

*Happy New Year*



O SING UNTO THE LORD  
*a new song:*  
FOR HE HATH DONE  
*marvelous things.*

PSALM 98:1, KJV

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - HAMBURG  
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Second Sunday after Christmas  
Sunday, January 5, 2025  
8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.  
Monday, January 6, 2025 6:30 p.m.**

**Luke 2:40 – “And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.”** At Christmas God became man. And as a man, Jesus grew up and increased in strength and wisdom. We are called to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, to grow in His image. The power for this growth comes from receiving the grace of Jesus in His Word and Sacraments.  
How is the Lord calling you to grow this year?



**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.



ORDER OF SERVICE  
Divine Service I  
LSB page 151

Opening Hymn

“Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love”

LSB #900

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  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- 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.**

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

*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 119:97-104

**P** <sup>97</sup>Oh how I love your law!  
It is my meditation all  
the day.

**C** <sup>98</sup>**Your commandment  
makes me wiser than my  
enemies,  
for it is ever with me.**

**P** <sup>99</sup>I have more understanding than all my teachers,  
for your testimonies are my meditation.

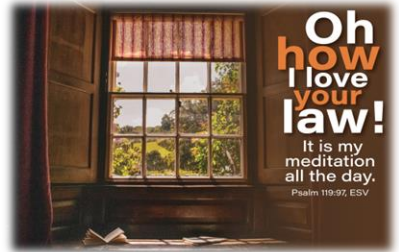
**C** <sup>100</sup>**I understand more than the aged,  
for I keep your precepts.**

**P** <sup>101</sup>I hold back my feet from every evil way,  
in order to keep your word.

**C** <sup>102</sup>**I do not turn aside from your just decrees,  
for you have taught me.**

**P** <sup>103</sup>How sweet are your words to my taste,  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

**C** <sup>104</sup>**Through your precepts I get understanding;  
therefore I hate every false way.**



Kyrie

LSB 152

This Is the Feast

LSB 155

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

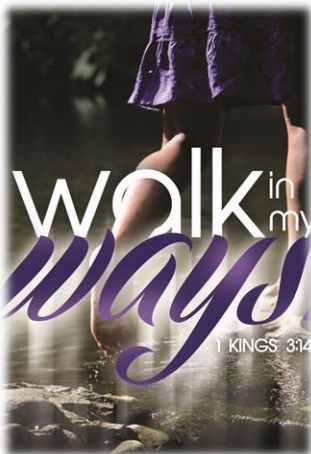
## Old Testament Reading

*1 Kings 3:4–15*

<sup>4</sup> The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an

understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>behold, I now do according to



your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup>I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. <sup>14</sup>And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

<sup>15</sup>And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Romans 8:18–39*

<sup>18</sup>For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup>And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

<sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup>And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called

according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then shall we say



to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Alleluia and Verse**

*LSB 156*

## Holy Gospel

Luke 2:40–52

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

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

<sup>40</sup>The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

<sup>41</sup>Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they

returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And



when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.



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

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

## Sermon Hymn

*“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”*

LSB #656

## Sermon

## 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  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayers of the Church

## Offering

### Offertory Response

*“We Give Thee But Thine Own”*      LSB #781 sts. 1–2

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface *LSB 160*

Sanctus *LSB 161*

Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 161*

Lord’s Prayer *LSB 162*

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

### The Words of Our Lord

**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 163

Agnus Dei LSB 163

## Distribution

### Distribution Hymns

*“In Thee Is Gladness”* LSB #818

*“I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table”* LSB #618

*“A Great and Mighty Wonder”* LSB #383

Thank the Lord LSB 164

### Post-Communion Collect

**P** Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

Benediction LSB 166

### Closing Hymn

*“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”* LSB #733

#### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Sunday:** Isaiah 65:8-25; Luke 3:1-20

**Monday:** Isaiah 66:1-20; Luke 3:21-38

**Tuesday:** Ezekiel 1:1-14, 22-28; Habakuk 1:1 – 3:19;  
Romans 1:1-17

**Wednesday:** Ezekiel 2:1 – 3:11; Romans 1:18-32

**Thursday:** Ezekiel 3:12-27; Ezekiel 4:1 – 11:25;  
Romans 2:1-16

**Friday:** Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32; Ezekiel 19:1 – 24:27;  
Romans 2:17-29

**Saturday:** Ezekiel 33:1-20; Romans 3:1-18



## FAITH and ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES

*Please remember the following in  
your prayers:*

Gary Baumann Randy Braatz

Rodney Dahlke 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



**DAY CARE  
HELP WANTED**

## 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.



## CHURCH CALENDAR ST. JOHN'S and 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

### **Thursday, January 9**

6:30 p.m. Bible Study at St. John's

### **Sunday, January 12**

**8:30 a.m. Worship 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 at Faith**

11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith

### **Monday, January 13**

**6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith**

7:30 p.m. Budget Meeting at Faith

### **Tuesday, January 14**

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

### **Wednesday, January 15**

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

## 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



***At ST. JOHN'S***

**Tuesday, January 7**

6:00 p.m. Church Council

7:00 p.m. Elders'

**Tuesday, January 14**

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

***At FAITH***

**Monday, January 6**

7:30 p.m. Elders'

**Monday, January 13**

7:30 p.m. Budget Meeting

**Tuesday, January 14**

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

**Sunday, January 19**

12:15 p.m. Stewardship/Evangelism

**Tuesday, January 21**

6:00 p.m. Trustees'

**Sunday, January 26**

11:30 a.m. Annual Meeting



**Board, Committee and Audit Reports for Faith** should be in the church office by Wednesday, January 15 to have Annual Meeting Booklets ready by Sunday, January 19 for review.



## **CIRCUIT YOUTH WINTER GAMES!**

Come and join us for a fun-filled afternoon with the Merrill Circuit Youth! We'll be playing volleyball, dodgeball, and enjoying pizza

together! Don't miss out—bring your friends and your game spirit! We can't wait to see you there!

**Date: January 12      Time: 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM**

Cost: \$5 per person (for pizza)

Location: St. John Gym, Third Street, Merrill



## **Feed My Starving Children & the Mall of America**

Join us for a Chartered Bus trip to Feed My Starving Children and the Mall of America! Open to youth, parents, friends, and congregation members.

**April 12, 2025      Cost: \$40 per person**

*Don't miss out on this exciting day of service and adventure!  
For more details or to sign up, please contact Deaconess Szeto at 715-536-4722 or [fszeto@stjohnmerrill.org](mailto:fszeto@stjohnmerrill.org).*



**WHATEVER YOUR PLANS and/or RESOLUTIONS for the NEW YEAR!**

Be sure to pick up scrip cards for all your activities and household needs. Help support the ministry of our church through the Scrip program. ... *All without it costing you an extra penny!*

**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)**



PSALM 98:4, NRSV



A new travel ministry is announced for the Central Wisconsin area. These trips will be similar to other bus trips, but with a distinctly Lutheran perspective. Each trip will include Lamer's bus transportation, hotel accommodations, 2-3 meals, shows or attraction tickets, daily devotions, and good Christian fellowship. These tours are designed for our older members that love to

travel and want to see what our younger members experience when they attend Youth Gatherings, servant events, or class trips. (But maybe not quite as grueling!) The following is the schedule for the first 6 planned trips.

- March 17th, 2025 - March 21st, 2025 (4 nights)  
St. Louis & Branson Missouri
- July 2025 (4 nights) - Creation Museum & Ark Encounter
- Christmas 2025 - New Orleans & Laurel, MS  
(HGTV's Hometown filming location)
- Spring Break 2026 - Lake Michigan Circle tour  
(including Frankenmuth, MI)
- Summer 2026 - Washington, D.C.  
with history expert Mr. Jim Wegner
- New Years 2026 – Pasadena, CA to work on LHM Rose Bowl float

All tours require a \$100 NON-REFUNDABLE deposit. If we do not get at least 35 individuals for the tour, the tour will be cancelled and your deposit will be returned.

More details are available for interested adults. Please contact Sue Lilienthal at St Paul Lutheran Church in Stevens Point for further information. Phone 715-344-5660 or email at [slilienthal@splpoint.com](mailto:slilienthal@splpoint.com) Friends and family welcome. You do NOT need to be a member of a NWD church to attend.

Registrations for the March 2025 trip to St. Louis & Branson are now available. Cost for this trip is \$950/person for single  
\$745/person for double  
\$660/person for triple or quad

Registration for the summer Creation Museum/Ark Encounter trip will be available in early January.



ARISE,  
SHINE,  
FOR YOUR  
LIGHT  
HAS COME

I S A I A H 6 0 : 1