines, that they might serve the Lutheran Church in the Philippines faithfully.
- 10.** for Luther Seminary in Seoul, South Korea, that the Lord would preserve those who teach and those who learn to hold fast to His Word in all circumstances.
- 11.** for the ministry carried out through the Westfield House of Theological Studies in Cambridge, England, as this ministry trains church leaders for England and many other church bodies around the world.

- 12.** for the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) in Togo, that theological training for men from French-speaking countries in West Africa might continue.
- 13.** for Concordia Reformer Seminary, Dominican Republic, that the students there might share the Gospel throughout Latin and South America.
- 14.** for the Synod's Global Seminary Initiative (GSI), which helps to fill the need for trained church leaders who are native to the region and cultures in which they serve, that God would guide this program to strengthen the formation of pastors and deaconesses around the world.
- 15.** for LCMS professors and pastors who travel overseas to teach seminars and intensive courses for our current and emerging church partners, that God would grant them safe travel and fruitful labors.

PHOTOS: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/STORM LINDQVIST

- 16.** for the international students who come to the Synod's seminaries, that God would grant safe travels and comfort while away from family and friends.
- 17.** for Lutheran pastors worldwide, that they would have access to the necessary books and resources to teach Law and Gospel.
- 18.** for the health and safety of LCMS missionaries who provide theological education, thanks that they have heeded the call to serve Christ in this way.
- 19.** for Lutheran church workers in Europe, that their work is fruitful.
- 20.** for the seminaries of LCMS partner churches around the world, that they would faithfully educate future leaders for their churches.
- 21.** for the Gospel multiplication as pastors are equipped to teach their flocks and train new leaders for the church, thank God for the growth of His Kingdom.
- 22.** for the continued growth of Christ's Church on earth, that the Lord would continue to raise up missionaries according to His good and gracious will.

- 23.** for Lutherans throughout the world, that they rejoice in God's gifts of His Word and Sacraments.
- 24.** for the Synod's generous donors, thanks for those who make it possible for LCMS theological education around the world.
- 25.** The Annunciation of our Lord, thank God for sending His Son into our flesh.
- 26.** for our partner churches, that God would raise up pastors and servants to serve His people.
- 27.** for sound doctrine throughout the world, that God would preserve the truth of His Word against false teachings.
- 28.** for those on vicarage from our partner seminaries, that God would bless their time in the field as part of their education.
- 29.** for seminarians' wives, that they would be prepared to support their husband's call into ministry.
- 30.** for seminarians' children, that they rejoice in the Gospel and in their father's calling.
- 31.** for all who listen to those who receive theological education, that the Gospel might take root and produce fruit.



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



PHOTOS: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/STORM LINDQVIST

# NEWLY ELECTED 2026 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS AT FAITH

Term expires in January of year

## Church Council (Meets every other month opposite of Board meetings)

President:	Terry Seidler	2027
Vice President:	Brent Reinhardt	2029
Treasurer:	Cindy Braatz	2027
Financial Secretary:	Cindy Krenz	2029
Council Secretary:		

## Board of Elders (meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday every other month)

Rodney Dahlke, chairperson	2027 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)
Mike Beilke, secretary	2028
Joe Heisinger	2028 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)
Jeff Laabs	2028
Kyle Young	2029 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)
Lee Pfaff	2028 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)
Mark Porath	2027
Jason Westphal	2027
Travis Klug	2029

## Board of Trustees (meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday every other month)

Barry Krenz, chairperson	2027 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)
Bob Duwe, secretary	2028 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)
Bruce Pffingsten	2028
Kevin Kleinschmidt	2029
Chris Stogbauer	2027

## Board of Stewardship & Evangelism (meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday every month)

Bonnie Grueneburg, chairperson	2028 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Term)
Joy Marquardt	2029
Gloria Werner	2029
Nada Pffingsten	2029
Phyllis Buch	2027
Carol Hein	2027

## Board of Education

Karen Kleinschmidt	2029 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)
Kim Young	2028
Becky Rajek	2027

## Cradle Roll

Linda Janisch

## Youth Group

Jeremy & Sara Lee  
Terry Seidler

## Women of Faith (meets 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month)

Cindy Braatz, chairperson  
Mary Olsen, secretary

## Altar Guild

Terry Seidler

## Investments

Debbie Stogbauer, Mike Beilke,  
Kevin Kleinschmidt  
Bruce Pffingsten, Chris Stogbauer.

## Funeral Chairpersons

Alice Zuelsdorff  
Cindy Braatz

2026 Lenten Midweek Series

## **Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus—**



### **Lenten Midweek 3, March 4-5**

*The Good News of a God Who Sends a Deliverer, Exodus 4:1–20*

### **Lenten Midweek 4, March 11-12**

*The Good News of a God Who Passes over Us in Mercy, Exodus 12:1–14*

### **Lenten Midweek 5, March 18-19**

*The Good News of a God Who Makes a Way for Us, Exodus 14:5–31*

### **Lenten Midweek 6, March 25-26**

*The Good News of a God Who Sustains on Our Journey, Exodus 16:1–18*

### **Midweek Worship Services**

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at St. John's (*Lenten Meal at 6:00 p.m.*)

Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. at Faith



### **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

### **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

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Merrill, WI 54452

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