



**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – HAMBURG
December 22, 2024
8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.**

Luke 1:45 – “And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” The Lord always fulfills what He promises.

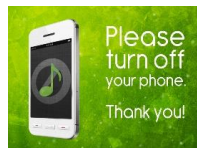
We can be certain of that, and He has proven it over and over again. This faith in the Lord's own faithfulness is what gives us the courage to follow the Lord's commands in the face of the world's anger and resistance, just as it gave Mary the courage to carry on in her seemingly embarrassed circumstances.



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.

Please **TURN OFF ALL CELLPHONES** before service begins. Phones that are on may interfere with transmission of the service to social media and shutting down your phone can help solve network connectivity problems.



RECEIVING THE HOLY COMMUNION. Because we deeply long to celebrate the Love of God and the true unity of teachings of God's Holy Scriptures we ask those who are not members of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) to please make an appointment to meet with Pastor Love before communing with us. We respectfully do this not at all because we think that we are the only saved Christians, but because it is our Sacred Belief that those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion gives a witness of unity in the major teachings and faith confessed by the congregation and Synod (1 Corinthians 10:16-18; 11:23-29; Romans 16:17). This Biblical and historical practice is called close(d) communion. Thank you for respecting our sacred beliefs and practices. Please pray with us for honest unity around God's High and Holy Scriptures. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Love.

NOTE: Gluten free wafers are now available. (See 1 Corinthians 5 & 6; 11:17-34)



ORDER OF SERVICE
Divine Service III LSB page 184

OPENING HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LSB #357

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved**

Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

- P** 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 all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Psalm 80:1–7

- P** ¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

- C** ²**Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us!**

- P** ³Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!



- C** ⁴**O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers.**

- P** ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

- C** ⁶**You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.**

- P** ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;**
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Kyrie

LSB 186

- C** **Lord, have mercy upon us.**
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Micah 5:2–5a

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return



to the people of Israel.
⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.
⁵And he shall be their peace.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Hebrews 10:5–10

⁵When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will,
O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.



It is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ...

Hebrews 10:10, NRSV

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39–56

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones



and exalted those of humble estate;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

55 as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

56 And Mary remained with her about three months and
returned to her home.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came
down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the
virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under
Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according
to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.

**And He will come again with glory to judge
both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the
Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and
apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the
remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.**

SERMON HYMN “*My Soul Rejoices*”

LSB #933

Sermon

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

Offertory

LSB 192

Offering

Prayers of the Church

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
C **It is meet and right so to do.**

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

P 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.

C **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

Distribution

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord” LSB #934
“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord” LSB #637
“Savior of the Nations, Come” LSB #332

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is

now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.

P Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen, amen, amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

LSB #368

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DAILY BIBLE READINGS



Sunday: Isaiah 43:1–24;

Revelation 9:13 --10:11

Monday: Isaiah 43:25 – 44:20;

Revelation 11:1-19

Tuesday: Isaiah 44:21 – 45:13, 20-25, Isaiah 48:1-22;

Daniel 10:1 – 12:13; Revelation 12:1-17

Wednesday: Isaiah 49:1-18; Matthew 1:1-17

Thursday: Isaiah 49:22-26; 50:4 – 51:8, 12-16;

Matthew 1:18-25

Friday: Isaiah 51:17 – 52:12; Matthew 2:1-12

Saturday: Isaiah 52:13 – 54:10; Matthew 2:13-23

FAITH and ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES

*Please remember the following in
your prayers:*

Gary Baumann Bob Burish
Alice Fromm Wallace Emmerich
Sally Hannemann Angie Harkner
Emma Hein

Dale Janisch Cecelia & Lucille Klade Rob Koebe
Bruce Krenz Ron Lang Karen Love Debbie Olson
Mark Pester Edgar Pfaff Marge Radenz Karen Rajek
Jo Schedler Audrey Steckling Lorraine Steckling
Carl Uttech Philip Vogel Deb Wiederhoeft
Susie and Ellie Zastrow

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES



*Are available on tables at
Faith in the church narthex.
Do NOT use until after
January 1, 2025.*

CHURCH CALENDAR - ST. JOHN'S and FAITH



Sunday, December 22

8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at St. John's

Sunday School during Sermon at St. John's

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

Christmas Eve Tuesday, December 24

4:30 p.m. Candlelight Worship at St. John's

7:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship at Faith

Christmas Day Wednesday, December 25

8:30 a.m. Worship at St. John's

10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith

Sunday, December 29

8:30 a.m. Worship at St. John's

10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith

Monday, December 30

6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith

No scheduled services for December 31 or January 1



A ROUND OF APPLAUSE AND THANK YOU to all those who participated in Sunday's caroling to our shut-ins. Special thanks to Bonnie Grueneberg for all the organization and time preparing for this event.

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CARE is looking for a **part time assistant teacher**. Must have Infant/Toddler and Early Childhood experience. If the right person fits, we will be willing to train if person is willing to take cases. For more information or to apply, contact Patti Beilke at St. John's Christian Care at 715-539-8120.



CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN! Be sure to pick up scrip cards for your holiday feasts and those special gifts for your 'naughty and nice' list. Pick up scrip for all your household needs. Help support the ministry of our church through the Scrip program. ... *All without it costing you an extra penny!*



LWML STAMPS FOR MISSIONS

The LWML collects used stamps to be sold to collectors. The Forever stamps are especially good. Trim them from the envelope with a 1/4" margin. There is a container on the south wall in St. John's Fellowship Room. At Faith, bring them to the church office.



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

His Name Shall Be Called



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT

St. John's Lutheran Church – Hamburg

4:30 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY

St. John's Lutheran Church – Hamburg

8:30 a.m.

Faith Lutheran Church 10:15 a.m.

Our Christmas Day sermon is “Prince of Peace”—a title given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. We will learn why we long for peace in this world but fail to obtain it. We will also learn how Jesus, the “Prince of Peace,” gives us peace with God through His sacrifice for us, which also results in believers being at peace with one another.