



**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - HAMBURG**
Second Sunday after Christmas
Sunday, January 4, 2026
8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
Monday, January 5, 2026 6:30 p.m.

Luke 2:49 – “And he said to them, ‘Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?’” What a privilege the Lord has given to us by calling us to come to His house! It is not a burden but rather an honor and a blessing for us to always be able to come to a place where we know God is present for us in His gifts of Word and Sacrament. Likewise, the Lord has honored us by allowing us to support the work of His house with our tithes and offerings.



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 WORSHIP

Divine Service IV

LSB page 203

Opening Hymn

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

Text: Public domain

LSB #366

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.

Confession and Absolution

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.

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.

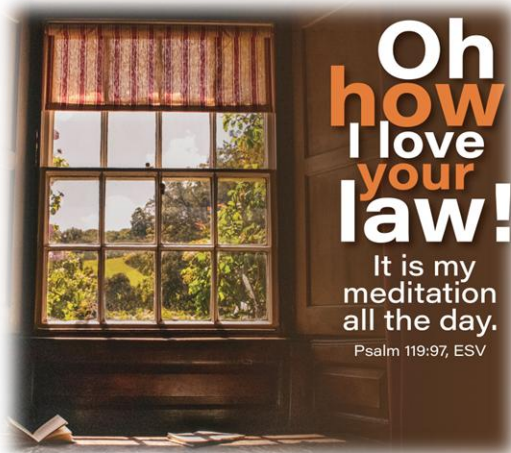
P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Psalm 119:97-114

- P** ⁹⁷Oh how I love your law!
It is my meditation all the day.
- C** ⁹⁸**Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,**
for it is ever with me.



- P** ⁹⁹I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your testimonies are my meditation.
- C** ¹⁰⁰**I understand more than the aged,**
for I keep your precepts.
- P** ¹⁰¹I hold back my feet from every evil way,
in order to keep your word.

- C** ¹⁰²**I do not turn aside from your just decrees,**
for you have taught me.
- P** ¹⁰³How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!
- C** ¹⁰⁴**Through your precepts I get understanding;**
therefore I hate every false way.

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.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Catechism Review Holy Baptism – First Part

P *What is Baptism?*

C Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

P *Which is that word of God?*

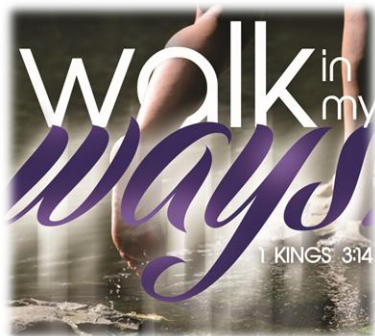
C Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)

Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 3:4–15

⁴ The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have

made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an



understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

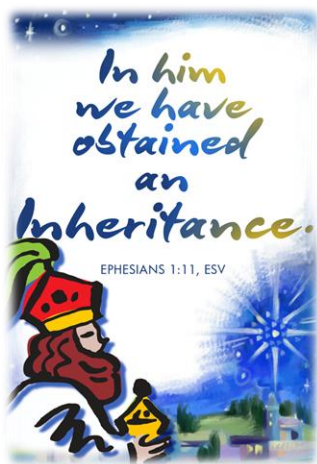
P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Ephesians 1:3–14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.



¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

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

Luke 2:40–52

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

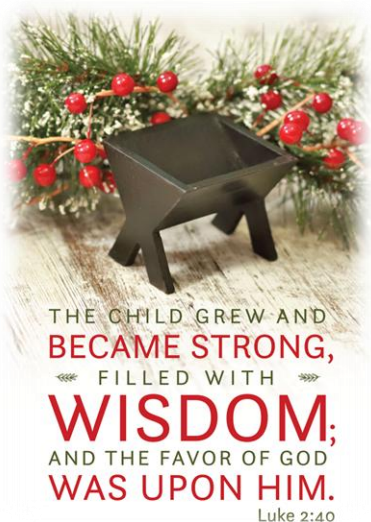
⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives

and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been

searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.



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

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

LSB #850

Sermon

Prayers of the Church

Offering

Offertory Hymn

LSB #781 *sts. 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 the beginning You created all things by Your Word; and in the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

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.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

Distribution

Distribution Hymns

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <i>"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"</i> | LSB #358 |
| <i>"O Lord, We Praise Thee"</i> | LSB #617 |
| <i>"Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice"</i> | LSB #556 |

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.

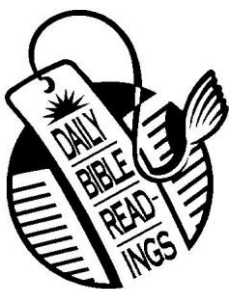
C Amen.

Closing Hymn***“Go Tell It on the Mountain”*****LSB #388****Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Sunday: Isaiah 63:15 – 65:7; Luke 2:41-52

Monday: Isaiah 65:8-25; Luke 3:1-20

Tuesday: Isaiah 66:1-20; Luke 3:21-38

Wednesday: Ezekial 1:1-14, 22-28;
Habakuk 1:1 – 3:19; Romans 1:1-17

Thursday: Ezekial 2:1 – 3:11;
Romans 1:18-32

Friday: Ezekial 3:12-27;
Ezekial 4:1 – 11:25; Romans 2:1-16

Saturday: Ezekial 18:1-4, 19-32; Ezekial 19:1 – 24:27;
Romans 2:17-29



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



AS IRON SHARPENS IRON,

**SO A FRIEND
SHARPENS A FRIEND.**

PROVERBS 27:17, NLT

ISI

Sunday, January 11 4:30 p.m.

Mark Czech's Cabin

W10661 Cedar Road, Merrill

Pastor Love will be departing Faith parking lot
at 4:00 p.m. for those who choose to follow him



ST. JOHN'S and FAITH CALENDAR

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

Sunday, January 11

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

Sunday School during Sermon

9:15 a.m. Sunday School at Faith

10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith

11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith

12:15 p.m. Inspired Singles Group at Faith

4:30 p.m. ISI at Czech's Cabin

Monday, January 12

5:30 p.m. NO CHOIR REHEARSALS UNTIL FEBRUARY 23

6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith

7:30 p.m. Elder's Meeting at Faith

Tuesday, January 13

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

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



Sunday, January 11

CIRCUIT VOLLEYBALL/DODGEBALL

EVENT

St. John – Merrill
Watch for details



ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING at Faith
Sunday, January 25
11:30 a.m.

*All Officers' and Committee Reports
should be in the church office by **Tuesday, January 13.***

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Be sure to pick up scrip cards for your upcoming events in 2026 including family gatherings, sporting events and all other dates on your calendar.. 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!*



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

*He is still found
by those who seek Him.*