

# THE BAPTISM *of Jesus*

When all  
the people  
were being  
baptized,  
  
Jesus was baptized too.  
And as he was praying,  
heaven was opened ...

LUKE 3:21

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – HAMBURG  
**The Baptism of Our Lord**  
**Sunday, January 11 and**  
**Monday, January 12, 2026**

Matthew 3:15 – “**But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’**” The reason God sent His Son into the world is to fulfill all righteousness for us, to do what we could not do. Here, Jesus plunges Himself into our sins and soaks them up in His Baptism, so that in our Baptism we might be cleansed and renewed. The whole of Jesus’ life, everything He did and said, was one great offering to the Father in our stead to fulfill all righteousness for us.



## **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.

## **PRINTED ORDER OF WORSHIP**

### **OPENING HYMN**

**“God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”**

**LSB #594**

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### **INVOCATION**

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit  
**C** Amen!

### **PSALM 51:1–12**

**C** Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God  
Have mercy on me, O God,

according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!  
For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
Against you, you only, have I sinned



and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your judgment.  
Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.  
Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,  
and you teach me wisdom in the secret  
heart.  
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

## CONFESSTION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

- P** “God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.
- C** **If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.**
- P** But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.
- C** **If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**
- P** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
- C** **If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives.”(1 John 1:5b-10)**
- P** Let us then confess our sins:

*(A moment for silence for private personal confession  
to the One Who created us and redeemed us)*

**C** Gracious Father, we come before You as a rebellious and sinful people. We have disobeyed Your commandments; we have worshipped ourselves and the things we have made. We have rejected Your will for our lives; we have preferred our way to that of Christ. Forgive us, O Lord, for straying away from that which You intended us to be, and for failing to follow the example of Christ.

**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. *(Matthew 18:18; John 20:23)* “Be of Good Cheer; 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 keeping with true repentance. *(Eph 4:1)*

**C** Amen! By God’s Grace in Jesus Christ I am saved. By grace I am forgiven. By Grace I am set free.

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

*“Baptized into Your Name Most Holy”*

LSB #590

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

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

## CATECHISM REVIEW

*Holy Baptism – Second Part*

**P** *What benefits does Baptism give?*

**C** **It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.**

**P** *Which are these words and promises of God?*

**C** **Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Genesis 17:9–14*

*God’s Promises Includes Babies*

<sup>9</sup>And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. <sup>10</sup>This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. <sup>11</sup>You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. <sup>12</sup>He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, <sup>13</sup>both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. <sup>14</sup>Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

**P** “and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

**C** **All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be**

**thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)**

## EPISTLE READING

*Colossians 2:6-15*

<sup>6</sup>Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition,

according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

<sup>9</sup>For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup>and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. <sup>11</sup>In him also you were

circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, <sup>12</sup>having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup>And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup>by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.



## Deeply Rooted IN GOD'S WORD

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

***“All Who Believe and Are Baptized”***

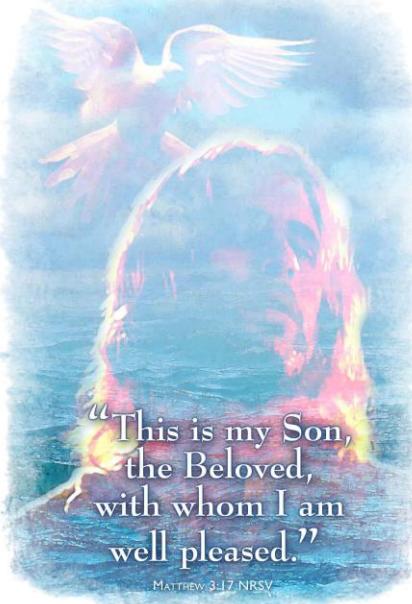
**LSB #601**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 3:13–17*

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come

to me?” <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup>and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”



“This is my Son,  
the Beloved,  
with whom I am  
well pleased.”

MATTHEW 3:17 NRSV

**P** “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God

**C** And keep it.” (*Luke 11:28*)

## SERMON HYMN

**“All Christians Who Have Been Baptized”** LSB #596

## SERMON

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

**C** 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.**

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

***“Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”***

**LSB #806**

## **THE FAMILY OF GOD PRAYS TOGETHER**

### **THE 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.

## **BENEDICTION**

**P** “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!

## **CLOSING HYMN**

***“As with Gladness Men of Old”***

**LSB #397**

**Acknowledgments. From Lutheran Service Book**

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**Sunday:** Ezekial 33:1-20; Romans 3:1-18

**Monday:** Ezekial 34:1-24; Romans 3:19-31

**Tuesday:** Ezekial 36:13-28; Romans 4:1-25

**Wednesday:** Ezekial 36:33 – 37:14; Romans 5:1-21

**Thursday:** Ezekial 37:15-28;

Romans 6:1-23

**Friday:** Ezekial 38:1-23; Romans 7:1-20

**Saturday:** Ezekial 39:1-10, 17-29; Romans 7:21 – 8:17



## 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  
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

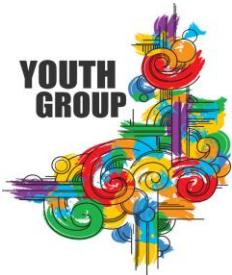
*ISI*

*Sunday, January 11   4:30 p.m.*

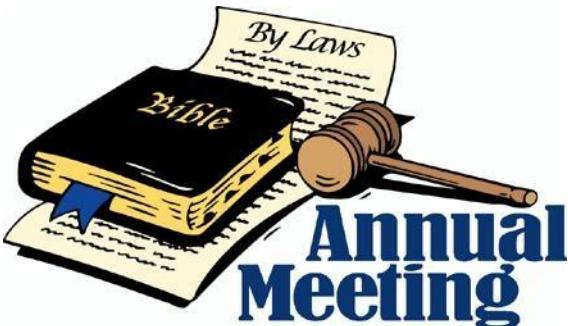
*Mark Czech's Cabin*

*W10661 Cedar Road, Merrill*

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



**CIRCUIT YOUTH  
VOLLEYBALL/DODGEBALL EVENT**  
St. John – Merrill  
**Sunday, January 11**  
**2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**  
*Pizza at 4:30 p.m. \$5.00/person*  
*For youth 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades*



**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.*



**ST. JOHN'S and FAITH CALENDAR**  
**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**

**2:00 p.m. Youth Volleyball/Dodgeball at St. John-Merrill**

**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

## Wednesday, January 14

10:00 a.m. Ablelight  
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

## Thursday, January 15

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

## Sunday, January 18

**8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at St. John's**  
*Sunday School during Sermon*

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, January 19

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

## Wednesday, January 21

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

## Thursday, January 22

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

## IT'S WINTER with unpredictable

weather! 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](http://www.faithlutheranmerrill.com)

# Circuit Youth Retreat

SUN. FEBRUARY, 8TH



10:30am Worship @ Trinity Lutheran, Merrill

Lunch Immediately Following

1-5pm Community Day at Camp Forest Springs

Grounds Pass: \$15 suggested donation



<https://forestsprings.us/events/community-events/community-days>



Tubing included  
in grounds pass



Ski rental  
\$15 downhill  
\$13 cross-country



Snowboard  
rental \$15



Snowshoes  
rental \$8

**FOREST SPRINGS.**

CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

