



MAY 2026

## FOCUS ON FAITH

Faith Lutheran Church

### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

*You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth.*

Psalm 104:30

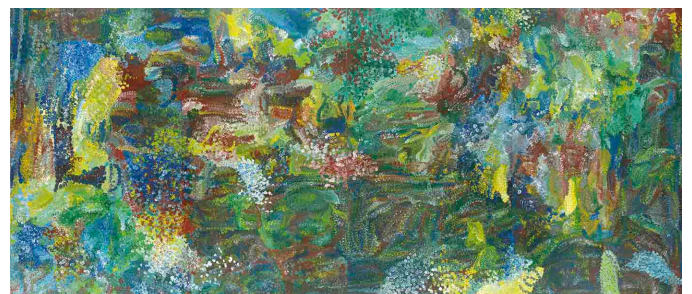
The word “creation” is sometimes narrowed to mean a singular divine episode from the past. Although people of faith may extol its beauty and advocate its care, creation’s meaning is tempered by the inevitability of God’s intention and our passive acceptance. Yet creativity isn’t a solitary event. Creation itself is invited to participate in an eternally generative song of gratitude and praise, producing life, as Charles Darwin put it, in “endless forms most beautiful”.

The writer Ursula K. LeGuin observed that “Relationship among all things appears to be complex and reciprocal-always at least two-way, back and forth. It seems that nothing is single in this universe, and nothing goes one way.” The psalmist may have been suggesting something similar in the mysterious relationship between the world and God’s generative Spirit. We all have

a part to play in earth's renewal, created and creative.

The 50-day period between Passover and Pentecost unfolds amid springtime renewal of the earth, and suggests Easter renewal for the church as we recall the disciples’ initial encounters with Jesus’ resurrection. By the power of the Spirit they discovered an unexpected role in God’s creative work, a role that you also share. This is sacred work marked by reverence, joy and delight, your participation in the holy communion of all things. What discoveries await you? Christ is Risen!

God’s peace,  
Pastor John



*Earth's Creation* by Emily Kame Kngwarreye

## ADULT FORUMS

Sundays

11:00 a.m.

May 3: Mission Barista Global

May 17: Columbarium Discussion, Tom Sear

## 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

## SAVE THE DATE

**Faith Lutheran Church**

**70th Anniversary Spaghetti Dinner**

*Planting Seeds and Sharing Hope*

September 19

Saturday

Noon

Tickets: \$10.00

More information to follow.

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

## MAY MISSION OF THE MONTH: MISSION BARISTA GLOBAL

Mission Barista Global loves, supports and serves the most vulnerable adults and children through IMPACT (Investment, Mission, Prayer, Action, Care and Teaching) in rural Tanzania Africa and beyond. MBG provides resources to supply basic necessities, health care outreach, and educational services for all ages while being the hands and feet of Jesus to all we serve.

To learn more: [Mission Barista Global](#)

## GERANIUMS



As gardening season approaches, the Faith Beautification Team will be planting red geraniums again around the church building. Laverne Gresch will be collecting money for these geraniums before the service on May 3. If you are writing a check please make it payable to Laverne Gresch and place it in an envelope marked *Geraniums*. We welcome anyone who wants to help plant the geraniums when the temperature is appropriate later in May. Thank you!  
-Jacquie Becher

## CEDARBURG COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

*Building Peace and Safety in our Community*

May 18

Monday

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Cedarburg Public Library

Join a conversation with a panel of local leaders about how we experience and maintain peace and safety while expressing our voices as a community. Our panelists will be Cedarburg Police Chief Mike McNerney, Cedarburg Fire Department Deputy Chief Blake Karnitz, and Keri Wuenstel, an organizer for Ozaukee Indivisible.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS AND COFFEE HOUR

To sign up and view schedule:

[Worship and Coffee Hour Schedule](#)

## PALM SUNDAY PATH



## EASTER EGG HUNT



## TRUST FUNDS UPDATE MAY 2026

The Trust Funds Committee is pleased to announce the disbursements for 2026. This year we were able to award grants from the Benevolence Fund to all 23 organizations that applied. In addition, scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded to three Faith students of higher education.

Faith's Capital Improvements Fund will receive \$11,000 from the Trust Fund's Hope Fund.

Some of the total Trust Fund monies available for disbursement each year is set aside for Occasional Grants, which are requests that are submitted after the February 28th deadline. This year \$2,400 is available for Occasional Grants. Applications are available on the Faith website.

Grants totaling \$28,000 will be disbursed as follows:

Tom Schoofs/Wartburg Theological Seminary	\$3,000
Cedarburg School District Peace Award	\$1,000
Reformation Lutheran Church	\$1,000
Breaking the Chains	\$1,000
Bridge Scholars	\$2,000
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center	\$1,000
Mt. Meru Coffee Project	\$1,000
Callahan Community Dinner	\$600
Blue Lotus Center	\$1,000
Faith LC Sharing Hope Special Appeal	\$3,000
MLK Scholarship MKE	\$500
Ozaukee Food Alliance	\$1,600
Mission Barista Global	\$1,700
Advocates of Ozaukee	\$2,000
Interfaith Care Group of Ozaukee Co.	\$1,600
Leading for Racial Equity	\$500
Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit	\$1,400
Ozaukee Nonprofit Center (Ozaukee Baby Bank)	\$700
Greater Milwaukee Center	\$1,000
Alexa Wuebben (mission trip)	\$300
Wisconsin Council of Churches	\$600
Native American Heritage	\$1,000
Luther Manor Resident Support	\$500

## TRUST FUNDS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships totaling \$4,500 will be awarded to three young people from Faith for the 2026-2027 academic year. Each student wrote an essay based on the following question: **How will your faith impact your approach to your education and future career?** Following are summaries of their essays, drawing from their own words:

**Tessa Kunschke** is a freshman at Carthage College and hopes to one day be a pediatric psychologist. Tessa's opening paragraph to her essay says so much about her: "My faith plays a central role in shaping both my education and my future career by guiding how I approach challenges, relationships, and personal growth. My belief in God provides me with confidence, purpose, and resilience, allowing me to pursue my education with both intellectual curiosity and spiritual grounding. Through faith, I am able to push myself academically while also recognizing the importance of balance, self-care, and trust in God's plan for my life." Tessa writes that a particular class she is taking, "Understandings of Religion," is bringing her closer to God, and she enjoys discussing her faith with other students at Carthage. Tessa feels that faith in God will help her push through the challenging and sometimes stressful times of her studies and work and will make her more empathetic as she helps her patients one day. By remaining rooted in her faith, she hopes to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those she supports.

**Cori Milam** will be a sophomore at the University of Minnesota in the fall. Her career goal is to become a veterinarian, entering vet school after finishing her studies at the U of M. Cori writes that her faith has helped her greatly in her first year of college. She says that being part of a faith-based community has strengthened her faith and shaped her into who she is today, guiding her to understand her morals, helping her to see that challenges are an opportunity to grow, and teaching her to be kind, supportive and helpful to others. She has learned to approach life with patience, gratitude and responsibility. All of these qualities have helped her navigate her college journey and its multifaceted new experiences, both academic and social. Ultimately Cori says that her faith is more than just a set of beliefs; it has been a guide in most of her choices and has been a reassurance when she needs it most. She feels that the values she carries will be with her in her career as a veterinarian as she shows compassion, responsibility and ethical care of animals, making choices guided by her faith and aiming to make a difference in her community and her profession.

**Julia Gergens** will be a senior at UWM in the fall. For the past two years she has been living at the Corner House, the Lutheran Campus Ministry of the ELCA at UWM, where she is a peer minister. Julia writes that the support she has received at the Corner House has impacted her approach to education. Analyzing and interpreting Bible stories in Bible Study has helped her meet the challenges that come with being in college and has helped her relate to other students facing such challenges. Being on the call committee for a new pastor at the Corner House led to many experiences that will help Julia in a future career: having insights into the different aspects of a hiring process, working alongside other members of the committee, defining what attributes are valuable in a candidate, welcoming a new pastor, adopting and adapting to new practices. She says that during this process her faith was her rock. Being a peer minister, she has tried to balance school and ministry, connecting with students of different backgrounds and interests who all have the common interest in faith. After a stressful week at school Julia finds worship the best way to relax. Her involvement at the Corner House has helped Julia to grow in faith as well as prepare for the challenges of a future career.

# BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY

Learning to Love in a  
Polarized World



REGISTER

**Saturday May 16**

**9am - 4:30pm**

**Cost: \$30**

**Grace Lutheran Church, Grafton**

What to expect at this workshop:

- explore how stories we hear and learn help to shape and form us
- examine the construction and meaning of racism
- identify steps and opportunities to grow in understanding and action
- build and strengthen relationships

**Dr. Joyce Caldwell & Rev. Marilyn Miller  
from Leading for Racial Equity will  
facilitate our discussion.**

Questions? Contact Pastor Alexis Twito at  
[pastor@adventchurch.org](mailto:pastor@adventchurch.org).



<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/building-beloved-community-learning-to-love-in-a-polarized-world>



# Collaboration

God Has Called Us to Work Together  
2026 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly

Friday Evening Events - Open to the Public!

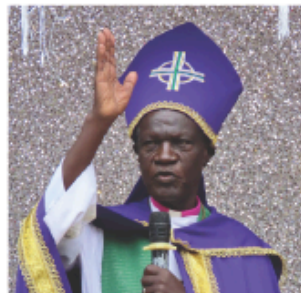
**Friday, May 29, 2026**

**@ Brookfield Conference Center**

**5:15 pm Keynote Dinner** (\$50/Ticket)

(Dinner is already included for registered Assembly participants.)

**7 pm Worship** (FREE + No Registration Required)



**Keynote Speaker:** Tia Richardson

**Companion Synod Guests:**

Bishop Elias Kitoi Nasari, Meru

Bishop Guadalupe Cortéz, El Salvador

Pastor Christian Chavarria, El Salvador

**Learn More + Buy Dinner Tickets:**

[tinyurl.com/GMSAssembly2026](https://tinyurl.com/GMSAssembly2026)

