



**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – HAMBURG  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 21, 2025  
8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.**

**Matthew 1:21 – “*She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.*”** What our good works could never do, Jesus has done: He has saved us from our sins, paid our debt, set us free. How can we not give thanks to Him with lives of generosity and godliness? What God's Law could not do — truly motivate us to truly good works — Jesus' love has done!



## **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 | page 151**

## OPENING HYMN

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

LSB #357sts. 1–4

## 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.*

**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 24

**P** <sup>1</sup>The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,  
the world and those who dwell therein,

**C** <sup>2</sup>**for he has founded it upon the seas  
and established it upon the rivers.**

**P** <sup>3</sup>Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?  
And who shall stand in his holy place?

**C** <sup>4</sup>**He who has clean  
hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his  
soul to what is false  
and does not swear  
deceitfully.**

**P** <sup>5</sup>He will receive blessing  
from the LORD  
and righteousness from  
the God of his salvation.

**C** <sup>6</sup>**Such is the generation  
of those who seek him,  
who seek the face of  
the God of Jacob.**

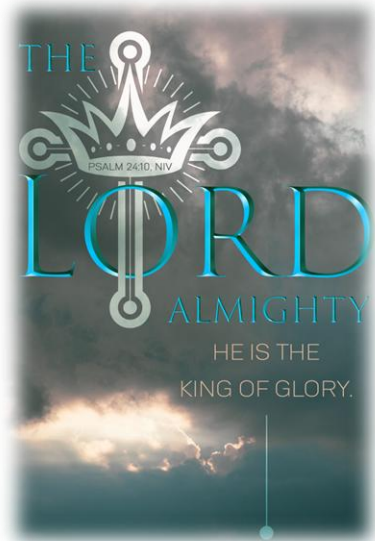
**P** <sup>7</sup>Lift up your heads, O  
gates!

And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

**C** <sup>8</sup>**Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD, strong and mighty,  
the LORD, mighty in battle!**

**P** <sup>9</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

**C** <sup>10</sup>**Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD of hosts,  
he is the King of glory!**



## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## CATECHISM REVIEW

**P** *The Seventh Petition*

**C** But deliver us from evil.

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

**C** We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 7:10–17*

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.”

<sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.”

<sup>13</sup>And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?

<sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin

The virgin  
shall  
conceive  
and bear  
a son,  
and shall  
call his  
name  
Immanuel.

ISAIAH 7:14, ESV



shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup>The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE

Romans 1:1–7

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God  
and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.



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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 1:18–25*

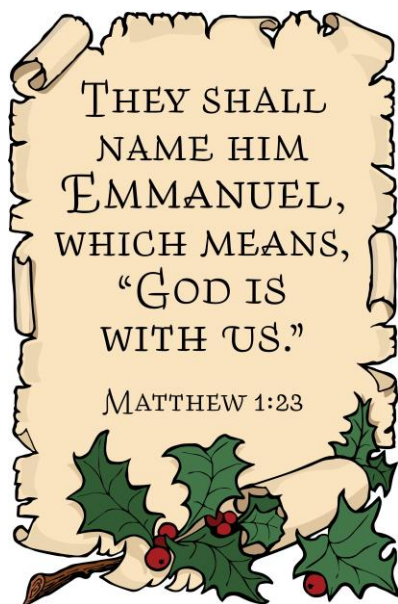
**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

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

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband

Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:



<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

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

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

## SERMON HYMN

*“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”*

LSB #341

### 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 ✠ 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

**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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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 161

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LSB 161

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with

Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C 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  $\text{✝}$  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  $\text{✝}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## **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.

## **PAX DOMINI**

LSB 163

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## **AGNUS DEI**

LSB 163

## **DISTRIBUTION**

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”* LSB #357 sts. ref, 5–7

*“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”* LSB #380

*“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”* LSB #344

## **THANK THE LORD**

LSB 164

## **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.

## **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.

**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 © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.



**Sunday:** Isaiah 30:15-26;

Revelation 2:1-29

**Monday:** Isaiah 30:27 – 31:9;

Revelation 3:1-22

**Tuesday:** Isaiah 32:1-20; Revelation 4:1-11

**Wednesday:** Isaiah 33:1-24;

Revelation 5:1-14

**Thursday:** Isaiah 34:1-2, 8 – 35:10;

Micah 1:1 – 7:20; Revelation 6:1-17

**Friday:** Isaiah 40:1-17; Revelation 7:1-17

**Saturday:** Isaiah 40:18 – 41:10; Revelation 8:1-13



**FAITH and ST. JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCHES**

*Please remember the following in  
your prayers:*

Gary Baumann Joe Calmes

David Czech Rodney Dahlke

Alice Fromm Christopher Emmerich Wallace Emmerich

Duane Grunenwald Gerhard Hannemann

Angie Harkner Dale Janisch Cecelia & Lucille Klade

Rob Koebe Hugo Koppa Karen Love

Bob Meyer Gene Mootz Debbie Olson Hayden Partyka

Mark Pester Bob Porath Marge Radenz Karen Rajek

Laurie Runge Jo Schedler Audrey Steckling

Lorraine Steckling Carl Uttech Deb Wiederhoeft

Florence Williamson Laurie Young

Susie and Ellie Zastrow



## ST. JOHN'S and FAITH CALENDAR

### Sunday, December 21

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

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

### Wednesday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 p.m. Candlelight Worship at St. John's

7:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship at Faith

### Thursday, December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

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

10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith

### Sunday, December 28

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

10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith

### Monday, December 29

6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith



### **2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

*Are available on tables at Faith in the church narthex. Do NOT use until after January 1, 2026.*

### **CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN!**

Be sure to pick up scrip cards for your holiday feasts and those special gifts for your 'naughty and nice' list. 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!.*



CHRISTMAS EVE

# *Candlelight Worship*

# *Love*

Wednesday, December 24

St. John's Lutheran Church – Hamburg

4:30 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church

7:00 p.m.



**CHRISTMAS  
CAROLING**  
Today, Sunday,  
December 21 at  
Faith.

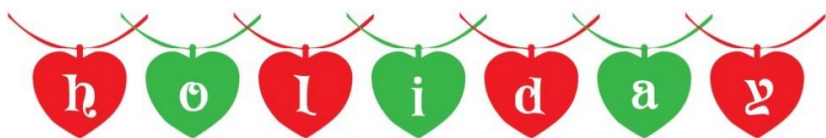
Lunch following worship and leaving church  
for caroling at **12:15 p.m.**



**A ROUND OF  
APPLAUSE** to all  
the participants in  
the program ...  
Gratitude to all who  
helped with the

Children's Program. It was excellent and  
certainly in the spirit of the season.

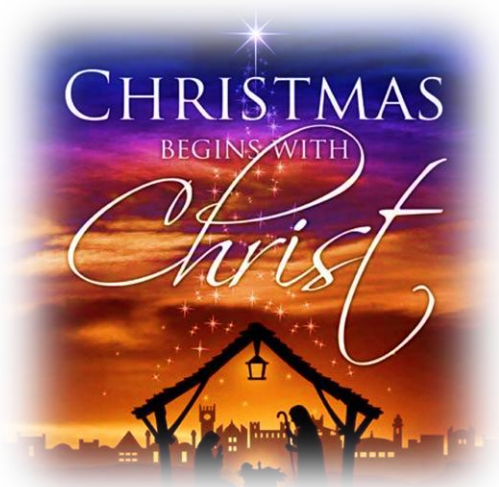
the joy of



giving

*Thank you to everyone that purchased items for Pine Crest residents and Thank You to Barry & Cindy Krenz delivering the gifts to Pine Crest.*

*Faith's Angel Tree blessed 24 children plus one mom. These people will have a lot brighter Christmas thanks to our generous congregation! Again thank you to Barry & Cindy for delivering those gifts to Thomas Jefferson Elementary in Wausau.*



## **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)**