



GOD  
*is*  
Faithful  
1 Corinthians 1:9

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – HAMBURG**  
The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
Sunday, February 1 and  
Monday, February 2, 2026

**1 Corinthians 1:20 – “Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?”**

God's ways are certainly not the world's ways, including the way God tells us to manage the resources He's given to us. The world says, “hold on, hold back and gather up.” Jesus says to store up treasure in heaven where moth and rust do not destroy and where no thief breaks in to steal.

Whose way do you think is best?

What is wiser: the wisdom of the financial gurus or the foolishness of God?



**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 I  
LSB page 151

Opening Hymn  
“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

LSB #842

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** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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 15

**P** <sup>1</sup>O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent?  
Who shall dwell on your holy hill?

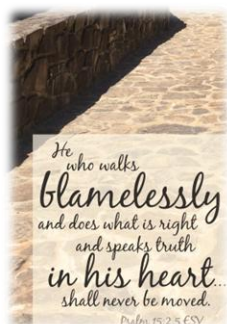
**C** <sup>2</sup>**He who walks blamelessly and does what is right  
and speaks truth in his heart;**

**P** <sup>3</sup>who does not slander with his tongue  
and does no evil to his neighbor,  
nor takes up a reproach against his friend;

**C** <sup>4</sup>**in whose eyes a vile person is despised,  
but who honors those who fear the  
LORD;  
who swears to his own hurt and does  
not change;**

**P** <sup>5</sup>who does not put out his money at  
interest  
and does not take a bribe against the  
innocent.

**C** **He who does these things shall  
never be moved.**



Kyrie

LSB 152

This Is the Feast

LSB 155

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant

strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through 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 - Confession

**P** *What is Confession?*

**C** Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

**P** *What sins should we confess?*

**C** Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

**P** *Which are these?*

**C** Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

## Old Testament Reading

*Micah 6:1–8*

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says:

Arise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the LORD has an indictment against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>"O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I wearied you? Answer me!



<sup>4</sup>For I brought you up  
from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you  
from the house of  
slavery,  
and I sent before you  
Moses, Aaron, and  
Miriam.

<sup>5</sup>O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab  
devised,  
and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

<sup>6</sup>“With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O man, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

## **1 Corinthians 1:18–31**

<sup>18</sup>The word of the cross is folly to those who are  
perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of  
God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where  
is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the

wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

<sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and

Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the

world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156





## Holy Gospel

**Matthew 5:1–12**

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

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup>And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**



## Sermon Hymn

*“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”*

LSB #427

## Sermon

### 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.

## Prayers of the Church

### Offering

### Offertory Response

*“We Give Thee But Thine Own”*

LSB #781sts. 1–2



**FAITH: Installation of Newly  
Elected Officers and Board  
Members**

*(Please follow on the insert or on  
the screen)*

**Service of the Sacrament**

**Preface**

*LSB 160*

**Sanctus**

*LSB 161*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*LSB 161*

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **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."

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## 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.

## Pax Domini

*LSB 163*

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

**C** Amen.

## Distribution

### Distribution Hymns

*“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord”*      **LSB #637**

*“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”*      **LSB #802**

*“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”*      **LSB #685**

### Thank the Lord

LSB 164

### 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.

### Benediction

LSB 166

**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 *“Abide with Me”*

**LSB #878**

#### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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**Sunday:** Zechariah 11:4-17;

2 Timothy 4:1-18

**Monday:** Zechariah 12:1 – 13:9;

Titus 1:1 – 2:6

**Tuesday:** Zechariah 14:1-21;

Titus 2:7 – 3:15

**Wednesday:** Job 1:1-22; John 1:1-18

**Thursday:** Job 2:1 – 3:10; John 1:19-34

**Friday:** Job 3:11-26; John 1:35-51

**Saturday:** Job 4:1-21; John 2:1-12



## **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

Jordan Knoble   Rob Koebe   Hugo Koppa

Karen Love   Bob Meyer   Gene Mootz   Debbie Olson

Mark Pester   Marge Radenz   Karen Rajek   Jo Schedler

Audrey Steckling   Lorraine Steckling

Carl Uttech   Deb Wiederhoeft   Florence Williamson

Laurie Young   Susie and Ellie Zastrow

## ***Missionary Sunday***

**Sunday, February 15**

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

Worship at Faith at 10:15 a.m.

***Special Guest Speaker***

***Rev. Cory J. Rajek***

*Former member of Faith*

*Currently Executive Director*

*LCMS Office of International Mission*

***Also Bring a Friend Sunday***



## ST. JOHN'S and FAITH CALENDAR



### Sunday, February 1

**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**

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

**4:30 p.m. ISI at John Sturm's Home**

### Monday, February 2

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

### Tuesday, February 3

**1:00 p.m. Women of Faith**

**6:30 p.m. Dual Parish Meeting at Faith**

### Wednesday, February 4

**5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith**

### Thursday, February 5

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

**6:00 p.m. Mary Martha Guild at St. John's**

### Sunday, February 8

**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**

**10:30 a.m. Youth Circuit Event at Trinity, Merrill**

**11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith**

**12:30 p.m. Inspired Singles meet at Pine Ridge, Merrill**

### Monday, February 9

**5:30 p.m. No choir rehearsals until week of February 23**

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

**7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting at Faith**

### Tuesday, February 10

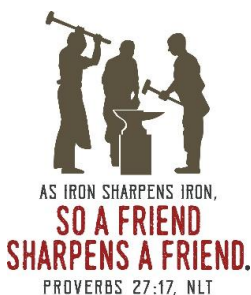
**6:00 p.m. Church Council at St. John's**

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

### Wednesday, February 11

**10:00 a.m. Ablelight**

**5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith**



*ISI*  
*Sunday, February 1 4:30 p.m.*  
*John Sturm's Home*  
*239147 Deer Creek Lane*  
*Marathon*

**Topic - Men of God: Elijah and Elisha**  
Pastor Love will be departing Faith

parking lot at 4:00 p.m. for those who choose to follow him



**Tuesday,  
February 3  
6:30 p.m.  
at Faith  
Lutheran  
Church**



**Lent 2025 begins with  
Ash Wednesday on  
February 18**

**Services will be held on  
Wednesdays at St.  
John's at 6:30 p.m.**

*A Lenten meal will be served  
beginning at 6:00 p.m. each  
week. The sign up sheet for*

**St. John's Lenten meals is in the fellowship hall.**

**Services will be held on Thursdays at Faith at  
11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.**

**INSPIRED SINGLES**  
**will meet on Sunday, February 8**  
**at 12:30 p.m. at Pine Ridge Restaurant**  
*Plans include a guest speaker.*

## **Grief SUPPORT Group**

the loss of a friend, spouse, parent, sibling or child, all are welcome, For more information or to register, call 715-536-5482.

**GRIEF SHARE** begins February 23, 2025 and meets weekly for 13 weeks from 6-7:30 p.m. at Trinity, Merrill Whether it has been recent or many years since



## **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!*





# 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

**YOUTH EVENT: Watch for details! CIRCUIT**  
**ROLLERSKATING at Melody Gardens, Marshfield, March 27.**  
Register by emailing [youthgroup@stjohnmerrill.com](mailto:youthgroup@stjohnmerrill.com)

## **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)**

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Wausau, Wisconsin**

# *From Trans to Truth*

## *Katie's Story*

*February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026*

*6:00pm in the Spiritual Life Center*

Katie Coblentz is a Christian woman who identified as transgender during her late teens/early adulthood and wanted to be a man. She underwent testosterone injections, a double mastectomy and a hysterectomy, all by the time she was 24. Katie later repented of the transgender lifestyle and resumed living her life as a woman. She currently resides in Wisconsin with her husband who is studying to be a pastor in the LCMS. She travels to churches sharing her story and the hope she has in Jesus Christ. She touches on many sensitive subjects such as:

- transgenderism and other LGBT identities
- sexualization of youth
- suicidal thoughts
- family strife
- infertility and sterilization
- effects of transgenderism on families/individuals

Attendees are also encouraged to ask any questions they may have during the Q & A portion of her presentation.



## 4th Annual Fundraising Raffle

Saturday, March 14, 2026  
1:00 - 4:00 pm

### CASH PRIZES

1ST PLACE	\$300
2ND PLACE	\$200
3RD PLACE	\$100
4TH PLACE	\$50
5TH PLACE	\$50

Need not be present to win.

Tickets: (1) = \$10.00 or (3) = \$20.00

Drawing / snacks at 2:30 pm

Music by



Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes  
1208 N. Center Ave., Merrill, WI

**We thank you for your support!**

For more information contact Janet @ 715-921-2398



# Love the Littles Diaper Drive

Love the Littles this Valentine's Day by donating new diapers and wipes, or make a monetary donation, to support Our Saviour's Diaper Closet.

**Dates:**  
February 6th -  
February 23rd

## Drop-off Locations:

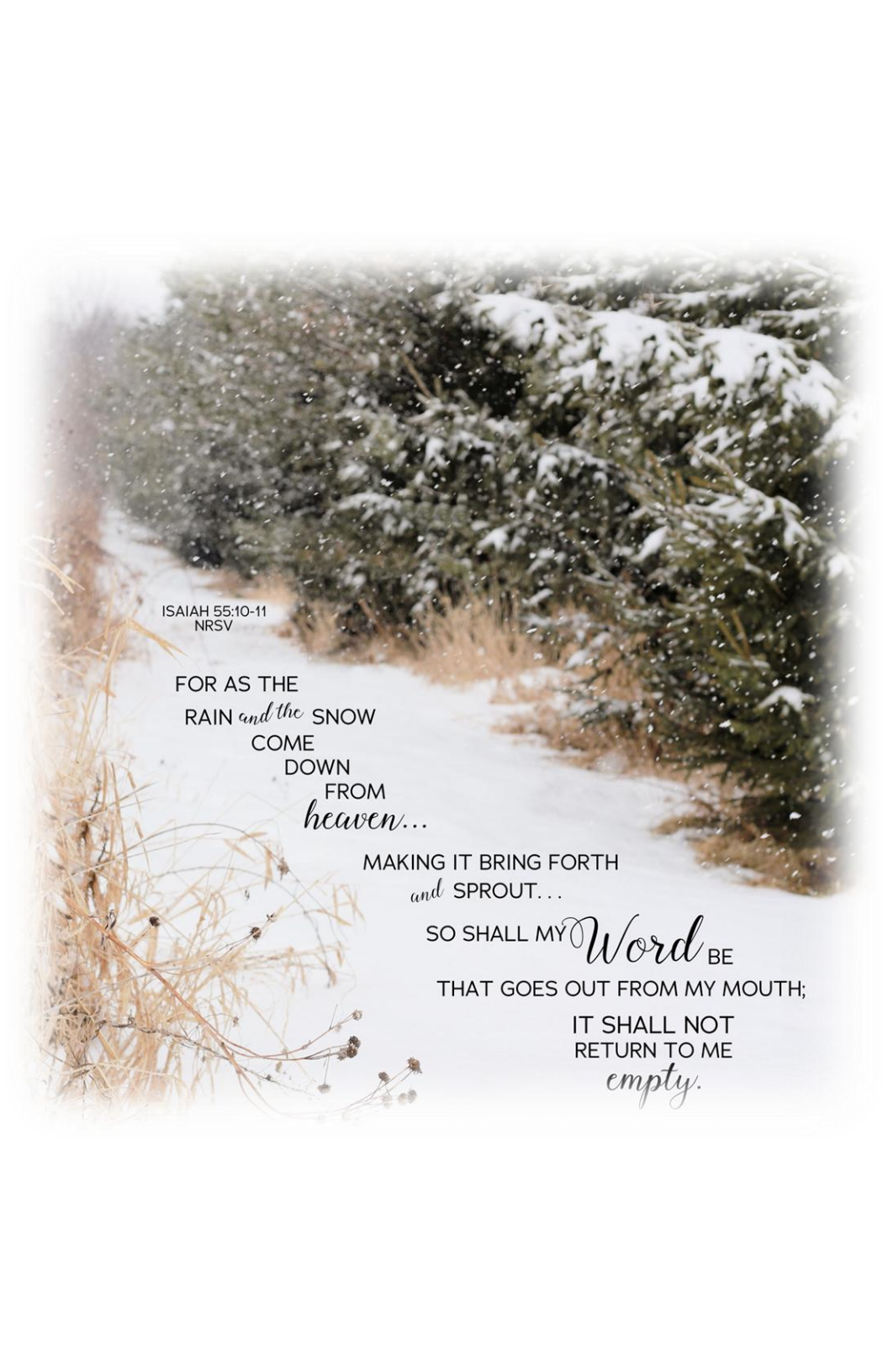
- Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
- Christ United Methodist Church
- St. Stephen's United Church of Christ
- The Chiropractic Wellness Center
- Ascension Episcopal Church
- Park City Credit Union
- Polka-Dotted Pie
- Incredible Bank
- Westside Market
- Riverside Athletic Club
- Sawmill Brewing Co.

*The Diaper Closet is especially in need of large size diapers, pull-ups and baby wipes.*

Monetary donations to purchase diapers in bulk can be sent to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 300 Logan St, Merrill

*Our Saviour's Diaper Closet supports our community by providing diapers to families who might need a little extra help.*





ISAIAH 55:10-11  
NRSV

FOR AS THE  
RAIN *and the* SNOW  
COME  
DOWN  
FROM  
*heaven...*

MAKING IT BRING FORTH  
*and* SPROUT. . .

SO SHALL MY *Word* BE

THAT GOES OUT FROM MY MOUTH;

IT SHALL NOT  
RETURN TO ME  
*empty.*