

Follow in Jesus' Steps



Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Sunday, April 26, 2026

8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Monday, April 27, 2026

6:30 p.m.

1 Peter 2:21 – “For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.” Our heavenly Father wants us to grow into the image of His Son and to follow in His steps. Jesus suffered for us not only to redeem us, but also to show us what love looks like and to leave us an example of self-giving, sacrificial generosity. “Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow His example pure.”



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 I

LSB page 151

Opening Hymn

“Today Your Mercy Calls Us”

LSB #915

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.**

Confession and Absolution

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 23

C ¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.

³He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

Kyrie

LSB 152

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 154

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; 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.

First Reading

Acts 2:42–47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people.

And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

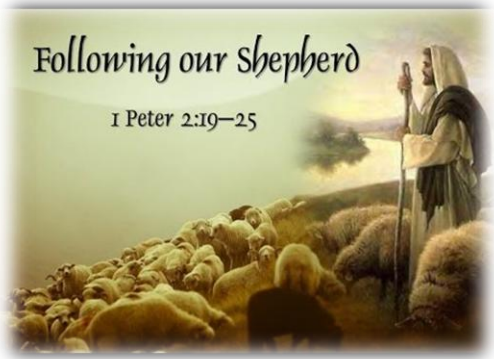
C Thanks be to God.



Epistle

1 Peter 2:19–25

¹⁹This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in



the sight of God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

Holy Gospel

John 10:1–10

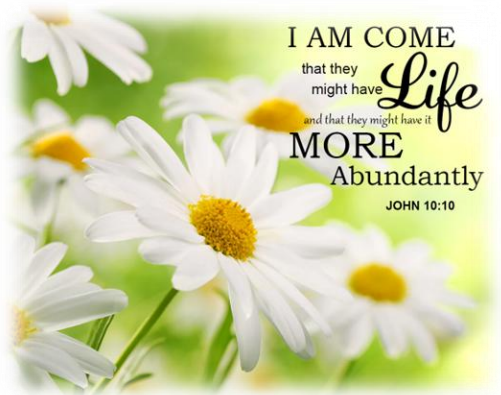
P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep

by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”



P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn

“The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want” **LSB #710**

Sermon

Offering

Offertory Response

“We Give Thee But Thine Own” **LSB #781 vs 1-2**

- 1 We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate’er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

2 May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou bleesest us,
To Thee our firstfruits give!

Text: William W. How, 1823–97
Text: Public domain

Prayers of the Church

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

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

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

LSB #525

Acknowledgments

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



Sunday: Leviticus 81:-13, 30-36;
Luke 9:1-17

Monday: Leviticus 9:1-24; Luke 9:18-36

Tuesday: Leviticus 10:1-20;
Leviticus 11:1 – 15:33; Luke 9:37-62

Wednesday: Leviticus 16:1-24;
Luke 10:1-22

Thursday: Leviticus 17:1-16; Luke 10:23-42

Friday: Leviticus 18:1-7, 20 - 19:8; Luke 11:1-13

Saturday: Leviticus 19:9-18, 26-37; Luke 11:14-36



CHURCH CALENDAR ST. JOHN'S and FAITH

Sunday, April 26

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

10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith

11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith

6:30 p.m. Living River Concert at Faith

Monday, April 27

5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith

Wednesday, April 29

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

Thursday, April 30

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

Sunday, May 3

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

9:30 a.m. VBS Kickoff following worship

10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Faith

11:15 a.m. VBS Kickoff following worship

11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith

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

Monday, May 4

5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

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

Tuesday, May 5

10:00 a.m. Board of Trustees at Faith

1:00 p.m. Women of Faith

Wednesday, May 6

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

Thursday, May 7

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

6:00 p.m. Mary Martha Guild

Friday, May 8

12 noon – 4:00 p.m. Hanging Basket pick up at St. John's



**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

Jim Goetsch Duane Grunenwald Gerhard Hannemann

Angie Harkner Dale Janisch Cecelia & Lucille Klade

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.



Inspired Singles

Friday, May 1 at 5:30 p.m.

*Fish Fry Fellowship
at Schult's Country Inn*

Sunday, May 3 at 12:15 p.m.

Potluck at Faith



ISI (Iron Sharpens Iron)

Sunday, May 17

4:30 p.m.

Pine Ridge Restaurant

Merrill

HANGING BASKETS

Pick up at St John's

Friday, May 8

12 noon – 4:00 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

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

PRESENTS



LIVE IN CONCERT!

Sunday, April 26, 2026

6:30 pm

Ice Cream Social to Follow!

*Free admission with a non-perishable food item
for the Merrill Food Pantry!*

15425 S County Rd K - Merrill

JOIN US FOR VBS AT FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
15425 S. COUNTY ROAD K, MERRILL

June 8 - 10, 2026

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

(Meal starting at 5:00 p.m.)

*Provided by Faith Lutheran Church, Merrill and
St. John's Lutheran Church, Hamburg*



Bible Adventures