
Network



Weekly Newsletter January 29, 2026

A Devotion by Pr. Jack

James 2:14-26

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith apart from works, and I by my works will show you faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith apart from works is worthless? Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and by works faith was brought to completion. Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

This is perhaps the section of the epistle of James that seems most in conflict with our particularly Lutheran understanding of faith, which emphasizes grace through faith. This was articulated most clearly for Martin Luther in Ephesians 2:8-9: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast.” On its face, this understanding of our salvation — that is, a gift from God only, and never something that we can contribute toward — does seem to be in conflict with James’ assertion that, “faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” (2:17) However, if we take a step back to actually understand what James is calling ‘dead,’ he is not questioning our salvation in the absence of works — salvation remains untouched by our works, and James gives no expectation that anyone can perfectly behave in a way that follows the law of God. In other words, James is not teaching that the ladder of salvation can be climbed — but he is saying that our faith, which is itself a gift from the Holy Spirit, must be nurtured and let out into the world. Otherwise, like a pet left locked in a closet, it will die.

To better understand this way of thinking about faith, let us talk about love. I love my family, but if I never go home to them, never spend time with them, never hug my daughter or remember my wife’s birthday, then my love is only theoretical. Love, left undone, left in my heart, is dead and cold — love, freed into the world out of the cage of my heart, is a living thing that blesses me even as it blesses others. This, James tells us, is how faith is too. Faith, reduced to belief, is empty. Anyone can wear a cross on their neck, or pray loudly, or confess the creed — if they follow all those actions with hatred for their neighbor, or refuse to act directly to help their neighbor in need, James’ point is not that they have no faith, but that it has become deadened and lifeless. But faith that is allowed to live outside of my words and my thoughts, is suddenly, as Martin Luther also wrote, a “living, busy, active, mighty thing.” Thanks be to God, for a faith in an eternal life to come, and for a faith that enlivens and blesses our lives here on earth.

Pr. Jack

Summer Service Trip to St. Louis, MO Informational Meeting

Sunday, February 1; 4:00 pm - Saint Andrew Fellowship Hall

Saint Andrew is partnering with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church to plan a service mission trip to St. Louis this summer; June 14-19. This trip is open to students who have completed 8th-12th grades. We are excited to offer this opportunity for students to build on their faith by serving and connecting with others.

We would love to share more details with you and start rounding up commitments; you (parents and youth) are invited to an information meeting on **Sunday, February 1 at 4:00 pm at Saint Andrew in the Fellowship Hall.**

For any immediate questions you can contact:

Tim Holcomb: 715-212-3633 - alissasdad03@gmail.com

Pastor Jack Busche: 715-842-3333 - leadpastor@salc-wausau.org



OWLS - Indoor Tailgate Party for the Big Game

Wednesday, February 4; 10:30 am - Fellowship Hall

Join us for an **indoor tailgate celebration** filled with game-day fun, fellowship, and favorite football foods! Enjoy a casual buffet, lighthearted games, and plenty of cheering — no football knowledge required. Wear your favorite team colors. Come ready for fun and bring your favorite game-day foods!



2026 Congregational Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 8; 9:15 am - Fellowship Hall

Come to the Fellowship Hall following worship and enjoy coffee and cookies as we care for the business matters of the congregation for the coming year.

Eligible voters are participating members who have been confirmed, have made a financial contribution of record and have communed at Saint Andrew this past calendar year (2025) and will sign in at the entrance of the Fellowship Hall. Visitors are welcome to attend, though are unable to vote.

The 2026 Narrative Spending Plan can be found [here](#), the 2025 Annual Report can be found [here](#), and the council candidate biographies can be found [here](#). These reports are also available in the Narthex.

New: Letters of John Bible Study

Sundays, February 1 & 8; 9:10 am – Parish Room

God is love. That three word statement from the book of First John is one of the best-known and most succinct summaries of Christian theology. As a letter written to the general church near the close of the first century, First John runs in fascinating parallel to the Gospel of John and may even be considered a theological reflection on the themes of that unique gospel. It is also a message written in defense of what the church has heard “from the beginning” (1:1), pointedly reminding its listeners to hold fast to what they had been taught,

namely, that those who follow Christ must also love others with the same sincerity and selflessness. We will also be reading Second and Third John, two letters attributed to the same author and written to male and female leaders of various churches, a peek into the changing Christian community at the end of the first century. This study will be led by Pastor Jack. ***Please note the Sunday morning Adult Bible Study will join this study.***

February 1: God is Love (I John 4:7-5:21)

February 8: Annual Meeting (NO STUDY)

February 15: Letters to the Beloved (II John and III John)



Broken and Beloved ***Stories of God's Steadfast Love***

Midweek Lenten Service Theme

Wednesdays, February 18-March 25; 12:15 and 6:15 pm

“The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.”

Psalms 34:18

Throughout our lives, we often face the reality that two opposite things can be true at the same time. Martin Luther said that we are simultaneously saint and sinner. Two different things, opposites, are both true at the same time.

This Lent, you are invited to reflect upon on the theme “Broken and Beloved – Stories of God’s Steadfast Love.” You will consider biblical characters who embody various experiences of brokenness and beloved-ness. You will wonder about how these characters speak to your own experiences. You will be invited to consider how brokenness and beloved-ness are a part of your own life experiences, and you will be reminded that amid all the different things that can be true at the same time, one thing is a constant – the steadfast love of God.

February 18: Ash Wednesday - David – Broken by Sin

February 25: Naomi – Broken by Grief

March 4: Elijah – Broken by Fear

March 11: The Syrophenician Woman – Broken by Desperation

March 18: Mary Magdalene – Broken by Demons

March 25: Peter – Broken by Failure

Lenten Soup Suppers

Wednesdays, February 25-March 25; 11:00 am-6:00 pm

It is almost time to gather in fellowship and enjoy our Lenten soup suppers. Volunteers will be needed for Sunday food prep, Wednesday kitchen shifts, and evening helpers. We are also seeking donations of desserts. Watch for sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall, or call the office to volunteer.



Modern Worship Congregants: Service and Learning Opportunities

Is the modern worship service feeling like your worship service?
Please fill out the [Time and Talent form linked here](#), or use the

QR code to learn about the many opportunities to serve, learn, and build relationships. At the bottom of the form there are questions on how the service has spiritually impacted you. Any insights you have will help us continue to learn and grow and shape the service in ways that help you and others connect to God and neighbor.

One Winter Clothing Drive

Social Advocacy is sponsoring a winter clothing drive in support of Wausau area agencies and the Wausau and DC Everest School Districts. Please only bring the items listed - *thank you*.

The following items will be collected throughout this drive: sweatshirts, hoodies, winter coats and jackets for both children and adults, long underwear (new only), snow pants, hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, socks, boots, and hand and foot warmers. These items can be donated ANY week; you need not wait for them to be the featured item of the week. All sizes of adult (especially XL/plus) and children's clothing will be accepted. ***Thank you for all that has been received! The featured items for next week are winter coats.***



"One in Spirit" Yoga

Transforming the mind, body, and spirit

"Wisdom is knowing we are all One.

Love is what it feels like and Compassion is what it acts like."

~ Ethan Walker III, Author



*Join us during our theme of
“Honoring the Gift of Shared Humanity”
February 2026*

Mat-based Practices: Tuesdays at 8:30 am & 4:30 pm

****There will be *NO* practice offered at 8:30 am on Tuesday, February 10**

Chair-based Practices: Wednesdays at 8:30 am

Non-profit donations will benefit NAMI Northwoods in support of their work of free mental health support, education, and advocacy available across Marathon, Lincoln, and Langlade Counties.

Practices are drop in, free-will donation. Meet in the Chapel at Saint Andrew. Props and mats available to support your practice.

All are welcome!

Saint Andrew Prayer List

Do you know of someone who is in need of prayer? (*Please ask first*). Call the church office at 842-3333 to have names added to the list at the Prayer Center. You can also visit the Prayer Center in the back of the Sanctuary, light a candle and write your prayer request in the prayer book. The list will be updated on a regular basis. The first names of those needing prayer will be recognized in worship weekly. As you review the day to day list of events that take place at Saint Andrew, please also give consideration to those who have requested prayers.

For these we pray...

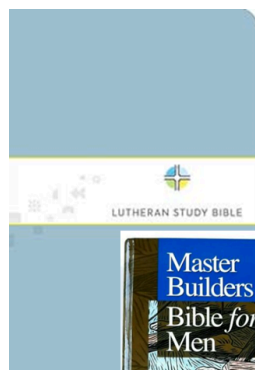
Thank you, Lord, for always answering prayer, but not indulging my every petty, private request. Thank you for winnowing and refining, vetoing and delaying, refusing and revising. Thank you for being God and never less, for freeing me for wide horizons, for protecting me from my limited vision and wayward will. Thank you for foiling my every effort to unseat you and make myself king. Thank you for keeping it safe for me to pray.

—Gerhard E. Frost

Amy
Annie
Ashley
Bonnie
Brent
Bruce
Carol
Cindy
Dan
Darcy
Darnell
Darold
Dave
De Ann
Dennis
Diane
Don
Doris
Doug
Ed
Gary

Heidi
Jean
Jen
Jenny
Jermaine
Jesse
Jill
Jim
Joan
Josh & Family
Judy
Karen
Katie
Kathy
Kay
Kim
Linda
Monica
Nikki
Paulette

Pyxie
Renee
Riley
Robert
Robin
Rosemary
Sandy
Shirley
Steve
Steve & Janice
Therese
Thomas
Tim
Tom
Virjean
Zak & Kathy
Frank
Sherry
Danielle
Greg



Adult Studies

Adult Bible Study

Sundays, 9:15 am - Garden Room (Sign up [here](#))

Please note this study will be joining the John Bible Study in the Parish Room - January 18 & 25 and February 1 & 15

Men's Bible Study

1st Wednesday of the month, 7:00 am - Fellowship Hall for

breakfast and bible study (Sign up [here](#))

2nd-5th Wednesdays, 7:15 am - [Zoom](#)

Wonder? Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays, 9:30 am - Parish Room (Sign up [here](#))

Men's Discussion Group

Thursdays, 7:00 am - Garden Room



Connect With the Wider Church

Saint Andrew is a part of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin or ECSW. The ECSW is one of 12 synods that make up Region 5 of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) in the United States. Visit the [ECSW website](#) and read their weekly newsletter, The Wave. To stay up to date on synod news and for resources, visit the [ECSW website](#) and to stay connected to the ELCA churchwide, visit the [ELCA website](#).

Network Newsletter

Printed copies of the weekly Network newsletter are available on the table in the Narthex. If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please call the church office at 715-842-3333 or email joy@salc-wausau.org to let us know.

Saint Andrew Sunday Worship Livestream

8:00 am Traditional

[Click here for YouTube-Traditional](#)

[Click here for Facebook-Traditional](#)

10:00 am Modern

[Click here for YouTube-Modern](#)

[Click here for Facebook-Modern](#)

Worship

Sunday

8:00 am - Traditional Worship

10:00 am - Modern Worship

(The Sanctuary is

T-Coil Hearing Loop Enabled)

Thursday

12:15 pm - Chapel



Recorded Worship on Spectrum

Sunday worship is livestreamed on the SALC Facebook page and on Youtube each week. The recorded service can then be found on Spectrum channel 980 on the following days and times:

Tuesday - 2:00 pm

Thursday - 10:30 am

Friday - 6:00 pm

Sunday - 7:00 am

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
8:30 am-4:30 pm

Network and Bulletin Weekly Deadline

Send submissions electronically for the Network and/or bulletin to
joy@salc-wausau.org by
Monday at 3:00 pm

SALC Calendar

About

Worship

Education

Calendar

Contact Us

Saint Andrew Lutheran Church

(715) 842-3333

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www.salc-wausau.org

