

MARCH 2026

# FOCUS ON FAITH

Faith Lutheran Church

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

*"For God so loved the world that he gave..."*

John 3:16

One of the most profound ways of experiencing love is through giving. In giving and receiving we share God's love for the world, the source of every gift. This season invites reflection on loving the world, and I'd like to share a poem for your Lenten reflection by Alberto Ríos:

### **When Giving is All We Have**

*One river gives  
Its journey to the next.*

We give because someone gave to us.  
We give because nobody gave to us.

We give because giving has changed us.  
We give because giving could have changed us.

We have been better for it,  
We have been wounded by it—

Giving has many faces: It is loud and quiet,  
Big, though small, diamond in wood-nails.

Its story is old, the plot worn and the pages too,  
But we read this book, anyway, over and again:

Giving is, first and every time, hand to hand,  
Mine to yours, yours to mine.

You gave me blue and I gave you yellow.  
Together we are simple green. You gave me

What you did not have, and I gave you  
What I had to give—together, we made

Something greater from the difference.

## SHARED MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

Advent, Faith, Immanuel, St. John, and Trinity  
Lutheran Church

*Lenten Spiritual Disciplines*

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Worship at 7:00 p.m.

- March 4: Trinity, Silence  
March 11: St. John, Sacred Imagination  
March 18: Faith, Care for Creation  
March 25: Advent, Celebration

## ADULT FORUMS

Sundays

11:00 a.m.

- March 1: Sermon Talkback, Pastor John  
March 8: Small Catechism, Tom Schoofs  
March 15: Reformation, Pastor John  
March 22: From Division to Communion,  
Laura Kinnunen

## COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB

March 23

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 *The Jesus Cow* by Michael Perry.

Contacts: Cory Schoofs and Pastor Erin Coutts

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Vacation Bible School

August 3-7, 2026

9:00 a.m.-Noon

Faith Lutheran Church

This is a shared program with Advent, Faith,  
St. John and Trinity Lutheran Church. If you  
are interested in helping with VBS, please  
contact Lisa Wegner.

The **Outreach for Hope Ride Run Walk** will  
be on September 26.

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

## LENTEN DEVOTIONS

[Outreach for Hope](#)

[Luther Seminary](#)

## DONATION COLLECTION FOR HOME INC.- THE REFUGE

We are collecting donations for Home  
Inc.-The Refuge in Sheboygan. Home Inc.  
provides the homeless with a room, support  
with sobriety, and assistance with finding  
jobs. These services help people to stay off  
the street. There is a donation box located in  
the narthex. This collection is being organized  
by Debi Rappold. Thank you!

Ground coffee and creamer

Toilet paper

Paper towels

Men's and women's hygiene products

Body wash

Deodorant

Lip balm

Toothpaste

Kleenex

Hand warmers and foot warmers

New underwear, men's and women's, all sizes

Sweatpants, all sizes

## SEMINARY TALK WITH TOM SCHOOF

Tom Schoofs has completed his first semester  
at Warburg. This included completing a  
difficult Greek class! He also took a seminary  
trip to Egypt.

## What classes are you taking this semester?

This semester I am taking: Systematic  
Theology, Formation for Discipleship, New  
Testament Narratives (previously known as  
'The Gospels' class), Spiritual Practices, and  
Food Theology. I am looking forward to  
putting my new theological knowledge into  
practice!

### **Where are you doing your CPE?**

I am doing an extended unit of CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) at St. Luke's Medical Center. I will be doing clinicals on Monday afternoons, Friday all day, and a Zoom education class on Tuesday mornings. The unit goes from 2/15-8/15. The CPE unit is a requirement for the ELCA and is typically done after the first year of seminary.

### **What is Clinical Pastoral Education?**

Clinical Pastoral Education emphasizes personal formation, spiritual growth, and the development of reflective, relational, and interpersonal skills within a supervised clinical setting. Learners in Clinical Pastoral Education develop skills necessary to provide excellent spiritual care in hospitals, communities, religious congregations, and other institutional settings.

### **What was one thing you were grateful for in your first semester?**

There were many things I have been grateful for in my first semester! The one thing I can say overall, is the amount of support that I have had from everyone at Faith. Whether that was for myself or for Cory and my boys; I am grateful for all the thoughts and prayers, smiles and hugs that we have and continue to receive. I look forward to what each day has to offer and know my Faith family is right there along our sides.

### **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS AND COFFEE HOUR**

To sign up and view schedule:

[Worship and Coffee Hour Schedule](#)

**MARCH MISSION OF THE MONTH**  
**REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH – MILWAUKEE**

The Mission of the Month for March 2026 is our partner in ministry, Reformation Lutheran Church located at 3806 North Lisbon Avenue in Milwaukee.

In April of last year Reformation invited Faith to a Partner Summit which was held on June 7, 2025. They were entering a time of deep and intentional discernment about what God is up to at Reformation. Their partners were asked to be active participants in this process. Out of that initial meeting, a working group was formed of Reformation members and representatives from several partner ministries. Pastor John was asked to chair this group. Since that time the group has met regularly for prayer, Bible study, discussion, and planning. It was determined that the neighborhood ministry at Reformation is invaluable in its' current site and that with the committed support of the partners that ministry could continue for the foreseeable future. It has been life giving to all involved to witness what is possible when partners attentive to the power of the Holy Spirit work together toward a shared goal.

The number of people who are served by Reformation's SonShine Ministry has grown exponentially. Last March 40 people were served lunch and received bags of household items; this February 90 meals were served and 90 SonShine bags distributed. Not only has the number of people being served increased, but the cost to fill each bag has risen from \$15.00 to \$25.00 per bag.

On Thursday, March 19 , volunteers from Faith will be preparing and serving lunch for up to 60 people. Please speak with either Alisa Norquist or Esther Rusch if you are able to contribute toward the meal or would like to join us at Reformation and help with serving the meal.

**During the entire month of March, we will be collecting small bottles of laundry detergent. (The bottles should be less than 50 ounces.) Our goal is to collect 60-90 bottles. Donations may be placed in the bins located in the hall across from the church office.**

Monetary gifts to the March Mission of the Month are also welcome.

We ask that you keep our partners at Reformation and the people they serve in your prayers.

**BREAKING THE CHAINS  
10TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

February 1  
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Milwaukee



*Attending: Joyce Caldwell, Dottie and Joe Dorr, Pastor John and Alisa Norquist, and Esther Rusch*

**TOGETHER IN MISSION**

February 7  
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa



*Attending: Joyce Caldwell, Julia Gergens, Pam Gergens, Linda O'Leary, Pastor John and Alisa Norquist, Tom and Cory Schoofs*

## SUNRISE CIRCLE QUILTERS DONATE TO DIALYSIS UNIT AT ZABLOCKI VA MEDICAL CENTER

*This was posted by the Cedarburg American Legion Auxiliary on their Facebook page:*

Nancy and I had such a nice morning visiting with the Faith Lutheran Church Sunrise Circle Quilters. These ladies so graciously donate quilts to the Auxiliary to forward to Veterans at Christmas time. This past year 20 quilts were donated to the Dialysis Unit at Zablocki VA Medical Center. We also met Pastor John Norquist who is very proud of the ladies' accomplishments. We even had a chance to watch them at work. The first recorded mention of their blanket sewing was in 1969; however the amount completed wasn't listed. Laverne has been keeping a running total since 1974 when they recorded the completion of 30 quilts. **As of 2025 they have completed a total of 3949 quilts!!** Some have been donated to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and to Lutheran World Relief as well as other locations. Ruth Golnick and her daughter make a trip to Arkansas every year to purchase the fabric at a good discount.



Photos by "Skid"

# EPIC YOUTH & CHURCHES Lent & Easter

## HYGIENE KITS COLLECTION

FOR **MR. BOB'S UNDER  
THE BRIDGE**

Week 1: Bars of Soap - Feb. 21-27

Week 2: Shampoo & Conditioner - Feb. 28-March 7

Week 3: Toothbrushes & Toothpaste March 8-14

Week 4: Body Lotion & Hand Lotion March 15-21

Week 5: Wash Cloths March 22-28

Holy Week & Easter: Any Above March 29-April 4

\*Items can be shared in collection areas at your home church any week.



**All toiletries should be travel size.**