A Newsletter from the Worshipping Communities of

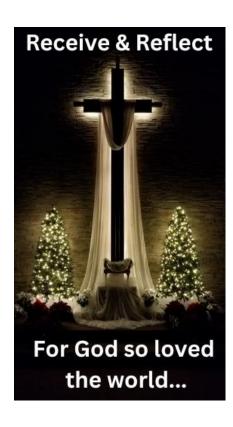
Faith Lutheran Church

1032 Prissel St Durand WI 54736 715-672-8107 Pastor Bethany's Office Hours: Wed Faith 1-4PM



Rock Creek Lutheran Church

N1101 810th St Mondovi WI 54755 715-875-4571 Pastor Bethany's Contact Info: C: 402-520-5504



As we continue our year of learning the Rhythms of Grace together, we leave a time of Remembering and move into a time of Receiving and Reflecting. These words will guide our Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons. We will live into them through daily Advent devotions, worship, service projects and receiving new Star Words for 2026. Advent marks the start of the new church year. As this new year of living as a child of God begins what do you need to receive from God through this faith community in order to continue growing in your faith? Ask for it in prayer. Talk to your pastor about it. Be engaged with this faith community through worship and fellowship. In order to learn the rhythms of grace we must immerse ourselves in them. Let's do it together in Jesus' name.

Fall Ministry Moments

























November







Gobble Wobble

3rd annual Thanksgiving Day: Gobble Wobble Register now or day of race November 27, Run/walk starts at Faith at 8:15am



Help decorate the sanctuaries for Advent and Christmas following worship on Sunday November 16 at Rock Creek and Sunday November 23 at Faith

December



Season of Service

FaithLift is switching from Learning Nights to a Season of Service during the month of December. Youth who signed up to participate in this special four- week offering will be spending their Wednesday after school hours serving in the community. Pray for these young people as they spread some holiday cheer on behalf of our congregations!



All 8th-12th graders are welcome to attend youth group on Wednesdays from 7-8:30PM at Faith. We gather for food, games, journaling and devotions December 3 and 10. December 17 will be a Christmas party!

It's a Baby Shower for Jesus!

Throughout the month of December we will be collecting items to restock the Baby Toddler Closet including diapers (sizes NB – 8), Pull Ups, wipes, new bottles and new pacifiers. These will be collected at both congregations.



Daily Advent Devotions Star Word Stories Needed

Congregation Star Word 2025 Share

On November 30th you can begin reading a daily Advent devotion on the churches' Facebook page, written by people in our worshipping community as they reflect on how their 2025 Star Words have spoken to them. You can write about your personal Star Word or the congregation's Star Word: Share. As of right now we still need 24 people to sign up. If you are willing to write a short devotion contact Pastor Bethany by December 1 at frclcpastor@gmail.com or via text 402-520-5504.





Join the fun on Sunday December 7th as we spread Christmas cheer through caroling to our homebound neighbors. We will meet at Rock Creek at 4PM.



Meeting December 14 following 10:30AM worship

That's a wrap! 2025 Uff Da event was a total success!! Without your help of time and/or monetary donations it would never happen! 600 hungry souls were fed and we had meatballs leftover so an additional 100+ meals will be given out at a FLC Sunday Supper! GREAT JOB TO ALL!!! The bake sale donations looked delicious and raised \$1,297.00 for the ladies group. The Silent Auction items were very generous and the bidding process brought in \$1,946.00. The meals served, money donated for the meat and the other donated food items brought in \$9,097.00. The expenses incurred from the buns to the rutabagas was \$3,096.54. Leaving us with a profit of \$9,243.46 for the entire event. The time spent planning and carrying out the duties could not have been done without OUR HANDS DOING GOD'S WORK! To continue doing God's work with our hands, on December 14, 2025 following the worship service there will be a special congregational meeting to vote on 5 organizations/people to receive the first \$3,000 in profits from the Uff Da event. There will be a sheet in the narthex for you to put down organizations that will appear on a ballot on December 14. The top 5 vote getters will each receive \$600.00. There is no proxy or absentee voting. You must be present to vote. The sole purpose for the December 14 meeting is to vote on the distribution of the \$3,000.00.

When we had decided to do this shortly after the Uff Da events began back in 2010, the congregation decided the first \$3,000 in profits would go towards missions.

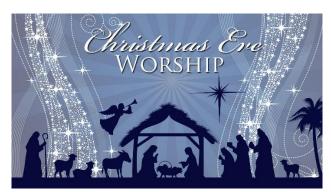




Put on your favorite Christmas Pajamas, grab a warm blanket and join Pastor Bethany for Pastor in Pajamas Christmas style. We will gather at the Durand Public Library at 10AM on Saturday, December 20 to hear some heartwarming Christmas books.



Come find sanctuary during the longest night of the year on Sunday, December 21st. The sanctuaries will be open for a time of silent prayer by candlelight. The Christmas trees will be lit, music will be playing and God will be with us. Many are grieving, mourning, lonely or ill this holiday season; experiencing a long night in their souls. Let us quietly gather to create space for healing and hope. This will be a self-guided experience. When you arrive you will receive a sheet with suggested prayers and reflections. The sanctuary will be open at Rock Creek from 5:30-6:30PM and Faith from 7:00-8:00PM. Pastor Bethany will be at both sanctuaries to offer healing prayer for anyone who desires it.



4PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at Faith 7PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at Rock Creek

Share Special Music on Christmas Eve

If you have instrumental or vocal music you would like to share as special music on Christmas Eve please let Pastor Bethany know via email at frclcpastor@gmail.com We would love to add some extra music to our worship services!





Pastor Bethany will be taking time off between November 22-November 28. If you have an immediate pastoral care need during that time please contact Pastor Mike Vetsch at 715-279-2195. Pastor Bethany will also be taking time off December 25-December 31. She will be available for pastoral care as needed but responses to emails and phone calls will be made after the New Year. Worship will be lay led on Sundays November 23 and December 28. These will be joint worship services held at Faith at 9:30AM. There will be no worship services at Rock Creek on those days.

January



January 4

On Sunday January 4 at 11:30AM Rock Creek will be holding a special congregational meeting for the sole purpose of voting on updates to our church constitution. Proposed updates will be available to view via hard copy or electronically beginning December 14. Constitutional updates require two votes: the first to approve and the second to ratify before they can take effect. The second vote must take place at our Annual Meeting on January 25. A committee was formed at the last annual meeting to lead this effort including Amber Fregine, Becky Richardson, Kathy Dahl, Pastor Bethany and Randy Koller. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to any Committee Members or Council Members.

Sunday January 4th Is Star Word (Epiphany) Sunday! All those who attend will receive one word that will serve as a guide in the coming year for your faith life!



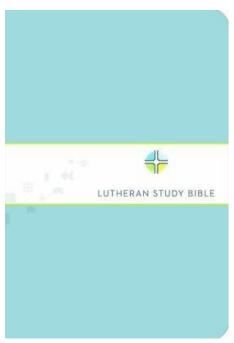


If you have been worshipping at Faith or Rock Creek and feel like you have found your church home there, then it is time for you to be officially received as a ministry partner! On Sunday, January 25 we will be formally welcoming the newest people at both worship services. If you would like to be included please reach out to Pastor Bethany via text at 402-520-5504 or via email at frclcpastor@gmail.com WELCOME!



Rock Creek January 25 11:30AM Faith February 1 11:30AM

Rock Creek will hold their annual meeting on Sunday, January 25 after the 10:30AM worship service. On Sunday, February 1 worship times will switch. On that day, Faith will hold its annual meeting after the 10:30AM service. These annual meetings are vital to the health and mission of our congregations. We will celebrate the past year of ministry and look ahead to another year of serving God and our neighbors. Please plan to attend either in person or via Zoom. A Zoom link will be shared closer to the meeting. If you are willing to serve on church council please contact a current council member to be added to the nomination form. Beginning February 1, fellowship will be held at 10AM before worship at Faith



A Recommended Read

During these holiday months I would suggest a read through the Gospel of Luke.

It has 24 chapters so if you read one chapter each day starting on December 1st you can read the entire Gospel before Christmas. I recommend picking up a Study Bible as your guide. The one pictured above, Lutheran Study Bible, accompanied me through all of seminary. It has helpful footnotes, maps, and thorough introductions to each book of the Bible as well as wide margins for note taking.

Join me in reading through Luke's Gospel this Advent season!

Congregation Photo Boards

We need a photo of you and your family for the We Are Faith and We Are Rock Creek Photo Boards

BRING A PHOTO: Simply bring a photo to worship with you. Include family names on the photos and place it on the photo board in the church narthex

EMAIL: Send it via email to Ashley Urness at <u>alurness@gmail.com</u> (for Rock Creek) to Debi Hurlburt at <u>debstyle14@gmail.com</u> (for Faith)

In the email include how you would like your name(s) printed on the photo.

TAKE A PHOTO AT WORSHIP: Erin Richardson at Rock Creek and Debi Hurlburt at Faith are willing to take a photo of you any Sunday and get it printed.

Please plan to be included in this photographic piece of hospitality!



Join us for bingo and a meal on Sundays, November 30, December 28 and January 25. Bingo begins at 3:30PM and a meal is served at 4:30PM; both dine in and take out is available. Special thanks to our November sponsors: Gary and Rosanne Sweeney, Dennis Bauer, Sharon Jesse and Judy Norrish. The monthly cost for Sunday Supper is approximately \$300. We continue to depend on your generosity to keep this community outreach going in 2026. If you wish to support Sunday Supper in any way please contact Linda Talford.



Thank you for the generosity of these people who sustained our radio ministry in 2025:

Bekah McHugh **Bob and Sandy Froystad Bob and Carol Wulff** Debi Hurlburt Dennis/Marlene Zarling Diane Knudsen Dick and Sue Dahl Don and Jane Rahman Erin Richardson Hagness and McChesney families Henry & Cris Black Jack/Jane Weber Jean Hermann Dianna Back Jeff and Rhonda Krisik Jen, Jamey, Anniston & Addie King Jenny Hayden and family John and Jean Lippert

Karen Sundstrom

Kim and Dax Pichler Kelly Knoepke and kids Ken and Ruth Abramson Lavonne Biel Lynn and Phyllis Seyffer Orlin and Sharyn Berg Pastor Bethany and family Paul and Margit Churness Pete and Becky Richardson Randy and Annette Huppert Ron Krienke Rosemeyer Family Samantha Leigh Shari Jensen Steve and Linda Talford Steve and Kathy Dahl Talford & Northrop families Webb family Faith Women's Quiltin



Radio ministry costs \$50/broadcast. Most dates in 2026 still need radio sponsors. This vital ministry relies on your support! Sponsor in honor or memory of a loved one, in celebration of a birthday, anniversary or other milestone or in thanksgiving for the radio ministry.

R	4[DIC	SP	10	ISC	RSF	HIP	FO	RN	1
---	----	-----	----	----	------------	-----	-----	----	----	---

I would like to sponsor a Radio Broadcast (\$50/week)		
Worship Date to sponsor	OR	Next open date
In honor of		
In memory of		
Return with check made payable to:		
Faith Lutheran Church 1032 Prissel St Durand W		