

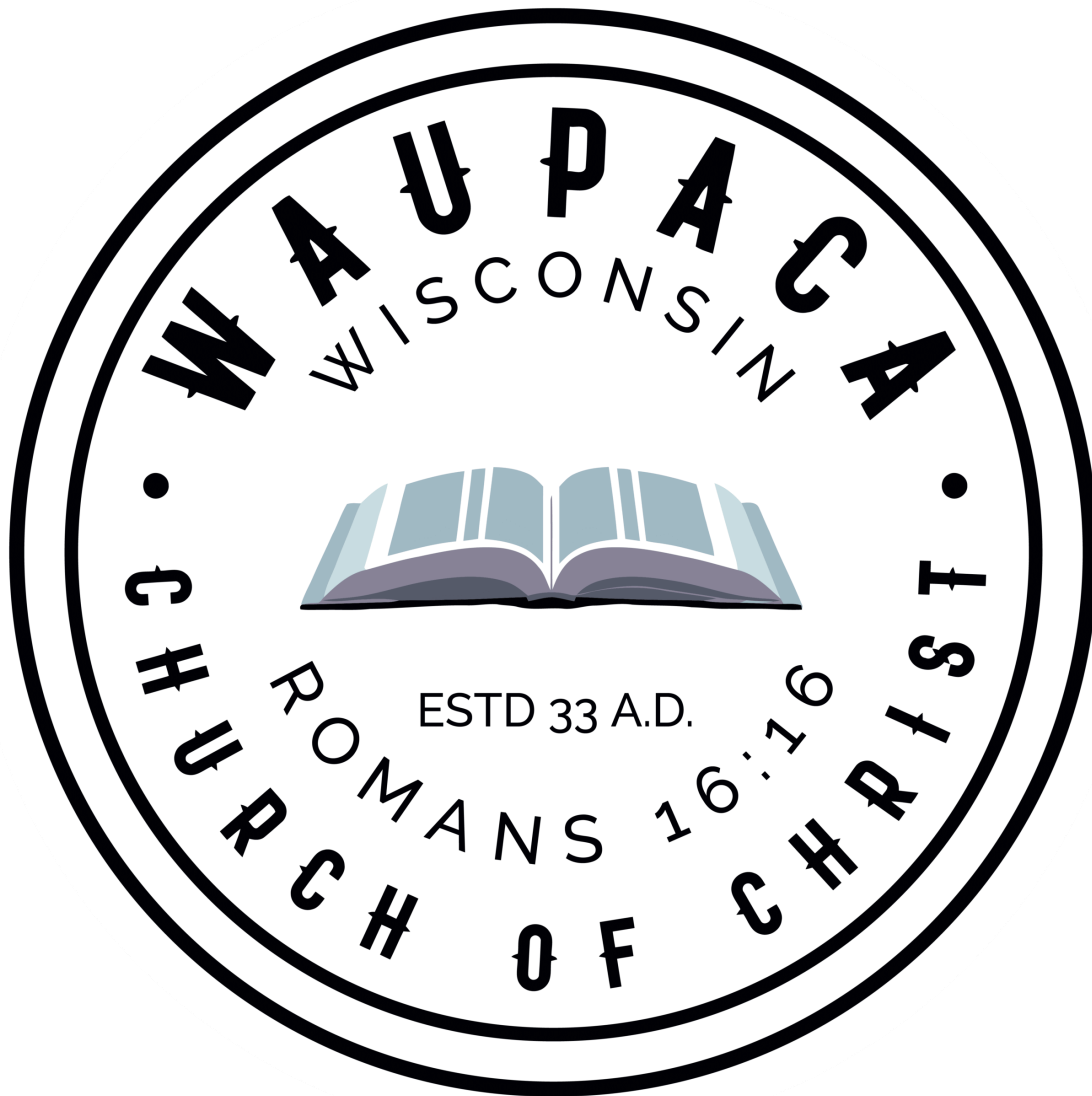


Waupaca Church of Christ

Waupaca, Wisconsin

© 2026 Ex Verbo Vitae — Ed Rangel — Waupaca, Wisconsin

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the author.



© 2026 Ex Verbo Vitae — Ed Rangel — Waupaca, Wisconsin

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the author.



SCAN FOR RESOURCES

CONTENTS

1. Cover & Theme Overview
2. Preacher's Letter — Theme Preface 2026
3. Elders' Letter — The Elders' Charge
4. Sermon Theme Plan — *Living the Word: Faith in Action* (James)
5. 2026 Sermon Calendar (AM/PM Integration)
6. Memory Verses for Waupaca
7. Daily Bible Reading Plan — Why It Matters
8. Weekly Journaling Template
9. Monthly Prayer & Meditation
10. Who Can I Serve Today? — Monthly Service Prompts
11. Congregational Challenge — Faith Working Through Love
12. Monthly Family Table Talk
13. Benediction — Choose the Path of Faithful Action
14. Final Page

© 2026 Ex Verbo Vitae — Ed Rangel — Waupaca, Wisconsin
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed,
or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the author.

Living the Word: Faith in Action



This year calls the congregation to more than religious talk or private sentiment. It is a focused walk through the Epistle of James, pressing us to let the implanted Word shape what we believe, how we speak, how we endure trials, and how we serve one another in daily life (James 1:21–27; James 2:14–18).

A year devoted to:

- Hearing James clearly and submitting to its call to active, obedient faith (James 1:22; James 2:26)
- Rejecting shallow, cheap, or purely emotional concepts of “faith” (James 2:19–20)
- Building homes and congregational life around visible obedience and steadfast endurance (James 1:2–4; James 5:7–11)
- Training the next generation of workers, teachers, shepherds, and servants (2 Timothy 2:2; Ephesians 4:11–12)

The health, strength, and future of the local church in Waupaca depends on raising and developing leaders in our own midst. In Scripture, leadership is not imported from the outside as a quick fix, but imparted through long, faithful discipleship. Moses was commanded to teach God’s words diligently to the people so that children and grandchildren would fear the Lord and walk in His ways (Deuteronomy 6:6–9). Elders are to shepherd the flock among them, watching for souls and modeling the kind of life others can follow (1 Peter 5:1–3; Hebrews 13:7).

We carry a solemn responsibility in this work. Paul charged Timothy to entrust what he had learned to faithful men who would be able to teach others also, creating a living chain of leadership and service (2 Timothy 2:2). The church is built up when every joint supplies what is needed and every part does its work (Ephesians 4:15–16). Our prayer is that this theme year will help parents, teachers, deacons, elders, and young disciples see themselves as part of that calling—to learn the Word deeply, live it visibly, and grow into leaders who will carry the work in Waupaca for years to come.

This packet brings together:

- A clear explanation of the theme and why James matters now (James 1:22–25)
- A charge from the elders, calling the whole church to “Here am I; send me” service (Isaiah 6:8)
- The full AM/PM sermon plan and calendar for every Lord’s Day (Acts 20:27; 2 Timothy 4:2)
- Memory verses for all ages, tied to the theme of living faith (Psalm 119:11; Deuteronomy 6:6–7)
- A daily Bible reading plan and digital tools accessible through QR links (Psalm 1:2; Joshua 1:8)
- Templates and online resources for journaling, prayer, service, and family teaching (James 5:16; Hebrews 10:24–25; Colossians 3:16)

Use it as:

- A reference guide for the entire year’s teaching and preaching (1 Timothy 4:15–16)
- A home discipleship tool to keep families walking through the same Scriptures (Deuteronomy 6:7; Ephesians 6:4)
- A way to keep hearts, homes, and congregational life aligned with the Word in real, observable action (Matthew 7:24–27; James 3:13)

© 2026 Ex Verbo Vitae — Ed Rangel — Waupaca, Wisconsin

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the author.



Living the Word: Faith in Action

This year calls the congregation to more than religious talk or private sentiment. It is a focused walk through the Epistle of James, pressing us to let the implanted Word shape what we believe, how we speak, how we endure trials, and how we serve one another in daily life (James 1:21–27; James 2:14–18).

A year devoted to:

- Hearing James clearly and submitting to its call to active, obedient faith (James 1:22; James 2:26)
- Rejecting shallow, cheap, or purely emotional concepts of “faith” (James 2:19–20)
- Building homes and congregational life around visible obedience and steadfast endurance (James 1:2–4; James 5:7–11)
- Training the next generation of workers, teachers, shepherds, and servants (2 Timothy 2:2; Ephesians 4:11–12)

The health, strength, and future of the local church in Waupaca depends on raising and developing leaders in our own midst. In Scripture, leadership is not imported from the outside as a quick fix, but imparted through long, faithful discipleship. Moses was commanded to teach God’s words diligently to the people so that children and grandchildren would fear the Lord and walk in His ways (Deuteronomy 6:6–9). Elders are to shepherd the flock among them, watching for souls and modeling the kind of life others can follow (1 Peter 5:1–3; Hebrews 13:7).

We carry a solemn responsibility in this work. Paul charged Timothy to entrust what he had learned to faithful men who would be able to teach others also, creating a living chain of leadership and service (2 Timothy 2:2). The church is built up when every joint supplies what is needed and every part does its work (Ephesians 4:15–16). Our prayer is that this theme year will help parents, teachers, deacons, elders, and young disciples see themselves as part of that calling—to learn the Word deeply, live it visibly, and grow into leaders who will carry the work in Waupaca for years to come.

This packet brings together:

- A clear explanation of the theme and why James matters now (James 1:22–25)
- A charge from the elders, calling the whole church to “Here am I; send me” service (Isaiah 6:8)
- The full AM/PM sermon plan and calendar for every Lord’s Day (Acts 20:27; 2 Timothy 4:2)
- Memory verses for all ages, tied to the theme of living faith (Psalm 119:11; Deuteronomy 6:6–7)
- A daily Bible reading plan and digital tools accessible through QR links (Psalm 1:2; Joshua 1:8)
- Templates and online resources for journaling, prayer, service, and family teaching (James 5:16; Hebrews 10:24–25; Colossians 3:16)

Use it as:

- A reference guide for the entire year’s teaching and preaching (1 Timothy 4:15–16)
- A home discipleship tool to keep families walking through the same Scriptures (Deuteronomy 6:7; Ephesians 6:4)
- A way to keep hearts, homes, and congregational life aligned with the Word in real, observable action (Matthew 7:24–27; James 3:13)

Introduction: Why James? Why Now?

We live in a time when many want faith without the weight of obedience. Culture says, “Just believe.” Religion says, “Grace only.” And even among those who claim loyalty to the Scriptures, a quieter message has taken root — one that lowers the call of discipleship, that treats obedience as optional, and that speaks of grace but not repentance, of faith but not faithfulness. But James speaks with Spirit-given clarity: “Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead” (Jas. 2:17).

Our theme for 2026, **Living the Word: Faith in Action**, is not chosen by accident. It rises from the pressing need to build disciples whose faith is alive, active, and enduring. It is about homes that train their children in wisdom. It is about churches that show the world what faith looks like in action. It is about a people who live the Word, not just hear it (Jas. 1:22).

Every Lord's Day morning, we will walk carefully through James—expository lessons that demand response. Every Lord's Day evening, we will anchor those truths in Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, and apologetics, so that our minds and hearts are trained to live as disciples in a skeptical world. Together, these lessons will press the Word into action.

Discipling the Young

Young hearts are easily drawn away by voices louder than Scripture. James brings them back to center: resist temptation (Jas. 1:12–15), bridle the tongue (Jas. 3:1–12), walk humbly (Jas. 4:6–10), and live with wisdom from above (Jas. 3:13–18). Proverbs calls the young to “get wisdom” (Prov. 4:7). Ecclesiastes reminds them, “Remember your Creator in the days of your youth” (Eccl. 12:1).

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word.”
— Psalm 119:9

But roots will not grow without presence. To gain the full strength of these lessons, our young must be with the saints. Hebrews 10:24–25 warns us not to forsake the assembling, because it is in gathering that faith is modeled, habits are formed, and examples are seen. Parents, bring your children to every service—morning and evening—so they grow up knowing that faith is lived in the company of God's people.

Restoring the Faith of the Weak

Some are weary. Some have stumbled. Some have almost given up. James lifts them with hope: “Blessed is the one who remains steadfast under trial” (Jas. 1:12). He calls us to pray for the sick and confess sins so that healing may come (Jas. 5:16). Lamentations weeps, yet sings: “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end” (Lam. 3:22–23).

“He restores my soul; He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.”
— Psalm 23:3

But restoration does not happen in isolation. It happens in the gathering. Hebrews 10:19–39 tells us that drawing near to God and holding fast to our confession is tied to stirring up love in one another—and that cannot be done if we forsake the assembly. Saints, do not stay away. Children, come with your parents. The weary soul regains strength when it sees the family of God stand together.

Strengthening the Faith of the Mature

Even the seasoned can grow comfortable. James warns against presumption (Jas. 4:13–17), pride (Jas. 4:6), and compromise with the world (Jas. 4:4). The mature must keep pressing forward, living out wisdom that is “pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits” (Jas. 3:17).

True faith obeys. True grace transforms.

We guard against the quiet drift that empties faith of obedience—where grace is redefined as permission and discipleship becomes optional.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.”
— 1 Corinthians 15:58

The strong also need the flock. Hebrews 10:36–39 reminds us endurance is not learned alone but in fellowship. Our elders model steadfastness as they watch for souls (Heb. 13:7, 17). Evening lessons will arm the mature with answers against false teaching and humanism, preparing them to give a defense (1 Pet. 3:15). The church grows strong when her strongest members stay close to Christ and close to His body.

Developing Spiritual Leaders for the Next Generation

Faith that lives must also lead. Every generation of the Lord's people must prepare the next to carry the work forward. We cannot borrow leaders from elsewhere or hope they appear by chance—they must be formed intentionally, from the cradle up.

“And these words which I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children.”
— Deuteronomy 6:6–7

Our children should grow up seeing what service looks like. Boys must learn to read Scripture publicly, lead prayers, and develop hearts that serve. Girls must see in their mothers, teachers, and elder's wives examples of quiet strength, reverence, and compassion. Every home is a training ground. Every class is a seedbed for future teachers. Every song service is an opportunity to grow the next song leader.

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
— Proverbs 22:6

We must cultivate spiritual leadership early—training teachers, deacons, elders, preachers, song leaders, mothers, and preacher's wives who live the Word first and then lead others to it. These roles are not titles to be claimed but fruits of years of faithfulness, humility, and growth.

“The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”
— 2 Timothy 2:2

When we fail to prepare the next generation of servants, the work weakens. But when we train them early, the church flourishes.

In Him,

Preacher Ed

© 2026 Ex Verbo Vitae — Ed Rangel — Waupaca, Wisconsin
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed,
or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the author.

The Elders' Charge — Here Am I, Send Me



Faith in Action Begins with Willing Hearts

Isaiah, while witnessing a heavenly scene, heard the Lord ask, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”

Isaiah then responded with that now often-quoted phrase,

“Here am I; send me.”

(Isaiah 6:1–8)

Powerful words. Words of conviction and commitment that he faithfully backed up with a lifetime of service to God as one of His prophets.

Examples of Service in Scripture

When it was time to gather materials for constructing the tabernacle, God desired offerings from those who had a willing heart > *(Exodus 35:5)*, and we're told:

“Everyone whose heart stirred him and everyone whose spirit moved him, came and brought the LORD'S contribution for the work of the tent of meeting and for all its service and for the holy garments.”

(Exodus 35:21)

When Abram was seventy-five years old, God called for him to leave his home country of Haran and go to a foreign land where God would bless him greatly. Abraham did as the Lord asked and went on to become one of the great pillars of faith of all time. *(Genesis 12:1–5)*

During Caleb's campaign to drive out the inhabitants within his allotment in Canaan, he offered his daughter in marriage to the one who would volunteer to conquer Debir. His nephew Othniel, the son of Kenaz, rose to the challenge. *(Joshua 15:14–17)*

We see in the early days of the church in Jerusalem that there was some neglect occurring in the daily ministrations. To solve this, the church found seven men who would oversee this task so that the apostles could focus on preaching the word. *(Acts 6:1–7)*

A man named Saul, though very zealous, was on the wrong side of the will of God until that great day when the Lord confronted him on his way to Damascus. The Lord called on him to become a gospel preacher sent to the Gentiles, and Saul answered the call and would now be known as the Apostle Paul, who penned over a dozen books of the Bible. *(Acts 9)*

In his letter to the brethren in Rome, he makes reference to the numerous Christians who had demonstrated their faithful service. *(Romans 16:1–16)*

A Call to Faith in Action

These and other scriptural examples serve as a reminder of what faith in action looks like.

This coming year, the elders and Ed have determined to make **2026** a year of taking a closer look at our service to God.

We've titled it:

“Living the Word – Faith in Action.”

The book of James will be the primary text, as this book underscores that our faith needs to be more than just idle words. True faith is putting those words into action.

Jesus instructs us to let our light shine—not for self-glory, but as an avenue to draw attention to God and the truth of His word. *(Matthew 5:16)* God has called each of us to love our brethren and edify the body of Christ *(Ephesians 4:16)*, and when we show this type of love to the world, they will know we are Christ's disciples. *(John 13:35)*

God has also called on us to evangelize the world through the preaching and teaching of His holy word. (*Luke 9:60; 2 Timothy 4:2; Romans 10:14–15*)

Ways to Serve in 2026

There is no shortage of tasks, nor in the ability God has given us to rise to the occasion.

Here's a sampling:

- Many among us have poor health — encourage them with a visit or a card.
 - Host a song-singing session in your home or start a home Bible study with others.
 - Be present at every assembly without fail — it's good for self and everyone else.
 - Make an effort to get to know brethren we don't know well.
 - Find the courage to talk to others about the truth — a classmate, family member, co-worker, neighbor, or even a stranger.
 - Take an interest in those who visit our assemblies — share a meal, share the truth, invite them to study.
 - Become a Bible class teacher, a deacon, an elder, song leader, or part-time preacher.
 - Offer your service to the care of the building and grounds.
-

A Hymn That Still Calls Us

As M.W. Spencer wrote in the lyrics of **Lord, Send Me**:

“There is much to do, there's work on every hand.
Hark! The cry for help comes ringing thru the land;
Jesus calls for reapers, I must active be,
What wilt Thou, O Master: **Here am I, send me.**”

The Elders

© 2026 Ex Verbo Vitae — Ed Rangel — Waupaca, Wisconsin

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed,
or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the author.

4. Sermon Theme Plan — Living the Word: Faith in Action (James)



Overview

Throughout 2026, the Lord’s Day morning sermons will walk carefully, week by week, through the Epistle of **James**, calling us to be “doers of the Word, and not hearers only” (**James 1:22**) and showing that “faith without works is dead” (**James 2:26**). The goal is to ground the congregation in clear, lawful, obedient, Christ-centered discipleship that endures trials, guards the tongue, rejects worldliness, and practices mercy (**James 1:2–4; James 3:1–12; James 4:4–10; James 5:7–11**).

Each evening sermon will reinforce and expand these truths through **Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, and apologetic themes**, so that wisdom, reverence, honest lament, and a ready defense of the faith all stand beside James’ call to living obedience (**Proverbs 1:7; Ecclesiastes 12:13–14; Lamentations 3:22–24; 1 Peter 3:15**). Together, these lessons are designed to equip the younger, restore the weak, strengthen the mature, and prepare the next generation of leaders for faithful service (**Hebrews 5:12–14; 2 Timothy 2:2**).

This table pairs each Sunday’s **AM exposition in James** with the **PM supporting study**, showing how every Lord’s Day contributes to the overall theme: living the Word with visible faith and steadfast obedience (**Colossians 1:10; Titus 2:11–14**).

Use this section as:

- A quick reference for the year’s preaching and teaching
- A guide for family devotionals and class preparation at home (**Deuteronomy 6:6–7**)
- A tool to keep Sunday mornings and evenings connected around the same truths
- A way to reinforce consistent application through the week, so that the Word heard is the Word lived (**James 1:25**)

The integration table follows on the next page.

© 2026 Ex Verbo Vitae — Ed Rangel — Waupaca, Wisconsin

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the author.

4. Sermon Theme Plan — Living the Word: Faith in Action (James)



Overview

Throughout 2026, the Lord's Day morning sermons will walk carefully, week by week, through the Epistle of **James**, calling us to be “doers of the Word, and not hearers only” (**James 1:22**) and showing that “faith without works is dead” (**James 2:26**). The goal is to ground the congregation in clear, lawful, obedient, Christ-centered discipleship that endures trials, guards the tongue, rejects worldliness, and practices mercy (**James 1:2–4; James 3:1–12; James 4:4–10; James 5:7–11**).

Each evening sermon will reinforce and expand these truths through **Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, and apologetic themes**, so that wisdom, reverence, honest lament, and a ready defense of the faith all stand beside James' call to living obedience (**Proverbs 1:7; Ecclesiastes 12:13–14; Lamentations 3:22–24; 1 Peter 3:15**). Together, these lessons are designed to equip the younger, restore the weak, strengthen the mature, and prepare the next generation of leaders for faithful service (**Hebrews 5:12–14; 2 Timothy 2:2**).

This table pairs each Sunday's **AM exposition in James** with the **PM supporting study**, showing how every Lord's Day contributes to the overall theme: living the Word with visible faith and steadfast obedience (**Colossians 1:10; Titus 2:11–14**).

Use this section as:

- A quick reference for the year's preaching and teaching
- A guide for family devotionals and class preparation at home (**Deuteronomy 6:6–7**)
- A tool to keep Sunday mornings and evenings connected around the same truths
- A way to reinforce consistent application through the week, so that the Word heard is the Word lived (**James 1:25**)

The integration table follows on the next page.

5. 2026 Sermon Calendar (AM/PM)



AM/PM Integration Table

(Part 1: January – June)

Week	AM Lesson (James)	PM Lesson (Topical)	Tie-In
1 (Jan 4)	Joy in Trials (Jas 1:2–4)	Fear of the Lord (Prov 1:7)	Trials drive us to wisdom.
2 (Jan 11)	Ask for Wisdom (Jas 1:5–8)	Trust in the Lord (Prov 3:5–6)	Prayer becomes “Lord-willing” plans.
3 (Jan 18)	Rich/Poor (Jas 1:9–12)	Guard Your Heart (Prov 4:23)	A guarded heart endures.
4 (Jan 25)	Temptation (Jas 1:13–15)	Path of Righteousness (Prov 4:18)	Wisdom walks away from sin.
5 (Feb 1)	Father of Lights (Jas 1:16–18)	Vanity vs. Endurance (Eccl 1:2)	God’s gifts rescue life from vanity.
6 (Feb 8)	Quick to Hear (Jas 1:19–20)	A Time for Every Purpose (Eccl 3:1)	Wise timing governs words.
7 (Feb 15)	Implanted Word (Jas 1:21)	The End of the Matter (Eccl 12:13)	Reverent obedience is faith at work.
8 (Feb 22)	Doers, Not Hearers (Jas 1:22)	Better Two Than One (Eccl 4:9)	Fellowship helps us practice.
9 (Mar 1)	Pure Religion (Jas 1:26–27)	Not Faith Alone (Jas 2:24)	Compassion shows living faith.
10 (Mar 8)	No Partiality (Jas 2:1–7)	Grace that Teaches (Titus 2:11)	Grace trains us to treat people rightly.
11 (Mar 15)	Royal Law (Jas 2:8–13)	Once Saved Always Saved?	Mercy restores the fallen.
12 (Mar 22)	Faith/Works (Jas 2:14–17)	Predestined by Choice (Eph 1:4)	God’s choosing creates working faith.
13 (Mar 29)	Show Me Faith (Jas 2:18–20)	Summary/Review	Visible faith answers empty claims.
14 (Apr 5)	Abraham (Jas 2:21–24)	Great Is Thy Faithfulness (Lam 3)	Trust acts; God is faithful.
15 (Apr 12)	Rahab (Jas 2:25–26)	When Tears Teach (Lam 1:16)	Costly obedience still trusts.
16 (Apr 19)	Teachers/Tongue (Jas 3:1–5)	The Weight of Sin (Lam 1:8)	Words reveal sin’s weight.
17 (Apr 26)	Untamable Fire (Jas 3:5–8)	Hope in the Ashes (Lam 3:31)	Endurance under God’s hand.
18 (May 3)	Blessing/Cursing (Jas 3:9)	Wisdom’s House (Prov 24:3)	Wise homes start with wise tongues.
19 (May 10)	Conduct (Jas 3:13)	Teaching Children (Prov 22:6)	Parents model doer-faith.
20 (May 17)	Envy; Disorder (Jas 3:14)	Faithful Marriage (Eccl 9:9)	Worldliness ruins marriages.
21 (May 24)	Wisdom Above (Jas 3:17)	Hospitality (Heb 13:2)	Hospitality without partiality.
22 (May 31)	James 3 Review	Recap	Sowing peace in family life.
23 (Jun 7)	Passions/Prayer (Jas 4:1–3)	Pillar & Ground (1 Tim 3:15)	A Word-formed church prays rightly.
24 (Jun 14)	Friendship/World (Jas 4:4)	Serving Without Envy (Phil 2:3)	Humility kills rivalry.
25 (Jun 21)	Draw Near (Jas 4:7–10)	Praying as a People (Acts 4:31)	Power in humble, united prayer.
26 (Jun 28)	Speak No Evil (Jas 4:11)	Confessing/Restoring (Gal 6:1)	Restoring speech restores people.

(Part 2: July – December)

Week	AM Lesson (James)	PM Lesson (Topical)	Tie-In
27 (Jul 5)	Lord-Willing (Jas 4:13–17)	No God (Ps 14:1)	Godless wisdom boasts; faith submits.
28 (Jul 12)	Rich Oppressors (Jas 5:1–3)	Boasting in Tomorrow (Eccl 9:11)	Fragile life punctures pride.
29 (Jul 19)	Wages/Witness (Jas 5:4–6)	Science Without God (Rom 1:20)	The Giver's order condemns injustice.
30 (Jul 26)	Patience (Jas 5:7–9)	True Liberty (John 8:32)	Christ's liberty sustains endurance.
31 (Aug 2)	Prophets & Job (Jas 5:10)	Soft Answer (Prov 15:1)	Gentle words under pressure.
32 (Aug 9)	Integrity/Oaths (Jas 5:12)	Multitude of Words (Prov 10:19)	Fewer, truer words.
33 (Aug 16)	Pray; Healing (Jas 5:13–15)	Diligent Hands (Prov 10:4)	Prayer fuels diligent faith.
34 (Aug 23)	Confess/Elijah (Jas 5:16)	Commit Plans (Prov 16:3)	Work placed in God's hands.
35 (Aug 30)	James 5 Review	Recap	Endurance, integrity, intercession.
36 (Sep 6)	James 1–2:13 Overview	Life Without God (Eccl 1:2)	Vapor vs. steadfast faith.
37 (Sep 13)	James 2:14–26 Overview	Enjoy Gifts (Eccl 3:12)	Gifts given for doing good.
38 (Sep 20)	James 3 Overview	Seek First (Matt 6:33)	Priorities shaped by submission.
39 (Sep 27)	James 4 Overview	Whole Duty of Man (Eccl 12:13)	Fear God, obey God.
40 (Oct 4)	James 5 Overview	When God Is Silent (Lam 3:25)	Waiting in faith when trials linger.
41 (Oct 11)	Review: James 1	Wisdom's Beginning (Prov 9:10)	Fear of Lord produces wisdom.
42 (Oct 18)	Review: James 2	Watching Steps (Eccl 5:1)	Careful hearing, obedient living.
43 (Oct 25)	Review: James 3	Guarding Heart (Prov 4:23)	Disciplined tongue from guarded heart.
44 (Nov 1)	Review: James 4	Godly Grief (2 Cor 7:10)	Humility produces transformation.
45 (Nov 8)	Review: James 5	Prayer That Works (1 Tim 2:1)	Prayer linked to righteousness.
46 (Nov 15)	James: Complete Faith	Counting Cost (Lk 14:25)	Whole-life obedience.
47 (Nov 22)	Faith in Trials Review	Thanksgiving (Ps 100:4)	Gratitude rooted in God.
48 (Nov 29)	Faith in Works Review	Being Ready (1 Pet 3:15)	Prepared to give an answer.
49 (Dec 6)	Faith with Words Review	Truth in Love (Eph 4:15)	Words shaped by wisdom.
50 (Dec 13)	Faith/Wisdom Review	Redeeming Time (Eph 5:15)	Making use of time.
51 (Dec 20)	Faith/Patience Review	Hope in Christ (Rom 15:13)	Enduring with expectation.
52 (Dec 27)	Crown of Life (Jas 1:12)	Finishing Race (2 Tim 4:6)	Faith that finishes.

© 2026 Ex Verbo Vitae — Ed Rangel — Waupaca, Wisconsin

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the author.

6. Memory Verses for Waupaca



Why Hiding the Word Matters

Memorizing Scripture is far more than a children’s exercise or a way to fill class time. It is a spiritual discipline that trains minds and hearts to recall God’s truth when it is most needed. The Psalmist writes, “Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You” (**Psalm 119:11**). When the Word is stored within us, it guards our steps, shapes our choices, and steadies us in trial (**Psalm 119:9; Joshua 1:8**).

Our congregation’s memory work is part of answering James’ call to move from hearing to doing. A heart filled with the Word is better prepared to resist temptation, bridle the tongue, show mercy, and endure trials with steadfast faith (**James 1:21–25; James 1:2–4; James 3:2**). Hiding Scripture equips children, new Christians, and mature saints alike to live out “faith in action” in homes, workplaces, schools, and the community.

The Role of Our Elders

The memory plan we are using has been chosen and shaped by our elders, who bear the God-given responsibility to shepherd, teach, and protect the flock (**Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1–3**). Scripture teaches us to honor those who watch for our souls and to follow their lead as they point us to sound doctrine and holy living (**Hebrews 13:7, 17; Ephesians 4:11–16**). Trusting their guidance in these verses is part of walking together in unity and humility.

By selecting passages that teach core truths, expose error, strengthen hope, and form character, our elders are helping the whole church—young and old—build a shared vocabulary of faith. These verses are meant to anchor us in Christ, safeguard us against false teaching, and prepare a new generation of workers and leaders in Waupaca (**Deuteronomy 6:6–7; 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Timothy 2:2**).

How to Use This Plan

All of the detailed memory verse lists and helps now live online rather than filling many printed pages in this packet. To access them, simply scan the Memory Verses QR code on this page or type in the printed web address. There you will find:

- The full 2026 Memory Verse Plan for children, teens, and adults
- Age-group tracks that can be used at home or in Bible classes
- Simple tools for tracking progress and reviewing past verses

You may use these resources in several ways:

- Read and review verses directly on your phone, tablet, or computer
- Download and print the trackers for your family’s binders or folders
- Pick up printed copies provided in the foyer and add them to your theme packet

Whether you memorize alone, as a family, or as a class, the aim is the same: to let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly so that our praise, our decisions, and our daily obedience are shaped by Scripture (**Colossians 3:16**). As we hide the Word together, we are asking God to strengthen this local church in Waupaca for faithful service, sound teaching, and enduring discipleship for years to come.

<https://bit.ly/2026MemoryVerses>

© 2026 Ex Verbo Vitae — Ed Rangel — Waupaca, Wisconsin

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the author.

7. Daily Bible Reading Plan — Why It Matters



365 Days with the Word — Digital Reading Plan

This year-long reading plan is built to help you walk through all of Scripture with consistency, not hurry. Instead of printing the entire 365-day chart in this packet, the full reading schedule now lives online, where it can be updated, tracked, and shared easily. Printed 365 Bible Reading Cards in the form of bookmarks are available in the foyer so you can keep a simple reminder tucked in your Bible, but the detailed plan and tools are digital.

Daily reading is not optional for a living faith. God’s Word is described as our bread, our lamp, and our sword (**Matthew 4:4; Psalm 119:105; Ephesians 6:17**). Regular time in the Word anchors the heart in truth, strengthens us against temptation, and keeps our minds set on things above (**Psalm 1:2–3; Colossians 3:1–2**). This plan pairs a clear structure with flexible tools so that individuals, families, and small groups in Waupaca can read together and stay on course.

To use the plan, scan the 365 Reading Plan QR code on this page or follow the printed link. The online version offers:

- Built-in tracking so you can mark each day’s reading complete and see your progress
- Visual progress indicators and completion badges that encourage steady faithfulness rather than guilt
- Access to multiple audio and text Bible versions so you can listen or read wherever you are
- The ability to share the plan with friends, family, and small groups so you can encourage one another

The digital platform also provides readings in over thirty languages—enough that, like the crowd in Acts 2, many could say, “We hear them each in our own language” as they follow along. Whether you read in English or another tongue, the goal is the same: to let the whole counsel of God shape the whole of your life (**Acts 20:27; 2 Timothy 3:16–17**).

You may:

- Use the digital plan exclusively, checking off each day’s reading and listening on the go
- Combine the foyer bookmark with the online tracker, marking your place on paper and on screen
- Invite others to join the same plan so that you can discuss, pray, and stay accountable together

Whichever approach you choose, commit to staying with the Word daily. As you walk through Genesis to Revelation this year, the prayer is that your faith will be rooted more deeply, your endurance strengthened, and your love for God and His people renewed.

<https://bit.ly/3KvQ4yz>

© 2026 Ex Verbo Vitae — Ed Rangel — Waupaca, Wisconsin

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the author.

8. Weekly Journaling Template



Living the Word: Faith in Action

This Weekly Journaling Template is designed to help you move from hearing the Word to doing the Word in the flow of each Lord's Day (**James 1:22–25**). Instead of filling the packet with many printed pages, the full journal now lives online as a flexible, living tool that can be updated, downloaded, or printed as needed. Each week follows the same pattern—examining your heart, applying the sermon, praying specifically, serving intentionally, giving thanks, and enduring trials with faith—so that what is preached on Sunday is practiced Monday through Saturday.

The online journal is built around our year-long walk through **James**, paired with the supporting evening texts in **Proverbs**, **Ecclesiastes**, **Lamentations**, and other Scriptures. It provides prompts that ask what truth you must face, what obedience must follow, how you will pray, whom you will serve, what you will give thanks for, and how you will endure. Used faithfully, it becomes a record of how God is shaping your faith over time, not just a set of notes you forget by midweek (**James 2:14–18; Hebrews 5:14**).

To use this resource, simply scan the QR code on this page or follow the printed link to open the Weekly Journaling Template online. From there, you may:

- Use the digital version on your phone, tablet, or computer and type directly into the form.
- Download and print copies for yourself or your family to keep in a binder or folder.
- Pick up pre-printed copies made available in the foyer and place them in your personal theme folder.

Whether you use it digitally or on paper, the goal is the same: to let the Word implanted take root in your thoughts, choices, prayers, and acts of service each week (**James 1:21; Colossians 3:16**).

<https://bit.ly/3MutkPW>

© 2026 Ex Verbo Vitae — Ed Rangel — Waupaca, Wisconsin

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the author.

9. Monthly Prayer & Meditation



Living the Word: Faith in Action — 2026

The Monthly Prayer & Meditation resource is meant to slow us down and press the truths of **James** into our hearts in a deliberate, prayerful way. Rather than filling this packet with twelve printed pages, the full monthly guide now lives online as a flexible tool that can be opened, printed, or shared as needed. Each month pairs a theme from **James** with supporting Scriptures so that our prayers grow out of the Word and our meditation leads to real obedience (**James 1:22–25; Colossians 3:16**).

The pattern for each month is simple but weighty: gratitude, confession, intercession, personal petition, and meditation. Giving thanks guards us from grumbling and forgetfulness (**1 Thessalonians 5:16–18**). Honest confession allows God’s Word to search us and leads to cleansing and change (**Psalms 139:23–24; 1 John 1:8–9**). Intercession teaches us to “stand in the gap” for the church, our leaders, our families, the weak, and the lost (**Ezekiel 22:30; Ephesians 6:18**). Personal petitions bring specific needs, habits, and relationships before the Lord. Meditation helps us “be still, and know” what God has been teaching so that we do not walk away and forget (**Psalms 46:10; James 1:23–25**).

To use this resource, simply scan the Monthly Prayer & Meditation QR code on this page or follow the printed web address. On the website you will find:

- A guided page for each month of 2026, tied to the sermon themes in **James**
- Space for written responses in each of the five areas
- Printable versions you can keep in a binder, journal, or family folder

You may complete the monthly page digitally, print copies at home, or pick up pre-printed sheets from the foyer to place in your theme packet. However you access it, the aim is the same: to let the Word drive your prayers, shape your self-examination, and steady your heart in trials (**Philippians 4:6–7; James 5:13–16**). As individuals and families in Waupaca walk through these pages together, our desire is that the whole congregation will grow in watchful, thankful, Scripture-shaped prayer throughout the year.

<https://bit.ly/4rsl96V>

© 2026 Ex Verbo Vitae — Ed Rangel — Waupaca, Wisconsin

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the author.

10. Who Can I Serve Today? — Monthly Service



Living the Word: Faith in Action — 2026

This Monthly Service resource is designed to train hearts toward active, everyday service at home, in the congregation, and in the community. **James** teaches that “faith without works is dead” (**James 2:17**) and calls us to show our faith by what we do (**James 2:18**). Rather than filling this packet with twelve printed prompt pages, the full set of monthly service guides now lives online so it can be opened, printed, or shared as needed throughout the year.

Each month's page grows out of a theme in **James** and includes simple, concrete prompts for different seasons of life—children, teens, young adults, families, and older saints. The aim is not to add busywork, but to help every member ask, “Who can I serve today?” and then answer that question with quiet, intentional action (**Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:14**). Some prompts focus on the home, others on the local church, and others on neighbors, co-workers, and the lost, so that service becomes a way of life and not just a special event.

To use this resource, scan the Monthly Service QR code on this page or follow the printed link. On the website you will find:

- A full set of monthly prompts for all of 2026, tied to the sermon themes in **James**
- Age- and role-sensitive ideas that can be used by individuals, families, and classes
- Printable versions you can place in your home folders, teen binders, or class materials

You may work from the digital page on your phone, download and print the prompts for your refrigerator or family notebook, or pick up pre-printed copies made available in the foyer. However you access them, the goal is to let the implanted Word bear fruit in visible love, mercy, and good works (**James 1:21; James 3:13**). As each member in Waupaca takes up even small acts of service, the whole body is strengthened, and Christ is honored in the ordinary details of daily life (**Ephesians 4:16; Matthew 5:16**).

© 2026 Ex Verbo Vitae — Ed Rangel — Waupaca, Wisconsin

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the author.

11. Congregational Challenge — Faith Working Through Love



Living the Word: Faith in Action — 2026

The Congregational Challenge is a year-long call for the whole church in Waupaca to practice “faith working through love” in simple, concrete ways (**Galatians 5:6**). Instead of giving every monthly list in this packet, the full set of challenges now lives online so it can be updated, printed, and shared easily. Each month pairs a theme from **James** with a short list of practical actions any member can take, helping us move from hearing the Word to doing it together (**James 1:22; James 2:14–18**).

This challenge matters because love is not merely a feeling we confess but a work we practice. Jesus said that the world will know we are His disciples by the love we have for one another (**John 13:34–35**). **James** reminds us that pure and undefiled religion cares for those in need and keeps itself unstained from the world (**James 1:27**). When entire congregations take up regular, intentional acts of service—visiting, encouraging, reconciling, giving, praying—the body is built up in love and each part learns to supply what God intended (**Ephesians 4:15–16**).

To use this resource, scan the Congregational Challenge QR code on this page or follow the printed link. On the website you will find:

- A monthly theme tied to **James** and companion passages
- Several specific, doable actions for individuals, families, and groups
- Space for reflection questions to help you notice what God is doing through your service

You may participate by:

- Choosing at least one challenge each month to complete personally or as a family
- Printing the monthly sheet for your refrigerator, class, or small group
- Picking up pre-printed copies from the foyer to keep in your theme folder

As we share these challenges, our aim is not to keep a checklist, but to form habits of Christ-shaped love—visiting the weary, strengthening the weak, bearing burdens, and seeking the lost (**Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 10:24**). Over time, these small acts of obedience will help our faith become visible, our fellowship deeper, and our witness in Waupaca brighter to the glory of God (**Matthew 5:16**).

<https://bit.ly/4riuBJY>

© 2026 Ex Verbo Vitae — Ed Rangel — Waupaca, Wisconsin

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the author.

12. Monthly Family Table Talk



Living the Word: Faith in Action — 2026

The Monthly “Family Table Talk” resource is meant to bring the truths of **James** into normal family life—around the table, after worship, on a quiet evening, or during regular devotion time. Rather than including all twelve pages in this packet, the full set now lives online so that it can be opened on any device, printed for binders or fridge, and shared easily with other families. Each month connects a key passage in **James** with simple questions, gratitude prompts, a family service choice, a memory verse, and space for reflection (**Deuteronomy 6:6–7; James 1:22–25**).

This resource matters because families are often where faith is first seen and learned. When parents and children talk together about trials, wisdom, obedience, mercy, and endurance, they are “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs” and letting the Word of Christ dwell richly in their homes (**Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16**). Short, focused conversations—paired with one small act of service and one shared memory verse each month—help move faith from the pulpit and classroom into mealtimes, car rides, and everyday choices.

To use this resource, scan the Family Table Talk QR code on this page or follow the printed web address. On the website you will find:

- A guided page for each month of 2026, tied to the sermon themes in **James**
- Family reflection questions, gratitude prompts, a simple service choice, and a memory verse
- Printable versions that can be slipped into a family notebook, children’s folders, or given to grandparents and caregivers

You may walk through a page once a month at dinner, break it into shorter moments across the week, or use it as a guide for family devotion on Sunday evenings. However you structure it, the goal is to help households in Waupaca “walk in the truth” together—hearing Scripture, talking about it, praying over it, and putting it into practice in love (**3 John 4; Joshua 24:15**). As many families share these same conversations through the year, the entire congregation is strengthened by homes that are learning, loving, and living the Word side by side.

<https://bit.ly/3Kn1NiL>

© 2026 Ex Verbo Vitae — Ed Rangel — Waupaca, Wisconsin

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the author.

“Choose the Path of Faithful Action”



Living the Word: Faith in Action — 2026

There comes a moment in every journey when God calls His people to stop, look back, and remember.

Remember the trials that did not break you.

Remember the prayers God answered in ways you didn't expect.

Remember the brothers and sisters who carried you, listened to you, fought for you, wept with you.

Remember the Word that corrected, healed, steadied, and anchored your soul.

At the beginning of 2025, many of us stepped into the year with hopes and plans, with loved ones by our side, and with a sense that tomorrow would unfold as we imagined. Yet James has reminded us that our life is “a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away,” and that we must say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that” (**James 4:13–15**). As the year unfolded, some dreams were fulfilled, others were laid aside, and still others were reshaped by the wisdom and providence of God (**Proverbs 16:9**).

When 2025 ended, some of those early hopes had never been realized, while others were granted beyond what we expected (**Ephesians 3:20**). Some of our loved ones finished their course and journeyed on to the promised rest of God (**Revelation 14:13; 2 Timothy 4:7–8**). Others began a new life in Christ, buried with Him in baptism and raised to walk in newness of life (**Romans 6:3–4; Colossians 2:12**). Through joy and sorrow, gain and loss, the Lord has been teaching us that our times are in His hand and that His faithfulness does not fail (**Psalms 31:15; Lamentations 3:22–23**).

And now—like Israel standing in the land of promise—God calls us to choose again (**Deuteronomy 30:19–20**).

Not merely to believe, but to **live** (**James 1:22**).

Not merely to hear, but to **do** (**James 1:25**).

Not merely to assemble, but to **serve** (**Galatians 5:13**).

Not merely to begin, but to **finish** (**Hebrews 12:1–2; 2 Timothy 4:7–8**).

The road ahead will demand courage, humility, sacrifice, patience, repentance, unity, endurance (**James 1:2–4; James 5:7–11**). But we do not walk it alone.

The Lord who opened the Jordan still goes before us (**Joshua 3:17; Hebrews 13:5–6**).

The Shepherd who carried us through the valley still guards us (**Psalms 23:1–4**).

The Savior who bled for us still intercedes for us (**Romans 8:34**).

The Spirit who strengthens us still works within us (**Ephesians 3:16; Philippians 2:13**).

So as this year closes—stand firm (**1 Corinthians 15:58**).

As this year closes—take inventory (**2 Corinthians 13:5**).

As this year closes—renew your vow:

(**“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”** (**Joshua 24:15**)

Not in theory, not in sentiment—

but in kitchens, workplaces, classrooms, living rooms, prayer closets, hospital rooms, fellowship halls, and quiet unseen places where only God watches (**Matthew 6:4**).

Let the Word implanted bear fruit (**James 1:21**).

Let faith speak, act, give, forgive, restore, and persevere (**James 2:14–18; Colossians 3:12–14**).

Let the world see Christ—not merely in what we confess, but in how we live (**Matthew 5:16; Philippians 1:27**).

The journey has been worth it.

The journey has shaped us.

But the journey is not over.

Church—**rise and walk.**

The Lord is with you (**Joshua 1:9; Hebrews 13:5**).

—Preacher Ed

Preacher Ed

Waupaca, Wisconsin
Ex Verbo Vitae — 2026

© 2026 Ex Verbo Vitae — Ed Rangel — Waupaca, Wisconsin

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed,
or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the author.



© 2026 Ex Verbo Vitae — Ed Rangel — Waupaca, Wisconsin

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the author.