



FEBRUARY EPISTLE



ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

FEBRUARY 2026

"Sing, Pray, and Keep His Ways" Synodical Initiative



Allison Mackie, Director of Parish Music

In September, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod invited congregations to apply to a new synodical initiative called "Sing, Pray, and Keep His Ways." After completing the application, St. Paul's was selected to be part of the first cohort of congregations to participate in the project.

"Sing, Pray, and Keep His Ways" is a five-year project by LCMS Worship Ministry through a grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. The project is focused on bringing children into active roles in their lives of faith in their congregations, with a particular emphasis on helping children to participate in worship. Congregations involved in the project will be working to develop resources that will eventually be shared with the entire Synod.

In the next step of the project, I will be traveling to St. Louis in early February to meet with other congregational leaders in the first cohort. We will be sharing what we learned about our congregations through the application process, hearing from other Synodical leaders, and working to develop pilot projects to implement in our own congregations.

Over the next few months, keep an eye out for updates about the pilot project that will begin at St. Paul's. Welcome children you see in worship, and form relationships with their families. Continue to model what Christian worship looks like in the pews. Most importantly, pray for the children in our congregation and across the Synod. Ask God that He would keep them in His care, and give our leadership wisdom in helping to incorporate our youngest members into the life of the Church.

Allison M. Mackie



Dispatches from The Office

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor

Your Place in the Kingdom:

Lenten Catechesis on the Table of Duties

"Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches." (1 Cor 7:17, ESV)

As many of you know, I have been meditating on the "Table of Duties" in Luther's *Small Catechism* for some time now. Many of you had to memorize the *Small Catechism* for confirmation, but not everyone had to memorize the "Table of Duties." I now see the lack of memorization and meditation on my part as a missed opportunity for me as a man and as a pastor. The "Table of Duties" are "certain passages of Scripture for various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities."

In these last months of meditation on the Table of Duties, the Lord has given me insight about parenting, stewardship of my household and in the congregation, my response to the confusing pandemic situation, the nature of the pastoral office, intergenerational relationships in the workplace, and many more. Meditating on these Biblical texts has been both a call to repentance and an encouragement. This Lent—through these same Biblical passages—I pray that you, too, will begin to gain insight in the mystery of Christ and our life together in Him.

We'll begin on Ash Wednesday (February 18, 2026) and hear a call to repentance and an encouragement regarding our frequently-cited "rights" and the Biblical call to "duties." From there we'll look at the Tables of Duties in the following categories: Churchly Duties, Civic Duties, Family Duties, Economic Duties, and Christian Duties.

Again, I've found my meditations on the Table of Duties challenging, humbling, sometimes revelatory, and always a blessing. Come to the mid-week services in Lent. Ask The Lord to give you "ears to hear."

"And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God." (Philippians 1:9–11, ESV)

Yours in Christ,

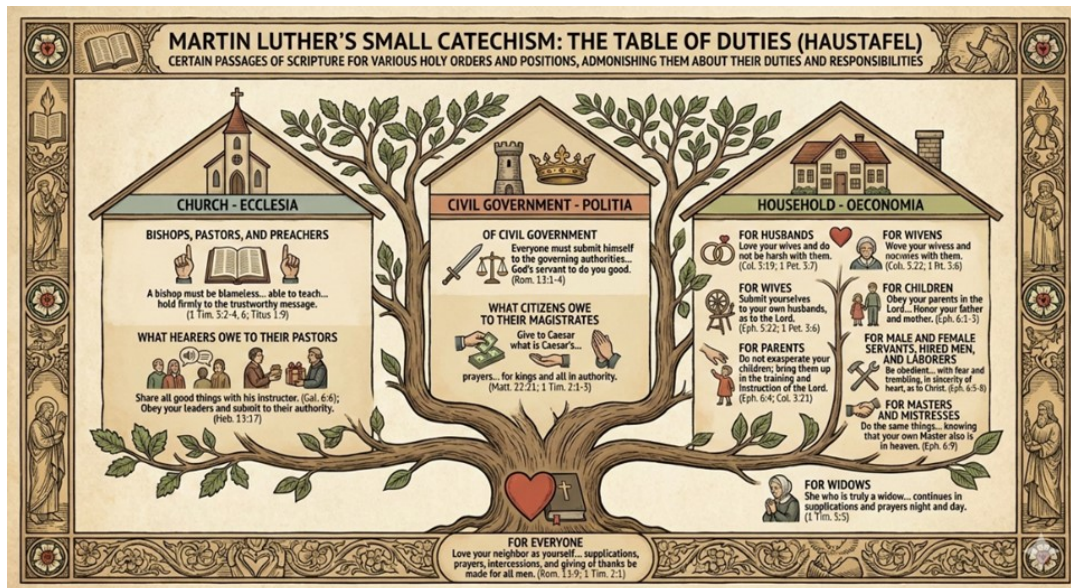
Pastor Lance O'Donnell
Wednesday of Epiphany 2
21 January, A.D. 2026

(continued →)

YOUR PLACE IN THE KINGDOM:

Catechesis on the Table of Duties

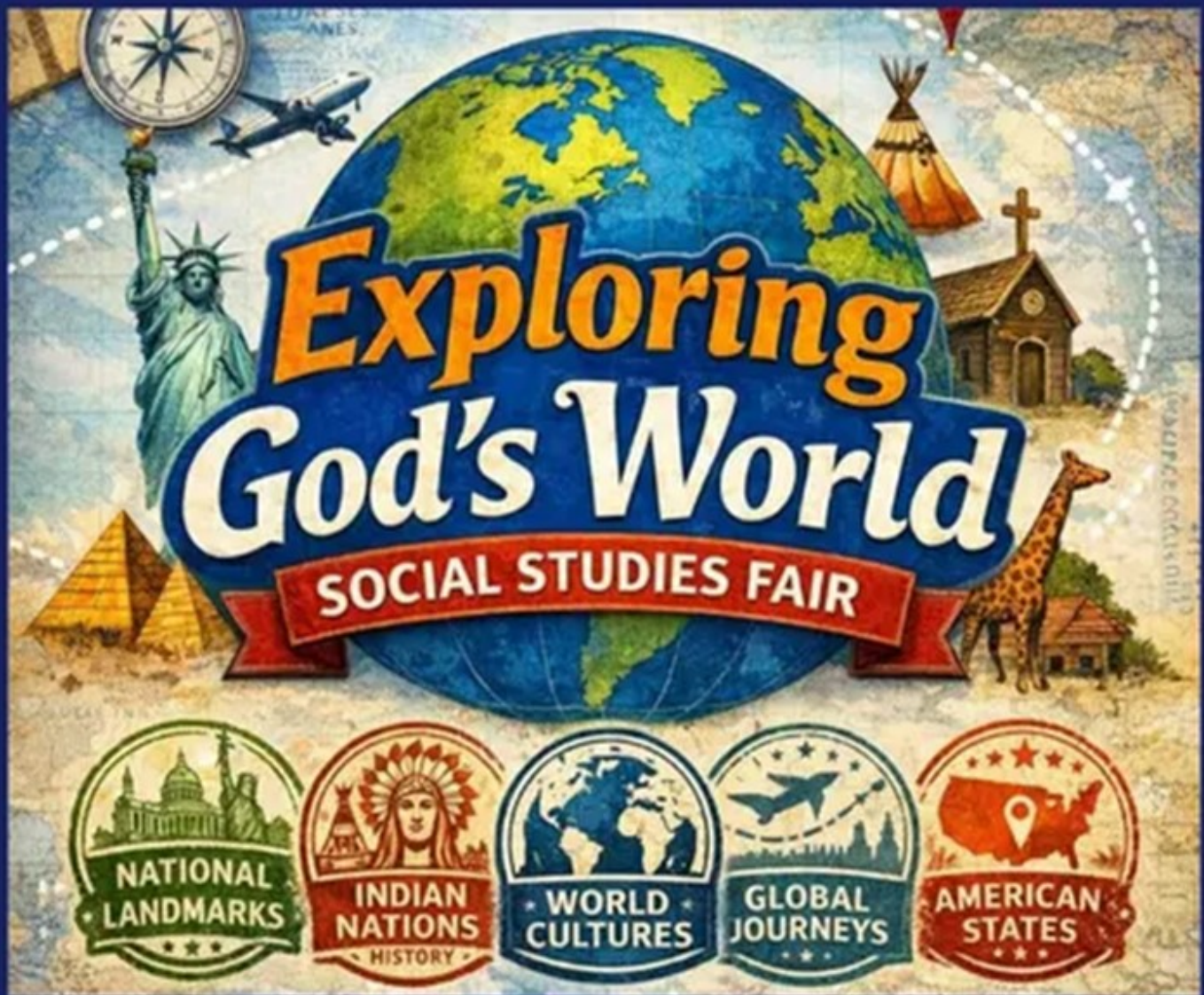
Date	Day	Biblical Texts	Title
2/18	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:12-19; Ps 51:1-19; 2 Cor 5:20b-6:10; Mt 6:1-6, 16-21	A Call to Repentance: of Rights and Duties
2/25	Wed of Lent 1	1 Tim 3.2-4; 1 Tim 3.6; Titus 1.9; 1 Cor 9.14; Gal 6.6-7; 1 Tim 5.17-18; 1 Thes 5.12-13; Heb 13.17	Churchly Duties: Pastors and Hearers
3/4	Wed of Lent 2	Rom 13.1-4; Mt 22.21; Rom 13.5-7; 1 Tim 2.1-3; 1 Pet 2.13-14	Civic Duties: Government and Citizenship
3/11	Wed of Lent 3	1 Pet 3.7; Col 3.19; Eph 5.22; 1 Pet 3.5-6; Eph 6.4; Eph 6.1-3	Family Duties: Husband & Wives, Parents & Children
3/18	Wed of Lent 4	Eph 6.5-8; Eph 6.9; 1 Pet 5.5-6	Economic Duties: Employers and Workers
3/25	Wed of Lent 5	1 Tim 5.5-6; Rom 13.9; 1 Tim 2.1	Christian Duties: Widowed and All



Sisters in Service

So ladies, we are one month into 2026 and we're wondering how those resolutions you made for new year are going for you so far. Did you resolve to attend the Sisters in Service meetings regularly and to bring a friend with you? We certainly hope that you did! Our next meeting is on Thursday, February 5th, at 5:30pm. Please join us as we officially launch the fun, food and fellowship of Sisters in Service into 2026. You won't want to miss it!





Join Us For an Open House
February 11th | 5:30-6:30 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran School

CHRIST IN ALL THINGS

210 E Pleasant Street Oconomowoc, WI

www.splco.org

FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Blood Pressure Screening 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 12:00 pm Voters' Meeting 7:00 pm HS Youth Group	2 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard & Lord's Lambs Drive-Thru	3 6:00 pm LWML 6:30 pm St. Luke Bible Study	4 6:30 pm Biblical Finance for Young Adults 6:30 pm Learning Christian Medita- tion	5 5:30 pm Sisters in Service 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	6 NO SCHOOL	7 8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Traditional Worship
8 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 12:00 pm Youth Group Bowling	9	10 5:30 pm Seasonal Handbell Rehears- al 5:30 pm Board of Operations Mtg. 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	11 11:00 am Caring Through Sharing 5:30 pm SPLS Open House 6:30 pm Biblical Finance for Young Adults 6:30 pm Learning Christian Medita- tion	12 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	13 NO SCHOOL	14 7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Traditional Worship
15 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Coffee Fellowship Hour 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 5:00 pm Reformation Tap Society 7:00 pm HS Youth Group	16 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard & Lord's Lambs Drive-Thru & Meal	17 6:30 pm St. Luke Bible Study	18 12:15 pm Ash Wednesday Worship 5:00 pm Ash Wednesday Meal 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship	19 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	20	21 8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Traditional Worship
22 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 7:00 pm HS Youth Group	23	24 6:30 pm St. Luke Bible Study	25 12:15 pm Midweek Lenten Worship 5:00 pm Midweek Lenten Meal 6:15 pm Midweek Lent Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship	26 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	27	28 7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Traditional Worship

February 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Thank God for our Pastors 50¢	2 The Purification of Mary and Presentation of Our Lord-\$1	3 10¢ for each piece of chocolate eaten today	4 10¢ for each Bible you own	5 Jacob (Israel)* Patriarch 25¢	6 Wearing Red today? 20¢	7 Send a card to a friend 40¢
8 Thank God for HIS gift of salvation for US! \$1	9 15¢ if you have a bird feeder 30¢ if you don't	10 Silas* Fellow worker of St. Peter & Paul 25¢	11 10¢ for each Bible you own	12 Lincoln's Birthday 25¢	13 Aquila, Priscilla, Apollós* 30¢	14 Happy Valentine's Day God Loves YOU! 25¢
15 Philemon & Onesimus* 25¢	16 Phillip Melanchthon* Confessor 40¢	17 LWML Prayer Service Today Join us at St. Paul's 50¢	18 ASH WEDNESDAY Martin Luther* Doctor & Confessor \$1	19 10¢ for each inch of snow on the ground	20 25¢ for each cell phone in your family	21 15¢ for each load of laundry done this week
22 Thank God for His day of rest 50¢	23 Polycarp of Smyrna* Pastor & Martyr 25¢	24 St. Mathias Apostle 35¢	25 Attended church today? Afternoon-15¢ Evening-30¢ None-50¢	26 Above 32 today? 75¢	27 5¢ for each pair of socks you own	28 10¢ for each family birthday in February

MITEs MAY BE RETURNED in the Large Mite Box in Narthex. Additional Mite Boxes for personal use are also available.

*Commemoration Days are examples of those in whom the saving work of Jesus Christ has been made manifest to the glory of His holy name and to the praise of His grace and mercy

DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Received by transfer from another LCMS church

Dean & Amber Konley, Earnest, Titus, Adrian, Levi, Haven – from Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Waukesha, WI

Received by profession of faith

Andy & Sheri Helwig

Dustin & Ashley Westphal, Harper & Theodore

Ryan & Deborah Selner

Deaths

Robert Reddelien

Catherine Weidler-Loney

Delores Schultz

Baptized 2039 Confirmed 1253



Piggly Wiggly Receipt fundraiser

If you shop at Piggly Wiggly, please deposit your receipts in the designated box in Fellowship Hall. The money raised from your receipts helps to continue the programming for our youth.

Information about the MS & HS youth group is available through:

- Email: splyouth.group@splco.org
- Instagram: splyouthocon

February Events

- † February 1 High School Youth Group 7-8:30pm
- † February 8 ALL YOUTH BOWLING
- † February 15 High School Youth Group 7-8:30pm
- † February 22 High School Youth Group 7-8:30pm

February's Hymn of the Month: *God Loves Me Dearly*

(number 392 in *Lutheran Service Book*)



In 1847, German Lutheran pastor August Rische issued a plea for help to establish a "rescue home" for distressed youth. Because of widespread poverty, many children had been essentially abandoned by their parents and had dropped out of school, leaving them reduced to begging and stealing. Rische hoped to use the power of God's Word to teach these young people to become useful members of society. He began composing songs to be sung by children outside of the weekly church service. This hymn is one of those songs.

This hymn is based on the text of 1 John 4:8, "Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love." The simple text proclaims that, although we were in slavery to sin, God sent His only son Jesus to pay the debt we owed. The short refrain emphasizes God's love not just for the world, but "for even me." Singing this after each stanza allows us to meditate on God's personal love for us.

Although this hymn was originally written for children, Christians of every age need to hear the message of this simple hymn over and over. "Therefore I'll say again, God loves me dearly, God loves me dearly, loves even me."



St. Paul's LWML is hosting the annual **Zone 17 Prayer Service** at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, **February 17th**, with refreshments and fellowship to follow. This service is for everyone (men & women) who would like to attend as we prepare our hearts for Lent.

A reminder to MARK your calendar for the LWML SWD Convention, June 19-20, at the Sheraton in Brookfield, WI celebrating our 80th year in the SWD. It would be a good time to experience the LWML and its workings along with fellowship with fellow Christian sisters in Christ (and it's close to home!). Info can be found at lwml-swd.org.

Join us for our next meeting, Tuesday, February 3rd, at 6:00 pm in room 219. Remember your MITES!



The Lenten meals will be served prior to our evening midweek Lenten Worship services. The meals will be served in the Fellowship Hall from 5:00-6:15pm. Below are the dates of the meals.

Ash Wednesday, February 18th: Sponsored by the Journeymen

Menu: Soup and Sandwiches

Wednesday, February 25th: Sponsored by Ladies Aid

Menu: Tater tot casserole, French bread, salad and desserts

Wednesday, March 4th: Sponsored by the Lord's Cupboard

Menu: Taco Bar

Wednesday, March 11th: Sponsored by St. Paul's Faculty

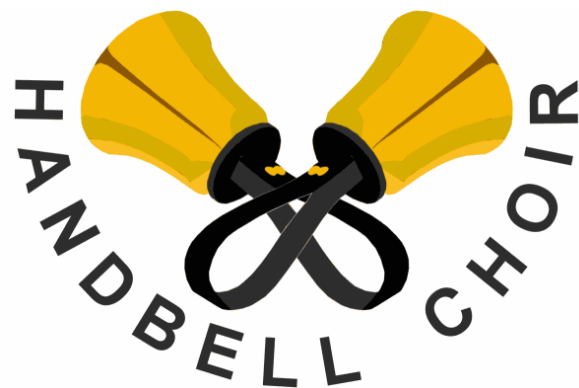
Menu: Chili

Wednesday, March 18th: Sponsored by *Women of Joy*

Menu: Spaghetti dinner

Wednesday, March 25th: Sponsored by the Board of Elders

Menu: Soups, sides, desserts & refreshments



Seasonal Handbell Choir Returns!

We are holding another seasonal handbell choir for winter! Rehearsals will be February 10th and 17th from 5:30 to 6:30 in the music room, and we will play for the 8:00 service on February 22nd. Open to all, whether experienced or new ringers. Music reading ability is preferred but not required. If interested, contact Allison Mackie at allison.mackie@splco.org to register. Please register by February 1st.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 4th
Don Schinke

February 17th
Nancy Wolter

February 6th
Mark Prange
Carole Werth

February 20th
Lynda Holland

February 7th
Carol Fellin
Gregg Francke
Larry Hansen

February 23rd
Anne Fait
Debbie Kirchenwitz
Phyllis Schuck

February 12th
Mary Hlavenka
Mike Kollmeyer

February 25th
Mark Justmann

February 14th
Pauline Bemis

February 26th
Judy Braatz
Vickie Paul
Karen Wilson

February 15th
Linda Blehovde

February 28th
Carolyn Nagel

February 16th
Sandy Goetzke
Jan Weigman

For our members 70+ years



MEMORIALS

Mary Buss	\$25.00
Nate Zastrow	\$381.00
Robert Reddelien	\$1410.00

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

210 E. Pleasant Street
Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050
262-567-5001

WORSHIP & STUDY

Saturday Worship	5:00 pm
Sunday Worship	8:00 am & 10:30 am
Bible Class	9:15 am

Pastor Lance Armstrong O'Donnell 262.567.5001 x217
Pastor Jason Schockman 262.567.5001 x216
Director of Parish Music, Allison Mackie 262.567.5001 x214
Principal - Jill George 262.567.5001 x213
Website: www.splco.org

LIVE BROADCASTS:

8:00 am Sunday Worship
Live on WTKM 104.9 FM/1540 AM
& www.wtkm.com
Live-streamed at www.splco.org

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

Christian Pre-School & Day Care
Director Christine Flores 262.567.4881
Epistle Editor-Heather Scheuer

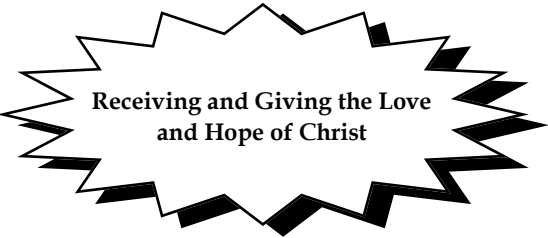
Newsletter deadline for articles,
announcements and features is the
2nd Wednesday of the month

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF
ANY ADDRESS CHANGES

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School & ECC
210 E. Pleasant St.
Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050

Phone: 262-567-5001
Website: www.splco.org

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Receiving and Giving the Love
and Hope of Christ



Reformation Tap Society talks are casual and thoughtful adult conversations about important things. *Under the theme, "Lead Me to Christ, the Rock," the 2025-2026 Reformation Tap Society season explores the various ways in which Christ is the foundation of a holy and purposeful life.* Though we welcome adults of any age, topics and language are aimed at those 18-35. Our speakers understand that RTS is a public event, so the conversation won't be raw, but our speakers are encouraged to practice candor geared towards younger adults. Parents of children under high school age should collaborate on a babysitter, then come and enjoy the beverages, food, and conversation. RTS is an opportunity to hear perspectives not regularly heard in popular culture. All are welcome.

RTS is held on the 3rd Sundays, September through May. We gather at 5pm, have a "beer talk" from the brewmaster at about 5:25, and at about 5:30 our speaker takes the mic. The speaker will present on a topic of interest, then take questions until 6:15 or so. (BTW, you're welcome even if you're not a beer fan. Other beverages are available.)

February 15, 2026

Faith Becoming My Own: Christian Faith in Your 20's

Presenter: Jonathon Bakker

5-7p.m.

BrewFinity Brewery
N58W38900 Industrial Rd.
Suite D
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
www.brewfinitybrewing.com



First time guests
get a free
beer or soda on us!