

# FAITH UTHERAN CHURCH

### **Faith Matters**

APRIL 2025

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

#### WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAYS-9:00 A.M WEDNESDAYS — 6:15 P.M.

#### **CHURCH OFFICE**

255 Roosevelt Street PO Box 369 Valders, Wisconsin 54245 Phone 920-775-4141 Website: www.faithlutheranchurchvalders.org

#### STAFF DIRECTORY

Pastor Dan Lyman 920-775-9411 Office 352-615-8656 Cell pastordanlyman@gmail.com

Christine Olson, Administrative Assistant

Email: faith21@tds.net

Bridget Valleskey, Youth Coordinator

Email: valleskeyb@gmail.com

Jill Wittmus, Bookkeeper

Ken O'Leary, Custodian Tony Schad, Custodian Helper

& Lawn Cutter

Sue Riesterer, Whitney Schamburek, Devin Zahringer Organists

FLC President: Larry Burzynski FLC Vice Pres: Alan Gilbertson FLC VP Elect: Julie Hartman Secretary: Mary Thomsen Treasurer: Robert Pautz

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A Glance at History by Pastor Dan Lyman

Recently in the news there are people who have asserted that empathy is a bad thing. Empathy is a lot like sympathy. Sympathy is when you feel sorry for someone else's misfortune, but empathy goes a little farther toward imagining yourself in their shoes and understanding it better. Empathy is what motivates us to send food relief to starving people (that we do not even know and will never meet) when they are in the grip of a famine, even on the other side of the globe. Empathy is what calls us to action heroically when we arrive at the traffic accident, and we find ourselves pulling people out of burning cars. Empathy helps us care about others.

But there have always been people who are against empathy and its similar virtues of care and kindness. Simply glance at history. The slave masters of Egypt, Greece, Rome, and the American South, often cautioned against treating your slaves too well. And they fantasized about how their slaves needed their masters and could not manage themselves.

Later, the bosses of industry believed the same things about their workers. The "divine right of kings" turned into "social Darwinism," the idea that the rich deserved their riches because they were "fitter" than the poor.

Edward Gibbon in his "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" blamed Christianity for the fall of Rome. It weakened the vigorous warlike virtues, he said. He craved the imperial conquests and the enslavement of the conquered. But why did Romans become Christians? Because they lived with the bullying Roman Empire. They knew it was vain and empty and meaningless. They chose, at risk of their lives, when being a Christian could get you killed, they chose the meaningful life following Christ. They chose kindness, empathy, and caring for one another.

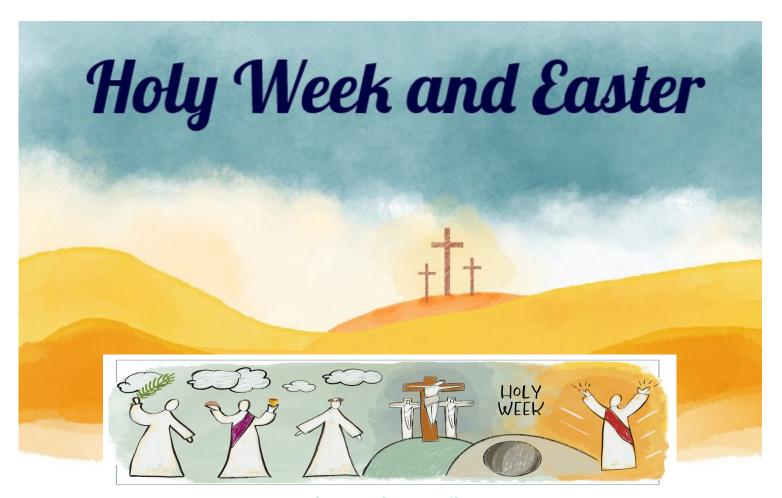
The most recent attack on "empathy" postulates something akin to Nazism, that some people are "better" and some people "worse." If we send food and shelter and medicine to the "worse" people, we'll just have more "worse" people. They say it'd be a waste of our resources to send it to them. They assert that we should send our resources to the "better" people. How do we find these "better" people? Fortunately, they are already rich! We simply give rich people more of our resources! Oh happy day!

It is a short step from viewing poor people as worthless, to viewing them as parasites, to calling them vermin to be exterminated, to exterminating them.

The truth is that luck has a lot to do with wealth. Lucky that Bill Gates could hire someone to write the software he would later luckily license to IBM. Lucky that Steve Jobs could take the graphic interface he saw at Xerox and copy it in his computers. Lucky that Netflix did not sell itself to Blockbuster for \$50 million.

And sharp legal dealings have a lot to do with wealth. Like when the Facebook guy cut everybody else out of ownership. Or when rich parents pass wealth to their kids.

But back to empathy. Jesus would want us to be good to each other. Never does he indicate anything like a "better people/worse people" separation. Jesus wants us to care for one another. So if you run into the "empathy is bad" idea, you know what Jesus would say: Matthew 25:31-46, Luke 14:12-14, Luke 16:19-25, 1John 3:17-18.



Palm Sunday, April 13 Sunday School students sing

No Worship Wednesday April 16

Maundy Thursday, April 17 Worship at 6:15 pm

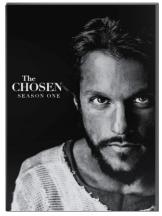
> Good Friday, April 18 Worship at 6:15 pm

Easter, April 20
Sunrise Worship at 7:00 am
Breakfast at 8:00 am
Easter Celebration Service at 9:00 am

The Board of Youth and Family would like to invite you to the annual Easter breakfast following the Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday. A light meal will be served with coffee/juice and time for fellowship. All confirmation youth are asked to help set up for the event on April 19 at 11:00 and also help serve Easter morning. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Faith on Fire - April Events





Wednesday, April 9th Movie followed by discussion (w/popcorn & drinks of course!) 7pm in Youth Room

Wednesday, April 23rd Bowling @ Meadow Lanes West (included: 2 games & pitchers of soda) 7pm. If your HS Student is not on our group chat &/or TeamReach and is interested in joining us for this event or any future events, please contact Bridget @ 920-905-5273.



**Current 8th Grade students** please send Bridget your cell # so we can get you added to our group chat for this summer!! New this fall, Faith on Fire will be part of the Freshman classes along with your monthly Mentor Sunday Class (expect 3 classes/month).

We are so excited to grow and continue welcoming new students. Invite your HS friends!







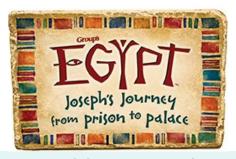
## Please consider donating individual wrapped candy for our Easter Egg Hunt.

The Sunday School students will have an egg hunt on Palm Sunday during their class time. We are looking to make up goodie bags filled with special treats for them! Please place candy in the basket located outside of Christine's office by Sunday April 6th.

Thank You for your generosity! ~Board of Christian Education



Senior Christians meet Tuesday, April 15 at 9:00 am at 7 Angels in Chilton.



### VBS Summer 2025 June 16-19 12:30-3:30pm

Please contact our Youth Coordinator if you are interested in volunteering! We are in need of adults and students entering grades 7-12. Registration will begin mid April for students entering grades PreK-6.



### Finances

Income - February 2025			Budget		YTD Actual		YTD Budget	
Envelope Offerings	\$	20,983.00	\$ 21,366.83	\$	40,274.00	\$	42,733.67	
Lent, Holiday Offerings	\$	-	\$ 833.33	\$	-	\$	1,666.67	
Loose Offerings	\$	192.00	\$ 166.67	\$	267.30	\$	333.33	
Other Income	\$	310.00	\$ 175.00	\$	586.00	\$	350.00	
General Fund Income	\$	21,485.00	\$ 22,541.83	\$	41,127.30	\$	45,083.67	
Operating Expenses - February 2025								
Administrative/Office Expense	\$	1,932.30	\$ 1,287.50	\$	3,314.56	\$	2,575.00	
Benevolence	\$	1,727.36	\$ 1,803.35	\$ \$	3,279.20	\$	3,606.69	
Board Expense (Total from all 7 Boards)	\$	4,963.49	\$ 6,893.33		237.53	\$	6,893.33	
Miscellaneous Expense	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-	
Personnel Salaries/Benefits <sup>1</sup>	\$	19,762.43	\$ 20,599.89	\$	40,082.65	\$	41,199.79	
General Fund Expense	\$	28,385.58	\$ 30,584.07	\$	72,913.94	\$	54,274.81	
GENERAL FUND NET INCOME/LOSS		(\$6,900.58)	(\$8,042.24)	(	\$31,786.64)		(\$9,191.14)	

#### **Year to Date General Fund Net Income : (\$31,786.64)**

#### Thank you for your continued generous support of Faith!

#### Stewardship for April is Baptism Quilts

This project started in 2000 by a long time FLCW member at her own expense. She purchased materials and crafted these quilts to be given to each infant baptized.

#### Materials needed:

1½ yards of baby appropriate cotton material for top & bottom (can also be a baby flannel). 1½ yards of batting (either cotton or low loft). Can also be a crib size 45x60 in a bag.

Any cash or gift cards can be given to Christine in the office. Place any items in the Stewardship Cabinet across from the office.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Council voted in December 2022 to set aside \$100,000 of Faith's checking account balance to fund the Youth Coordinator position. The balance remaining is \$35,582.59.

Although the Youth Coordinator salary is included in current year expenses, which affects Net Income/Net Loss, it is not paid with current year income.

## Liturgical Roles - Worship Responsibilities

Liturgical Roles ~ VV	orsnip Responsibilities			
Pastoral ActsBaptism	4/9 Sage and Alex Trepasso 4/13 Kelly Krogh and Ariana Herrick 4/17 Mitchell Kaderabek and Carter Kuenstler			
Membership819Baptized554Confirmed554Families107	4/23 Peytyn Peterson 4/27 Keagan Hougen			
Worship Attendance	4/30 Ariana Herrick and Allison Goehring			
Sunday Wednesday	Ushers			
2/9 67 cancelled—snow 2/16 57 37 2/23 102 37 3/2 84 3/5 1:00 = 29 6:15 = 55	4/6 Earl and Barb Griffin, Ron Jones 4/13 Brian and Tammy Brill, Al Gilbertson 4/17 Don and Deb Schreiner, Wayne Huske 4/18 Keith Lippert and Tyler Madson			
Altar Guild Servers Communion: April Marlene Evenson, Chair (Committee #1) May Bev Torrison, Chair (Committee #2)	<ul> <li>4/20 7:00 Dean and Rose Behnke Family</li> <li>9:00 Mark and Angie Ulness Family</li> <li>4/27 Thomas and Kathy Muench, Steve Ahrens</li> </ul>			
Lectors	Sound Operator			
4/6 Stefanie Kaderabek 4/9 Kathy Mattern 4/13 Erin Lenzner 4/17 Judy Harris 4/18 Don Domrath 4/20 7:00 Stacy Wilker 9:00 Kaye Jandrey 4/23 Jill Backus 4/27 Lynn Merino	4/6 Loren Ulness 4/13 Lucas Spindler 4/17 Erin Lenzner 4/18 Bill Riesterer 4/20 7:00 Bill Riesterer 9:00 Carter Lenzner 4/27 Makenna Kaderabek			
4/30 Carol Ulness	Video Operator/Live Stream			
Communion Servers  4/6 Stefanie Kaderabek  4/17 Judy Harris  4/20 7:00 Stacy Wilker 9:00 Al Gilbertson  4/30 Judy Valleskey	<ul> <li>4/6 Bill Riesterer</li> <li>4/13 Eric Thomsen</li> <li>4/17 Michael Lenzner</li> <li>4/18 Bill Riesterer</li> <li>4/20 9:00 Carter Lenzner</li> <li>4/27 Jake Kaderabek</li> </ul>			
Head Ushers Delton Duchow & Glenn Otto	Projection			
Acolyte Schedule  4/6 Phoebe Cigler  4/9 Landen Pinkerton  4/13 Phoebe Cigler  4/17 Keagan Hougen  4/18 Arianna Herrick  4/20 7:00 Dexter Valleskey  9:00 Phoebe Cigler	Projection  4/6 Loren Ulness  4/9 Kayla Hildebrandt  4/13 Addison Spindler  4/17 Zach Lenzner  4/18 Whitney Ulness  4/20 7:00 Libby Olson 9:00 Mollie Junk  4/23 Susan Christel  4/27 Makenna Kaderabek			

4/23

4/27

4/30

Garrett Jeske

Phoebe Cigler Peytyn Peterson 4/30 John Schnell

## Notes from Pastor Dan



## Celebrate Our Heritage

On October 4 2025, our congregation will be 175 years old. We are celebrating with First Lutheran, Manitowoc who was chartered with us. To celebrate, we have several events, the largest of which is our joint celebration on October 12 at 3 pm at The Franciscan Music Center. First Lutheran is also having a hymn sing and organ recital this spring May 18 at 3 pm.

Our spring event is not scheduled yet. but we have 2 ideas we would like to start. First a commemorative cookbook to mark the occasion. If you have any recipes that are 175 years old, we want them. Our lefse recipe and its variations will be in there. But any yummy food is desired. Look for a box in the communication area in the Gathering Space. The other idea is to fill a time capsule. Pastor will be showing the capsule during the announcements. The time capsule will be stored here at church and opened in 25 years at the 200th anniversary of our congregation. Imagine our congregation bicentennial.

Before she died, my mother and I had no conversations about what memorial might be fitting for her. After prayerfully considering several worthy charities I decided that the ELCA "Good Gifts" program would reflect mom's interests best. Good Gifts is like the better known Heifer Project, in that they supply livestock and agriculture education to poor people all over the world so they can work to farm and feed themselves. It matches mom's fondness for animals and her desire to feed people. So my goal is to fully fund a "Family Farm" at Good Gifts, for \$715.00. If that becomes fully funded to then fund a fruit tree farm (an orchard) for \$150.00. And if that becomes fully funded, a fish farm for \$250.00.

Gifts to Faith marked as "Nancy Lyman Memorial" will be sent in to Good Gifts and will be responded with thank you notes.



During Fellowship we commented on the 12 baptisms last year, a good number! But several people said, "Hey I have a grandchild (or a niece or some kin) who has not been baptized yet. I dunno what those kids are waiting for." I suggest, with Spring coming, that you start nagging encouraging them to schedule the baptism and make it happen. They just meet with me in person (after worship) or by phone to learn the meaning of baptism and then we schedule it during a service. Easy.



### Psalm 27 Find: What does David say about his source of strength and confidence? Activity: Memorize Psalm 27:1 past week. and recite it when you feel afraid today. Psalm 32 Find: What is the main theme of this psalm? Activity: Pray a prayer of confession. Then reflect on the Lord hear? joy of being forgiven. 15 Psalm 73 Psalm 84 Find: What does the of the wicked? psalmist say about people who dwell in God's house? Activity: Write down one way you can cultivate a heart of

to you-sing, dance or play an

instrument. -

#### PSALMS Find: What two contrasts appear in this psalm? SCAVENGER H Activity: Write one way you can "delight in the law of the Lord" today. Each day, enjoy reading the psalm. Then search for the answer and try Psalm 8 the activity below. Find: According to this psalm, what is mankind's Psalm 23 place in creation? Psalm 19 Find: In this psalm, what Activity: Spend 5 Find: What two ways does God are three ways God minutes outside reveal himself in this psalm? shepherds us? observing nature Activity: Journal about one Activity: Reflect on how God and reflecting on aspect of God's creation that has been your shepherd in the God's creation. reveals his glory to you. Psalm 42 Psalm 37 Psalm 34 Psalm 46 Find: What imagery does Find: According to this ind: How does this Find: Who does the the psalmist use to describe psalm, what 4 things can psalm describe God's his longing for God? you do instead of worrying? protection during times Activity: Share with Activity: Write down Activity: Choose one of trouble? someone a testimony of how one way you can draw action from Psalm Activity: Spend 5 minutes God has been good to you. closer to God when you 37 to focus on today. in silence, meditating on feel distant. the phrase "Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 51 Find: In David's prayer of Psalm 65 repentance, what are three Psalm 63 Find: How does this psalm Find: What does the psalmist things he asks of God? describe God's abundant Find: In this psalm, what realize after feeling envious Activity: Write your own provision? does David say he will do? prayer of repentance Activity: Write down three Activity: Sing or listen to your Activity: Reflect on a time to God. things you're thankful that favorite hymn or worship song. you needed God's strength God has provided. and how he provided it. worship today. Psalm 91 Find: According to this Psalm 101 Psalm 111 Psalm 100 Psalm psalm, what are some ways Find: What actions and Find: What does the 121 God protects his people? Find: What instructions attitudes can we follow psalmist say is the Find: What does Activity: Pray for God's does this psalm give for from this psalm? beginning of wisdom? this psalm promise protection over worshiping God? Activity: Take time about God's care for you Activity: Think of times yourself or Activity: Create a gratitude today to bless the Activity: Reflect on how God has "kept" you in in the Bible when God list. Then thank God for someone you Lord by recalling his saved his people. each item. know goodness in your life. difficult times. Then share that with someone. Psalm 136 Psalm 150 Find: What does this ind: What instruments and Psalm 146 psalm promise about ways of praising God does this Psalm 139 Find: Based on this psalm, God's care for you? psalm mention? who are some people God Find: What does this psalm say Activity: Reflect on Activity: End the scavenger takes care of? about God's knowledge of you? one specific way God hunt by creating your own Activity: Start your day Activity: Pray, thanking God for has shown you his joyful praise to God. Worship with a song of praise knowing you and your life intimately. enduring love. in whatever way feels natural to God.

Psalm 1

### Faith Lutheran Church Minutes—February 17 2025

**Housekeeping Items:** New council members Loren Ulness, Tanyia Sorenson and Mary Thomsen were introduced and welcomed.

**Old Business:** Blinds for Fellowship Hall windows—Joan presented the quotes and the council discussed with her the types of blinds and options available, as well as prices. Time was of the essence in order to get a 55% Presidents Day discount. Joan mentioned that a donor is willing to pay up to \$5,000 toward the purchase of blinds. Motion made and carried to buy Levelor double-cell, cordless, non-motorized blinds from Blinds.com, for seven windows and two doors, with the color to be determined after samples have arrived. The cost will be about \$2,500, with no shipping cost and a 10-year warranty. Joan was thanked for her work in getting quotes and information on the blinds.

**New Business:** Bob Pautz volunteered to do PowerPoints for worship services when Christine is unavailable. Tanyia also offered to help from her home if needed. 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Founding of Original Three Parishes is this year (March 4, 1850-start of West Church.) First Lutheran in Manitowoc, which later broke off from the original parishes, will have a joint celebration on Oct. 12 at the Franciscan Center for Performing Arts. Faith is being asked to attend the planning meetings.

#### **Council Reports**

**Stewardship:** Bob Pautz. CD was coming due on Feb. 18. Bob suggested rolling it over and was instructed to do that.

**Lay Ministry:** (Julie Hartman for Jennifer Ott). Committee discussed the Communion hymn sing and will try doing only one verse per song. They also are working on getting candelabra for Advent painted and to use a blue candle. Plans are made for Lenten and Easter services. Handbell repairs will cost about \$1,400 and the account has enough money to cover it.

**Evangelism:** Julie Hartman. Plans were set for the Chili Cookoff on Feb. 23 and Lenten devotional materials and postcards were planned for Easter.

**Fellowship:** Marilyn Robley. On March 11, the committee will be serving at the pastor synod lunch. They are looking for hosts for the Lenten soup and sandwich suppers for March 19, 26 and April. She asked where the proceeds of the suppers should go and it was decided to divide the money equally among The Haven, Manitowoc Warming Shelter and Hope House.

**Church Properties:** Loren Ulness. Spring cleanup plans are being discussed. He made a note to have the east side of the church building checked for possible mold growth on the exterior.

**Youth and Family Ministry:** Bridget Valleskey asked about a confirmation service project in which diapers will be collected for The Crossing. No council approval is needed for a collection of items. Approval only needed to collect money. Larry noted that Jim Schuessler is working on confirmation curriculum to make sure it's not duplicated or missing anything among the levels. He also said the 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation class has its packets to prepare their faith statements; May 18 is Confirmation Sunday. Confirmation students' parents have been sent information about the visit to the synagogue in Sheboygan on April 5. Tanyia said the Youth & Family is planning a board game night for the congregation on March 28 from 6-8 p.m. Also planning the Easter breakfast, with setup on Saturday and serving on Easter morning.

**Security and Tech Support:** Bill Riesterer is looking at having outside cameras for added security and plans are being made for a new fire alarm phone system.

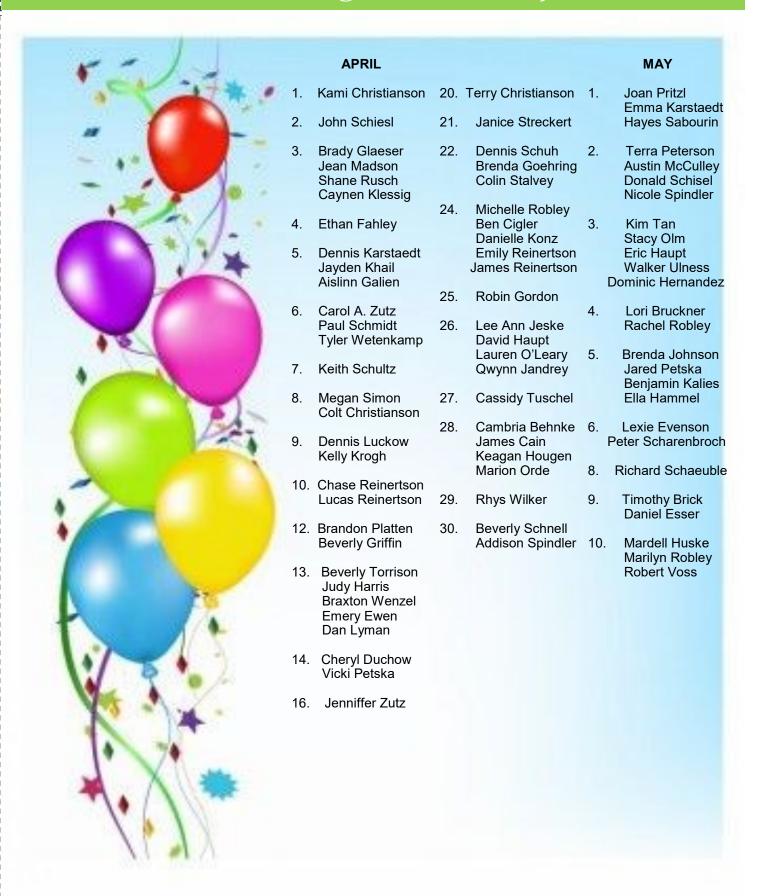
Pastor mentioned that it has been 2 years since the parish hired Bridget Valleskey as youth and family coordinator and it was set up as a three year salary. The council needs to decide what to do about the position. Pastor commended Bridget for her work and said he supports having her salary placed into the regular church budget.

Adjourned at 7:58 with the Lord's Prayer:

Next Meeting - March 17, 2025 ----- Devotions -Julie Hartman

Minutes by Mary Thomsen, secretary

### Celebrating Your Birthday!





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
6 Holy Communion 8:00 Bell Choir 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday school and Inspiration Choir	7 9:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Jazzercise 6:00 Boards of Lay Ministry and Evangelism	3:00 & 6:00 Bible Study  8  3:00 & 6:00 Bible Study 6:00 Card Making	9:00 Jazzercise 5:00 Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:00 Board of Christian Ed. 6:15 Worship 7:00 Confirmation  9  9:00 Jazzercise 5:00 Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:15 Worship 7:00 Confirmation	3 8:00 Quilting 8:30 Secretary's Meeting 5:30 Jazzercise  10 8:00 Quilting 5:30 Jazzercise	11	9:15 9th grade confirmation class to Synagogue in Sheboygan  12  9:00 2nd Saturday Bible Study	
13 8:00 Bell Choir 9:00 Worship— S.S. kids sing 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday school and Inspiration Choir Hallelyjah	9:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Jazzercise	15 9:00 Senior Christians at 7 Angels 3:00 & 6:00 Bible Study Newsletter info due to office	16 9:00 Jazzercise  NO Worship or Confirmation classes	6:15 Worship  MAUNDY  Lucaday	18 Office open until noon 6:15 Worship Office open until noon	19 9-10 Open Pantry 11:00 Breakfast setup	
20 Holy Communion 7:00 Sunrise Service 8:00 Easter Breakfast 9:00 Worship "He is Lisew! He is Risen Indeed!"	21 Office Closed 9:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Jazzercise	3:00 & 6:00 Bible Study	9:00 Jazzercise 6:15 Worship 7:00 Confirmation	24 8:00 Quilting 5:30 Jazzercise	25	26	
8:00 Bell Choir 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday school, Inspiration Choir, 9th grade Nerf & Nacho event	9:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Jazzercise	3:00 & 6:00 Bible Study	30 9:00 Jazzercise 6:15 Worship 7:00 Confirmation	Thank you to all of our volunteers who give of your time, compassion, and labor of love for serving our church and community. Your dedication to Faith makes our church run smoothly. May the Lord bless your kind and generous heart.			

#### FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

255 Roosevelt Street PO Box 369 Valders, WI 54245-0369

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Congregational members: If you are the last one out of the building, be sure to lock the doors and pull on the handles to make sure the doors are secure. If you are unable to lock the doors, please call Bill Riesterer at 920-901-8071 and he will assist you. If no answer, leave a message. Thank you.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meets at 6:00 p.m. Mondays St. Gregory's School, 212 Church Street, St. Nazianz

Al Anon Meets at 7:00 p.m. Mondays 404 S. 29th Street, Manitowoc and Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. 443 Manhattan Street, Chilton