



W

APRIL 2026

FOCUS ON FAITH

Faith Lutheran Church

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

While you may recognize these familiar words as a call to worship, they are also part of the psalm appointed for Easter Sunday. The psalmist gives thanks for God's steadfast love realized in the midst of distress, an unending source of strength even in death. This psalm also includes the phrase, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone."

Several years ago, Faith's choir commissioned Dr. John Behnke to compose a special anthem in memory of Lynn Beverung, a member of our congregation and faithful choir member who died of lung cancer. Dr. Behnke used Psalm 118 as the basis of his work, repeating the refrain "this is the day that the Lord has made." He drew inspiration from Lynn's journals as she faced a terminal disease with the hope that she found in God. Easter arrives this year amid many things that don't encourage rejoicing. Our nation is once

again at war and the harshness and disillusionment in our society doesn't show any signs of abating. It is worth remembering that the psalmist's confidence isn't in spite of difficult circumstances but comes through them as God's salvation is revealed where no one expected. Easter is an invitation to discover the power of life where we otherwise see only death. What do you see God accomplishing? How is God's steadfast love establishing something hopeful, something you might even rejoice in? God never stops loving this world or loving you. Each day invites your discovery of what God has made, and the confidence that death cannot destroy. Let's pursue this together in this season of new life.

God's peace,
Pastor John



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Palm Sunday/Celebration Singers Cantata
March 29
9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday
April 2
7:00 p.m.

Good Friday
April 3
7:00 p.m.

Shared Easter Vigil at Grace Lutheran Church,
Grafton
April 4
7:00 p.m.

Easter Breakfast and Worship
April 5
Breakfast
8:00 a.m.
Worship
9:30 a.m.

NEIGHBORHOOD EASTER EGG HUNT

April 4
Saturday
10 a.m.
Faith Community Pathways

ADULT FORUMS

Sundays
11:00 a.m.
April 12: Encountering the Holy (Worship),
Pastor John
April 19: Discovery of Gifts, Dr. Joyce Caldwell
April 26: Advocates of Ozaukee
May 3: Mission Barista Global

COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB

June 1
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 *Raising Hare* by *Chloe Dalton*.
Contacts: Cory Schoofs and Pastor Erin Coutts

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

MT. MERU COFFEE

Our congregation supports Mt. Meru Coffee. If you would like to learn more about what Mt. Meru Coffee is doing, please read this: [Mt. Meru Annual Report](#)

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS AND COFFEE HOUR

To sign up and view schedule: [Worship and Coffee Hour Schedule](#)

**APRIL MISSION OF THE MONTH:
ADVOCATES OF OZAUKEE COUNTY**



April's Mission of the Month is Advocates of Ozaukee County. During the month, in addition to monetary donations, we will be collecting personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, deodorant, lotion (some without scent), hairbrushes, shower gel, and shampoo.

Barb Fisher, Executive Director for Advocates, will be leading a Forum at Faith on Sunday April 26. We hope you can join us to hear more about Advocates of Ozaukee County.

Advocates of Ozaukee is an agency that provides services for those who may be experiencing domestic or sexual violence. They are celebrating 40 years of supporting, educating, and empowering victims and our community to end domestic and sexual violence.

In the four decades since its founding (and counting), Advocates has broadened its scope and impact to become a major agent of healing and social uplift in Ozaukee County. The Advocates' Sexual Assault program was implemented in 2001 followed by a youth program in 2002. The organization has also worked with local law enforcement on its threat assessment training and continues to monitor the latest research and data on domestic violence to evolve its outreach.

The organization is the only domestic abuse program for citizens in the community offering comprehensive services such as onsite support groups, wellness programming, access to legal advocacy, and a safe, family-friendly environment.

To learn more: [Advocates of Ozaukee](#)

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH, MILWAUKEE SONSHINE MINISTRY

March 19, 2026

Pastor John, Alisa Norquist, and Esther Rusch

What happens at a Sunshine Ministry event? First we gathered in prayer and then we had a Bible study with the members of Reformation. We read John 11, the story of Lazarus. We had much discussion but one meaningful take away was that Jesus wept with his friends. Jesus felt the loss. We were reminded that Jesus is with us during difficult times. After that we were ready to register people, help serve food, hand out cleaning supplies, and have conversations with the people from the neighborhood. Before the meal, a prayer and a short message was shared with the group of 56 people. Alisa and Esther served chili mac, corn chips, clementines and homemade cookies. Pastor John helped pass out the bags of cleaning supplies. Pastor John also had one of the children, a great grandchild of a Reformation leader, run into his arms for a hug. When you go to Reformation you have a chance to help, but it is also a place where you will feel loved, you are prayed for, and your sense of community will be expanded.

Thank you to all those who donated cleaning supplies and food. If you are interested in either making meals or volunteering at Reformation, please contact either Esther Rusch or Alisa Norquist.

The Sunshine Ministry provides cleaning supplies to those in need. These items are usually not provided at food shelves. Reformation works with multiple area ELCA congregations, including Faith, to provide this ministry.



Reformation Lutheran Church, Milwaukee



Esther gets ready to serve lunch.



Reformation members staff the registration table.



These are the prepared bags of cleaning supplies.



The volunteer team always gathers at the end to discuss how things went.