

MAY 2025

The Good News

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

Faithful Witnesses in All of God's Holy Word

Praise God that Jesus Christ was faithful in all of God's Word. Because of Jesus Christ's perfect faithfulness, all honestly repentant believers have the gift of full forgiveness and the greatest of gift of Eternal Life.

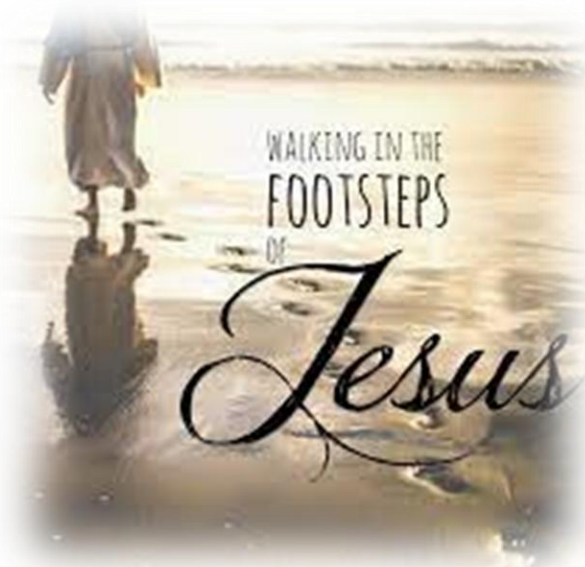
Jesus calls us to follow in his footsteps of faithfulness into all of God's Word even though it is difficult at times. Please study diligently what Jesus says: **Matthew 5:10-12**: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad,

for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Jesus again emphasizes this truth in **Matthew 10:26-33**: "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven."

Again, **Revelation 2:10**: "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give you the Crown of Life."

It must be understood that Hell is real and so is the gift of Heaven and Everlasting Life. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, clearly warns His disciples concerning honestly living for God in **Matthew 7:21-27**: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to



them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

Please note that strong storms come in all of our lives. And we can see that God has already brought us through so many of them. And all who continue to hold on to the forgiving Gospel of Jesus Christ and struggle to live a repentant life in all things will stand with Christ in Eternity. See **Luke 16:19-31**.

As faithful witnesses in All of God's Holy Word, God calls us to be encouragers of one another. The storms of life beat us all down in one way or the other.

Every soul needs godly encouragement. In **Hebrews 10:25**: "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."

And finally in faithfulness unto all of God's Holy Word, we are to stand-up for the Word of God and reach out to restore fellow members who are living outside that Holy Word. But as we are all sinners, we do this with humility and respect. The Holy Spirit teaches us in **Galatians 6:1**, "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted."

May God strengthen us to be loving and brotherly and sisterly believers in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as we encourage one another to be Faithful Witnesses in All of God's Holy Word.

Pastor Love

He Is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

In the beauty and **CELEBRATION OF EASTER**, the Sanctuary and narthex are adorned with flowers from donations given by the following:

- † In memory of **LLOYD and DORIS GRUENEBERG, LEONARD and LAVINE WOLLER** from Leon and Beth Bartelt and family
- † In **gratefulness** from Jim and Phyllis Beilke
- † In memory of **RANDY BRAATZ, CLARENCE and ELAINE SCHULT** from Cindy Braatz
- † In memory of **RALPH BUCH** from Phyllis Buch
- † In memory of **LLOYD and DORIS GRUENEBERG, BRUCE GRUENEBERG** from Bonnie Grueneberg
- † For **blessings** from Myron and Tracy Hollatz
- † In memory of **DEANNA KOEBE** from James W. Koebe
- † For **unending blessings** from Barry and Cindy Krenz
- † In memory of **MR. and MRS. FRED SEIDLER** from Marlene Krenz
- † In memory of **JOHN HERMAN II** from Pastor and Kim Love, Sarah Herman, Wendy and Genny
- † In memory of **TIMOTHY PAGEL** from Gene and Karen Pagel
- † In memory of **SCOTT and SHERRI PFAFF** from Lee and Diane Pfaff
- † In memory of **OTTO and SELMA PORATH** from Mark Porath
- † In memory of **HAROLD RUSCH** from Joyce Rusch
- † In memory of **JAMES SCHLUETER** from Judy Schlueter
- † In **thankfulness** from Chris and Deb Stogbauer
- † In memory of **WALTER WOLLER** from Dorothy Woller
- † In **gratitude** from Kyle and Kiimberly Young and family
- For **blessings for the FAITH CONGREGATION** from an anonymous donor



NEW EASTER BANNERS

*are a gift in loving
memory of
LuAnn V. Ruhbusch
given by her husband,
family, relatives, and
friends. The
matching paraments
for the altar and
lecturn-pulpit and
Pastor's stole are
from
memorial gifts
from members of
Faith
given to the Altar
Guild.*



FEED MY
STARVING
CHILDREN



Results of recent FEED MY
STARVING CHILDREN Circuit
Event. We had 57 total people
travel to Minnesota from our
Circuit churches including
members from Immanuel -
Corning, St. John's - Hamburg,
Faith - Merrill, St. John's -
Merrill and St. Paul's - Irma

Boxes: 155
Meals: 33,480
Kids fed a daily meal for a year: 92
Cost: \$9,709.20



The 30 Hour Famine

Faith In Action

Youth from Circuit 6 will participate over the weekend of May 16-

17. Events begin at Faith on Friday evening and end at St. Paul's on Saturday.

Youth loving God and fighting
hunger

One in nine people in the world don't get enough to eat. Many poor farmers can't grow enough food to feed their own families, much less sell to get income for essentials like education and healthcare. That's why World Vision partners with communities to address immediate food needs — but also to equip them to grow food for the long term. And this change happens when groups raise money through the 30 Hour Famine!

ONE DOLLAR and THIRTY CENTS feeds
ONE CHILD for
ONE DAY ... can you help?

Jars/containers will be available in the back of church
to drop your loose change.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Matthew 5:6



Join Us For

HEE HAW

Pickin' and Grinnin',

at St. John's Lutheran Church

May 17, 2025

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Bring your talents you want to share
(CLEAN jokes, storytelling, singing).

Dinner at 5:30 p.m. (freewill offering)
and talents to follow.

Sign up will be available in May.



STEWARDSHIP IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

Baseball season is upon us. The southern images of spring training give way to the pageantry of Opening Day. On that day, the hopes and dreams of every major league team, player and fan focus on doing whatever it takes to get to the Fall Classic, the World Series. Baseball is a secular way that so many of us confess that hope “springs” eternal.

With all of this in mind, baseball can also teach us a new perspective about stewardship. Think about the game itself. Baseball is a team sport. The home team faces off against the visitors. Yet while it is a team game, there are repetitive, individual confrontations that take place within the game. The baseball game cannot start without the individual pitcher against the hitter. Once the batted ball is in play, the battle is between the ability of the fielder against the speed of the baserunner. Once there is a runner on base, an attempt to steal a base pits the runner against the catcher. A base hit into the outfield pits the outfielder against a runner trying to score.

Baseball is a team game with many smaller units at play. Without all those smaller units working together and achieving their tasks, the team will lose.

Romans 12 puts our stewardship of the Gospel in a similar setting. The church is certainly described as a team, if you will.

Verse 3: *“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”* This is where the Body of Christ is really seen as a team. No one member of the baseball team can win the game by themselves. In the same way, no one part of the Body of Christ can accomplish stewardship of the Gospel alone. The pastor cannot. The congregational chair cannot. The lead soprano in the choir cannot. But each of these individuals have been added to the local congregation to be built into a team that can win the victory with Jesus.

Verses 4–5: *“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”* In baseball, the pitcher pitches. The catcher catches. The hitter hits. When a pitcher attempts to hit, the result is usually not very pretty. Catchers often do not excel at running the bases. The hitter usually does not do well when they are sent to the mound to pitch. Every member of the Body of Christ has a unique set of abilities and functions. Not everyone preaches. Not everyone leads. Not everyone sings well. Yet when the congregation assembles together as a team, it can succeed in ways unattainable by the individual.

Verses 6–8: *“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”* Each member of the team has a role to play. Abilities and opportunities are entrusted to the individual members of the Body of Christ to be used for the ultimate purpose of stewarding the Gospel for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbor. The one preaching

is no more or less important than the others. The one serving or the one teaching, the leader or the merciful one — all are equally important in the faithful stewardship of all that the Lord has entrusted to the Body of Christ. All this stewardship is for the sake of the other!

A baseball team can have five All-Star pitchers but cannot win if the hitters do not hit. The best lineup in the league will struggle if the pitchers cannot get anyone on the other team out. Pitchers need the defense behind them to play well. Coaches need to lead well. When they all work together, you have a winning baseball team. When the Body of Christ has all its members faithfully stewarding the unique individual talents that have been entrusted to them, the victory goes to Jesus! This is the goal of faithful stewardship! It is all about Jesus!



Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Monday, April 14, 2025

Present: Pastor Love, Terry Seidler (President), Mike Baumann (Vice-President), Lillie McCulloch (Secretary), Barry Krenz (Trustees), Cindy Braatz (Treasurer), Bonnie Grueneberg (Evangelism), Rod Dahlke (Elders), Karen Klesnschmidt (Education).

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

Treasurer – The balance reports for February and March were reviewed, the ending balance for March was \$51,436.80.

Trustees – The addition is ready for use, there is one final inspection to be done this coming week and shelving is ready to be assembled. The last larger task to be completed is to pour a concrete apron at the exterior exit door. The trustees met with Church Mutual regarding the increasing insurance costs. The umbrella policy increased by \$350 this year to a total of \$750, they are still awaiting feedback on whether the addition will need its own policy. Church Mutual also indicated that any visiting baseball team should have their own insurance policy and provide a certificate of insurance. We will also look at a release of liability waiver to have each player sign. The total policy increased by 29% this year, it is now \$7,500 for the common policy. Given the continual increase in insurance costs, the trustees will begin researching other insurance options should the price continue to increase by such large rates. Church Mutual offers temperature and water alert sensor systems as well as a police pull-tab that can be installed at the pulpit to page police at any time, these can be provided and installed free of charge. The church will go forth with these options. Lastly our copier contract was discussed, given our copier is still in good working order we will continue to use it and wait on replacing it until it is no longer functional.

President – New white banners for the altar background were purchased using the funds donated by Pastor Ruhbusch and have been received in time for Easter.

Elders – Things have been going well and services are running smoothly.

Board of Education – Sunday school ended on Palm Sunday, Vacation Bible School is in June. We need to figure out teacher appreciation for Patty & Cheryl, this will be added into recognition Sunday.

Stewardship/Evangelism - Gift card collection has wrapped up, the donations will be divided up and sent off to seminaries. Easter cards will be going in the mail this week. Recognition Sunday will be April 27th, it will be a potluck style lunch with hot ham sandwiches provided. Confirmation Sunday is coming up as well, in the past they have purchased cross necklaces for each of the confirmands.

Pastor – Lenten series concluded this last week. The current sermon series and Lord's Prayer series will be concluded on the 27th. Iron Sharpens Iron finally met after two weather cancellations, turnout was great! There are 2 new members nearing completion of class with just 4 classes left. VBS planning is in the works with several topics to consider. Feed My Starving Children went very well, the bus was full! Audiovisual issues have been resolved. Confirmation is coming up, there were some challenges getting classes done due to severe weather but Pastor is working with the parents on a solution. There are 5 confirmands from our congregation.

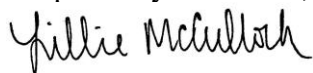
Old Business - No old business to discuss.

New Business - No new business to discuss.

The next regular council meeting is scheduled for June 16th, 2025 at 7:30pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Lillie McCulloch, Council Secretary

Faith Lutheran Church

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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 1-815-922-0397

Pastor's Office Hours

Mon. and Tues: Home

Wednesday: Faith

Thursday: St. John's

Church Office Hours

Tues. and Thurs. 9 a.m.-12 noon

Mon., Wed., and Fri. varies

Emergency Contacts

Terry Seidler 715-536-9742

(home) 715-203-5733 (cell)

ALTAR GUILD MAY SCHEDULE

May 1 – May 5 Susan Pankow and Karen Olson

May 6 – May 19 Jeri Raddatz and Sandy Laabs

May 20 – June 2 Phyllis Buch and Deb Stogbauer

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. VBS Meeting at Faith 4:30 p.m. ISI at Pine Restaurant, Merrill	5 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion	6 6:30 p.m. Women of Faith	7 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	8	9	10
11 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Bible Study	12 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Elders Meeting	13 1:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting	14 10:00 a.m. Ablelight 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	15	16 <div>YOUTH ACTIVITY 30 HOUR FAMINE</div>	17
18 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Stewardship and Evangelism Meeting	19 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion	20	21 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	22	23	24
25 10:15 a.m. Worship	26 MEMORIAL DAY NO MONDAY WORSHIP	27	28 10:00 a.m. Ablelight	29	30	31

May 2025 Elder, Usher, Greeter, Scrip, AV Schedule

*Sunday, May 4 10:15 a.m.

Elders Rodney Dahlke, Lee Pfaff
 Ushers LeRoy Laabs, Jim Beilke
 Greeter LeRoy Laabs
 Scrip Cindy Krenz
 Audio Video Bonnie Grueneberg

*Monday, May 5 6:30 p.m.

Elders Keith Wendt, Jason Westfall
 Usher Ed Stiver
 Greeter Ed Stiver
 Scrip Debbie Stogbauer
 Audio Video Lee Pfaff

Sunday, May 11 10:15 a.m.

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

Monday, May 12 6:30 p.m.

Elders Mark Porath, Mike Beilke
 Usher Chris Stogbauer
 Greeter Chris Stogbauer
 Scrip Debbie Stogbauer
 Audio Video Gene Mootz

*Sunday, May 18 10:15 a.m.

Elders Kyle Young, Keith Wendt
 Ushers Brian and Lynn Klug
 Greeter Brian Klug
 Scrip Lynn Klug
 Audio Video Bonnie Grueneberg

*Monday, May 19 6:30 p.m.

Elders Lee Pfaff, Rodney Dahlke
 Usher Ed Stiver
 Greeter Ed Stiver
 Scrip Debbie Stogbauer
 Audio Video Rodney Dahlke

Sunday, May 25 10:15 a.m.

Elders Mark Porath, Jeff Laabs
 Ushers Bob and Bernice Porath
 Greeter Bob Porath
 Scrip Bernice Porath
 Audio Video Bonnie Grueneberg

Monday, May 26 6:30 p.m.

NO MONDAY WORSHIP

*Sunday, June 1 10:15 a.m.

Elders Mike Beilke, Jeff Laabs
 Ushers Leon and Beth Bartelt
 Greeter Leon Bartelt
 Scrip Cindy Krenz
 Audio Video Bonnie Grueneberg

*WEDNESDAY, June 2 6:30 p.m.

Elders Joe Heisinger, Kyle Young
 Ushers Carol Hein
 Greeter Carol Hein
 Scrip Debbie Stogbauer
 Audio Video Gene Mootz

HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, May 4 10:15 a.m.
 Monday, May 5 6:30 p.m.
 Sunday, May 18 10:15 a.m..
 Monday, May 19 6:30 p.m.
 Sunday, June 1 10:15 a.m.
 Monday, June 2 6:30 p.m.

ELDERS

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



ST. JOHN'S BIRTHDAYS

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

FAITH BIRTHDAYS

May 1	Turner Bonnell
May 2	Jacob Dahlke
May 3	Linda Heisinger Ashlynn Semling Konrad Young
May 4	Elizabeth Wegner
May 5	Becky Rajek Evelyn Reinhardt
May 6	Terry Bauer
May 7	Hunter Dux Penny Bauer
May 8	Steven Baumann Jane Bauer Hannah Blum
May 12	Casey Baumann
May 13	Breanne Semling
May 15	Jeremy Williams
May 18	Keith Williams
May 22	Jason Hoffman Avery Dahlke Anthony Calmes
May 23	Joy Marquardt
May 26	Jothon Olson
May 30	Joyce Rusch Tanya Hannemann



FAITH ANNIVERSARIES

May 3	Lee & Diane Pfaff 56 years
May 28	Hans & Linda Heisinger 48 years
May 29	Keith & Christine Williams 39 years
May 29	Brian and Marillyn Luedtke 49 years

ST. JOHN'S ANNIVERSARIES

May 21	John & Kathy Sturm 42 years
May 25	Fred & Lynn Harder 51 years
May 30	Steve & Joy Free 38 years



Recent **THRIVENT CHOICE GIFTS** to support the mission of Faith Church were from **MARLENE KRENZ, JOYCE RUSCH, and BRIAN WILKE.**

SPECIAL GIFT from **BECKY RAJEK** and Church Mutual Insurance Company. As part of the Information Technology team at Church Mutual, Becky recently received the IT Employee of the Month award and elected to make this special gift to Faith in recognition of her peers. Thank you, Becky, for supporting the church and its mission.

GENEROUS GIFT from **JIM GOETSCH** in thanksgiving for many blessings. Given to the Building Fund for the new addition

2025 North Central Wisconsin Coed Church Softball League

Contacts: Faith – Mark Porath (715-536-3996); St. John's – Shawn Henrichs (715-551-0200)

Park/Time	5/11/2025	5/18/2025	5/25/2025	6/1/2025	6/8/2025	6/15/2025	6/22/2025
Faith		5,7	MEMORIAL	1,4	6,8	6,8 bye/2,3	6,8
12:00						4 v 3	
1:30	BYE	2 v 8		3 v 4	BYE	5 v 7	BYE
3:30		6 v 4		7 v 1		3 v 2	
5:30				1 v 4		1 v 2	
Immanuel							
1:30	4 v 5	1 v 5		BYE	5 v 2	BYE	5 v 8
3:30	7 v 2	3 v 7			1 v 3		8 v 6
5:30		7 v 5					6 v 7
St. John's							
1:30	3 v 6	BYE		8 v 5	6 v 8	BYE	3 v 1
3:30	1 v 8			2 v 6	8 v 4		2 v 4
5:30					7 v 6		
Park/Time	6/29/2025	7/6/2025	7/13/2025	7/20/2025	7/26-7/27	8/3/2025	
Faith		4th of July					
1:30	BYE		6 v 1	4 v 1	Tournament	Make-Up	13 Games
3:30			8 v 7	2 v 3	Saturday	Games	
5:30					Diamond		
Immanuel		Community					
1:30	4 v 7	Classic	BYE	7 v 8	Tournament	Make-Up	14 Games
3:30	2 v 1	1:30 @		5 v 6	Sunday	Games	
5:30		Immanuel			Diamond		
St. John's							
1:30	6 v 5		4 v 2	BYE	Tournament	Make-Up	13 Games
3:30	8 v 3		5 v 3		Saturday	Games	
5:30					Diamond		

1st team listed is home; home team ump

- Teams
- 1 St. Paul's, Irma
 - 2 Christ Lutheran, Merrill/Mtn of the Lord, Rib Mtn
 - 3 St. Peter, Schofield/Grace, Maine/St. Paul's, Naugart
 - 4 St. John's, Hamburg/Trinity, Athens/St. Marks, Wausau
 - 5 Immanuel, Corning/St. Paul, Hamburg
 - 6 St. Paul's, Pine River 2
 - 7 Our Saviour's, Merrill
 - 8 St. Paul's, Pine River 1

St. John's Lutheran Church

134058 County Road L

Athens, WI 54411

715-536-1810

Pastor Donald Love

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Home Phone 715-722-0540

Cell Phone 1-815-922-0397

Pastor's Office Hours

Mon. & Tues. Home

Wednesday Faith

Thursday St. John's

Friday Off (Family Day)

Elders

Don Gille 715-573-8197

Mark Czech 715-409-9174

Mike Schultz 715-539-0995

Jeremy Fromm 715-574-2003

Christian Day Care

Patti Beilke 715-539-8120

Elder of the Month

Bob Burish 715-573-7078

Setting the Lord's Table

Misty Vogel

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30 p.m.. Mary Martha Guild	2	3
4 8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School during Sermon 12:15 p.m. VBS Meeting at Faith 4:30 p.m. ISI at Pine Ridge Restaurant, Merrill	5	6	7 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith	8	9	10
11 8:30 a.m. Worship Sunday School during Sermon	12	13 6:00 p.m. Church Council 7:00 p.m. Elder's Meeting	14 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith	15	16	17 YOUTH ACTIVITY 30 HOUR FAMINE
18 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School during Sermon	19	20	21 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith	22	23	24
25 8:30 a.m. Worship	26	27	28	29	30	31



Time to ORGANIZE

The new addition has been dedicated and now the sorting and organization has begun



A sincere expression of gratitude to each one of you at Faith Lutheran Church for your

exceptional efforts from the beginning to the completion of the new addition to our building.

We want to express our sincere gratitude for all of the financial donations and support to the project. Your generosity has allowed us to finance the addition and we are so grateful for your support.

Thank you also to all the volunteers who helped make the project such a success! Your work and unwavering commitment is truly commendable. Your hard work and dedication are invaluable, and we are so thankful for your commitment.

From mind, heart and soul, we also sincerely thank you for your support and prayers during during this project. GOD BLESS YOU for your thoughts and concerns.

Your faith, generosity, and willingness to help in many ways make a real difference in our church community, and we are so blessed to have each one of you as part of our church. May God continue to bless you abundantly as you have blessed others.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures for ever. Psalm 136.1

Living Proof

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

May Daily Reading Plan



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

Bible Memory Verse



Week of May 4, 2025
Psalm 103:13

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

Week of May 11, 2025
Acts 16:31

And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Week of May 18, 2025
John 16:22

So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

Week of May 25, 2025
Colossians 3:2

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.



We celebrate **CONFIRMANDS** at both St. John's and Faith on **Sunday, May 18** at 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. worship services.

Confirmation is an affirmation of our baptismal vows and a deeper commitment to the church. We invite the Holy Spirit to strengthen our confirmands' faith and call them to be witnesses of Christ.



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

LCMS MISSIONARIES ON HOME SERVICE — MAY 1-15

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

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

1. for the LCMS missionary families who will be on home service. Ask the Lord to keep them safe during their travels.
2. for God's hand to guide and bless the details and logistical arrangements that are a necessary part of missionary home service, such as transportation and housing.
3. for missionary families to be able to visit as many congregations and other groups as possible, while managing their limited time in the United States.
4. for the Lord to guide missionaries as they prepare their presentations. Ask Him to help them to share their stories and ministry news with those who have so faithfully supported their ministry.
5. for missionary families. Pray that God would give emotional, physical and spiritual strength as they travel, share with supporters and meet new friends.
6. for missionary children. Pray that God would provide them with the opportunity to know that they are a vital part of their family's ministry.
7. that many congregations all over the United States would

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

8. that congregations and other groups would experience a revitalized interest in praying for missionaries and supporting their work, especially after visiting with them face-to-face and hearing about what God is accomplishing through them.
9. that as missionaries share their experiences, the listeners would consider serving as a missionary themselves — in a short-term, long-term or career capacity.
10. for the families of visiting missionaries, that they would enjoy their time together and mutually encourage one another.
11. for God to comfort and sustain the missionaries who are not able to see family and friends in the United States this year. May the
12. that missionaries would have an easy transition back to life in the United States — even for a short time during home service — with minimal effects of reverse culture shock.
13. that the Lord would raise up supporters for missionaries who are struggling to finding the resources necessary for their ministry.
14. with thanksgiving for the many forms of support and the joys the Lord provides to missionary families as they serve Him.
15. that the conversations started during home service would continue long after the missionary has returned to the mission field. Pray that through ongoing communication, missionaries and supporters would encourage one another.

PARTNER CHURCHES — MAY 16-31

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

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

16. for all LCMS partner churches, some of which only have a handful of congregations. Pray that they would never feel alone in their service to Christ and His Church.
17. for LCMS partner churches in Latin America and the Caribbean. Pray that God's Word would continue to spread throughout these countries to bring the Body of Christ together in fellowship and to be witnesses to His love.
18. for LCMS partner churches in Africa. Pray that God would strengthen Lutheran Christians in this region to carry out their work for His name's sake.
19. for LCMS partner churches in Asia, that God would guide and strengthen Lutheran Christians

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

20. for LCMS partner churches in Eurasia. Pray that God would continue to use His Word as a light to those in darkness and as a stronghold for the life of His Church.
21. with thanksgiving for all the missionaries who serve partner churches, that they would remain faithful in their tasks and be witnesses to the Gospel through acts of mercy.
22. for those who serve in leadership positions in LCMS partner churches around the world, as they guide, nurture and shepherd their people.
23. for the laypeople of LCMS partner churches around the world, that they would be fulfilled by God's Word and Sacraments.



24. that God would continue to raise up faithful servants for His Church in locations around the world.
25. for the Lutheran church bodies around the world interested in fellowship with the LCMS. Pray that God would guide the consideration process according to His will.
26. in thanksgiving for those who pray continually for those who serve where spreading God's Word is difficult or dangerous.
27. for Lutheran churches around the world that are dealing with strife between their members. Pray that the Lord would guide them to a peaceful resolution that would strengthen their witness to the community.
28. for the Lutheran churches in Eurasia as they seek to minister
- to the refugees in their midst. Pray for safety for both the church workers and the refugees.
29. for all projects currently going on in LCMS partner church bodies, that each one would have the volunteers and resources necessary to carry out the work of the church as it shows mercy and provides physical and spiritual care for people around the world.
30. for safe travel between and within countries in each world region. Pray that pastors, missionaries, medical teams and all who travel to assist partner churches would be kept safe and healthy, that the Gospel might be proclaimed to the far corners of creation.
31. for all those still living in darkness, that the Gospel will be their light and life.

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

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Online at www.myvbs.org/churchoffice

June 9 - 11, 2025
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
(Meal provided starting at 5:00 p.m.)

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

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