

DECEMBER 2026

FOCUS ON FAITH

Faith Lutheran Church

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

...as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Isaiah 6:11

After much anticipation we will celebrate the arrival and installation of a new columbarium on our grounds this month. The anticipation and celebration of December is rightly associated more with the arrival of Jesus, but I'm reminded of how our congregation's ministry reflects God's presence for people in our neighborhood and beyond, and how the columbarium is an important expression of this.

Church buildings can be foreboding places for those not associated with them, and we've worked hard to overcome this through partnerships with neighbors and uses of the land around our building that welcome visitors. Trust is built when people do things together, and our efforts have formed new relationships and opened new possibilities.

The pain of losing a loved one reaches beyond the walls of a congregation, and having a beautiful and welcoming place to intern the remains of those who have died is an important but sometimes overlooked aspect of community. The holy communion that Jesus shares with the world includes those who have died, and our ministry is one aspect of this sacred relationship. While we celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas we also remember what he came to accomplish through his death, and what this means for us all. My gratitude at seeing this long-anticipated project completed is multiplied by the relationships that will grow because of it and the new ways that God's love will be revealed through it. Many thanks to all who have made this possible!

God's peace,
Pastor John



ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, AND EPIPHANY

Christmas Card Making
December 5
Saturday
10:00 a.m.-Noon
Faith Fellowship Hall
Space is limited to 15 people. Please sign up on the board in the narthex. Host: Michelle Burton

Palestine Presentation and Craft Sale
Holy Land: Solidarity and Accompaniment
December 6
Sunday
3 p.m.
Faith Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Shared ELCA (EPIC) Children's Christmas Program
Hear the Good News
Advent, Faith, St. John, and Trinity
December 13
Sunday
11:30 a.m.
St. John Lutheran Church, Grafton

Celebration Singers: Lessons and Carols
December 20
Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.

Longest Night Service
December 21
Monday
6:30 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church, Cedarburg

Christmas Eve Worship
December 24
Thursday
7 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship
December 25
Friday
10 a.m.

Nancy Drabot
Guest Harpist
Sunday Worship
January 3
9:30 a.m.

Epiphany Worship and Dinner
January 6
Wednesday
5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY ADULT FORUMS

Sundays
11:00 a.m.
November 29: Tom Schoofs will give a Collaborative Learning update.
December 6: Pastor David Rebey will do a presentation on Breaking the Chains.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

People, Look East
These devotions are from Luther Seminary.

LIVE NATIVITY

December 4
Friday
6:00, 6:30, and 7:00 p.m.
Advent Lutheran Church, Prayer Garden
Everyone from our EPIC congregations are invited to help share the Christmas story by singing. Arrive 15 minutes early. Song books will be provided. The confirmation students will be participating.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

December 8
Tuesday
6:00 p.m.
Water Street Brewery, Grafton
Members from the local ELCA churches are invited to this evening of carols, fellowship and food.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS AND COFFEE HOUR

To sign up and view schedule:
Worship and Coffee Hour Schedule

DECEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

Breaking the Chains



Breaking the Chains (BtCC) is a ministry of the Greater Milwaukee Synod–ELCA, with worship services and Bible Studies held at two SE-Wisconsin prison locations: the Felmers O Chaney Correctional Center in Milwaukee and the Kenosha Correctional Center. Both of these are minimum security, pre-release facilities, operated by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. In May, Breaking the Chains Church was officially recognized as the newest church in the Greater Milwaukee Synod–ELCA. The ministry of BtCC aims to provide consistent and life-giving spiritual care for incarcerated men at. Prior to BtCC there was no consistent spiritual care provided at either of these prisons. Now, BtCC connects the residents with a faith-based community prior to their release and seeks to maintain supportive post-release pastoral relationships with these returning citizens in an effort to help them successfully re-enter the community. Our relationships aim to model God's unconditional love, grace, and mercy as we accompany the men in their journey to become productive and contributing members of the communities to which they return, and to avoid reincarceration.

BtCC is served by David Rebey, an ordained ELCA pastor, and by volunteers from various congregations in the synod. Volunteers, after completing Department of Corrections (DOC) volunteer training, are authorized to attend weekly Bible Studies and/or worship services.

BtCC has been a special mission for Faith since 2016. To help keep us connected, **Pastor David Rebey will again join us on Sunday, December 6 after worship to give us an update on BtCC and related aspects of our Wisconsin prison system.**

To learn more: https://breakingthechainschurch.org/

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A GIFT TO BtCC THROUGH OUR DECEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH. *You can bring your donation to church or donate online with the Tithely app. Include a note with your gift indicating that it is intended for Breaking the Chains Church. If you have questions, contact Faith's BtCC coordinator, Joe Dorr.*



Join Rev. Jon Jacobs from the Greater Milwaukee Synod and some of his traveling companions as they recount their summer 2026 trip to Palestine. Hear about the people they met, all that they saw, and the messages they received from those living in the midst of difficult restrictions, conflict, and suffering. Bring your curiosity and readiness to hear and learn as we gather together. All are welcome!



MT. MERU HOLIDAY GIFTS

The Mount Meru Coffee Project is completing its 26th year of ministry in partnership with Tanzanian coffee farmers. Our sale of Fair-Trade products now impacts the livelihoods of nearly 1,000 farmers and their communities. Get ready to welcome back the popular Christmas Traditions blend, and the versatile 4-pack and 6-pack samplers.



Christmas Traditions

$18



Sampler – 6 pack
(Butter Pecan, Choc. Rasp., Regular, French Vanilla, Hazelnut, Peaberry)

$20



Sampler – 4 pack
(Regular, Decaf, Peaberry, Christmas Traditions)

$15



3oz. Package
Our Peaberry coffee beans covered in 60% chocolate

$12



1oz. Package
Our Peaberry coffee beans covered in 60% chocolate

$5

We have a brand-new offering starting this month: **Chocolate Covered Peaberry Coffee Beans**. Partnering with Captain's Chocolate in Neosho, WI, we are offering this **snack**, a unique combination of our Peaberry beans covered in 60% chocolate. The chocolate is crafted from the finest Costa Rican cacao beans, carefully sourced from small-scale farmers using traditional and eco-friendly farming practices! They are gluten free, dairy free, and vegan. Read more about them at: www.captainschocolate.com

This information will be on the Mt. Meru table in the narthex and in the kitchen area, along with a sign-up sheet. To offer flexibility for your gift-giving schedule, we will submit orders twice on November 29 and December 13. If you have questions, please contact Dottie or Joe Dorr.

This Christmas, please consider Mt. Meru gifts for your coffee-loving friends. And remember, this is not just about coffee . . .it is about supporting families, growing futures, and changing lives.

