

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - Hamburg
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 11, 2026
Monday, October 12, 2026

Matthew 22:5 – ***"But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business."*** The invitation to join God in His feast and in His work is easily ignored. The rest of life seems so much more pressing, and we always think that there will be another time when we can catch back up with God. But what joys are we missing when we set aside God's invitation to join Him in His plans and purposes? What inheritance are we trading for the world's bowl of pottage?



WELCOME VISITORS. We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors today. We pray that your worship with us is rewarding. Please be sure to sign your name and address in our guest register, located in the narthex. If you are looking for a church home we would like to invite you to be a part of our Bible Based Church family.

PRINTED ORDER OF WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

"Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain" **LSB #435**

1 Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,
Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain
Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide,
Opened when our Savior died.

2 Come in poverty and meanness,
Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness,
From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white;
Ye shall walk with God in light.

3 Come in sorrow and contrition,
Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission,
Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
They that drink shall thirst no more.

4 They that drink shall live forever;
'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never
Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died,
Sealed when He was glorified.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.
Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit

C **Amen!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

P "God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.

C **If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.**

P But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.

C **If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

P If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

C **If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives."***(1 John 1:5b-10)*

P Let us then confess our sins:

(A moment for silence for private personal confession to the One Who created us and redeemed us)

C **Gracious Father, we come before You as a rebellious and sinful people. We have disobeyed Your commandments; we have worshipped ourselves and the things we have made. We have rejected Your will for our lives; we have preferred our way to that of**

Christ. Forgive us, O Lord, for straying away from that which You intended us to be, and for failing to follow the example of Christ.

P "Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit." *(based on Ps 32:1,2)* Upon, This your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the Grace of God unto you, and by the command and in the stead of the Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 18:18; John 20:23) "Be of Good Cheer; your sins are forgiven you." *(Matt. 9:2 KJV)* Now, go live a life worthy of your calling in Christ Jesus, and produce fruit in keeping with true repentance. *(Eph 4:1)*

C **Amen! By God's Grace in Jesus Christ I am saved. By grace I am forgiven. By Grace I am set free.**

RESPONSIVE HYMN

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives" **LSB #461**

1 **I know that my Redeemer lives;**
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living head.

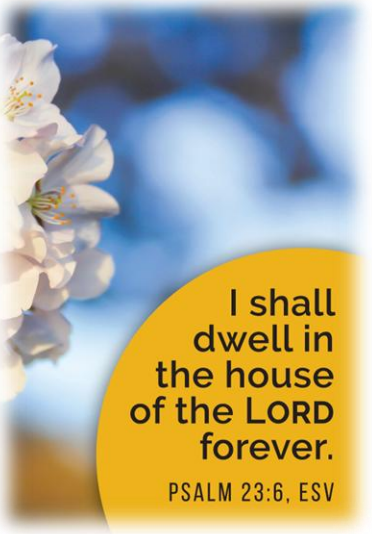
2 **He lives triumphant from the grave;**
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.

4 **He lives to grant me rich supply;**
He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint;
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

5 He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–99, abr.
Text: Public domain

PSALM 23



C **[1]The LORD is my shepherd;**
I shall not want.
[2]He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
[3]He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

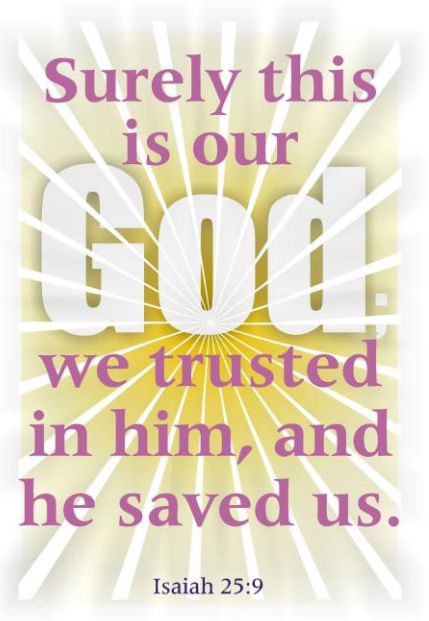
[4]Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

[5]You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
[6]Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

P Jesus replied to Satan "Man does not live on bread alone
C **But on <u>every</u> word that comes from the mouth of God."**
(Matthew 4:4)

FIRST READING *Isaiah 25:6–9*

6 On this mountain the
LORD of hosts will make
for all peoples
a feast of rich food,
a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of
marrow, of aged wine well
refined.
7 And he will swallow up
on this mountain
the covering that is
cast over all peoples,
the veil that is
spread over all nations.
8 He will swallow up
death forever;
and the Lord GOD will
wipe away tears from all
faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away
from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
9 It will be said on that day,
"Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him,
that he might save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."



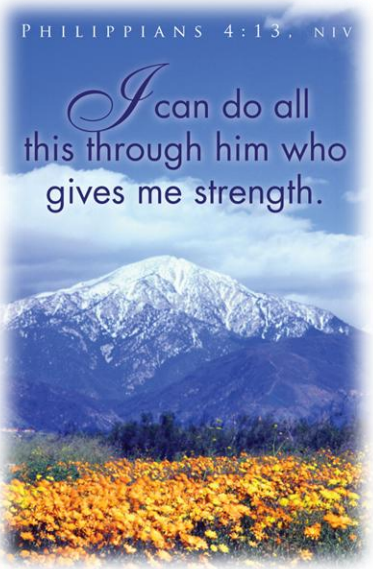
P "and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

C **All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."** (*2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

EPISTLE READING *Philippians 4:4–13*

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is
at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests
be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which
surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your
minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is
honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is
lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence,
if there is anything worthy of
praise, think about these things.
9 What you have learned and
received and heard and seen in
me—practice these things, and
the God of peace will be with
you.



10 I rejoiced in the Lord
greatly that now at length you
have revived your concern for
me. You were indeed concerned
for me, but you had no
opportunity. 11 Not that I am
speaking of being in need, for I
have learned in whatever
situation I am to be content. 12 I
know how to be brought low, and
I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have
learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance
and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens
me.

RESPONSIVE SONG In Christ Alone
"In Christ Alone"

1. **In Christ alone my hope is found,**
   He is my light, my strength, my song;
   This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
   Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
   What heights of love, what depths of peace.
   When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
   My Comforter, my All in All,
   Here in the love of Christ I stand.

2. **In Christ alone! Who took on flesh**
   Fullness of God in helpless babe!
   This gift of love and righteousness
   Scorned by the ones he came to save:
   Till on that cross as Jesus died,
   The wrath of God was satisfied
   For every sin on Him was laid;
   Here in the death of Christ I live.

3. **There in the ground His body lay**
   Light of the world by darkness slain
   Then bursting forth in glorious Day
   Up from the grave he rose again!
   And as He stands in victory
   Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
   For I am His and He is mine
   Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. **No guilt in life, no fear in death,**
   This is the power of Christ in me;
   From life's first cry to final breath.

Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1–14

1Again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying,
2"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who
gave a wedding feast for his son, 3and sent his servants to call
those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would
not come. 4Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those
who are invited, See, I
have prepared my dinner,
my oxen and my fat calves
have been slaughtered,
and everything is ready.
Come to the wedding
feast.' 5But they paid no
attention and went off,
one to his farm, another to
his business, 6while the rest seized his servants, treated them
shamefully, and killed them. 7The king was angry, and he sent
his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their
city. 8Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is
ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9Go therefore to the
main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you
find.' 10And those servants went out into the roads and
gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the
wedding hall was filled with guests.



11"But when the king came in to look at the guests,
he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. 12And he
said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding
garment?' And he was speechless. 13Then the king said to the
attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the
outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and
gnashing of teeth.' 14For many are called, but few are chosen."

P "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God
C **And keep it."** *(Luke 11:28)*

SERMON HYMN

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee" **LSB #702**

1 My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!

2 May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me,
Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!

3 While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.

4 When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87
Text: Public domain

SERMON

THE APOSTLES' CREED

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart" **LSB #806**

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son.
And now let the weak say "I am strong,"
Let the poor say "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say "I am strong,"
Let the poor say "I am rich," Because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks, give thanks.

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THE FAMILY OF GOD PRAYS TOGETHER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." (*Number 6:24)*

C **Amen!**

CLOSING HYMN

"We Praise You, O God" **LSB #785**

1 **We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;**
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

2 **We worship You, God of our fathers, we bless You;**
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o'ertake us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

3 With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

Text: Julia B. Cory, 1882–1963, alt.
Text: Public domain



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Sunday: Deuteronomy 9:23 – 10:22; Matthew 11:20-30
Monday: Deuteronomy 11:1-25; Matthew 12:1-21
Tuesday: Deuteronomy 11:26 – 12:12; Matthew 12:22-37
Wednesday: Deuteronomy 12:13-32; Matthew 12:38-50
Thursday: Deuteronomy 13:1-18; Matthew 13:1-23
Friday: Deuteronomy 14:1-2, 22-23; 14:28 – 15:15; Matthew 13:24-43
Saturday: Deuteronomy 15:19 – 16:22; Matthew 13:44-58

CHURCH CALENDAR
ST. JOHN'S and FAITH



Sunday, October 11
8:30 a.m. Worship at St. John's
Sunday School during Sermon
9:15 a.m. Sunday School at Faith
10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith
11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith
12:15 a.m. Inspired Singles at Faith
Monday, October 12
6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith
Tuesday, October 13
6:00 p.m. Church Council at St. John's
7:15 p.m. Elders' Meeting at St. John's
Wednesday, October 14

10:00 a.m. AbleLight
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

Thursday, October 15
10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's

Friday, October 16
1:00 p.m. Inspired Singles Tour of Woodson Art Museum

Sunday, October 18
8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at St. John's
Sunday School during Sermon
9:15 a.m. Sunday School at Faith
10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Faith
11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith

Monday, October 19
6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Faith

Wednesday, October 21
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith
7:15 p.m. Youth Group at Faith

Thursday, October 22
10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's



Faith Lutheran Church

All You Can Eat

PANCAKE DINNER and BAKE SALE

Sunday, November 1

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Homemade Potato Pancakes and Buttermilk Pancakes served with Scrambled Eggs and Breakfast Sausage

TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE TODAY
AT THE SCRIP TABLE IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCH

Adults $12 Children 6-12 $5
Children 5 and under Free



FAITH and ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Gary Baumann Lisa Burish Joe Calmes David Czech Doris Dahlke Rodney Dahlke Dorothy Duncan Alice Fromm Christopher Emmerich Wallace Emmerich Jim Goetsch Duane Grunenwald Gerhard Hannemann Angie Harkner Rev. Hans Heisinger Dale Janisch Cecelia & Lucille Klade Rob Koebe Jim Koebe Hugo Koppa Brian Luedtke Bob Meyer Gene Mootz Debbie Olson Sarah Piel Mark Pester Bob Porath Karen Rajek Elvira Saeger Jo Schedler MiKenzie Schultz Audrey Steckling Lorraine Steckling Carl Uttech Deb Wiederhoeft Florence Williamson Laurie Young Susie and Ellie Zastrow

Fall has Arrived! Time for Yard Clean-up and then Enjoying Baseball and Football! For all of your upcoming events and activities, don't forget to pick up Scrip Cards. One can always use cards for everyday personal and household needs such as gas and food, Help support the ministry of our church through the Scrip program … *all without it costing you an extra penny!*





PLEASE HELP update all of the church's data and be sure to fill out the membership information form to keep everything current. Phone numbers and addresses have changed along the way and it is important that we are able to reach you by phone and/or via mail. One form for each person in your household please. Forms can be given to an usher or dropped in the church office of in the basket on the scrip table.Thank you.



St John's will be doing

TRUNK & TREAT

on October 24 from 1-3. If anyone would like to donate candy, it would be appreciated. Anyone is welcome to come with their vehicle and hand out treats and candy. Contact Diane Hinz at St. John's if interested.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SINGLES MINISTRY

ALL CONGREGATION MEMBERS ARE INVITED

For more information, contact Joy Marquardt at 715-536-5195

INSPIRED SINGLES

Meeting on Sunday, October 11 at 12:15 p.m. at Faith Rachel Waldburger will be the guest speaker. Her topic will be an "Introduction to AI"

INSPIRED SINGLES

Friday, October 16 at 1 p.m. Group will be touring the Woodson Art Museum in Wausau focusing on the "Birds in Art" exhibit.

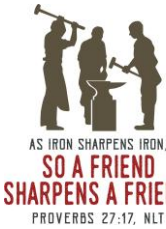


PANCAKE DINNER SIGN UP SHEETS

are in the back of church

- *Looking for workers on Saturday, October 31 and Sunday, November 1.*
- *There are also sheets to sign up for food donations*

Please help as you are able.



IRON SHARPENS IRON (ISI)

will meet on **Sunday, October 18** at 4:30 p.m. at Czech's hunting cabin.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Is hosting this year's

CIRCUIT REFORMATION SERVICE

on Wednesday, October 28 at 6:30 p.m.

CIRCUIT CHOIR REFORMATION REHEARSAL!

If anyone wishes to join our Circuit Reformation Service Choir please meet for rehearsal at St. John Lutheran Church, Merrill. Wednesday October 21st. at 6:00 p.m.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You for your generous sacrificial offerings to the Lord, to help us keep our ministry going. You can also mail your offerings to Our Churches at

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
15425 County Road K South, Merrill, WI 54452 or
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
134058 County Road L, Athens, WI 54411
(Please do not send hard cash through the mail)
Please help us spread the Word. Visit us online at Pastor's (Don Love) Facebook Page, or Faith Lutheran Church, or on the church website at
www.faithlutheranmerrill.com



Sunday, November 1

clocks fall back from
2 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Autumn has arrived, daylight is fading earlier in the evening and another seasonal milestone is approaching: the changing of the clocks.

The change means sunset will suddenly arrive about an hour earlier, while sunrise will also shift earlier in the morning.

Daylight saving time officially ends on Sunday, Nov. 1, when clocks fall back from 2 a.m. to 1 a.m., giving most people across the United States an extra hour overnight.

Circuit 6
Feed My Starving Children
and Mall of America trip
November 14, 2026

Saturday, November 14th

7:30 a.m.	Loading @ Faith – Merrill
7:45 a.m.	Depart Faith – Merrill
8:30 a.m.	Pick-up @ Zion – Colby
	We will do a break stop @ Kwik Trip – Baldwin Exit
11:30-11:45 a.m.	Arrival time @ Feed My Starving Children – Eagan, MN
12:00 – 1:45 p.m.	Feed My Starving Children
2:15 p.m.	Arrival time @ Mall of America
5:30 p.m.	Departure time from Mall of America
	**We will travel straight through going home, so you will either want to eat while you are at the mall or bring your food onto the coach to eat on the way home.
8:00 p.m.	Est. return time to Zion – Colby
8:45 p.m.	Est. return time to Faith – Merrill



**Cost is $40.00 per person to cover the cost of the motorcoach transportation.

**All ages are welcome at Feed My Starving Children – youth under the age of 14 need to be with an adult unless other arrangements have been made with their individual church group.

**While at the Mall of America anyone under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult beginning at 3:00 p.m. – everyone must be able to show proof of identification with either a State Issued Driver's License or a State Issued ID Card. School I.D.'s are not accepted.

For more information, contact Bonnie Grueneberg at 1-715-613-0003




ST. JOHN CHURCH
BAZAAR
1104 East Third Street, Merrill
Wednesday, October 14
Craft and Bake Sale Begins
at 9:00 A.M.
in the School Gym
Lunch Served
11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
Chili and Chicken Soup
Chicken Salad and Hot Beef Sandwiches
Freshly Baked Pie
For carry-outs, call 536-4722