



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – HAMBURG
Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 7, 2025**

8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Matthew 3:1–2 – “In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’” John prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance. Then, when Jesus’ ministry was complete and He was raised from the dead, He sent out His disciples to preach “repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 24:47). We never outgrow the need for repentance — for examining our lives, turning away from our sins and turning toward Jesus in faith to receive his forgiveness and strength for a renewed life of godliness.



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.

RECEIVING THE HOLY SACRAMENT

In deep Christian love and commitment to the Word of God we continue to hold to the Biblical and Ancient practice of closed communion. We believe that those who commune together must confess the same faith, and recognize the great power and real presence of the body and blood Christ in, with and under the bread and the wine. (1 *Corinthians* 10:16-18; 11:23-29; *Romans* 16:17). Likewise, since one's membership helps promote that church's major teachings we ask that only those commune who are confirmed and communicant



members of the LCMS, and who are not under church discipline. Thank you for respecting our beliefs and practices.

Please pray with us for honest unity around the Word of God. If you have any question please contact Pastor Love. *NOTE: Gluten free wafers are now available at the Lord's Table. Please let Pastor know before worship service that you would like the gluten free wafers."*

ORDER OF SERVICE

Divine Service IV page 203

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** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

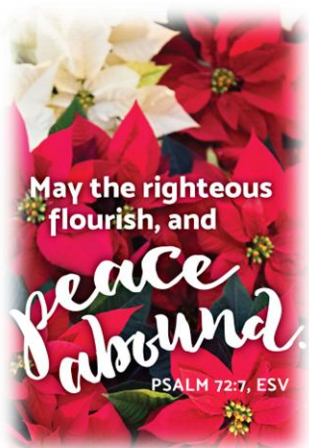
Confession and Absolution

- P** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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 72:1-7

- P** ¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!
- C** ²**May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!**
- P** ³Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!
- C** ⁴**May he defend the cause of
the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children
of the needy,
and crush the oppressor!**
- P** ⁵May they fear you while the
sun endures,
and as long as the moon,
throughout all generations!
- C** ⁶**May he be like rain that falls
on the mown grass,
like showers that water the
earth!**
- P** ⁷In his days may the righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!



Kyrie

LSB 204

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your
only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be
enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same
Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Catechism Review

P *The Sixth Petition*

C **And lead us not into temptation.**

P *What does this mean?*

C **God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 11:1–10

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

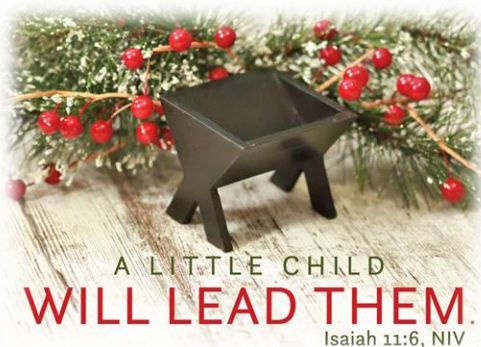
³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶The wolf shall dwell
with the lamb,
and the leopard
shall lie down with the
young goat,
and the calf and the
lion and the fattened
calf together;
and a little child
shall lead them.



⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the
adder's den.
⁹They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.
¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a
signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire,
and his resting place shall be glorious.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

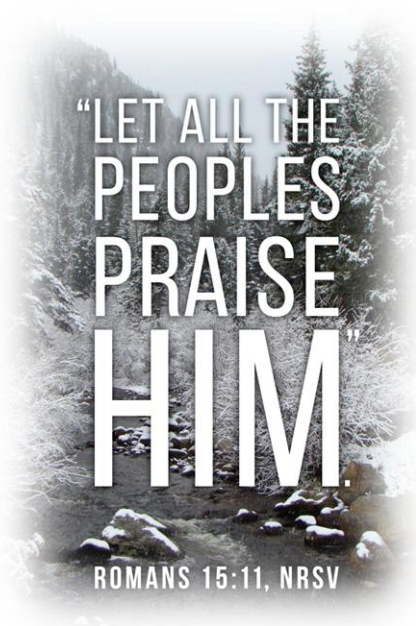
P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle

Romans 15:4–13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm



the promises given to the patriarchs,⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.”

¹⁰And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

¹¹And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.”

¹²And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 205

Holy Gospel

Matthew 3:1–12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.



⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of

vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, 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

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

LSB #344

Sermon

Prayers of the Church

Offering

Offertory Response

“We Give Thee But Thine Own” LSB #781 vs. 1-2

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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 208

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus,” confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.

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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Distribution

Distribution Hymns

“Jesus Shall Reign”

LSB #832

“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”

LSB #348

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”

LSB #641

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

Post-Communion Collect

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.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

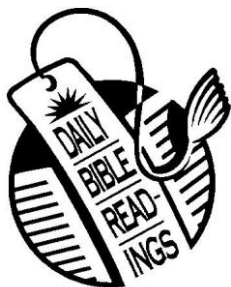
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn *“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”* LSB #643

Acknowledgments. Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Sunday: Isaiah 24:1-13;

1 John 1:1 – 2:14

Monday: Isaiah 24:14 – 25:12;

Obadiah 1-21; 1 John 2:15-29

Tuesday: Isaiah 26:1-19; 1 John 3:1-24

Wednesday: Isaiah 26:20 – 27:13;

1 John 4:1-21

Thursday: Isaiah 28:14-29; 1 John 5:1-2;

2 John 1-13; 3 John 1-15

Friday: Isaiah 29:1-14; Jude 1-25

Saturday: Isaiah 29:15 – 30:14; Revelation 1:1-20



In the beauty and celebration of Christmas, we are decorating the Faith Sanctuary and Narthex with poinsettias this year. Donations for the POINSETTIA FUND will be taken through **Sunday, December 14.**

Please fill out the form found on the table in the narthex and enclose it with your check payable to

Faith Lutheran Church. Place the form in the basket or drop off at the church office.



Gifts for children: *Watch for the tree with tags in the back of church at Faith.* Gifts need to be returned by Sunday, December 14. For information, contact Bonnie Grueneberg at 715-613-0003 or e-mail at ***bkg9005@gmail.com***

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR PINE CREST RESIDENTS

Pine Crest is asking for donation of Christmas presents and/or money which allows Pine Crest to give a gift to each resident. Items should be dropped off by today, Sunday, December 7 at Faith. A list of items can be found on the table in the church entryway.



ST. JOHN'S and FAITH CALENDAR



Sunday, December 7

8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy

Communion 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

12:15 p.m. "Inspired Singles" group meeting at Faith

Monday, December 8

NO MONDAY WORSHIP

6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting at Faith

Tuesday, December 9

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

7:15 p.m. Elder's Meeting at St. John's

Wednesday, December 10 MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE

5:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal at Faith

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith

Thursday, December 11

10:30 a.m. Community Bible Class at St. John's

Friday-Saturday, December 12-13

Fruit pick up at Faith

Sunday, December 14 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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

9:15 a.m. Sunday School at Faith

10:15 a.m. Children's Christmas Program at Faith

11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith

12:00 p.m. Lunch and Christmas Caroling at Faith

Monday, December 15

NO MONDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, December 17

5:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal at Faith

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith

Thursday, December 18

10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's

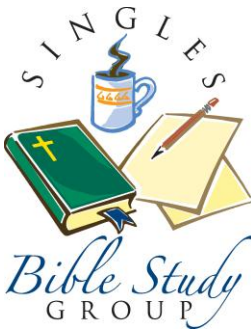
3:00 p.m. Outdoor Living Nativity at St. John's



Thank you to all that participated in the Christmas Tree of Giving at St. John's this year for the Maple Grove kids. All items were taken to the school on Monday, November 24. It was very much appreciated.

Lori Baumann

St. John Evangelism/Stewardship



"INSPIRED SINGLES" study group is meeting on today, Sunday, December 7 at 12:15 p.m. at Faith. Plans are for the group to meet on the second Sunday of each month. For more information, talk with Pastor Love.

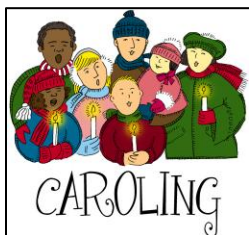
OUTDOOR LIVING NATIVITY

St. John's – Hamburg will be having a **LIVE NATIVITY** on Thursday, December 18 from 3 to 6pm. *Free soup and cookies will be available.*





LIVING RIVER CONCERT at St. John-Merrill on Saturday, December 13 at 5:30 p.m. *Cookie walk follows performance.*



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Lunch will be served after worship service at Faith followed by caroling to shut-ins on

Sunday, December 14.

Come along and help share the Christmas spirit. Bring a friend!



Children's Christmas Program

**Faith Lutheran Church
Sunday, December 14**

CHRISTMAS IS NEAR!!! Whether you are hosting at home or invited away, get scrip cards for your celebration supplies whether at home or away.. And remember, scrip cards are great holiday gifts. Pick up scrip for all your needs. Help support the ministry of our church through the Scrip program. ... *All without it costing you an extra penny!*



OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2026 are available in the narthex at Faith. Please do NOT use until January 2, 2026.

ADVENT

Adventures

We direct *our hearts*
and *our worship* now toward
the coming of Jesus
at Christmas and
at the end of time.



*This Year's Advent Midweek will follow the
Theme of Advent Adventures and will feature
the four names of the Advent Candles*

Wednesday, December 10 – *Peace*

Advent Adventures of Peace in Peril

Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday, December 17 - *Joy*

Advent Adventures of Joy

in Life's Jarring and Jolting Journey

Luke 2:8-20

Wednesday, December 24 - *Love*

Adventures of Love in A World at War With Itself

Luke 2:1-7

Lenten Midweek Services
6:30 p.m. 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 Merrill

Facebook Page <https://faithmerrill.webs.com/>