

“For my eyes have  
seen your salvation  
that you have  
prepared  
in the presence  
of all peoples.”

LUKE 2:30-31

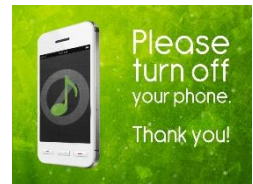
**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - HAMBURG**  
**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**First Sunday after Christmas**  
**Sunday, December 29, 2024**  
**8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.**  
**Monday, December 30, 2024**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**Luke 2:38 – “And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.”** Notice here how giving thanks to God leads to good works (speaking about Jesus, in this case). Thankfulness towards God for all He has done for us is the foundation of a Christian life lived in godliness. For if we know all that the Lord has done for us, how can we not strive to honor Him with what we think, say and do?



**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.



**ORDER OF SERVICE**  
**Divine Service I**  
**LSB page 151**

**OPENING HYMN**

***“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”***

**LSB #374**

**INVOCATION**

*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.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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 111 *(read responsively)*

- P** <sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!  
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
- C** <sup>2</sup>**Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them.**



<sup>3</sup>Full of splendor and majesty is his work,  
and his righteousness endures forever.

**C** <sup>4</sup>He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;  
**the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

**P** <sup>5</sup>He provides food for those who fear him;  
he remembers his covenant forever.

**C** <sup>6</sup>He has shown his people the power of his works,

**in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

**P** <sup>7</sup>The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy;

**C** <sup>8</sup>**they are established forever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and  
uprightness.**

**P** <sup>9</sup>He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.  
Holy and awesome is his name!

**C** <sup>10</sup>**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good  
understanding.  
His praise endures forever!**

**KYRIE**

*LSB 152*

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

*LSB 154*

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may

ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**      *Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

<sup>3</sup>Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place.

...

<sup>11</sup>“When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, <sup>12</sup>you shall

set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD’s.

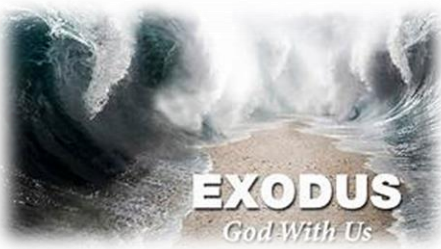
<sup>13</sup>Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem

with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.

<sup>14</sup>And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. <sup>15</sup>For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.



## EPISTLE

**Colossians 3:12–17**

<sup>12</sup>Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.



**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 156

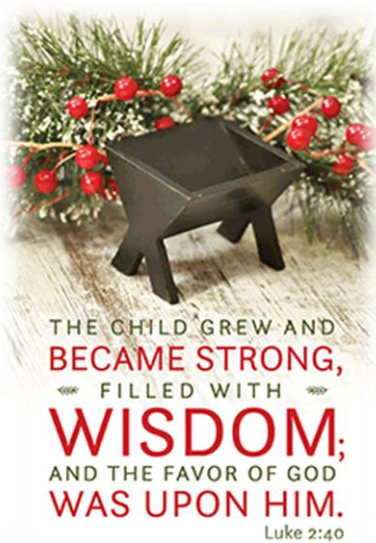
## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 2:22–40*

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord” <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem,



whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup>"Lord, now you are letting your

servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation

<sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup>and a sword will pierce through your own soul also, so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

<sup>36</sup>And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup>and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own

town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## SERMON HYMN

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

LSB #386

## SERMON

## 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.

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*“Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”*

LSB #806

## 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

LSB 166

## CLOSING HYMN

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

LSB #367

Acknowledgments. Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.



## FAITH and ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES

*Please remember the following in  
your prayers:*

Gary Baumann    Randy Braatz  
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    Deb Wiederhoeft  
Susie and Ellie Zastrow

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Sunday:** Isaiah 55:1–13; Luke 1:1-25

**Monday:** Isaiah 58:1 – 59:3, 14-21; Luke 1:26-38

**Tuesday:** Isaiah 60:1-22; Luke 1:39-56

**Wednesday:** Isaiah 61:1-11; Luke 1:57-80

**Thursday:** Isaiah 62:1-12; Luke 2:1-20

**Friday:** Isaiah 63:1-14; Luke 2:21-40

**Saturday:** Isaiah 63:15 – 65:7; Luke 2:41-52



## CHURCH CALENDAR - ST. JOHN'S and 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

### Sunday, January 5

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

1:00 p.m. Epiphany Lunch at St. John's for Mary-Martha Guild

### Monday, January 6

6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Faith

7:30 p.m. Elders' Meeting at Faith

### Tuesday, January 7

6:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting at St. John's

7:00 p.m. Elders' Meeting at St. John's

### Wednesday, January 8

10:00 a.m. AbleLight Volunteers

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

### Tuesday, January 15

6:30 p.m. Dual Parish Meeting at Faith

**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.



**MARCHING INTO THE NEW YEAR!** Be sure to pick up scrip cards for any festive gatherings. 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.



**A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FROM THE YOUTH GROUP** to all who purchased boxes of fruit from their **2024 Fruit Sale**. *The proceeds will be used for our Youth Events planned in 2025.*

**THANK YOU** for those who provided gifts for the **Angel Tree**. Gifts for 25 children and one father that was in need was generously purchased by the members and non-members of our congregation.



**A SINCERE THANK YOU**  
*Kim, Eric and I would like to deeply and sincerely thank you for all the beautiful Christmas cards and both kind and generous gifts. They are such a blessing to us and are all truly appreciated. We pray that God blesses all of us in this*  
*New Year!*  
*Pastor Love*

## 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](http://www.faithlutheranmerrill.com)**





**Special thanks to all who supported the Poinsettia Fund** to help decorate the sanctuary and narthex for the Advent and Christmas season.

- † In memory of Bruce Hein from Carol Hein
- † In memory of Otto & Selma Porath from Mark Porath
- † In memory of Danna Koebe from James Koebe
- † In memory of Lloyd & Doris Grueneberg and Leonard & Lavine Woller from the Leon Bartelt family
- † In memory of Earl & Ruth Zuelsdorff and Ron & Marlene Zuelsdorff from Ed & Connie Stiver
- † In memory of Timothy Pagel from Gene & Karen Pagel
- † In memory of Bruce & Judy Schield from Matt & Sarah Thomas
- † In memory of Louise Fox from Gerhard & Sally Hannemann
- † In memory of Cindy Salzman and LeRoy & JoAnn Sense from Sherrie White
- † In memory of LuAnn Ruhbusch from Rev. William Ruhbusch
- † In memory of James Schlueter from Judy Schlueter
- † Gift from Chris & Deb Stogbauer
- † Gift from Barry & Cindy Krenz
- † Gift from an anonymous person