



Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc.

Act compassionately. Serve humbly. Lead courageously.

2026 Recommended LSS Sundays and Themes (RCL)

While any Sunday of the year can be an “LSS Sunday,” we’ve identified 10 Sundays in 2026 where the Revised Common Lectionary readings offer an especially fitting opportunity to highlight your congregation’s partnership with Lutheran Social Services and to thank members for their generous giving that makes a life-changing impact for neighbors.

February 1, 2026

July 26, 2026

March 15, 2026

September 13, 2026

April 26, 2026

October 25, 2026

June 7, 2026

November 22, 2026

July 5, 2026

December 13, 2026

Please reach out to church.relations@lsswis.org if you would like to schedule a speaker from LSS to join you for worship and provide a sermon, temple talk, children’s message, and/or adult forum. Or, you may wish to use some of the resources we’ve highlighted below, matched to each of these Sundays. Please check back at lsswis.org/toolkit to find additional resources as they are developed and posted throughout the year

We are so grateful for all the ways your congregation acts compassionately, serves humbly, and leads courageously. We are blessed to be your partner in ministry – thank you for being a Loving Lutheran!

Dates, Readings, and Themes

February 1, 2026

Readings

Micah 6:1-8 “...*what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*”

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12 – *The Beatitudes*

The readings for this Sunday offer an opportunity to lift up social services work as ministry to and advocacy for the “poor in spirit.” The programs LSS provides, together with our advocacy work, help to foster connection and hope for people who are often isolated and marginalized in our society.

Video resource: “LSS Is” (1 min) - <https://youtu.be/xw4Oi8qglZU>

March 15, 2026

Readings

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23 (5)

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41 – *A man born blind receives sight*

The gospel reading for this Sunday offers a connection to the work of LSS to empower people with disabilities to live full and healthy lives by connecting public resources to the people who need them most.

Video resource:

“No One Should Navigate Alone” (1 min) - <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/jGCRFHqjqjM>

April 26, 2026 (Good Shepherd Sunday)

Readings

Acts 2:42-47 – *“...they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need...”*

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10 – *Jesus the Good Shepherd*

We know Jesus as our Good Shepherd. As his disciples, we are called to feed and tend his sheep. The early church practiced radical generosity and demonstrated courageous care for the sick during epidemics. LSS carries on this ministry of healing, especially through programs that respond to modern-day epidemics of mental health diagnoses and addiction struggles.

Video resource:

“Hope is a Team Sport” (1 min) - <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/lK0z8ciIVDA>

June 7, 2026

Readings

Hosea 5:15—6:6

Psalm 50:7-15

Romans 4:13-25

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26 – *“Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”*

When we choose to follow Jesus, he leads us to places where—perhaps—we’d rather not go. He introduces us to people who—perhaps—we might otherwise avoid. But disciples of Jesus can’t look away. Disciples of Jesus have to *look out for* the people everyone else has given up on. LSS specializes in quietly ministering to people who have been pushed to the margins of society by addiction, mental health struggles, homelessness, family crisis, poverty. Through your support for LSS, you foster connection, hope, and healing.

Video resource: “Infinite Worth in an Age of Division” (1 min) -

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/vGmSrBK9oZs>

July 5, 2026

Readings

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm 145:8-14 – *“The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.”*

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 – *“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”*

This Sunday’s readings offer an opportunity to lift up programs that support people who are burdened by mental health and addiction struggles. Across Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, your support for LSS provides residential treatment, counseling and therapy, recovery support, and case management. These programs offer safe places and spaces where individuals and families can find healing from past trauma and receive support at every step along the journey to recovery.

Video resource:

“Hope is a Team Sport” (1 min) - <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/lK0z8ciIVDA>

July 26, 2026

Readings

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalm 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 – *Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast*

This Sunday's readings present the opportunity to share the story of how LSS began: In 1882, the roots of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan took hold when a Lutheran pastor in central Wisconsin established a home for orphaned children and elderly neighbors, beginning by serving five people in need of connection and belonging. LSS now has more than 140 years of service. Through wars, pandemics, and other global crises, we have stood the test of time by adapting to the urgent and changing needs of our communities. From humble beginnings, with the steadfast support of loving Lutherans like you, this ministry of care and compassion has grown to serve tens of thousands of people each year.

September 13, 2026

Readings

Genesis 50:15-21

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

Romans 14:1-12 14

Matthew 18:21-35 – *"...How often should I forgive?...Jesus said to him: Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."*

This Sunday's readings tell of God's amazing grace. Lutheran Social Services' flagship program, Homme Youth & Family Programs, is an expression of God's unfailing love and grace. This residential treatment center, located in Wittenberg, Wisconsin, welcomes and serves male youth and adolescents who are traumatized, struggling, and in danger of entering the adult criminal justice system. Homme Youth & Family Programs offers care, compassion and a promise to help them change their lives.

Video resource:

"I Am Homme" (~4 min) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMUpQj2tsd4>

October 25, 2026 (Reformation Sunday)

Readings

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

Psalm 1

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46 – *“...love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Many Lutheran congregations will observe Reformation Sunday on Oct. 25, which provides an excellent opportunity to lift up and celebrate Lutheran ministries like LSS. The assigned lectionary readings for Oct. 25 are texts which can remind us that for Lutherans, justification is not only freedom *from* sin and brokenness, but also freedom *for* the daily practice of loving our neighbor. Such texts have inspired LSS’ mission: Act compassionately. Serve humbly. Lead courageously.

Video resource: “Bishop Anne Edison-Albright Loving Lutherans Message” (~2 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2LhcQJKseU>

November 22, 2026 (Christ the King Sunday)

Readings

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 95:1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46 – *“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”*

This Sunday’s texts give us an image of Christ the King seated on the throne of his glory, surrounded by the angels. The chief concern of this King is the welfare the vulnerable: those who hunger and thirst, who are strangers, who are naked, who are in prison. We serve this King by serving our neighbors in need.

Video resource:

“Housing is the Starting Line” (1 min) - <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/aindJmclLkM>

December 13, 2026

Readings

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 – *“...he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners...”*

Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55 - *Mary’s Magnificat*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28 – *“He came as a witness to testify to the light...”*

Isaiah 61 speaks a word of hope to a community trying to recover after the trauma of war and displacement. It is the scripture Jesus will read in his inaugural sermon—his “mission statement,” to use a modern-day term. Our ministry together, as LSS, testifies to the light of Christ as we walk with refugee families as they resettle and rebuild their lives, as we work with people struggling through the darkness of mental health diagnoses and addiction, and as we help individuals and families navigate the complicated maze of social safety net programs. Our neighbors in need do not face these challenges alone—thanks to you.

Video resource:

“Refugees Are Not Strangers” - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NpEmuo4rfw>