

Lent, 2025

Four Rivers  
LUTHERAN



School of Music

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
208 W Springfield Ave  
Union, MO 63084

[www.inunionwithchrist.org/  
FRLSM](http://www.inunionwithchrist.org/FRLSM)  
[karen\\_rolland@hotmail.com](mailto:karen_rolland@hotmail.com)

### Introducing Our New String Instructor

Julia Dinkins comes to the Four Rivers Lutheran School of Music with the intention of serving the Christian community and bringing the Gospel to families through her love of music and her passion for teaching. Julia has been a part of the LCMS for her entire life and has made it a goal to serve the church through music.

As a member of the church, Julia knows how important special music contributions are to worship because she has contributed to worship many times throughout her life. She has contributed for services throughout the year, as well as special services such as Easter, Christmas, and Palm Sunday.

Julia earned her degree in Music from Western Illinois University. During her time there she kept her faith the center focus (and even ended up living in the Lutheran Student Center!). Julia is grateful for all that she learned at WIU and even more grateful for the congregation at Immanuel Lutheran Church for being so welcoming and receptive to music in worship.

Professionally, Julia sings as a Principal Chorus member in the Bach Society of St. Louis and as a chorus member in the American Kantorei. She has been involved in playing viola and bass as well as singing around the greater St. Louis area and has been hired to play in a number of venues including, but not limited to, weddings and church services.

Looking ahead, Julia is excited to start a private studio in conjunction with FRLSM. She provides instruction for violin, viola, upright bass, clarinet, beginning piano, and voice with a focus on cultivating a love for sacred music in her students. She is able to teach in multiple different styles and caters the education she offers to each individual and their needs.

Ready to start lessons? Contact her at [juliamusician02@gmail.com](mailto:juliamusician02@gmail.com) or at 217-313-0123.

## Upcoming FRLSM Events

**Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025,  
7PM**

Lutheran High School of  
Kansas City Concert @  
Immanuel Lutheran  
Church, Washington

**Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 3PM**

Grand Zither Concert @  
Immanuel Lutheran  
Church, Washington

**Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025,  
10AM**

Easter and Ascension Hymn  
Sing @ Ebenezer

**Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Time  
TBD**

Vocal Jazz Concert @  
Immanuel Lutheran  
Church, Washington

**Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025,  
7PM**

Ascension Service at  
Ebenezer, Port Hudson

**June 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

“God Reigns!” Handbell  
Camp

**June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 6PM**

Handbell Camp BBQ &  
closing concert. RSVP Karen  
Rolland 314-482-4995.

**FRLSM is seeking teachers,  
volunteers, and students.  
Find registration forms at  
our website.**

## Hymn Study: Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

As I set to write this article, February is drawing to a close and the season of Lent is about to begin. Lent has always been meant to be a time of penitential reflection, a time to contemplate the love of God revealed in the sacrifice of His only Son on the cross and the reason for the necessity of that sacrifice. Our sin. Our rebellion against our Creator. Our desire to make gods in our own image, rather than walking and living in the image of God. During the season of Lent, we spend time reflecting on the hopeless condition our sin brings upon us. And yet, God, in His unfathomable grace, sends His Son to be the sacrificial Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, who takes away your sin and mine. And in taking our sin on Himself and offering His life, His suffering, and even His death to satisfy the righteous judgment against us, He provides a refuge for us, a place to rest our weary selves as we continue life in this sin-cursed world-- as we await the final and complete fulfillment of His promises to us.

The author of the hymn, *Jesus, Refuge of the Weary* (LSB 423, TLH 145), Girolamo Savonarola, could tell us a little something of this needed rest. Born September 21, 1452, Savonarola became a Dominican friar and apocalyptic preacher of reform in the city of Florence. While we may not agree with his millenarian view of Jesus' return, we do find great hope in his teachings on repentance and grace. We can find rest in the same place he did, the refuge of Jesus and the life Jesus won for us by His death on the cross. A rest Savonarola entered more completely when he was martyred for the faith by Pope Alexander VI on May 23, 1498. Rather than give up the hope he had found so completely in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus to go back to the theology of earned grace so prevalent in Rome, Savonarola found refuge and rest in the embrace of those nail-pierced hands of Jesus.

That Jesus is our refuge, our fountain of living water in the dreary desert of this fallen world, is a theme that shows up continually in the pages of Scripture. The Psalms are filled with mentions of the Lord as our refuge, not the least of which would be Psalm 46. "The LORD is our refuge, our very present help in times of trouble." Jesus, in Matthew 11, invites "all who are weary and heavy laden" to come to Him. And what do we find as we come to Him? Jesus, nailed to the cross. "Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all."

Yet, how often do we pause and contemplate the necessity of what Jesus does for us? How often, "Do we pass the cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant vow, Though we see You wounded, bleeding, See Your thorn-encircled brow?" So often, we just go about our day, paying no attention to the pain we cause, to ourselves, but even more, to our Redeemer. That is why Lent has become such an important reminder to us. We need to take the time and gaze upon the reality of what our sin costs. Not just in our lives, or the lives of the people around us, but how much our sin cost Jesus. "Yet Your sinless death has brought us Life eternal, peace and rest; Only what Your grace has taught us Calms the sinner's deep distress." For when we pause and reflect on the love of God revealed for us at the Cross, we are overwhelmed with the reality of His love for us.

"Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for You." That is our prayer, this season of Lent, and always. That as our eyes look upon the Cross of Jesus, we will be brought to repentant praise of Him who gave everything for us. "May our eyes be ever turning To behold Your cross anew Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior's side, Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified." For it is at the cross of Jesus that we finally find the refuge we so desperately need.

Pastor Jim Wilshusen



She played the organ for her brother's baptism; now Miriam Rolland continues to encourage her brother to play hymns!