



FAITH & ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES
POLKA SERVICE 10:00 a.m.
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 28, 2025

Amos 6:1a – *“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion.”* The Book of Amos is a warning to God’s people who have been given great material wealth. As Jesus Himself mentions, material blessings can turn into temptations — chiefly the temptation to think of ourselves as self-sufficient and independent. What does Amos suggest as a way to combat this temptation? First, faith in the Lord and dependence upon Him! And if our faith is right, we will want to follow the rest of Amos’ instructions — to bless the poor with our alms and to make sure the Lord’s House is properly cared for. In other words, we are called to align our actions with God’s priorities and put others ahead of ourselves.



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.

†OPENING SONGS †

We Have Come into His House

We have come into His house,
gathered in His name to worship Him

We have come into His house,
gathered in His name to worship Him

We have come into His house,
gathered in His name to worship Christ the Lord
Worship Him, Christ the Lord

Above the Mountain

High above the mountain tops the angels sing

Praise the Lord for He is King

And we answer from this humble church below

Praise the Lord forever so

Chorus

All the world with joyful hearts sing praise of love

His blessings sent from up above

It is right in thanking Him and praising Him

A-men, a-men

In our lives we show our love for God each day

Each in our own special way

And we thank Him for the gifts HE gives to us

He will always be with us **(Chorus)**

† INVOCATION †

P: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. (*Colossians 3:16*)

C: And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (*Colossians 3:17*)

P: We begin our worship in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

† CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION †

P: “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness” (*2 Timothy 2:19*) and “He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.” (*Proverbs 28:13*) Therefore, let us confess and renounces our sins with a sincere heart and mind before the Lord.

C: “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me... a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (*Ps. 51: 10-12,17b*) “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” (*Luke 18:13*)

A moment for silent confession and personal reflection

P: Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. (*based on Ps 32:1,2*) Upon, This your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the Grace of God unto you, and by the command and in the stead of the Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit. “Be of Good Cheer Your; your sins are forgiven you. (*Matt. 9:2 KJV*) Now, go live a life

worthy of your calling in Christ Jesus, and produce fruit in keep with repentance. (Eph 4:1)

**C: Amen! By Grace I am saved. By grace I am forgiven.
By Grace of the Blood and Resurrection of Christ
Jesus, God's own Son I am set free.**

† RESPONSIVE SONG †
Sing With Me a Hallelujah

Chorus

***Sing with me a hallelujah, sing with me a thank you Lord
And in thanking Him for all His blessing, let us love Him
even more***

For our family and our friends, for the sunshine that He
sends

For the peace He brings within my soul
For the flowers and the trees,
for the mountains and the seas
For the rain that makes the rivers flow

Chorus

***Sing with me a hallelujah, sing with me a thank you Lord
And in thanking Him for all His blessing,
let us love Him even more***

For the wonders of His birth,
for the His teachings here on earth
For His life He gave so we could live
For forgiveness of our sins, so that we may enter in
To Heaven with Him Christ our King **(Chorus)**

**† THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACHES US
THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD†**

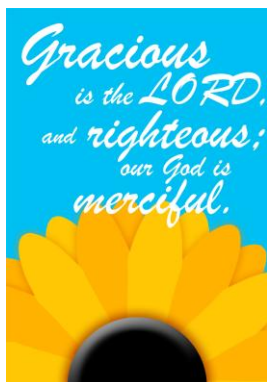
P: Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of
Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation.

C: For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20-21)

† **Old Testament** †

Amos 6:1-7

“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion,
and to those who feel secure on the mountain of
Samaria,
the notable men of the first of the nations,
to whom the house of Israel comes!
Pass over to Calneh, and see,
and from there go to Hamath the great;
then go down to Gath of the Philistines.



Are you better than these kingdoms?

Or is their territory greater than
your territory,

O you who put far away the day of
disaster

and bring near the seat of
violence?

“Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and stretch themselves out on

their couches,

and eat lambs from the flock

and calves from the midst of the stall,

who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp

and like David invent for themselves instruments of
music,

who drink wine in bowls

and anoint themselves with the finest oils,

but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go
into exile,

and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out
shall pass away.”

☐ Jesus replied to Satan “Man does not live on bread alone

☐ But on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”
(Matthew 4:4)

† Epistle †

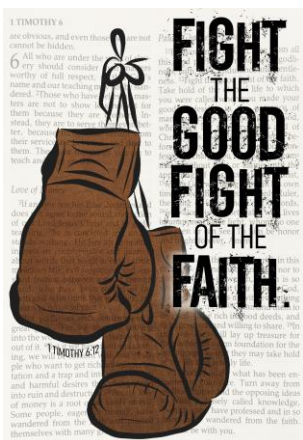
1 Timothy 6:6-19

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality,

who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for



themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

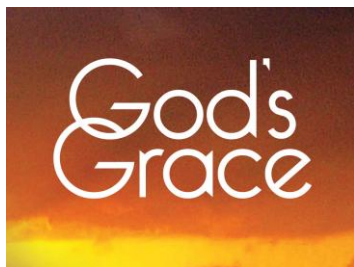
☐ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

☐ **All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.** (2 Timothy 3:15-17)

† Holy Gospel †

Luke 16:19-31

[Jesus said:] “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send



Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this,

between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said,

‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

P The Grass withers and the flowers fall

C But the Word of the Lord stands forever. (1 Peter 1:25)

† SERMON SONG †

Rock of Ages

Rock of ages cleft for me
Let me hide myself in Thee
Let the water and the blood
From Thy riven side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure
Cleanse me from its guilt and power

Not the labors of my hand
Could fulfil Thy laws demands
Could my zeal no respite know
Could my tears forever flow
All for sin could not atone
Thou must save and Thou alone

Nothing in my hand I bring
Simply to Thy cross I cling
Naked come to Thee for dress
Helpless look to Thee for grace
Foul I to the fountain fly
Wash me Savior or I die

While I draw this fleeting breath
When mine eyelids close in death
When I soar to worlds unknown
See Thee on Thy judgment throne
Rock of ages cleft for me
Let me hide myself in Thee

† **SERMON** †

† **OFFERING** †

† **CONFESSION OF FAITH** †

Apostle's Creed Song

I believe in God the Father
Maker of the earth and sky
And His only Son Christ Jesus
Who responded to man's cry
Made true man by God the Spirit
He was born of Mary pure
Suffered under Pontius Pilate
All our many ills to cure

Crucified and dead and buried
With the dead He found His place
But HE rose again with power
On the morn of Easter day
Now gone back once more to heaven
Reigns He on His Fathers right
'til to judge the dead and living
He shall come in glory bright

I believe in God the Spirit
In one church here and beyond
Joining all the saints together
In one fellowship and bond
I believe in God's forgiveness
I believe that I shall rise
And I look for life unending
In my home in paradise

† **COLLECT OF THE DAY** †



Let us pray. Everlasting Father, source of every blessing, mercifully direct and govern us by Your Holy Spirit that we may complete the works You have prepared for us to do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and

reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen!

† PRAYERS †

Pastor: For the day with its glorious sun, its sunrises and sunsets.

People: God be praised for the day!

Pastor: For the earth with its hills, plains, deserts and seas.

People: God be praised for the earth!

Pastor: Let us praise God for food without which we would die.

People: God be praised for food!

Pastor: Praise God for Homes so we are sheltered from summer's heat and winter's cold.

People: God be praised for homes!

Pastor: Praise God for mothers and fathers; brothers and sisters who help us in trouble and do kind things for us.

People: God be praised for family!

Pastor: Praise God for friends who give us joy and cheer us when we are sad.

People: God be praised for friends!

Pastor: Give God praise for good health so that we have strength to do His service.

People: God be praised for health!

Pastor: For all those who could not make it to join us on this,
Your beautiful created day!

People: We Praise You O Lord!

† **LORD'S PRAYER** †

Lord's Prayer in Song

Our Father who art in heaven
Hallowed would 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 debts
As we forgive our debtors
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.

† **BLESSING** †

P: Let us do what Christ has commanded us to do to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (*Matthew 28:19-20*) “The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (*Number 6:24*)

C: Amen!

† **DEPARTING SONGS** †

What A Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus
All our sins and griefs to bear
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer
Oh what peace we often forfeit
Oh what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer

Have we trails and temptations
Is there trouble anywhere
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share
Jesus knows our every weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Are we weak and heavy laden
Cumbered with a load of care
Precious Savior still our refuge
Take it to the Lord in prayer
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee
Take it to the Lord in prayer
In His arms He'll take and shield thee
Thou wilt find a solace there

Lord Dismiss With Thy Blessing

Lord dismiss us with Thy blessing
Fill our hearts with joy and peace
Let us each Thy love possessing
Triumph in redeeming grace
Oh refresh us, oh refresh us
Trav'ling through this wilderness

Thanks we give and adoration
For Thy gospel's joyful sound
May the fruits of Thy salvation
In our hearts and lives abound
Ever faithful, ever faithful
To the truth may we be found

So when're the signals given
Us from earth to call away
Borne on angels wings to heaven
Glad the summons to obey
May we ever, may we ever
Reign with Christ in endless day

Let the Son Shine In

Joyful hope, love of God, and smiling faces
The heritage we have as sons of God
Christ has risen to new life, put an end to death and strife
Now we celebrate as one and sons of God

Chorus

***So let the Son shine in, share Christ with your neighbor
And happiness will never leave your heart
So let the Son shine in, shake hands with your neighbor
And happiness will never leave your heart***

On the job, in your home, or at a party
People wishing all their friends the peace of Christ
Happy feeling in the air forget your troubles and your cares
And join all those who share the peace of Christ

Chorus

God Bless America

(Intro – Solo by Carl Uttech)

God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with a light from above
From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home
God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with a light from above
From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home



SPECIAL THANKS to Carl Uttech and the Polish Cowboys for their music in our service today.

The service features liturgy, prayer, sermon and religious themed

songs. The trio features Carl on the Concertina, John Uttech on the trumpet and base and Tom Mielke on the drums.



Potluck

All are welcome to join in for the Pots-Blessing following worship today.

BBQ, Chips and Refreshments will be provided

Free will offering will be given to the Klade family to help cover medical expenses.

Guaranteed good food and fantastic fellowship!



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Sunday: Deuteronomy 1:1-18;
Matthew 5:1-20

Monday: Deuteronomy 1:19-36;
Matthew 5:21-48

Tuesday: Deuteronomy 1:37 – 2:15;
Matthew 6:1-15

Wednesday: Deuteronomy 2:16-37; Matthew 6:16-34

Thursday: Deuteronomy 3:1-29; Matthew 7:1-12

Friday: Deuteronomy 4:1-20; Matthew 7:13-29

Saturday: Deuteronomy 4:21-40; Matthew 8:1-17



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

Gerhard Hanneman Angie Harkner Dale Janisch
Cecelia & Lucille Klade Lorraine Kleinschmidt
Rob Koebe Kim Love Bob Meyer Gene Mootz
Debbie Olson Mark Pester Bob Porath Marge Radenz
Karen Rajek Jo Schedler Audrey Steckling
Lorraine Steckling Carl Uttech Deb Wiederhoeft
Florence Williamson Susie and Ellie Zastrow



CONFIRMATION CLASS

Wednesdays from 5:30 -
7:00 p.m. at Faith

COMMUNITY BIBLE

CLASS on Thursdays from
10:30 – 11:30 a.m. at St.
John-Hamburg.

FLOWERS

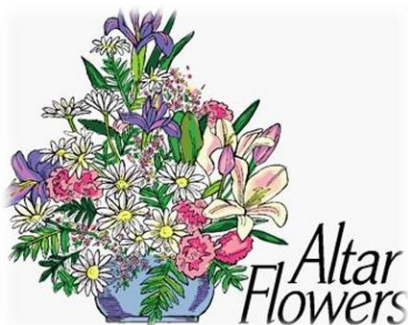
ADORNING THE ALTAR

this weekend are in memory of

Bruce J. Calmes

March 29, 1951 – September
30, 2007

from his father, Joseph Calmes
and his sister, Gail Klotzbuecher





CHURCH CALENDAR ST. JOHN'S and FAITH

Sunday, September 28

10:00 a.m. POLKA SERVICE at Faith

Monday, September 29

6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith

Wednesday, October 1

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

Thursday, October 2

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

6:30 p.m. Mary Martha Guild at St. John's

Sunday, October 5

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

Sunday School during the sermon at St. John's

9:15 a.m. Sunday School at Faith

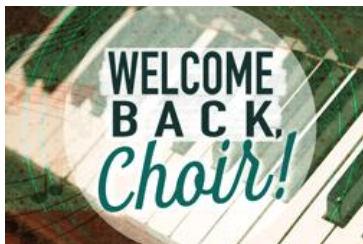
10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Faith

11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith

Monday, October 6

5:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal at Faith

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



CHOIR AT FAITH will
resume on Mondays at 5:30
p.m. beginning in October.
*New members are always
welcome.*

FALL IS HERE! FOOTBALL! BASEBALL! RAKING LEAVES! For all of your upcoming events and activities, don't forget to pick up Scrip Cards. One can always use cards for everyday personal and household needs such as gas and food, Help support the ministry of our church through the Scrip program ... all without it costing you an extra penny!

UPCOMING *Events*

+ St. John's is in need of candy donations for their **TRUNK AND TREAT EVENT** on October 25 in St. John's Parking lot starting at 2:00 p.m.

Please donate candies that would not promote anything scary or supernatural.

+ Special Church **VETERANS DAY SERVICE** and Breakfast November 9. *Everyone is welcome.*

+ Old but Useable **GUITARS**. Do you have an old but usable guitar that you would be willing to donate? *Pastor Love will be offering free guitar lessons on Thursday afternoons at St. John's - Hamburg.*

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/>



Circuit Lock Out

Event Timing: October 10

Event Dropoff: St John,

Merrill, 1104 E 3rd St, Merrill, WI 54452 Pickup

Address: (Les and Jim's bowling alley, 1208 N Center Ave,

Merrill, WI 54452 Event Time: 6pm - 11pm

Contact us at youthgroup@stjohnmerrill.org

The Circuit Youth will be in Merrill doing a lock-out event! We will be starting the night off at the church, followed by a movie, pizza and bowling at Les and Jim's, pick up will be at Les and Jim's. You **must** be registered for this event in order to attend so we can properly rent enough seats and lanes.

Name* _____

What Grade are you currently in?* _____

Phone Number _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number* _____

Home Church _____

Who will be picking you up?* _____

Dietary restrictions

None

Vegetarian

Vegan

Kosher

Gluten-free

Other:

I understand that I will need \$20 for this event, if desired bring extra money for snack*



TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE
on the Scrip Table
in the Narthex

All You Can Eat
PANCAKE DINNER and BAKE SALE

Sunday, November 2
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

*Homemade Potato Pancakes and Buttermilk
Pancakes served with Scrambled Eggs and
Breakfast Sausage*

Adults - \$10 Children 6-12 - \$4

5 years old and under – Free

Carryouts available

Faith Lutheran Church

15425 Highway K South - Merrill



***Circuit 6 Feed My Starving
Children
and Mall of America trip
November 15, 2025***

Saturday, November 15th

- 7:30 a.m. Loading @ Faith – Merrill
7:45 a.m. Depart Faith – Merrill
8:30 a.m. Pick-up @ Zion – Colby
We will do a break stop @ Kwik Trip – Baldwin Exit
11:30-11:45 a.m. Arrival time @ Feed My Starving
Children – Eagan, MN
12:00 – 1:45 p.m. Feed My Starving Children
2:15 p.m. Arrival time @ Mall of America
5:30 p.m. Departure time from Mall of America
***We will travel straight through going
home, so you will either want to eat while
you are at the mall or bring your food onto
the coach to eat on the way home.*
8:00 p.m. Est. return time to Zion – Colby
8:45 p.m. Est. return time to Faith – Merrill

****Cost is \$40.00 per person to cover the cost of the motorcoach transportation.**

****All ages are welcome at Feed My Starving Children – youth under the age of 14 need to be with an adult unless other arrangements have been made with their individual church group.**

****While at the Mall of America anyone under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult beginning at 3:00 p.m. – everyone must be able to show proof of identification with either a State Issued Driver's License or a State Issued ID Card. School I.D.'s are not accepted.**