

A Newsletter from the Worshipping Communities of

Faith
Lutheran
Church

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

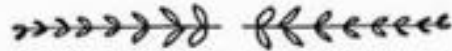


Rock Creek
Lutheran
Church

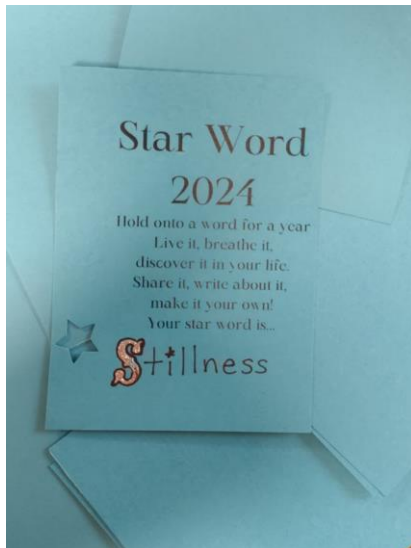
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Pastor Bethany's
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Grace
& PEACE



from Pastor Bethany



"Be still and know that I am God."
Psalm 46:10

Last month on Epiphany Sunday we received Star Words. My word this year is "stillness." As a person who is often on the go and whose mind is constantly thinking and planning and sermonizing being still is not something that comes easily to me. So, I received this word as both a challenge and an invitation in the coming year. Seldom do we observe the gift of stillness, outwardly or inwardly. We live in a face-paced world that glorifies busyness, yet God says, "be still." I sense the kind of stillness the author of Psalm 46 wrote about seeks to counter our worldly rush. Such stillness comes from within; a quieting of the heart, mind and soul so that one can deeply remember that God is God. Simply being in God's presence is enough. May your Star Word speak to you throughout the year in ways that both challenge and invite you into God's presence too.



**Worship times switch February 4th
Rock Creek 8:30AM Faith 10:30AM**



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Faith February 4 10:30AM

Faith will hold their annual meeting on Sunday, February 4 at 11:30AM. The annual meeting is vital to the health and mission of our congregation. We will celebrate the past year of ministry and look ahead to another year of ministry. Please plan to attend either in person or via Zoom. Here is a Zoom link to the meetings if you are unable to attend in person:

Meeting ID 917 4879 8024

Security Passcode 457679

<https://luthersem.zoom.us/j/91748798024?pwd=aG52N2M0Vms0M2xjUDZtcEZUVE1SQTO9>

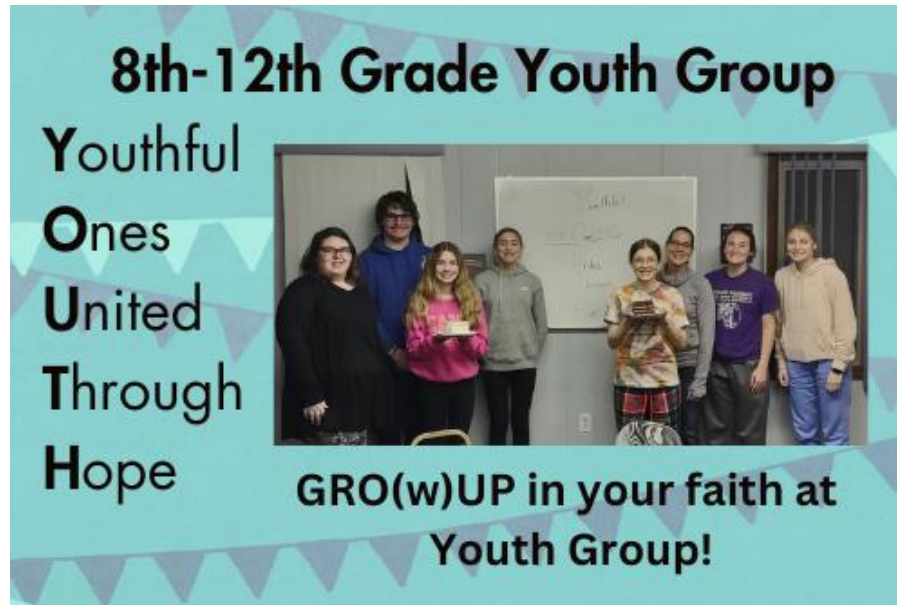
Sacrament of Holy Baptism

**Welcome Aaliyah, Madison and Ripsi,
Children of God!!**



God's Work. Our Hands.

The Sedlmayr family recently delivered a whole car trunk full of pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House! Thanks for your donations. Remember we collect these at both congregations.



A new 8th-12th grade youth group has been born at Faith and Rock Creek! So what better way to celebrate than with birthday cake?! Those who gathered for our first meeting are pictured above. As we enjoyed cake and ice cream we did some brainstorming to come up with a name (because when something new is born you have to give it name!)...we created an acronym for YOUTH:

Youthful
Ones
United
Through
Hope

The word "Group" reminds us that we GROw UP together in our faith as part of Youth Group! Finally, with a lot of excitement and energy, we started making plans to represent Faith and Rock Creek at a 2024 YouthWorks Mission Trip with our sights set on Niagara Falls, NY July 14-21. More details will be shared soon. Youth who cannot commit to the mission trip should still plan to become involved in youth group as we will also be doing many local things together. All 8th-12th graders are welcome! Invite a friend! The Spirit is surely on the loose with our young people as they enjoy being the church together!

Upcoming Youth Group Gatherings

Wednesday January 31 7PM at Rock Creek
Wednesday February 7 7:15PM at Rock Creek
Wednesday February 21 7:15PM at Faith

Meals for our Youth Group Needed

If you are willing to prepare a meal for our youth group one Wednesday please let Pastor Bethany know. Most of the kids come after a full day of school and activities so a meal to share is a warm welcome and a good way to fuel their faith! Plan to serve 15.

Never Have I Ever Until Now...

1 of 24 New Things in 2024

I tried Lutefisk for the first time and survived! Thanks to Dick and Sue Dahl for hosting us. Thanks to Steve and Kathy Dahl for inviting Nate and me to be guests at the Lutefisk Dinner they bought at the Uff Da Dinner silent auction. What will I try in February? Invite me to do something new with you... Remember driving a tractor, playing 500 and pickleball, painting a barn quilt, making lefse, learning to use a cricut and snowshoeing are all on my list. – Pastor Bethany



These beloved saints of Rock Creek enjoyed a recent visit together at Orv and Lenora Wollum's in Augusta. Diane Nolan was behind the camera. What a lovely visit. Thanks be to God for this time together!

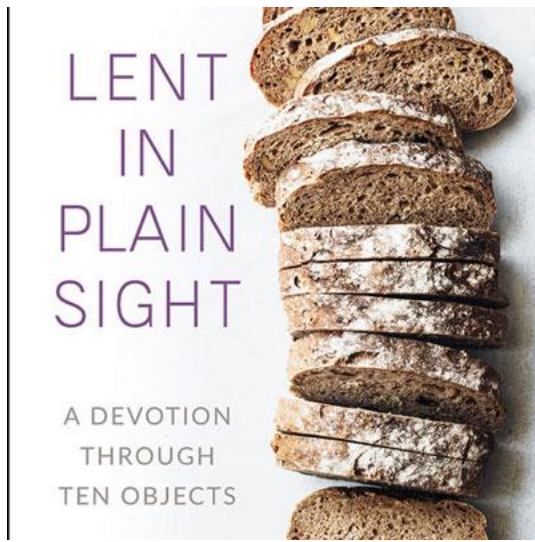


First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, March 3 during worship services. All ages are invited to join one of the upcoming First Communion Classes being offered prior to the celebration:
Monday, February 12 6PM Faith
Wednesday, February 14 6PM Rock Creek
Sunday, February 18 11:30AM Faith
Monday, February 19 6PM Rock Creek



Rock Creek Dream Team invites you to an afternoon out. Join us at Club 10 to enjoy bowling and pizza on Sunday, March 3 at 4PM. The cost is \$2/game and \$2/ for shoe rental. Food will be menu prices. Sign up by February 24 at Rock Creek to attend. Contact Val Wagner with any questions

Lent 2024



Throughout the Lenten season we will be exploring our faith through ordinary, everyday objects, guided by the book *Lent in Plain Sight* by Jill Duffield. We will be encouraged to look for God at work in the objects we encounter everyday. If you want to fully engage in the experience purchase the book to follow along. Plan to attend mid-week worship services to explore this theme together.

Ash
Wednesday 

Worship with us on February 14 at 7PM Rock Creek

Lenten Worship Schedule

February 21 6:30PM Faith

February 28 6:30PM Faith

March 6 6:30PM Rock Creek

March 13 6:30PM Faith

March 20 6:30PM Rock Creek

Maundy Thursday 7PM Faith

Good Friday 7PM Rock Creek



On Wednesday, January 14 our FaithLift students and their AAA Adults gathered for an ordinary, everyday objects to take part in a special night of devotion writing.

They reflected on the following questions around the objects they chose:

How might this object remind you of faith? God? Jesus? The Holy Spirit? etc.

Does this object remind you of a certain Bible story or Bible verse?

When you use this object in everyday life is there a way to pause and remember your faith? Pray? Thank God? etc.

Through this spiritual practice the kids and adults worked together to write our Daily Lent Devotions. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14, you can read these reflections daily on the church's Facebook page or listen to them on Rock Creek's voicemail 715-875-4571



February Schedule:

February 7

4PM Faith 5:30PM Rock Creek

February 21

Service Night at St Vincent De Paul Thrift

Store 4-5:30PM



Super Bowl Sunday is Souper Bowl of Caring in ELCA congregations across the country. Congregations are encouraged to support their local food pantries. This year Faith and Rock Creek will have a healthy competition to see which congregation can collect the most cans of soup. Bring canned soup to worship on Sunday, February 11. All soup collected will be donated to The Durand Area Food Pantry.



The Ministry Fair will continue throughout the month of February with the goal of collecting completed commitment sheets from each person in the congregation. Once we know who is willing to help in which areas we will be able to make a plan for our shared ministry. Being the church together in 2024 will take everyone's helping hands.



Come join the choir for rehearsals on
February 14 6PM at Rock Creek
February 28 6PM at Faith

Continuing Education

Pastor Bethany will be attending a Reading Retreat for continuing education Friday, February 23-Tuesday, February 27. During that time away Pastor Mike Vetsch will be covering any pastoral care needs. He can be reached at 715-673-4991.



Upcoming Sunday Supper Sponsors...Thank you for your generosity!

Thanks to the following sponsors for their support of upcoming Sunday Suppers:
February and March - St Mary's PCCW

The monthly cost for Sunday Supper is approximately \$300. If you wish to sponsor all or a portion of a Sunday Supper please contact Linda Talford or drop your donation in the offering plate. We continue to depend on your generosity to keep this community outreach going. Join us for bingo and a meal on Sunday, February 25 at 3:30PM.



Join people from around the synod for a day of ministry workshops and worship at Walking Together. Register by February 7 at NWSWI.org



Both Faith and Rock Creek are part of the congregations that make up the Dairyland Conference within our synod. At this year's annual meeting we have an important agenda item, namely lifting up names of nominees to be considered as Bishop for our synod. Our current Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson has announced her retirement effective in June. That means that at Synod Assembly in June we will be electing a new Bishop to serve a 6 year term. Any active or retired rostered minister of Word and Sacrament within the ELCA is eligible to serve. Join us for the annual meeting to be held on Thursday, February 8 at 7PM at Faith Lutheran in Durand.



Luther Park Bible Camp



Our Partnership with Holy Play

Summer Camp

Registration is now open. Visit lutherpark.org to register. Early bird discount registration deadline is March 1st. Pastor Bethany will be joining kids for the week who attend camp June 23-28.

Recharge

Pastor Bethany will be attending the Recharge at Luther Park March 15-16 with youth from our congregations. Any kids ages 3rd grade - 12th grade are invited to attend. Half the cost will be covered by the church (\$40) and half the cost (\$40) by the participants. If your child wants to attend, please let Pastor Bethany know by March 1st so we can register as a group. If you are an adult who is willing to chaperone, please contact Pastor Bethany. This is a fantastic way to introduce your kids to camp for the first time or for returning campers to go back to a place they love!



Radio ministry is a vital part of our outreach ministry at Faith and Rock Creek.

It costs \$50/week for the radio broadcast. If you would like to sponsor please place a check for \$50 made out to Faith Lutheran Church and this completed form in the offering plate. Include the date you would like to sponsor and who it is in memory or honor of. Consider remembering an anniversary, birthday, baptism, graduation or another milestone.

RADIO SPONSORSHIP FORM

I would like to sponsor a Radio Broadcast (\$50/week)

Sunday to sponsor _____ (___ check here if this date is flexible)

___ In honor of _____

___ In memory of _____

Place in offering plate or mail to:

Faith Lutheran Church 1032 Prissel St, Durand WI 54736



Decorate the sanctuary for Easter, Lilies are \$12.00 order due by February 2. Order forms are available at Rock Creek and Faith. Additional questions contact Diane Knudsen at 715-495-7038 or Becky Richardson at 715-875-4879