



LORD of LOVE
Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter



The Risen Jesus Gives New Life to Us.



LORD of LOVE
Lutheran Church

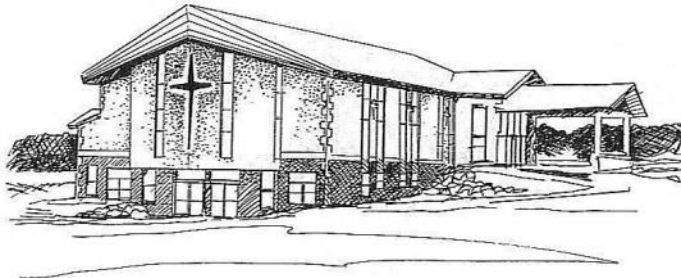
105 Paradise Circle, DeForest, WI 53532
608-846-9036 | lolchurchoffice@gmail.com | www.lordoflovelutheran.org

Pastor Michael Willitz pr.willitz@gmail.com
Cell phone: 608-294-8940

Pastor Joel Jenswold pr.jenswold@gmail.com
Cell phone: 608-572-1654

Chairman: Mitch Myhre, mitchmyhre@hotmail.com
Office Secretary: Jen Olson, Office hours Tuesday - Friday.
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod - *Christ's Love, Our Calling.*

**“I rejoiced with those who said to me,
‘Let us go to the house of the LORD.’”
Psalm 122:1**



Lord of Love Lutheran Church

May 2, 2021

THE COMMON SERVICE

OPENING HYMN (CW 141)

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing
2 Might - y Vic - tim from the sky,
3 Now no more can death ap - pall,
4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy!
5 Fa - ther, who the crown shall give,



Praise to our vic - to - rious King,
Hell's fierce pow'rs be - neath you lie.
Now no more the grave en - thrall;
This a - lone can sin de - stroy;
Sav - ior, by whose death we live,



Who has washed us in the tide Flow - ing
You have con - quered in the fight; You have
You have o - pened par - a - dise, And your
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, New - born
Spir - it, guide through all our days, Three in



from his pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
brought us life and light. Al - le - lu - ia!
saints in you shall rise. Al - le - lu - ia!
souls in you to be. Al - le - lu - ia!
One, your name we praise. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin hymn, 17th century, abr.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814-68, alt.
Tune: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT (77 77 4) *Kirchengeseng*, Ivancice, 1566.

STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.



C: A - men.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD



C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



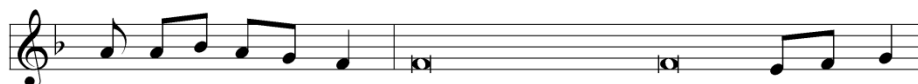
sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of



God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;



you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,



are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BE SEATED



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Acts 8:26–40

²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is an isolated area.) ²⁷So he got up and went. And there was a man, an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, Queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship. ²⁸He was on his way home, sitting in his chariot and reading the prophet Isaiah.

²⁹The Spirit told Philip, “Go over there and stay close to that chariot.” ³⁰Philip ran up to it and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet.

Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

³¹The man replied, “How can I unless someone explains it to me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³²Now the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading was this:

He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who will talk about his generation?

For his life is taken from the earth.

³⁴The eunuch said to Philip, “I ask you, who is the prophet talking about—himself or someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak. Starting with that very passage of Scripture, he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were traveling along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What is there to prevent me from being baptized?”

³⁸He ordered the chariot to stop. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they stepped up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away. The eunuch did not see him anymore, but went on his way rejoicing.

⁴⁰Philip, however, found himself at Azotus. And as he went from place to place, he preached the gospel in all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia. (John 14:6)



GOSPEL

John 15:1–8

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, he is going to cut off. And he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will bear more fruit.

³“You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, and I am going to remain in you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Likewise, you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵“I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him is the one who bears much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers. Such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this: that you continue to bear much fruit and prove to be my disciples.”



NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

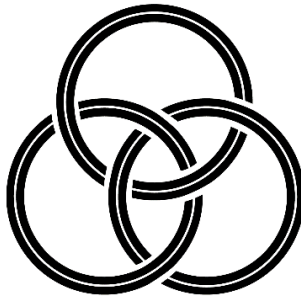
**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**



HYMN (CW 461)

From Eternity, O God (stanzas 1-4)



1 From e - ter - ni - ty, O God, In your Son you
 2 Born a - live but dead in sin, Lost to all good
 3 Drive a - way the gloom - y night Of my dark - ened
 4 As a branch up - on a vine, In my bless - ed
 5 Faith and hope and char - i - ty Gra - cious - ly, O



did e - lect me. There - fore, Fa - ther, on life's road
 things by na - ture, I was found and changed with - in
 mind's re - flec - tion. Quench all thoughts that are not right;
 Lord im - plant me; Ev - er of my head di - vine
 Fa - ther, give me; Be my guard - ian con - stant - ly



Gra - cious - ly to heav'n di - rect me; Send to me your
 And be - came a new - born crea - ture. Sin - ful flesh works
 Hold my rea - son in sub - jec - tion. For your truth may
 To re - main a mem - ber grant me. Oh, let him, my
 That the dev - il may not grieve me. Grant me hum - ble -



Ho - ly Spir - it That his gifts I may in - her - it.
 ru - i - na - tion, But the Spir - it works sal - va - tion.
 I be yearn - ing, Heav'n - ly wis - dom ev - er learn - ing.
 Lord and Sav - ior, Be my life and love for - ev - er!
 ness and glad - ness, Peace and pa - tience in my sad - ness.

6 Help me speak what's right and good
 And keep silence on occasion.
 Help me pray, Lord, as I should;
 Help me bear my tribulation.
 Help me die and let my spirit
 Everlasting life inherit.

Text: Caspar Neumann, 1648–1715, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
 Tune: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER (78 78 88) Johann R. Ahle, 1625–73, alt.

SERMON

1 John 3:14–24

¹⁴ We know that we have crossed over from death to life, because we love our brothers. The one who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. ¹⁶ This is how we have come to know love: Jesus laid down his life for us. And we also should lay down our lives for our brothers. ¹⁷ Whoever has worldly wealth and sees his brother in need but closes his heart against him—how can God’s love remain in him? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us love not only with word or with our tongue, but also in action and truth.

¹⁹ This is how we know that we are of the truth and how we will set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God. ²² We also receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commands and do what is pleasing in his sight. ²³ This then is his command: that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and that we love one another just as he commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps his commands remains in God and God in him. This is how we know that he remains in us: We know it from the Spirit, whom he has given to us.

John Preaches to the Heart

STAND

After the sermon, the congregation sings:



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

C: **Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

M: In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

C: **Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.**

M: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

C: **Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.**

M: Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

C: **Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.**

M: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

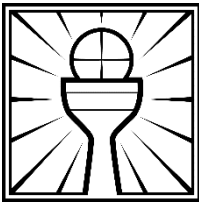
M: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

C: **Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

*The recorded service for members at home concludes here.
We continue with the sacrament with those gathered in the sanctuary.*



THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - men.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

In accordance with the Scriptural practice of closed Communion, we invite to the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood the communicant members of this congregation. We invite also the communicant members of our sister congregations in our fellowship (the WELS and the ELS) who have made their intention known to one of our pastors. We ask other guests in attendance to refrain from taking the Sacrament with us today, and we invite you to speak with a pastor about how you may join our fellowship and commune with us in the future.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN (CWS 750)

Christ, the Word of God Incarnate

**1 Christ, the Word of God incarnate,
Lord and Son of Abraham;
Christ, the radiance of the Father,
Perfect God, the great I Am;
Christ, the Light, you shine unvanquished,
Light and life you bring to all;
Light our path with your own presence,
Grant us grace to heed your call.**

**2 Christ, the living bread from heaven,
Food for body, food for soul;
Christ, the manna, daily given,
Nourish, strengthen, make us whole.
Feed us with the food of heaven,
Foretaste of the feast to be;
Quench our thirst with living water
Springing up eternally.**

**3 Christ, the shoot that springs triumphant
From the stump of Jesse's tree;
Christ, true vine, you nurture branches
To bear fruit abundantly.
Graft us into you, O Savior;
Prune our hearts so we remain
Fruitful branches in your vineyard
Till eternal life we gain.**

**4 Christ, our good and faithful Shepherd,
Watching all your lambs and sheep;
Christ, the gate that guards the sheepfold,
Never-failing vigil keep.
When we stray, Good Shepherd, seek us,
Find us, lift us, bear us home;
Lamb of God, our Shepherd, keep us;
Let us hear your voice alone.**

**5 Christ, the way that leads unailing
To the Father's home on high;
Christ, the truth that frees the captive;
Christ, the life that cannot die.
Mediator to the Father,
Sacrifice and Great High Priest:
Lead us to your heav'nly mansions,
There to share your wedding feast.**

**6 Christ, the Alpha and Omega;
Christ, the firstborn from the dead;
Christ, the life and resurrection;
Christ, the Church's glorious head:
Praise and thanks and adoration
And unending worship be
To the Father and the Spirit
And to you eternally.**

Text: Steven P. Mueller, b. 1964 © 2001 Steven P. Mueller. All rights reserved.
Used by permission.

*If you remain in me
and I in you
you will bear much fruit*

THANKSGIVING

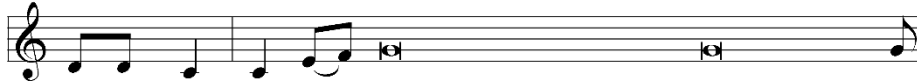
STAND

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing



to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-

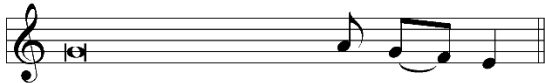


pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the



Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN (CW 156) Awake, My Heart, with Gladness (stanzas 4 & 5)

**4 Now I will cling forever
To Christ, my Savior true;
My Lord will leave me never,
Whate'er he passes through.
He rends death's iron chain;
He breaks through sin and pain.
He shatters hell's dark thrall;
I follow him through all.**

**5 He brings me to the portal
That leads to bliss untold,
Whereon this rhyme immortal
Is found in script of gold:
"Who there my cross has shared
Finds here a crown prepared;
Who there with me has died
Shall here be glorified."**

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr.; tr. John Kelly, 1833–90, alt.



LORD of LOVE *Lutheran Church*

Personal Prayers for Worship

Before Communion:

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

After Communion:

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

O living Bread from heaven, how richly you have fed your guest! The gifts you now have given have filled my heart with joy and rest. Lord, grant me that thus strengthened with heavenly food, while here my course on earth is lengthened, I serve with holy fear. And when you call my spirit to leave this world below, I enter through your merit where joys unmingled flow.

Pastor Willitz' Call

On Sunday evening April 18, Pastor Willitz received a divine call to serve as Pastor at St. Johns in Goodhue, MN. Please keep Pr. Willitz, Erica and little David in your prayers as he deliberates this new call.



Also, please keep the congregation of St. Johns in your prayers as they await a decision. Pastor Willitz would welcome any counsel or words of wisdom as he deliberates.

Sunday May 2: 5th Sunday of Easter

The Family Altar Devotion, 8:00 am

Private Communion 8:00 – 8:30 am (*Please sign up prior.*)

Worship Services at 9:00 & 10:30 with Holy Communion

At-Home Sunday School #3: Jesus Raises Lazarus

- Preaching Pastor: Michael Willitz
- Organist: Anita Hahm
- Councilman: Mike Wilson (9:00) and Steve Kalscheuer (10:30)
- Ushers 9:00 am: Bob Degnan and *TBA*
- Ushers 10:30 am: Mark Heath and Joshua Hodkiewicz
- Altar Guild: Candace Saidler/Erica Willitz
- Presiding Pastor: Joel Jenswold
- A/V & Recording: Devin Anderson

Sunday May 9: 6th Sunday of Easter

The Family Altar Devotion, 8:00 am

Private Communion 8:00 – 8:30 am (*Please sign up prior.*)

Worship Services at 9:00 & 10:30 with Holy Communion

At-Home Sunday School #4: Zacchaeus

- Preaching Pastor: Joel Jenswold
- Organist: Sharon Freund
- Councilman: Jim Miller (9:00) and Greg Zeman (10:30)
- Ushers 9:00 am: Bob Degnan and Sef Fox
- Ushers 10:30 am: Matt Heath and Greg Zeman
- Altar Guild: Candace Saidler/Erica Willitz
- Presiding Pastor: Michael Willitz
- A/V & Recording: Joe Hornbeck

Happy Birthday: We wish God's blessings to Linda Jordan (5/2), Noelle Kirsch (5/2), Karen Tobison (5/2), Paul Crary (5/3), Rene LaReau (5/3), Erick Minnameier (5/3), Miles Oughton (5/3), Marilyn Richardson (5/5), Katie Salber (5/5), Brian Ehlenbach (5/6), Gabe Hoel (5/6) and Brennan Porter (5/7) who celebrate their birthdays this week.

Anniversary: We wish God's blessings to Eileen & Ron Betzer (5/2), Dave & Sheryl Rimmert (5/4), Brian & Karie Ehlenbach (5/5) and Shari & Dave Blossom (5/7) as they celebrate their anniversaries this week.

In Our Prayers: Fred Bakken, Joyce Hamburg (sister-in-law of Karen Tobison), Wyatt Kingsland, Roger LaGrange, Peter Leege, Marilyn Lund, Rose Lund, Jack Richardson, Marge Ripp and Peg Schroeder who are experiencing difficulties.

A special prayer for all of our men & women who are serving in the Armed Forces. Among them are Shannon & Matthew Garrett, Sara Goss and John J. Schueman (son of Bonnie & John Schueman).

Sunday Devotion at 8:00 am - The Family Altar

Families of all ages are invited to this morning devotion. The group follows the format of *The Family Altar* which is available each week at the back of church, or on our website under **Devotions**. The group meets in the sanctuary. The location of this devotion may need to adjust depending on those attending private communion.

At-Home Sunday School – May 2

Lesson: Jesus Raises Lazarus

John 11: 1-45

Student lessons and instructional videos are available for all children 4 years through 6th grade. Lesson materials are located at the back of church and can be picked up today. Each Friday, video lessons become available for the following week at <https://online.nph.net/ss-at-home>. There is a different video for each age group.

Tuesday Bible Study at 9:00 am

Topic: Elephants in the Room: Evolution vs. The Message of Scripture

The group meets downstairs and enters and exits through the lower doors of church. The group is casual and discussion is encouraged. Coffee is served.

Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30 pm

Topic: Man: From Glory to Ashes and Back

This study meets in the sanctuary.

Friday Breakfast/Bible Study at 6:00 am

Topic: Acts

The group meets each Friday morning at the DeForest Family Restaurant. (505 W. North Street, DeForest) Breakfast is at 6:00 am with the study starting at approx. 6:50 am.

