



**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - HAMBURG
First Sunday after Christmas
Sunday, December 28, 2025
8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.**

Galatians 4:4 – “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law.” Jesus was born under the law so that He might fulfill the law in our place. His perfect righteousness is credited to us. And it is this free forgiveness of sins and this crediting of righteousness that sets us free to follow our Lord in godly living. Since we are freed from the law's condemnation, we are freed from any mercenary attitudes. Now that the Lord has shown His love to us in saving us, we freely show our thanks to Him in generosity, humility and kindness.



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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Divine Service IV
LSB page 203

Opening Hymn

“A Great and Mighty Wonder”

LSB #383

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, 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.

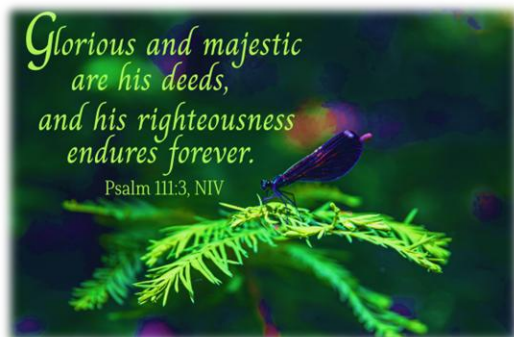
C **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Psalm 111

P ¹Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.



C ²**Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.**

P ³Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

C ⁴**He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

P ⁵He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

C ⁶**He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

P ⁷The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;
⁸they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

C ⁹**He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!**

P ¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!

Kyrie

LSB 204

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through 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 Lord's Prayer - The Conclusion*

C **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

P *What does this mean?*

C This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means "yes, yes, it shall be so."

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 63:7–14

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD,
the praises of the LORD,
according to all that the LORD has granted us,
and the great goodness to the house of Israel
that he has granted them according to his compassion,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely.”
And he became their Savior.

⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted,
and the angel of his presence saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

¹⁰But they rebelled

and grieved his
Holy Spirit;
therefore he turned to be
their enemy,
and himself fought
against them.

¹¹Then he remembered
the days of old,
of Moses and his
people.
Where is he who
brought them up out of
the sea

with the shepherds of his flock?

Where is he who put in the midst of them
his Holy Spirit,

¹²who caused his glorious arm
to go at the right hand of Moses,
who divided the waters before them
to make for himself an everlasting name,

¹³who led them through the depths?

Like a horse in the desert,
they did not stumble.



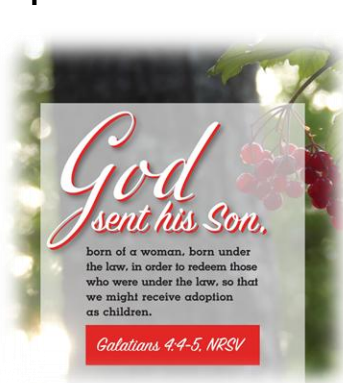
¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley,
the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest.
So you led your people,
to make for yourself a glorious name.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Galatians 4:4–7



⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**These things are written that you may believe that
Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:13–23

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and



remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by

the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are
no more.”

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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.

Sermon Hymn

“Once He Came in Blessing”

LSB #333

Sermon

Prayers of the Church

Offering

Offertory Response

“Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”

LSB #806

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.

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

“Joy to the World”

LSB #387

Acknowledgments Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Sunday: Isaiah 52:13 – 54:10;

Matthew 2:13-23

Monday: Isaiah 55:1-13; Luke 1:1-25

Tuesday: Isaiah 58:1 – 59:3. 14-21;

Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday: Isaiah 60:1-22; Luke 1:39-56

Thursday: Isaiah 61:1-11; Luke 1:57-80

Friday: Isaiah 62:1-12; Luke 2:1-20

Saturday: Isaiah 63:1-14; Luke 2:21-40



Pastor Love will be on
Vacation from Monday,
December 29 to
Saturday, January 3. **In**
case of emergency,
please call



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 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

Sunday, January 4

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

10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Faith

11:15 a.m. Stewardship and Evangelism Meeting at Faith

Monday, January 5

6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Faith

Tuesday, January 6

1:00 p.m. Trustee's Meeting at Faith

Wednesday, January 7

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

Thursday, January 8

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



2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Be sure to pick up scrip cards for your New Year's activities and events. Pick up scrip for all your household needs as well. Help support the ministry of our church through the Scrip program. ... *All without it costing you an extra penny!*



*Thanks to all for making our
Advent and Christmas
Celebrations so wonderful.
Praise God for His families
working together as a team to
prepare for His coming and in
celebration of His birth.*

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

A photograph of bare, frost-covered branches reaching upwards against a clear blue sky. The branches are covered in a thick layer of white frost, creating a delicate, crystalline texture. The sky is a solid, vibrant blue, providing a high-contrast background for the white branches.

Happy New Year

○ SING UNTO THE LORD
a new song;
FOR HE HATH DONE
marvelous things.

PSALM 98:1, KJV