

THE
PROMISE OF



Easter

NEVER FADES.

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – HAMBURG
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Sunday, April 12, 2026
8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
Monday, April 13, 2026
6:30 p.m.**



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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Divine Service IV

LSB page 203

Opening Hymn

“This Joyful Eastertide ”

LSB #482

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.**
- 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.**

Confession and Absolution

- 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 148

P¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

C² **Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his hosts!**



P³ Praise him, sun and moon,

praise him, all you shining stars!

C⁴ **Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!**

P⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD!

For he commanded and they were created.

C ⁶And he established them forever and ever;
he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

P ⁷Praise the LORD from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all deeps,

C ⁸fire and hail, snow and mist,
stormy wind fulfilling his word!

P ⁹Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

C ¹⁰Beasts and all livestock,
creeping things and flying birds!

P ¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

C ¹²Young men and maidens together,
old men and children!

P ¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his majesty is above earth and heaven.

C ¹⁴He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his saints,
for the people of Israel who are near to him.
Praise the LORD!

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, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the

same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Acts 5:29–42

²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these

men. ³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, ⁴⁰and when they had

GOD *exalted*
HIM *at HIS*
right hand as
Leader and
SAVIOR.

Acts 5:31, NRSV

called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Peter 1:3–9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is

tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.



P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

John 20:19–31

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

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

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked,

Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do



not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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.

Hymn of the Day

“Oh for a Faith That Will Not Shrink”

The Lutheran Hymnal #396

1. Oh, for a faith that will not shrink
Though pressed by many a foe,
That will not tremble on the brink
Of poverty or woe:

**2. That will not murmur nor complain
Beneath the chast'ning rod,
But in the hour of grief or pain
Can lean upon its God:**

**3. A faith that shines more bright and clear
When tempests rage without,
That, when in danger, knows no fear;
In darkness feels no doubt.**

**4. That bears unmoved the world's dread frown
Nor heeds its scornful smile;
That sin's wild ocean cannot drown
Nor Satan's arts beguile;**

**5. A faith that keeps the narrow way
Till life's last spark is fled,
And with a pure and heav'nly ray
Lights up a dying bed.**

**6. Lord, give us such a faith as this;
And then, whate'er may come,
We'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss
Of an eternal home.**

Sermon

Offering

Offertory Response

***"We Give Thee But Thine Own"* LSB #781 sts. 1–2**

Prayers of the Church

Lord's Prayer

LSB 241

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

- 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.

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

“Spread the Reign of God the Lord”

LSB #830

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book
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DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Sunday: Exodus 20:1-24; Luke 4:1-15

Monday: Exodus 22:20 – 23:13;
Luke 4:16-30

Tuesday: Exodus 23:14-33; Luke 4:31-44

Wednesday: Exodus 24:1-18; Luke 5:1-16

Thursday: Exodus 25:1-22; Exodus 25:23 – 30:38;
Luke 5:17-39

Friday: Exodus 31:1-18; Luke 6:1-19

Saturday: Exodus 32:1-14; Luke 6:20-38

♪♪ *Again a special thanks to Chris Emmerich and John Uttech on the trumpets for Easter Sunday services. Your participation, Chris and John, certainly added to our celebration.* ♪♪



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

Sunday, April 12

8:30 a.m. Worship at St. John's
10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith

11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith

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

12:15 p.m. Inspired Singles at Faith *"Pizza and Prayer"*

Monday, April 13

5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith

7:30 p.m. Church Council at Faith

Tuesday, April 14

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

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

Wednesday, April 15

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

Thursday, April 16

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

Saturday, April 18

8:15 a.m. LWML Spring Rally at Lutheran Memorial Gleason

Sunday, April 19

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. Bible Study at Faith

2:00 p.m. Softball League Meeting at Faith

Monday, April 20

5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

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

Wednesday, April 22

10:00 a.m. Ablelight

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith



FAITH and ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES

*Please remember the following in
your prayers:*

Gary Baumann Lisa Burish
Joe Calmes David Czech

Doris Dahlke Rodney Dahlke Alice Fromm

Christopher Emmerich Wallace Emmerich

Duane Grunenwald Gerhard Hannemann

Angie Harkner Dale Janisch Cecelia & Lucille Klade

Jordan Knoble Rob Koebe Jim Koebe Hugo Koppa

Karen Love Bob Meyer Gene Mootz Debbie Olson

Sarah Piel Mark Pester Bob Porath Marge Radenz

Karen Rajek Jo Schedler MiKenzie Schultz

Audrey Steckling Lorraine Steckling Carl Uttech

Deb Wiederhoeft Florence Williamson Laurie Young

Susie and Ellie Zastrow

Vacation Bible School Kickoff

Sunday, May 3 after church services. A chance to see what we're doing this year and for adults, children and volunteers to sign up to volunteer.



VBS will be June 8-10.

VBS planning meeting at

Faith on Sunday, May 17 at 12:15 p.m.

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