



Third Sunday  
in  
Lent

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – HAMBURG  
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

[www.faithlutheranmerrill.com](http://www.faithlutheranmerrill.com)

**Third Sunday in Lent  
Sunday, March 23, 2025  
8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.**

**Luke 13:3 – “No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”** The season of Lent is all about repentance: turning back to the Lord, away from our sins, in faith. We know that it is only in the Lord that we can find salvation. So, we do well in this season of repentance to examine ourselves, asking questions like, “What is trying to keep me away from Jesus?” “What is a temptation I face?” What is a sin I need to repent of and leave behind?” Then we turn to the Lord for the strength to leave these sins behind, and for the courage to follow Him in faith and faithful living.



**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**

***“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”***

**LSB #427**

**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.**
  
- 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.*

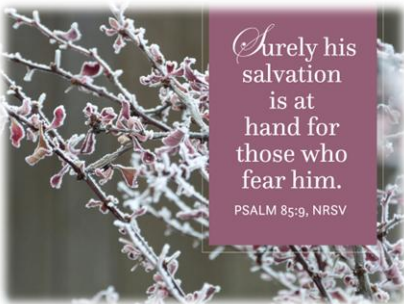
## Confession and Absolution

- 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 85 (*read responsively*)

- P** <sup>1</sup>LORD, you were favorable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- C** <sup>2</sup>**You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you covered all their sin.**
- P** <sup>3</sup>You withdrew all your wrath;  
you turned from your hot anger.
- C** <sup>4</sup>**Restore us again, O  
God of our salvation,  
and put away your  
indignation toward us!**



- P** <sup>5</sup>Will you be angry with us forever?  
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- C** <sup>6</sup>**Will you not revive us again,  
that your people may rejoice in you?**
- P** <sup>7</sup>Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us your salvation.
- C** <sup>8</sup>**Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;  
but let them not turn back to folly.**
- P** <sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
that glory may dwell in our land.
- C** <sup>10</sup>**Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**
- P** <sup>11</sup>Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
and righteousness looks down from the sky.
- C** <sup>12</sup>**Yes, the LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.**
- P** <sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go before him  
and make his footsteps a way.

## Kyrie

LSB 152

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

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

- P** Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through 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

*Ezekiel 33:7–20*

<sup>7</sup>“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

<sup>10</sup>“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

<sup>12</sup>“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. <sup>13</sup>Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. <sup>14</sup>Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, <sup>15</sup>if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>16</sup>None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

<sup>17</sup>“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. <sup>18</sup>When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. <sup>19</sup>And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by

them. <sup>20</sup>Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Gradual

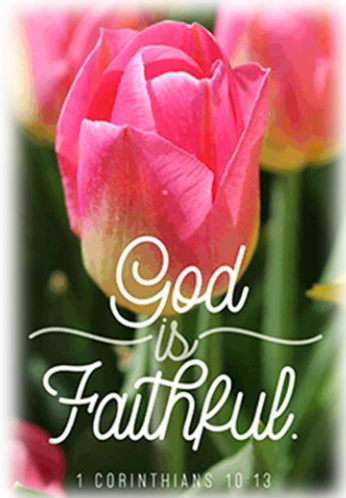
**P** O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,  
the founder and perfecter of our faith,  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the  
cross, despising the shame,  
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

### Epistle

*1 Corinthians 10:1–13*

<sup>1</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, <sup>10</sup>nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. <sup>11</sup>Now these things happened to them as an



example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup>Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup>No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Holy Gospel**

*Luke 13:1–9*

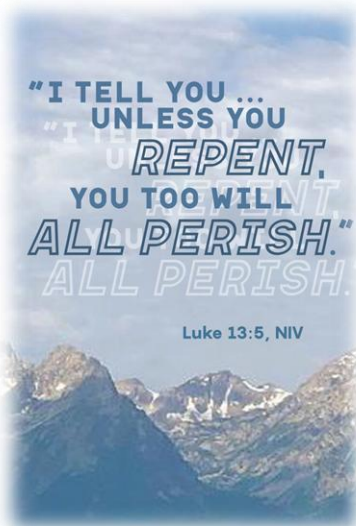
**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup>Or those

eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

<sup>6</sup>And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the



ground?’ <sup>8</sup>And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. <sup>9</sup>Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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

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

### Sermon Hymn

*“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”*

LSB #423

### Sermon

#### Catechism Review

**P** *The Second Petition*

**C** Thy kingdom come.

**P** *What does this mean?*

**C** The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

**P** *How does God’s kingdom come?*

**C** God’s kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

### 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**

## **Prayers of the Church**

### **Lord’s Prayer**

**☩** 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*

**☩** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

**☩** Amen.

### **Closing Hymn**

***“I Love Your Kingdom, Lord”***

**LSB #651**

#### **Acknowledgments Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book**

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## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Sunday:** Genesis 27:30-45; 28:10-22; Mark 9:1-13

**Monday:** Genesis 29:1-30; 29:31 – 34:31; Mark 9:14-32

**Tuesday:** Genesis 35:1-29; Mark 9:33-50

**Wednesday:** Genesis 37:1-36; Mark 10:1-12

**Thursday:** Genesis 39:1-23; Mark 10:13-31

**Friday:** Genesis 40:1-23; Mark 10:32-52

**Saturday:** Genesis 41:1-27; Mark 11:1-19



## FAITH and ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES

*Please remember the following in  
your prayers:*

Gary Baumann    Joe Calmes

Rodney Dahlke    Alice Fromm

Wallace Emmerich    Angie Harkner    Emma Hein

Dale Janisch

Cecelia & Lucille Klade    Rob Koebe    Ron Lang

Debbie Olson    Mark Pester    Edgar Pfaff

Marge Radenz    Karen Rajek    Jo Schedler

Audrey Steckling    Lorraine Steckling

Carl Uttech    Deb Wiederhoeft    Susie and Ellie Zastrow



## CHURCH CALENDAR ST. JOHN'S and FAITH

### Sunday, March 23

**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 Class at Faith**

**4:30 p.m. ISI at Mark Seliger Sugar Shack**

### Monday, March 24

**NO MONDAY SERVICE AT FAITH**

**Wednesday, March 26**

10:00 a.m. Ablelight Volunteers

**11:00 a.m. Lenten Worship at Faith**

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal at Faith

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

**Thursday, March 27**

6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal at St. John's

**Sunday, March 30**

**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, March 31**

NO MONDAY SERVICE AT FAITH

**Wednesday, April 2**

**11:00 a.m. Lenten Worship at Faith**

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal at Faith

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

**Thursday, April 3**

6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal at St. John's

**6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship at St. John's**



*Easter Lilies*

In the beauty and celebration of Easter, we are decorating the Sanctuary and Narthex at Faith with Easter lilies. Donations will be taken through Sunday, April 6. Forms are available on the Scrip table in the back of church.



**FIFTH SUNDAY OFFERING at Faith  
Sunday, March 30**

*Monies will be used to buy gift cards for  
seminary students at Fort Wayne and  
St. Louis.*



**LENTEN MEAL  
at ST. JOHN'S  
Thursday, March 27  
6:00 p.m.**

**SPRING INTO ACTION with Scrip!** As spring starts blooming, it's time to turn over a "new" leaf and try something new today! We have plenty of gift cards in stock for home improvement, gardening and trips for spring break. Gift cards are available before and after Sunday worship as well as in the church office during the week.



*Recognition*  
**SUNDAY**

**Sunday, April 27  
Faith Lutheran Church  
with luncheon**

*We welcome and recognize all  
the recent new members,  
marriages, confirmands, and  
baptisms here at Faith. We are  
blessed to have you among  
our church family.*



Faith will be collecting **GIFT CARDS FOR SEMINARY STUDENTS** at Fort Wayne and at St. Louis through April 9. Cards should NOT be local but rather those that can be used in the seminary cities. Suggestions would include a VISA card, WalMart, Target, Kohl's and major

gas stations, etc. *This special promotion is being sponsored by Faith Evangelism and Stewardship Committee*

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Sunday, March 23**

ISI at 4:30 p.m. at Mark Seliger's Sugar Shack

#### **Sunday, April 13**

Last day of Sunday School at Faith

#### **Sunday, May 18**

Confirmation at Faith

### **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)



# North WI District Disaster Response

*Gospel centered  
care for both body  
and soul in times  
of tragedy.*

**1 JOHN  
4:19** WE LOVE BECAUSE  
HE FIRST LOVED US.



## DISASTER RESPONSE SUNDAY

Tornadoes. Fires. Floods. When disaster strikes, immediate response is often crucial. But where to start? How should volunteers be managed? What training is needed for good-intentioned groups wanting to serve? The North WI District has a Disaster Response Coordinator to help congregations manage a disaster in their location and support the disaster response of congregations looking to serve. Sunday April 27th is simply a day to become more aware of and support NWD Disaster Response.



## DISASTER RESPONSE OPPORTUNITIES



TRAIN



SUPPORT



NETWORK

DISASTER RESPONSE  
COORDINATOR  
PR. ANDY WEDEN

715-345-6510  
aweden@uwsp.edu

NWD LCMS  
3103 Seymour Lane  
Wausau, WI 54401



### *Train*

- *Lutheran Early Response Training (LERT)*



### *Support*

- *Spiritual*
- *Supplies*
- *Equipment*



### *Network*

- *Regional*
- *National*
- *Synod*

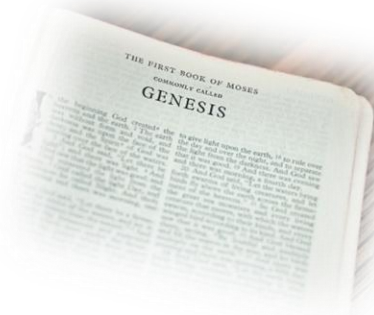
## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- *Pray for people suffering through disasters.*
- *Consider your congregation's plan to serve those in need.*
- *Donate to the NWD Disaster Response ministry*

**CONTACT  
PASTOR  
ANDY  
WEDEN  
715-345-6510**

# LENTEN MIDWEEK SERMON SERIES

## *Good News from the Beginning: The Gospel in Genesis*



- Lenten Midweek 4, **MARCH 26-27** - The Good News of a Savior Who Gives Himself in Our Place *Genesis 22:1–18*
- Lenten Midweek 5, **APRIL 2-3** - The Good News of a Savior Who Unites Heaven and Earth *Genesis 28:10–22*
- Lenten Midweek 6, **APRIL 9-10** - The Good News of a Savior Who Brings Good from Evil *Genesis 50:15–21*



DURING THIS LENTEN SEASON,  
*we praise God for  
his righteous Son,*  
who perfectly kept all of God's commandments  
for us and paid the full price  
for our disobedience.