



Wrap us in your  
warm love  
on this  
winter day,  
**O God,**  
as we gather  
to praise you  
and  
hear your Word.

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – HAMBURG  
The Second Sunday after the Epiphany  
*The Confession of St. Peter*  
Sunday, January 18 and  
Monday, January 19, 2026**

**John 1:29 – “The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’”** The Israelites of old offered a lamb to God at Passover so that death might pass over them and do no harm. Over those long centuries of sacrifice, did they understand that this was actually God’s gift? That God would be the true Giver of the true Lamb? Truly, we can never out-give God, for all that we have is His.



# Welcome to Worship

## **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 III  
LSB page 184

Opening Hymn

*“How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”*      LSB #524

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** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Confession and Absolution

*Silence for reflection  
on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** 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 all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

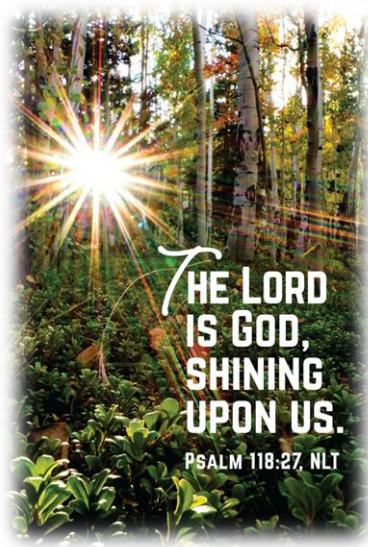
## Service of the Word

### Psalm 118:19-29

**P** <sup>19</sup>Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the LORD.

**C** <sup>20</sup>**This is the gate of the LORD;  
the righteous shall enter through it.**

**P** <sup>21</sup>I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.



**C** <sup>22</sup>**The stone that the  
builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.**

**P** <sup>23</sup>This is the LORD's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.

**C** <sup>24</sup>**This is the day that the  
LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in  
it.**

**P** <sup>25</sup>Save us, we pray, O LORD!  
O LORD, we pray, give us  
success!

**C** <sup>26</sup>**Blessèd is he who comes  
in the name of the LORD!  
We bless you from the house  
of the LORD.**

**P** <sup>27</sup>The LORD is God,  
and he has made his light to shine upon us.  
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,  
up to the horns of the altar!

**C** <sup>28</sup>You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
you are my God; I will extol you.

<sup>29</sup>Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever!

**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

Kyrie

LSB 186

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You revealed to the apostle Peter the blessed truth that Your Son Jesus is the Christ. Strengthen us by the proclamation of this truth that we too may joyfully confess that there is salvation in no one else; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Catechism Review: Holy Baptism - Third Part

**P** *How can water do such great things?*

**C** Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no

**Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.”**

*(Titus 3:5–8)*

## **First Reading**

**Acts 4:8–13**

<sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.

<sup>11</sup>This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup>And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

<sup>13</sup>Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.



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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

**P** What we proclaim is not ourselves,  
but Jesus Christ as Lord.  
We also believe, and so we also speak,  
as one who speaks oracles of God.  
From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
the name of the LORD is to be praised!

## Epistle

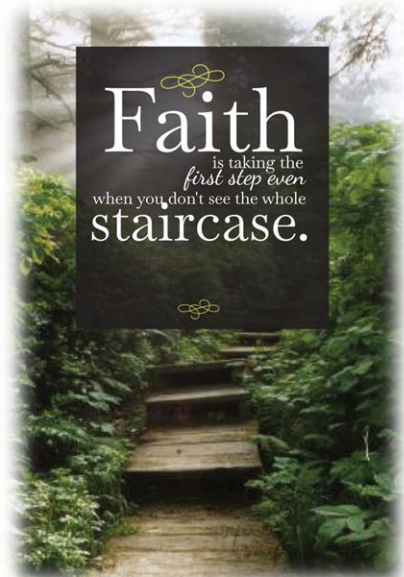
**2 Peter 1:1–15**

<sup>1</sup>Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

<sup>2</sup>May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

<sup>3</sup>His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup>by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. <sup>5</sup>For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, <sup>6</sup>and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, <sup>7</sup>and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. <sup>8</sup>For if these qualities are



yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. <sup>10</sup>Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. <sup>11</sup>For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. <sup>13</sup>I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, <sup>14</sup>since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. <sup>15</sup>And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Alleluia**

*LSB 190*

**Holy Gospel**

***Mark 8:27–35***

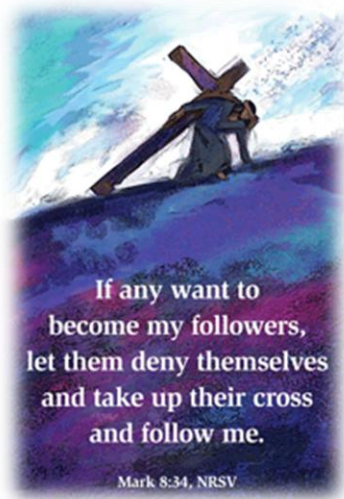
**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eighth chapter.

**C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>27</sup>And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup>And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup>And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” <sup>30</sup>And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

<sup>31</sup>And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the





chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

<sup>34</sup>And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For whoever

would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.”

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

**C** Praise be to Thee, 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 T of the world to come. Amen.**

**Sermon Hymn**

***“Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love”***

**LSB #900**

**Sermon**

**Offertory**

**LSB 192**

**☐ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

**Offering**

**Prayers of the Church**

<h2>Service of the Sacrament</h2>
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**Preface**

**LSB 194**

**☐ The Lord be with you.**

**☐ And with thy spirit.**

**☐ Lift up your hearts.**

**☐ We lift them up unto the Lord.**

**☐ Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.**

**C It is meet and right so to do.**

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; for You have mightily governed and protected Your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed Your divine and saving Gospel. Therefore with patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, with Your servant Peter, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus**

*LSB 195*

**Lord's Prayer**


*LSB 196*

**P** 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.

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

**The Words of Our Lord**

*LSB 197*

**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**

*LSB 197*

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

**C** Amen.

## **Agnus Dei**

*LSB 198*

## **Distribution**

### **Distribution Hymns**

*“The Lamb”*

**LSB #547**

*“Alleluia! Let Praises Ring”*

**LSB #822**

*“O Lord, We Praise Thee”*

**LSB #617**

## **Nunc Dimittis**

*LSB 199*

## **Thanksgiving**

*LSB 200*

**P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**C** and His mercy endureth forever.

**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.

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

## **Benedicamus**

*LSB 202*

**P** Bless we the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

LSB 202

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and  $\nabla$  give you peace.
- C** Amen, amen, amen.

## Closing Hymn “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

LSB #549 sts. 1–2, 5–7

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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**Sunday:** Ezekial 40:1 – 43:1-27;

Romans 8:18-39

**Monday:** Ezekial 44:1-16, 23-29;

Romans 9:1-18

**Tuesday:** Ezekial 47:1-14, 21-23;

Romans 9:19-33

**Wednesday:** Joel 1:1-20;

Romans 10:1-21

**Thursday:** Joel 2:1-17; Romans 11:1-24

**Friday:** Joel 2:18-32; Romans 11:25 – 12:13

**Saturday:** Joel 3 :1-21; Romans 12:14 – 13:14



AS IRON SHARPENS IRON,

**SO A FRIEND  
SHARPENS A FRIEND.**

PROVERBS 27:17, NLT

ISI

*Sunday, January 18 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



## 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 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, 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

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

### Monday, January 19

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

### Wednesday, January 21

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

7:00 p.m. Youth Group at Faith

### Thursday, January 22

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

### Sunday, January 25

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

11:30 a.m. Annual Meeting at Faith

**Monday, January 26**

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

**6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith**

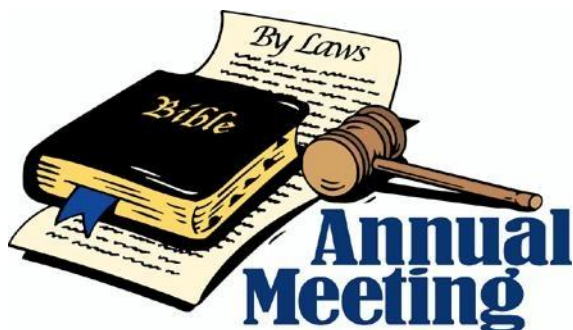
**Wednesday, January 28**

10:00 a.m. Ablelight

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

**Thursday, January 29**

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



**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.***



**MARY MARTHA GUILD**

**Winter Luncheon**

Saturday, January 24 at 12  
noon

Friendship House, Merrill  
Please contact Sarah White at  
St. John's for more information  
and if you plan to attend



*Special thanks  
to Lee and Diane Pfaff for  
donating a case of wine to the  
Altar Guild at Faith  
Lutheran Church. We are  
truly grateful!*

## St John's - Hamburg Spring Hanging Basket Sale

Order forms are in the back of church. Your order needs to be paid in full, and submitted to St. John's Lutheran Church by February 28. Please include your name, address and phone number. Orders will be ready for pickup on Friday, May 8 in St. John's parking lot between noon and 4 pm. Please mail your orders and a check for the balance to St. John's Lutheran Church  
134058 County Road L,  
Hamburg, WI 54411. Attention  
Diane Hinz.



*(At Faith, order forms are on the Scrip table in the narthex)*

### **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**



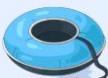
**10:30am Worship @ Trinity Lutheran, Merrill**

**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**



**DO NOT FEAR,**  
for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name,  
**YOU ARE MINE.**

**Isaiah 43:1, NRSV**