



JANUARY 2026

FOCUS ON FAITH

Faith Lutheran Church

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

Each year I find myself turning for spiritual guidance and encouragement to the beloved pastor and teacher Howard Thurman. As we begin another year together I would like to share with you his poem, "The Growing Edge".

*All around us worlds are dying and new worlds are being born:
All around us life is dying and life is being born:
The fruit ripens on the tree;
The roots are silently at work in the darkness of the earth
Against the time when there shall be new leaves, fresh blossoms,
green fruit.
Such is the growing edge!
It is the extra breath from the exhausted lung,
The one more thing to try when all else has failed,
The upward reach of life when weariness closes in upon all endeavor.
This is the basis of hope in moments of despair,
The incentive to carry on when times are out of joint
And men have lost their reason; the source of confidence
When worlds crash and dreams whiten into ash.
The birth of a child – life's most dramatic answer to death –
This is the Growing Edge incarnate,
Look well to the growing edge!*

May the coming year bring abundant reminders of all that God is accomplishing in you, and the encouragement to share it.

God's peace,
Pastor John

EPIPHANY WORSHIP AND DINNER



January 6, 2026

Tuesday

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church

Join us for dinner followed by a procession with the Wise Men through the prairie, weather permitting, following the star into the sanctuary for a house blessing and a brief worship service.

COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB

January 26

Monday

6:30 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church

All are welcome to join us in the library at Faith Lutheran Church. We will be discussing the book *First Lie Wins* by Ashley Elston. Contacts: Cory Schoofs and Pastor Erin Coutts

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Annual Meeting will be on February 22.

Find the Faith calendar on the Faith website under the Events and Calendar page: [Calendar](#)

FAITH AND CIVIC LIFE

Please consider joining Bishop Paul Erickson and Dr. Joyce Caldwell for a six-week study of the recently adopted ELCA Social Statement on Faith and Civic Life. This social statement sets forth the ELCA's teaching about how disciples and this church may faithfully speak and act in civic life.

This study will take place via Zoom on six successive Tuesdays, beginning on January 13

and concluding on February 17. There will be two sessions offered each Tuesday, from 10:30 to 12:00 noon and from 6:30-8:00 pm.

To learn more and register:

[Greater Milwaukee Synod](#)

JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH: ST. BEN'S

All are welcome at the table at St. Ben's, where the community emulates the Gospel call to love of neighbor. More than a nightly meal, the Open Door Ministry at St. Ben's offers showers, laundry, emergency clothing and hygiene items, social workers, community court and much more. During winter, the St. Ben's Winter Warming Center is Milwaukee's largest seasonal overnight shelter with dignified accommodations for 60 individuals.

Members of Faith help St. Ben's by providing bagged lunches every other month.

To learn more you are invited to attend the Adult Forum after worship on January 11.

Contact: Joe Dorr

TRUST FUNDS GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Trust Funds Committee will be accepting grant and scholarship applications for 2026 beginning January 15. The applications can be accessed, completed and submitted on Faith's website.

Go to www.faithlutherancedarburg.com and click on "Resources" in the menu bar. Then click on "Trust Funds and Missions of the Month," where you will find the applications for grants and scholarships. Paper grant applications will be available upon request, if necessary.

Grant applications can be submitted by any Faith member. They are generally for non-profit organizations that you would like to see us support. The amounts available are dependent on the previous year's investment earnings and the number of applications. Scholarship applications are available for any student who is pursuing post-secondary education and is a member of Faith. High school seniors and students who are already in college should complete and submit the application. The scholarships will be awarded after the fall semester of the next school year, 2026-27.

All applications will be due by February 28.

The committee will review them in March and April and awardees will be notified by the end of April.

For questions contact Hollie Milam at:
Trustfunds@faithlutherancedarburg.com

amounted to \$713.14. Thank you to all the children who helped gather coins during our November worship services and for your generous support!

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS AND COFFEE HOUR

To sign up and view schedule:

[Worship and Coffee Hour Schedule](#)

BAPTISM

December 7, 2025



Mike, Lauren, and Kieran Dixon

NOISY OFFERING

The total collected for the ELCA World Hunger, our November Mission of the Month, was \$1,723.14. Of that, the noisy offering

FAITH RUMMAGE SALE UPDATE

With regret, Laverne and I have made the decision to cancel the rummage sale that was scheduled for February 14 and this is our formal note to you. Things change in people lives, in your social groups, a favorite restaurant closes or your dentist retires. So it is with the rummage sale as we close this door. It's been a very successful run all these years that we have chaired the sale, exceeding our financial goal and always striving to make the sale a little higher end and more professional than the year before. We have many customers who will be disappointed, as they look forward to this every year. We've gotten to know folks from out of town and they are surprised to see we recognize them and know where they are from.

And the bakery sale, where we sold great quality homemade items, comes to an end also.

Any rummage we have on hand will be transported to Hidden Treasure Resale Shop in Port Washington.

Jacquie and Laverne



To Jacquie and Laverne,

Thank you for your work with the rummage sale over these last several years.

A rummage sale takes a lot of time, physical labor and planning.

Your gifts have been appreciated!

CELEBRATION SINGERS: LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 21

