



Fourth Sunday
in
Lent

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

www.faithlutheranmerrill.com

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

Luke 15:12 – “And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them.” This prodigal son only sees the father as a source of wealth. “Give me my inheritance now!” he says, which is really to say, “You are better off dead in my eyes.” This is the sin at the heart of all greed: valuing things over people. This parable calls us to come to our senses as well, and to see God as the loving Giver of all good, the true Father to be valued above and beyond all the things of this world.



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

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

LSB #901

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.
Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Psalm 32

- P** ¹Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
- C** ²**Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts
no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
- P** ³For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
- C** ⁴**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**



P ⁵I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

C ⁶Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

P ⁷You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

C ⁸I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

P ⁹Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.

C ¹⁰Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

P ¹¹Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Kyrie

LSB 152

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide

for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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

Isaiah 12:1–6

¹You will say in that day:

“I will give thanks to you, O LORD,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
that you might comfort me.

²Behold, God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my
salvation.”

³With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

⁴And you will say in that day:

“Give thanks to the LORD,
call upon his name,
make known his deeds among

the peoples,

proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.

⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of
Israel.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



Gradual

Hebrews 12:2

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

2 Corinthians 5:16–21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: . . .

“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired

himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my

father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”” ²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.



²⁵“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn

“Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me”

LSB #715

Sermon

Catechism Review

P The Third Petition

C Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

P *What does this mean?*

C The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

P *How is God’s will done?*

C God’s will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God’s

name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

Apostles' Creed

☩ 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

“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

LSB #781 vs. 1-2

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

- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

Closing Hymn

“For Me to Live Is Jesus”

LSB #742

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Sunday: Genesis 41:28-57; Mark 11:20-33
Monday: Genesis 42:1-34, 38; Mark 12:1-12
Tuesday: Genesis 43:1-28; Mark 12:13-27
Wednesday: Genesis 44:1-18, 32-34; Mark 12:28-44
Thursday: Genesis 45:1-20, 24-28; Mark 13:1-23
Friday: Genesis 47:1-21; 48:1 – 49:28; Mark 13:24-37
Saturday: Genesis 49:29 – 50:26; Mark 14:1-11



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 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

Sunday, April 6

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 Class at Faith

Monday, April 7

NO MONDAY SERVICE AT FAITH

Wednesday, April 9

11:00 a.m. Lenten Worship at Faith

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

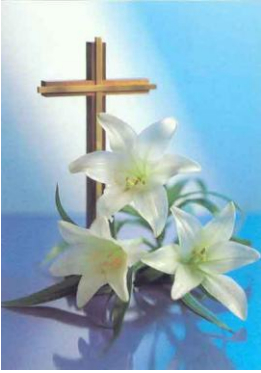
5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal at Faith

6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship at Faith

Thursday, April 10

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 April 10 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

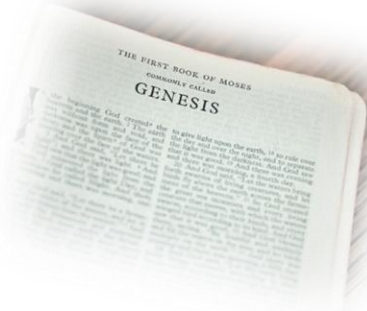
Last day of Sunday School at Faith

Sunday, May 18

Confirmation at Faith

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERMON SERIES

Good News from the Beginning: The Gospel in Genesis



- 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*

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



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**