



January 2025
Newsletter

Rooted in God's Word
Growing in Christ's Love
Branching Out to Serve
Bearing Fruits of Faith

St. John Amelith Lutheran Church and School
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Pastor Jerry Gauthier

“Light of Light”

The New Year is well upon us. It is back to the same old grind as goes with another year. However, God still has something to say to our ordinary life that is extraordinary with Him it as His baptized. Epiphany is a season in the Church we are now celebrating that shows Jesus Christ is not only God who became man. It is to point out and see how this man truly is God! He shines for us with grace and truth just as Simeon said of the infant Jesus at the temple how he was to be, “...a light for revelation to the Gentiles” (Luke 2:32).

Jesus enlightens lives for the light is God in the darkness. Eyes were opened to see Christ by miracles was truly God of God. St. John in the first chapter of his Gospel witnesses, “...We have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father...” (John 1:14). Epiphany begins with the Wiseman coming to the infant Jesus following the glory of that star. However, the season of Epiphany continues to glory over Jesus at His baptism by John, when He changed water into wine at a wedding, calmed the winds out in a boat, and even how He raised the dead.

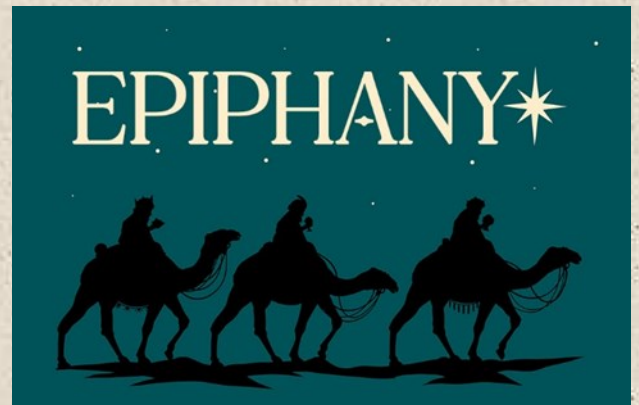
Of course, the darkness is dark for a reason. Jesus said, “And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil” (John 3:19). This evil rages today in the hands of sinful humanity and the darkness of true evil. Every ethical value that is good for life has been flipped on its head. How many churches have jumped into this darkness! God’s glory exchanged for the glories of men with their dead idols and ideologies.

The 21st century is turning off the lights more than just to save increased energy costs. As Pastor Jonathan Fisk writes in his book Broken, “Strangely, for all the infinite ability to find knowledge that our age attributes to the human mind and heart, we at the same time seem incapable of imagining any kind of almighty God who might also be almighty enough to do something as simple as talk to us with words we can understand” (95).

Epiphany reveals the glory of Jesus Christ. It prepares us to enter the season Lent that will come later this year in March. This will give us times to hear more of the wonders of Lord worked in His life that were glorious. Yet, when we turn the darker trail of God’s Son it is finally with the glory and hope that rests upon Him as God in our flesh. We can share with others no matter how life looks that Jesus is “full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). It is good news for sinners rich in forgiveness and glorious with salvation for any in need.

Jesus continues to reveal our darkness only to have conquered it all by the light of His sacrifice. The Epiphany of our Lord today through His Word and Sacraments is the glory of Him at work in His Church. He still turns on the lights and wondrously shines upon us the Gospel for all to see Him as Savior and the Lord. You bear the glory of His grace in life as St. Paul says to the baptized, “For you are all children of light, children of the day” (1 Thessalonians 5:5). Yet, the last great Epiphany is the glory of Jesus on the Last Day that will cast out all darkness.

The glory of the Lord is here even for you,



Pastor

Dear Cardinal Families,

It is hard to believe that we are almost half way through this school year. Where has the time gone? Well our students have been busy with their academic achievements, building friendships, and importantly having an even closer bond with Jesus. Our school has had so much happen in these last couple years that it is important to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. Endure has been our chapel theme this year. It derives from the verse, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted." (Hebrews 12-3)

Our board, faculty and staff have been working hard and fixing our eyes on Jesus. Almost like the gospel story in Matthew 14:30-33 where Peter walked on water but sank when he took his eyes off Jesus. Here at St John Amelith as long as our eyes are fixed on Jesus we can accomplish anything. Our students are learning that in their religion classes and even more so in their general education classes. We are adding more intentional prayer in our day to day classes, morning, noon, and dismissal. With those prayers the Catechism is our guide in accomplishing that. Along with adding more prayer was the addition of the Cardinal Promise that the students recite every morning and have all signed in their homerooms. This has been an amazing tool schoolwide for our teachers.

We are committed to being student first and Christ centered. As we move forward this school year we will continue to see some great things happen at St. Johns. I look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year. I hope you have a very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year

Sincerely,
Mr. Jonathan P. Korpi
Principal

Life Shines in the Darkness

January 19-25, 2025



LIFE WEEK 2025
LUTHERANS FOR LIFE



More information to come as Life Week 2025 comes closer. You can also check out lutherans-forlife.org for more information about this wonderful mission.

Board of Education Fundraising Update

- The pop can fundraiser has raised \$1350.40 to date and you continue to contribute
- The lottery raffle raised \$2902.00
- Butter braid fundraiser raised \$705.75

We are committed to our goal of helping with the financial burden generated in seeking the mission of our school. Thank you to everyone who has contributed, helped and supported our fundraising efforts! You are appreciated more than you may know.

Important School Dates

Jan 6 – School Resumes

Jan 17 – End of the 2nd Quarter

Jan 20 – MLK Day – No School
Teacher Professional Development at VLHS

Jan 26-Feb 1 – Lutheran Schools Week



National Lutheran Schools Week January 26 - February 1 2025

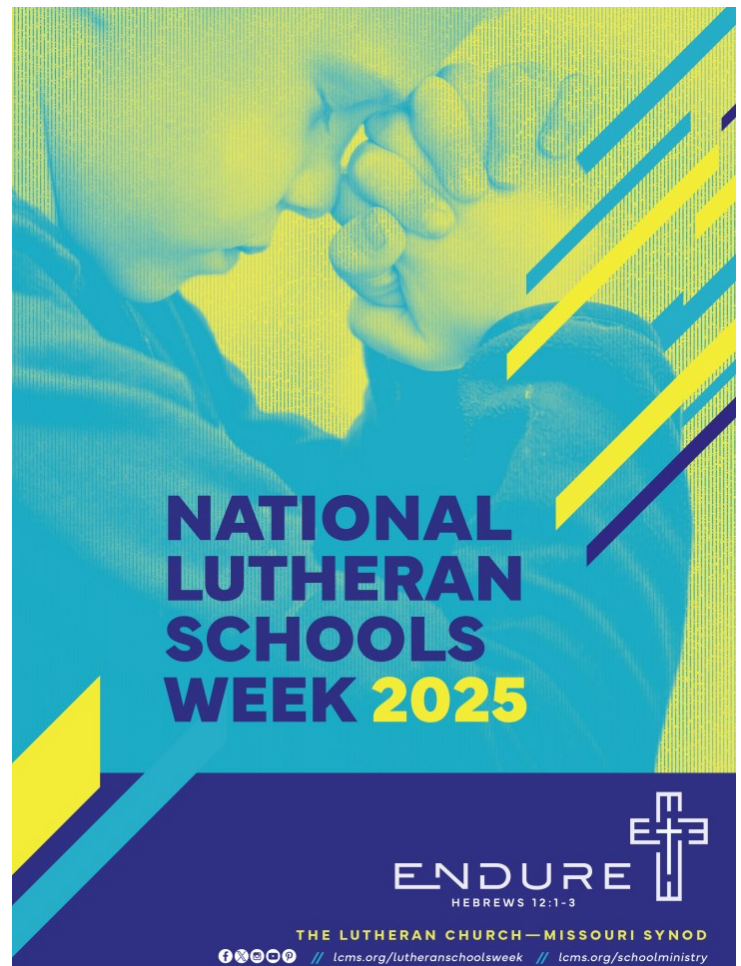
National Lutheran Schools Week provides more than 1,800 preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work among us in schools of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

We thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children we serve. We are most grateful for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with children and their families.

National Lutheran Schools Week gives us an opportunity to proclaim these great blessings within the communities we serve.

Our schools are amazing incubators for faithful witness of God's love for us through Christ by teachers and students alike.

Watch for more information to come in the bulletin on how you can celebrate with us!



Christian Families Can't Save the World, but They Can Confess the Faith

December 11, 2024 / By [Anna Mussmann](#) /

On my bookshelf is a picture book from 1980 that tells children how babies come into being. The text says, "Since a family is happier with children, your mother and father wanted a baby. They wanted you ... to love and to care for." Thirty years ago, it was normal to assume that getting married and having children made life better.

In 1980, 33% of women had four or more children. Childlessness was rare, and the childfree movement unheard of. Now, approximately one third of millennial and Gen Z adults say they neither have nor want children. Roughly a quarter of respondents in one survey said that having children is irresponsible because of climate change. Others are unwilling to change their lifestyle or make so immense a commitment. Sterilization rates among young, childless women were already on the rise before the Dobbs ruling, and they have increased dramatically since then.

It is fair to say that many Americans are afraid of having kids and building families. Furthermore, these childless young people are right about one thing: Family life in modern America *is* hard.

This summer, the surgeon general issued an advisory on the mental health of American parents.

According to this report, "41% of parents say that most days they are so stressed they cannot function and 48% say that most days their stress is completely overwhelming." Apparently, rather than making families happier, having a baby may, as one headline put it, "be hazardous to your health." The document calls for governmental involvement to ease the burden on American families.

The thing is, this problem is not one the government can fix. The current secular model of family is fundamentally broken, and no amount of free childcare will change that. At its core, this broken model is built on the belief that human beings must construct our own identities apart from anyone else. We must be free to define ourselves and pursue our dreams. Because commitment to other people limits our freedom to self-define and pursue happiness, we must be free to discard other people at will. That is why no-fault divorce, abortion, cutting annoying relatives out of our lives, dropping friends when their problems become overwhelming, and changing churches or denominations on a whim are all essential components of our world's model.

Sometimes this model leads to open separation. America has the highest rate of single-parent families in the world by a massive margin. Often, however, the estrangement is beneath the surface. Spouses compete over the division of resources and housework. Parents are pressured to build personal identities by forging impressive careers, no matter how difficult it becomes to also meet the needs of other family members. Children are over-scheduled and smothered with possessions in order to build their identities.



Resentment is inevitable, because people who think it is the job of spouse, child or friend to give them fulfillment will find that other human beings cannot make them happy. Resentment is a recipe for loneliness. We should not be surprised that the surgeon general has also issued a recent advisory on the "devastating impact of the epidemic of loneliness and isolation in the United States."

How, then, can we help a country filled with exhausted, stressed, lonely people, many of whom are so confused by the world's recipe for a good life that they eschew the fundamental human desire to marry and have babies? They are missing out. Isolation is not part of God's model for the human race. Psalm 68:6 tells us, "God sets the lonely in families" (NIV), and living together in loving self-sacrifice is a wonderful gift that we should want our neighbors to have.

First, however, we must recognize that none of *us* can save the world by getting married and having babies. Nor should we react to the world's attack on families by making the family an idol or a way to prove our own virtue. Furthermore, not all Christians are called to the vocations of spouse and parent.

The only full and ultimate solution for our neighbors' suffering is Jesus.

Yet families are part of God's model for life on earth, and Christian families have an opportunity to confess our faith in Jesus by living out our vocations.

Three ways family life is a witness to our neighbors. The first way Christian families serve the world is through example. We can show our neighbors that the broken

model is not the only way — stable, joyful, committed, functional family life is possible. Christians have always cared for the physical well-being of others. Just as we would give our neighbor food if he were hungry, we can show him how to live in a way that is more likely to lead to good mental and physical health.

The second way Christian families serve the world is by being available. The stability of healthy family life means that we are more likely to have the extra margin to help others. We can be the people who invite others into our homes for food and fellowship. We can bring soups and casseroles, give rides, hang out at the playground, and serve on committees. We — not the government — are the people who can step in to build relationships.

This second way is possible not only because a stable family is able to share the workload, but also because our philosophy of life liberates us from secular hangups. We can treat jobs and careers simply as a way to provide for our families. We do not fear that the work of running a home well will destroy our identity. We can embrace the need to learn the skills that make us better at housework, parenting and hospitality. We can serve others without exhausting ourselves in power struggles.

The third way Christian families serve the world is quieter and less visible. Christian family life is risky. It is dangerous to give ourselves fully to others, trusting them to love and care for us in return, rather than first guarding our own needs and identity. It is risky to make permanent commitments to fellow sinners. It is risky to give birth to children when doing so multiplies the chances that we will experience grief, fear, stress and suffering.

We could not do it if we did not trust someone outside ourselves. Our crazy, dangerous lifestyle is a witness that God is great and good. It is He who protects us from ourselves, our families and the world. It is He who forgives our sins and helps us forgive each other. It is He who works through us and all our flaws to build and care for the people around us. It is He who puts the lonely in families.

The surgeon general thinks that families need government. Actually, all of society needs families. Christian family life is a confession of faith, and it is a confession our neighbors need to hear and see. May God bless this good work.

About The Author

Anna Mussmann spends her days homeschooling her children and her evenings trying to write, preferably while drinking tea and eating dark chocolate.

Source: witness.lcms.org/2024/christian-families-cant-save-the-world-but-they-can-confess-the-faith/





Lutheran Women in Mission

St. John Amelith LWML Celebrates 60 years!

LWML Sunday is January 26th

We will celebrate LWML Sunday on January 26. The Lutheran Women's Missionary League is the official women's auxiliary of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The LWML is comprised of women within synodical congregations of the LCMS and every woman is considered a member of the LWML. The purpose of the LWML is to further Christ's mission to the world by supporting the work of the church and by providing education, inspiration and opportunities for service, both at home and in the world.

Mission Statement

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.



Vision Statement

The LWML is the leading group for LCMS women where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness.

St. John LWML is celebrating the 60th anniversary of their first meeting which was held on January 27, 1965! We are thankful for the following charter members: Marilyn Born, Phyllis Brinkman, Majorie Gallert, Millie Herbolsheimer, Ruth Hetzner, Hattie Kloha, Helen Kraenzlein, Judy Kraenzlein, Arlene Leinberger, Helen Neumeyer, Corrine Opel, Emily Rau, Lucille Rauschert, Dorothy Scharich, Jean Scheiwe, Doris Schmidt. May we continue to Serve the Lord in Gladness.

Our next meeting is January 21, 2025 @ 6pm and all women of St. John Amelith are welcome!



For to us a
child
is born,
to us a son is
given ...

Isaiah 9:6a



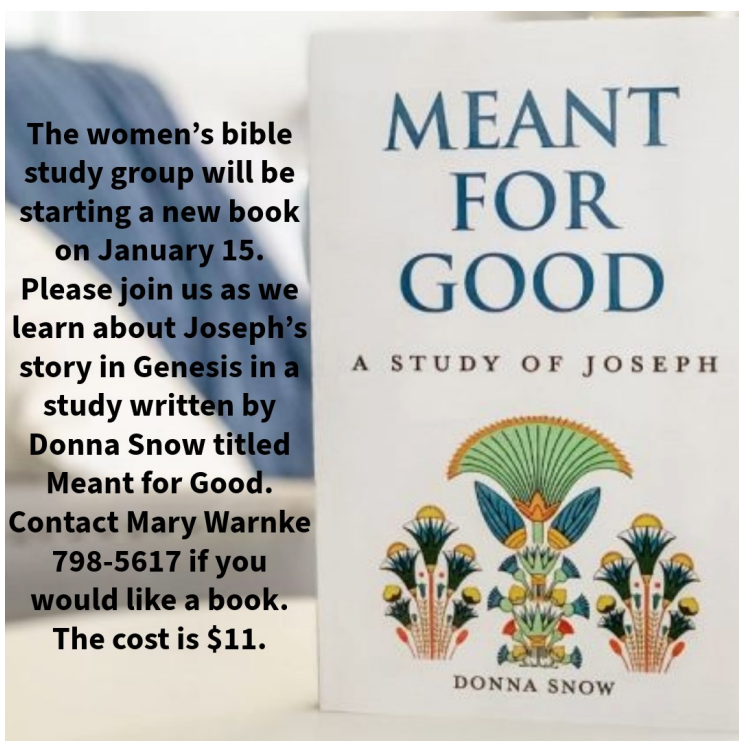
www.lwml.org

Superbowl Sub Sale

Sunday, February 9th 2025
More Details to come in the weekly
bulletins!



Pavilion rentals for 2025 are as follows:
Jan 1 thru the 14th, St John committees.
Starting Jan 15th St John members,
Starting Feb 15th other community members and
Churches. Please call Deb Hutter at 989-316-
8322 for information or to reserve your date.



The women's bible
study group will be
starting a new book
on January 15.
Please join us as we
learn about Joseph's
story in Genesis in a
study written by
Donna Snow titled
Meant for Good.
Contact Mary Warnke
798-5617 if you
would like a book.
The cost is \$11.

The SJA Youth
Group meets January
12th and 26th at 2pm
this month. Hope to
see you there!



*Thank you to all who
ordered a Poinsettia plant in
honor or memory of a loved
one. A beautiful display of
Jesus' love in our beautiful
sanctuary.*



Altar Guild



Save the Date!
St. John Amelith's
Annual Valentine's Chicken BBQ
February 16, 2024




Read the Bible 2025!



Tips on Reading the Bible Daily:

1. Start reading the Bible today or listening to it daily.
2. Set aside a specific time each day. Set your schedule and then stick to it.
3. Read the Bible to learn, but also for a devotional purpose (time with the Lord)
4. Pick the plan that works best for you to read through the Bible in a year.
 - a. Classical Plan - this plan goes straight through from Genesis to Revelation.
 - b. Blended Plan - This plan is designed to add variety in a non-traditional sequence.
 - c. Chronological Plan - This plan has readings in the order in which the recorded events actually occurred.
 - d. Genre Plan - This plan follows the categories of Scripture like the poetic, historical, prose, etc.
 - e. Old Testament and New Testament Each Day - This plan you read both Testaments alongside one another.

There is a 52-week Bible reading plan available to take in the narthex. It is based on an Old & New Testament relationship. Additionally, included is a simple version of reading the basics of the Bible to help encourage someone if they have never read it before.

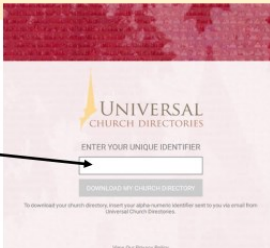
The Directory App is here! The App includes the YouVersion Bible and it contains Bible Reading Plans and Daily Devotions. So not only do you have your fellow Amelith members at your fingertips you also have the bible with you at all times! For more information see Molly Revord or Kelly Schimm





Step 2: Enter the Unique Identifier (See email for your identifier).

Unique Identifier Code:



Bible Reading Plan for Beginners

Old Testament Readings

Week 1

- ☐ Genesis 1: The story of creation
- ☐ Genesis 3: The origin of sin
- ☐ Genesis 22: Abraham and Isaac
- ☐ Exodus 3: Moses' encounter with God
- ☐ Exodus 20: The gift of the Ten Commandments
- ☐ 1 Samuel 17: David and Goliath
- ☐ 2 Samuel 11: David and Bathsheba

Week 2

- ☐ 2 Samuel 12: Nathan's rebuke of the king
- ☐ 1 Kings 18: Elijah and the prophets of Baal
- ☐ Job 38: God's answer to Job
- ☐ Psalm 51: A classic confession
- ☐ Isaiah 40: Words of comfort from God
- ☐ Daniel 6: Daniel and the lions
- ☐ Amos 4: A prophet's stern warning

Life and Teachings of Jesus Readings

Week 3

- ☐ Luke 1: Preparing for Jesus' arrival
- ☐ Luke 2: The story of Jesus' birth
- ☐ Mark 1: The beginning of Jesus' ministry
- ☐ Mark 9: A day in the life of Jesus
- ☐ Matthew 5: The Sermon on the Mount
- ☐ Matthew 6: The Sermon on the Mount continued
- ☐ Luke 15: Parables of Jesus

Week 4

- ☐ John 3: A conversation with Jesus
- ☐ John 14: Jesus' final instructions
- ☐ John 17: Jesus' prayer for His disciples
- ☐ Matthew 26: Betrayal and arrest of Jesus
- ☐ Matthew 27: Jesus' execution on the cross
- ☐ John 20: Jesus' resurrection
- ☐ Luke 24: Jesus' appearance after the resurrection

Life and Teachings of Paul Readings

Week 5

- ☐ Acts 9: The conversion of Saul
- ☐ Acts 16: Paul's Macedonian call and a jailbreak
- ☐ Acts 17: Scenes from Paul's missionary journey
- ☐ Acts 26: Paul tells his life story to a king
- ☐ Acts 27: Shipwreck on the way to Rome
- ☐ Acts 28: Paul's arrival in Rome
- ☐ Romans 3: Paul's theology in a nutshell

Week 6

- ☐ Romans 7: The struggle with sin
- ☐ Romans 8: Life in the Spirit
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 13: Paul's description of love
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 15: Thoughts on the afterlife
- ☐ Galatians 5: Freedom in Christ
- ☐ Ephesians 3: Paul's summary of his mission
- ☐ Philippians 2: Imitating Christ

Find these books and more products related to this issue online at cph.org.



Ten Questions to Ask Every Time You Read the Bible

God's Word is the foundational text for Christians, but understanding it all can feel daunting. Use these ten questions to navigate through the Bible and build confidence with each passage.



Lutheran Book of Prayer

Find a prayer for all of your daily needs with *Lutheran Book of Prayer*. Featuring creeds, a topical index, and selected Psalms, you can always find the words to pray to the Savior.



Lutheran Prayer Companion

Hold on to nearly 500 prayers written by Lutheran church fathers, over 100 hymn texts, and a topical prayer index to help you speak to God daily.

A Year in the Confessions

Read the Formula of Concord with us in 2025!



A pastor once told me, “Interpreting the Bible through the *Book of Concord* is like the first time you put glasses on as a child: Oh, I didn’t see that before!” Lutherans affirm the *Book of Concord* because it is in accord with the Word of God. It helps us to see the fullness of God’s grace in Christ throughout Scripture with clarity.

The last document in the *Book of Concord*, the Formula of Concord, is a treasure for us as Lutherans. After Luther’s death in 1546, the Lutheran reformers began infighting about theological topics like conversion, the real presence in the Sacrament, the necessity of good works and the third use of the Law. Yet the Lord worked through these controversies, by His Word, to help the church bring clarity to God’s people.

We invite you to join us in reading through the Formula of Concord (and related writings) in the coming year — just a few pages a week! Each 2025 issue of *LW* will include an introduction to that month’s readings. □

THE REV. BRADY FINNERN is president of the LCMS Minnesota North District.

Formula of Concord Reading Plan

Tear out this page to keep in your *Book of Concord* or find an online version at witness.lcms.org/2024/reading-plan.

Note on readings: There are two parts to the Formula of Concord. We will be primarily reading the Epitome (“Ep”), the first and shorter part. Page numbers refer to the *Reader’s Edition of the Book of Concord* (CPH 2006), but you can use the section and line numbers to follow along in any edition.

JANUARY | Original Sin

WEEK 1: Ep “Summary” 1–8 (p. 473–474) Ep I 1 (p. 474)

AC II (p. 31–32)

WEEK 2: Ep I 2–10 (p. 474–475) Ap II (p. 76–81)

WEEK 3: SA I (p. 270–271) SD 133–49 (p. 515–517)

WEEK 4: Ep I 11–25 (p. 475–477)

FEBRUARY | Free Will

WEEK 1: Ep II 1 (p. 477) AC XVIII (p. 40–41)

WEEK 2: Ep II 2–6 (p. 477–478) Ap XVIII (p. 197–198)

WEEK 3: SD II 48–73 (p. 529–533)

WEEK 4: Ep II 7–19 (p. 478–479)

MARCH | The Righteousness of Faith Before God

WEEK 1: Ep III 1–2 (p. 479–480) AC IV (p. 32–33)

WEEK 2: Ep III 3–11 (p. 480–481) Ap IV 1–47 (p. 82–88)

WEEK 3: SA Part III, Article XIII (p. 283) SD III 6–17 (p. 536–539)

WEEK 4: Ep III 12–23 (p. 481–482)

APRIL | Good Works

WEEK 1: Ep IV 1–4 (p. 482) AC XX (p. 41–44)

WEEK 2: Ep IV 5–15 (p. 483) Ap V 257–279 (p. 140–143)

WEEK 3: Ap XX (p. 199–201) SD IV 6–13 (p. 546–548)

WEEK 4: Ep IV 16–19 (p. 483–484)

MAY | The Law & Gospel

WEEK 1: Ep V 1 (p. 484) SA Part III, Article II (p. 271–272)

WEEK 2: Ep V 2–10 (p. 484–485) SA Part III, Article IV (p. 278)

WEEK 3: SD V (p. 552–557)

WEEK 4: Ep V 11 (p. 485)

JUNE | The Third Use of the Law

WEEK 1: Ep VI 1 (p. 485–486) SC Table of Duties (p. 346–348)

WEEK 2: Ep VI 2–7 (p. 486–487) Gal. 5:1–26

WEEK 3: SD VI (p. 557–561)

WEEK 4: Ep VI 8 (p. 487)

JULY | The Lord’s Supper

WEEK 1: Ep VII 1–5 (p. 487–488) AC X (p. 35) AC XXII (p. 45–46)

WEEK 2: Ep VII 6–20 (p. 488–489) Ap X (p. 153–155) Ap XXII (p. 208–210)

WEEK 3: SD VII 91–128 (p. 576–581)

WEEK 4: Ep VII 21–42 (p. 489–491)

AUGUST | The Person of Christ

WEEK 1: Ep VIII 1–3 (p. 491) AC III (p. 32)

WEEK 2: Ep VIII 4–18 (p. 492–493) Ap III (p. 82)

WEEK 3: LC Part II, Article II (p. 401–402) SD VIII 1–15 (p. 581–583)

WEEK 4: Ep VIII 19–39 (p. 493–495)

SEPTEMBER | Christ’s Descent into Hell

WEEK 1: Ep IX 1–4 (p. 495) SA Part I (p. 262) SC Part II, Article II (p. 329)

WEEK 2: LC Part II, Article II (p. 401–402)

WEEK 3: SD IX (p. 596)

WEEK 4: 1 Peter 3:18–22; Heb. 10:10–13; Psalm 16

OCTOBER | Church Practices

WEEK 1: Ep X 1–2 (p. 496) AC XIV (p. 38–39) AC XV (p. 39)

WEEK 2: Ep X 3–7 (p. 496–497) Ap XIV (p. 186–187) Ap XV (p. 187–194)

WEEK 3: SD X (p. 597–602)

WEEK 4: Ep X 8–12 (p. 497)

NOVEMBER | Election

WEEK 1: Ep XI 1 (p. 497–498) SD XI 1–12 (p. 602–604)

WEEK 2: Ep XI 2–15 (p. 498–499) SD XI 13–32 (p. 604–607)

WEEK 3: SD XI 33–49 (p. 607–609)

WEEK 4: Ep XI 16–23 (p. 499–500)

DECEMBER | Other Factions & Sects

WEEK 1: Ep XII 1–11 (p. 500–501) SD XII 1–27 (p. 616–617)

WEEK 2: Ep XII 12–19 (p. 501–502) SD XII 28–36 (p. 617–618)

WEEK 3: Ep XII 20–31 (p. 502) SD XII 37–40 (p. 618–619)

WEEK 4: Off for Christmas!

Abbreviations

Ep — Epitome of the Formula of Concord
SD — Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord

AC — Augsburg Confession
Ap — Apology of the Augsburg Confession
SA — Smalcald Articles

LC — Large Catechism
SC — Small Catechism

January Prayer Calendar

Every day, let us include the person/position/event mentioned in our prayers. You can pray for them, the job they do, those who receive or in whatever way you are led.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 January Anniversaries	2 Fund Development	3 Preschool Aides	4 January Birthdays
5 Youth Group	6 Quilters	7 Council Members	8 January Altar Guild Servers	9 Music Director	10 Preschool Director	11 SJA Students
12 Board of Ed	13 Cemetery Committee	14 SJA Teachers	15 Women's Bible Study Group	16 Office Volunteers	17 SJA Parents	18 Snow Plow Crew
19 Coffee Hour Volunteers	20 Pastor	21 Lunch Lady	22 Cardinal Strong- Volunteers	23 SJA Taskforces	24 Finance Team	25 Trustee Members
26 LWML	27 Elders	28 Sunday School Teachers	29 Treasurer	30 Choir Members	31 Principal	