



JULY 2026

FOCUS ON FAITH

Faith Lutheran Church

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

All your works shall praise you, O Lord, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

Psalm 145:10

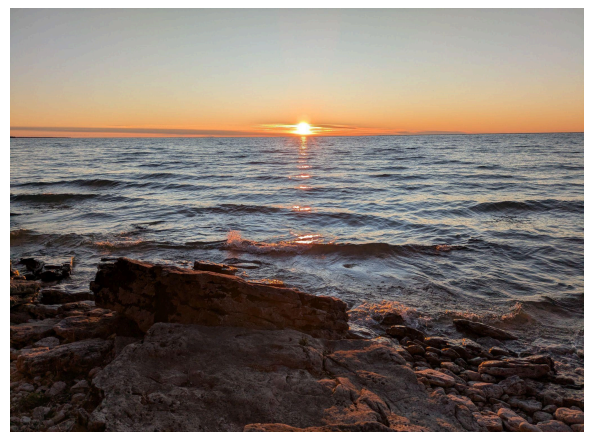
How do you recognize something holy or sacred? This may not feel like a pressing question in a secular age like ours, yet within us all something yearns for transcendent experiences of wonder and awe, of something bigger than us yet somehow including us. For people of faith this often centers on the experience of worship.

Professor Tom Long has observed that “People are not hungry for more worship services, for more hymns, sermons, and anthems. They are hungry for experiences of God, which can come through worship; in the most primal sense, this hunger is what beckons people to worship. The anticipation of the holy is almost palpable, even in the tiniest church on the most routine of days.”

Of course, we all experience this differently, and worship can become fraught with disagreement over how this should happen.

We also have the opportunity to learn from each other, to try things, and to grow. Over the summer I intend to gather a group to reflect on our congregation’s shared experience of worship and to experiment with new ideas. We’ll begin with your responses to a survey shared earlier this year. If you haven’t completed it you still can at tinyurl.com/bdnj255e. If you would like to participate in the group or recommend someone, please let me know. Thank you for sharing in our collective experience of God in this worship community.

God’s peace,
Pastor John



COMMUNITY CAMPFIRES



July 8, August 12, September 9, and
October 14
Wednesdays
6:30 p.m.
Faith Community Pathways
This is a fun all age social event. Please bring
a chair. Hosted by the Faith Church Council.

DWELLING IN THE WORD

Sunday Worship
July 19
9:30 a.m.
Faith Lutheran Church

COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB

July 27
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 *Miracle Creek* by Angie Kim.
Contacts: Cory Schoofs and Pastor Erin Coutts

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 3-7, 2026
9:00 a.m.-Noon
Faith Lutheran Church
Fee: \$10
All kids ages 3 through 5th grade are
welcome. To register: [VBS](#)

SHARED EPIC WORSHIP

August 9
Sunday
Cedar Creek Park
9:30 a.m.
We will have no worship at Faith.

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

SPECIAL GUESTS AT FAITH COMMUNITY PATHWAYS

On July 7, from noon to 2 p.m., Venice
Williams and the Read Me Awake Poetry
Circle will be at Faith Community Pathways
for their monthly gathering. Neighbors and
church members are invited to attend to
experience a peaceful space for community
reflection and creative expression.
Participants gather to engage with literature
and craft their own verses. Venice Williams
coordinates Alice's Garden in Milwaukee and
The Table, a gathering of Jesus-followers as a
1st Century style community in the 21st
Century.

On July 9, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the summer
youth program of Reformation Lutheran
Church in Milwaukee will visit the prairie to
reflect on nature, enjoy time outside and
share a meal. Church volunteers are welcome
to help with providing hospitality, supervising
projects and serving food. Donations are also
welcome to cover the cost of bus
transportation. More information is available
from Pastor John or Esther Rusch.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

On Sunday, August 30, Matt Swanson of
Family Sharing will be doing a temple talk
during Sunday worship. He will address the

asset limited income constrained employed, the Sharing Garden, and the new garden in Fredonia. We will have a bin out for food donations.

Tom Schoofs is currently working on planning a Dessert Church and Still + Listening worship service for the summer. More information to follow.

JULY MISSION OF THE MONTH: ADVOCACY and GLOBAL REFUGE

In our Vision Statement we state: *Faith Lutheran Church will be recognized as a community of spiritual growth, a place of acceptance and inclusion, a gateway for environmental stewardship, a creator of partnerships, and an advocate for social justice and peace.*

What does it mean to be an advocate? The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines advocacy as “the act or process of supporting a cause or proposal.” In this sense, the Mission of the Month ministry could be seen as an advocacy program, as each month we show our support of various causes through sharing information and giving generously. This month MOM donations will go to support the work of Global Refuge.

Global Refuge, formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), is a nonprofit serving newcomers seeking safety, support, and a share in the American dream. For 85 years, they have welcomed those seeking refuge, upholding a legacy of compassion and grace for people in crisis.

Global Refuge walks alongside individuals, families, and children as they begin their new lives in the United States through their work in refugee resettlement, welcome and respite services, economic empowerment and employment, and family unification for unaccompanied children. To date, Global

Refuge has served over 800,000 people from around the globe.

Please consider supporting both the vision of our congregation and Global Refuge with your donations to the July Mission of the Month.-Esther Rusch

To learn more: [Global Refuge](#)

CHRIST WALL SUBMISSION



A new addition has been added to the Christ Wall that was submitted by Pat Davidson. It was created by Joe Castillo. Born in Mexico City, Joe was strongly influenced by his artistic family and the international art community. His mother taught painting, and his father owned a graphic design and display company. By age five, he was enrolled in his mom's art class for the neighborhood children. By the time he was eight, his father was teaching Joe to hand letter brush script. Then, at fourteen, he attended an artist's chalk talk at a Christian youth camp in Mexico. Joe was so moved by the drawing and the powerful message that he accepted Christ that night. A year later, Joe's dad passed away and his family moved back to the U.S. where Joe finished high school and enrolled in Florida Bible College, earning his Bachelor's degree in Bible. Joe combined his love for writing, teaching, and art to create what he called a WordStory and soon began speaking regularly at youth camps and churches, becoming a favorite of Youth Specialties' events. His ability to speak both

English and Spanish also helped extend his reach into places where others could not go.

Joe hesitantly began using his talents in commercial arts, and started an advertising agency which he built over the course of 20 years. But after his first wife died of breast cancer, Joe reassessed his life, gave up his agency and went back to school, graduating from Asbury Seminary with his Master of Divinity. He became a pastor and started to teach scripture using an ArtStory technique, telling stories and incorporating scripture while drawing on a 4' X 8' canvas. His most well-known drawing, "The Face of Christ," uses scenes of Jesus' life to form His face. He later developed a technique for making images using sand. He used this technique as a contestant on America's Got Talent. -From the Adams Group

FAITH RAIN GARDEN

Deborah Rappold has been busy working on our rain garden. She donated all the plants, planted them and is tending to the garden regularly. If you have a chance, please thank Deborah.



NEW PUBLIC FACEBOOK PAGE

In addition to our Faith Families page, Faith now has a public Facebook page! You might be wondering, why should I follow both pages? The public Facebook page is for promoting Faith, EPIC, and other church events to the larger community. Having a public Facebook page will allow you to share these events with your friends and family. The Faith Families Facebook page will continue to be an area to share pictures, things our members should know, and things just Faith members should see on a private page. For example, this would be the place to safely post photos of our children participating in church events.. Our Faith Families page is vetted for more security, so no need to worry about having dust vent ads on that page! If

you have questions, please contact Tom Schoofs or Pastor John for more information.

Here is the new public Facebook page for Faith: [Faith Lutheran Church Facebook](#)

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS AND COFFEE HOUR

To sign up and view schedule:

[Worship and Coffee Hour Schedule](#)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026

WHO IS my neighbor?



AUGUST 3-7, 2026 9AM-12PM

**PRESCHOOL TO 5TH GRADE
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

SCAN TO REGISTER!



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PRAIRIE


Palooza

CAR SHOW

 **FAITH**
LUTHERAN CHURCH



★ SATURDAY ★
AUGUST 15, 2026

 **2:00 PM – 7:00 PM** 

REGISTRATION
FEE
★ **\$15** ★



TROPHIES
WILL BE GIVEN!
CATEGORIES YET
TO BE DETERMINED.



**FOOD
& MUSIC**
ON SITE!



★ **RAFFLE** ★

DON'T MISS
YOUR CHANCE
TO WIN!



N35 W6621 WILSON ST. • CEDARBURG, WI 53012

★ **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** ★

Alan Gresch



alanmgresch@gmail.com



262-483-3507

Spaghetti DINNER

Join us for Faith's 70th Anniversary celebration!



JOIN US!
SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2026
12:00PM

FAITH
LUTHERAN CHURCH



N35W6621 Wilson, St.
Cedarburg, WI 53012



REGISTRATION COMING SOON!