



JUNE 2026

FOCUS ON FAITH

Faith Lutheran Church

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

*O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name
in all the earth!*

Psalm 8:1

You may have noticed some very engaged and active children when you come to church. This is probably evident during the children's sermon, but I want to use this month's newsletter to share some other things you may not be aware of and the testimony being offered to God's work.

One of our congregation's boys approached me last year with an idea. He wanted to create a kid's group in which the children would decide what they wanted to do, and with the support of their parents and other adults, plan and implement it. He would call this group "The Mustard Seeds". Recently they held their first event- a lemonade stand on the front lawn of the parsonage during Maxwell Street Days to raise money for Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge ministry. They raised over \$200!

More than the money I appreciate the spirit I saw at work among children eager to live for

themselves what they are experiencing at church. Beyond talk or nostalgia, they are expressing the church in their own way. After their initial meeting I overheard one child enthusiastically say something not often heard from adults- "What a great meeting!" This energy is a reminder that God is known, not by conformity to prior expectations but in the real experience of relationships at every age. God's majesty is revealed in real time as we learn and grow together. We are blessed to have such engaged and enterprising children leading the way!

God's peace,
Pastor John

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



August 3-7, 2026

9:00 a.m.-Noon

Faith Lutheran Church

All kids ages 3 through 5th grade are welcome.

Fee: \$10

To register: [VBS](#)

PRAIRIE PALOOZA

Saturday

August 15

Free

3:00 p.m.

For the sixth year, Faith is hosting its annual Prairie Palooza event on August 15. This is a family friendly event with live music and lots of activities for the children. This year will also include a car show! We will be selling grilled hot dogs and corn on the cob. Members, neighbors, and the community are all welcome to attend.

Volunteers Needed

There are lots of opportunities for folks to participate in making this event a success. We need people to bake desserts, grill, sell food, assist with children's activities, set up tables, tents, and of course clean up

afterwards! If you would like to help, please contact Laura Kinnunen.

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

JUNE MISSION OF THE MONTH: RECONCILINGWORKS

The purpose of the RIC Program is to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; work for racial equity and commit to anti-racist work and support the national program. To learn more:

www.reconcilingworks.org

Included in this newsletter is an article written by Laura Kinnunen on reconciliation. Laura is the contact person for this ministry.

THANK YOU

Thank you for donating to the Geranium Fund so our flower gardens and containers will look beautiful and colorful during this summer. We purchased over 40 geraniums. We were also able to buy potting mix and filler plants made up of specific types to ward off deer. If you helped us plant, thank you for that too. We are grateful!

-The Beautification Team

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS AND COFFEE HOUR

To sign up and view schedule:

[Worship and Coffee Hour Schedule](#)

TREE PLANTING DAY WITH REFORMATION AND THE URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER

Washington Park, Milwaukee

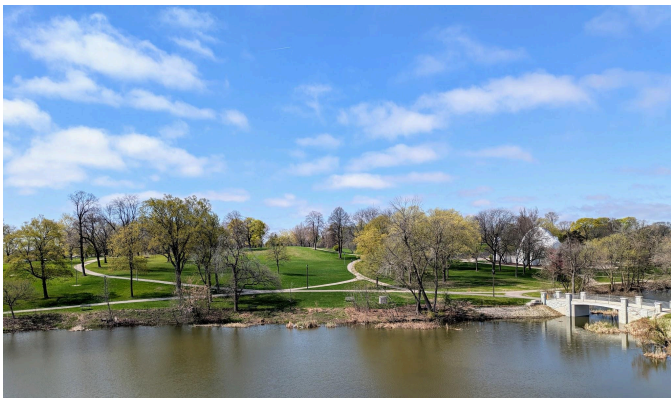
Pastor John and Alisa attended this event. 16 trees were planted as a shared project between the members of Reformation, its partners, and the Urban Ecology Center. Youth from the Reformation summer program will be taking care of the trees.



WEDDING SHOWER THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who gave gifts, submitted recipes, contributed to the making of the quilt and attended the shower for Olivia Norquist. It was such a big, meaningful hug for Olivia and Grant. Your love and faith continues to be a source of encouragement and support. Thank you also to Esther Rusch, Cindy Dellegrazio, Cindy Ehlers, and Joyce Caldwell for planning the event and to Dottie Dorr for taking photos.

-Alisa and John Norquist



RECONCILIATION: LEARNING TO WALK TOGETHER

As we continue reflecting on inclusion and equity, reconciliation doesn't feel simple or straightforward to me. It feels like something we are all still trying to figure out and I certainly don't have all the answers. More than anything, reconciliation feels like a choice to keep walking together with honesty, humility and compassion.

Jesus' ministry was deeply relational. Again and again, he moved toward people who had been excluded, judged or misunderstood. He listened and showed compassion. He challenged harmful systems while still seeing the humanity in every person he encountered. Reconciliation may begin there, not with having perfect language or complete understanding, but with a willingness to listen to one another and remain open-hearted.

For many LGBTQ2S+ people, conversations around faith have been painful and complicated. While I may share some lived experiences within the LGBTQ2S+ community, I also recognize that every person's journey is different and that there are experiences beyond my own understanding. But I believe part of our calling as Christians is to create a space where people can ask their questions and worship without fear of rejection or judgment. Reconciliation may begin when we stop trying to win arguments and start trying to understand each other more deeply.

Scripture speaks often about reconciliation, mercy and humility. In Micah 6:8, we are reminded to "...act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God." That word humbly stands out to me. It reminds me that faith is not about having every answer; sometimes it is about being willing to learn, to admit where we may have fallen short and to trust God enough to keep growing.

Reconciliation is not only about repairing relationships with marginalized communities. It is something all of us need. We live in a time where division comes easily, and it can be tempting to retreat into defensiveness or certainty instead of curiosity, grace and understanding. Trying to bridge those divides is not easy, especially when conversations are emotional or uncomfortable. Yet reconciliation calls us into something more honest. It asks us to acknowledge harm where it exists, to listen carefully to one another and to remain at the table even when we do not fully agree or fully understand.

At a recent reconciliation forum, someone from Faith shared a thought that has really stayed with me. They described how every time we avoid reconciliation, stop listening to each other or choose division instead of understanding, it is like adding another brick to a wall between us. Little by little, those walls grow until it becomes harder to truly see or understand one another. It reminded me that reconciliation is not just about tearing walls down once they exist, but also about making the choice not to keep building them.

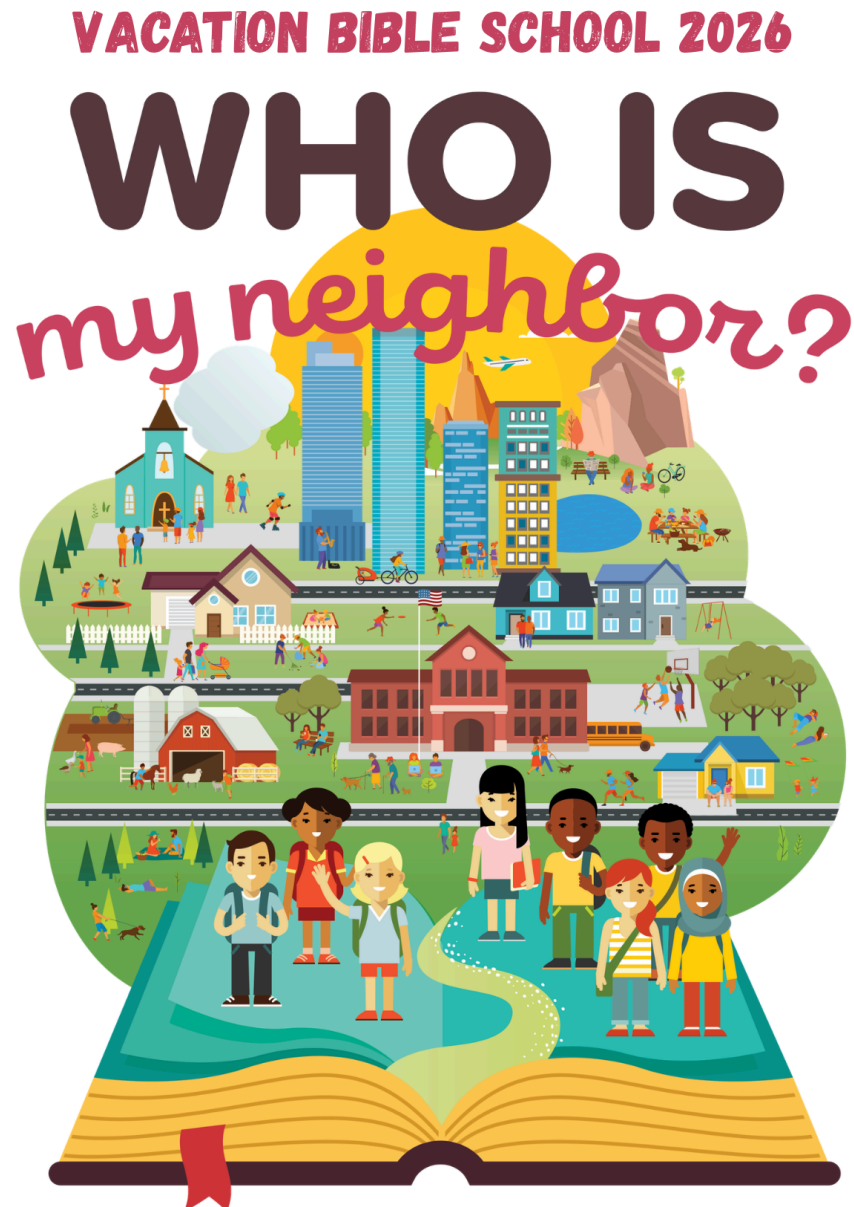
I don't believe reconciliation means everyone will agree on everything. I think it is less about uniformity and more about learning how to love one another faithfully despite our differences. Maybe it is about recognizing the dignity and worth of each person before anything else.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to love our neighbors, not only when it is easy but also when it requires patience, humility and self-reflection. I am still learning what that looks like, but I believe

there is value in continuing the conversation, in listening carefully and in trusting that God can work through imperfect people who are genuinely trying to love others well.

My hope is not that we become people who claim to have reconciliation fully figured out, but that we become people willing to practice it, slowly, imperfectly and most importantly, together.

-Laura Kinnunen



AUGUST 3-7, 2026 9AM-12PM

PRESCHOOL TO 5TH GRADE

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

SCAN TO REGISTER!

