

Faith Lutheran Church
St. John's Lutheran Church – Hamburg
REFORMATION SUNDAY
Sunday, October 25, 2026

Romans 3:20 – ***"For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin."*** The Law of God is good — it's just that we sinners cannot save ourselves by the Law. Salvation is a free gift of God because that is the only way we could ever be saved. The Law shows us God's holiness and thus our own sin. And now in Christ we can look at the Law and see it in a new light as well: as a guide for how to live a godly life in thanksgiving to God for His gracious forgiveness in Christ.



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.

AS WE GATHER

Today we observe Reformation Day---remembering God's powerful working through Martin Luther. Luther sought to hold the Church accountable for clearly communicating the truth of God's Word. The reformer writes, "One thing, and only one thing, is necessary for Christian life, righteousness, and freedom. That one thing is the most holy Word of God, the Gospel of Christ." ("The Freedom of a Christian," Luther's Works, Vol. 31) Throughout his prolific writings, Luther seeks to unleash this Gospel so that laity may be properly taught its eternal riches and truths. Therefore, the service today walks through several sections corresponding to the Six Chief Parts of Luther's Small Catechism, which is the standard curriculum for Confirmation studies. Throughout these teachings Luther bears witness to the foundational doctrines of the Christian Church.

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Opening Hymn
"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" **LSB #657**

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.**

Confession and Absolution

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.**

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 46

P [1]God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

C **[2]Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,**
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
[3]though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.



P [4]There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

C **[5]God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;**
God will help her when morning dawns.

P [6]The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

C **[7]The LORD of hosts is with us;**
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

P [8]Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.

C **[9]He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;**
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.

P [10]"Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"

C **[11]The LORD of hosts is with us;**
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

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.
Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; 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

P The Third Commandment
C **Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

P *What does this mean?*
C We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

First Reading

Revelation 14:6–7



6 Then I saw another angel flying directly
overhead, with an eternal gospel to
proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to
every nation and tribe and language and
people. 7 And he said with a loud voice,
“Fear God and give him glory, because the
hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made
heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 2:1–13

1 For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming
to you was not in vain. 2 But though we had already suffered
and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had
boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the
midst of much conflict. 3 For our appeal does not spring from
error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, 4 but just as we
have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel,
so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests
our hearts. 5 For we never came with words of flattery, as you
know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. 6 Nor did
we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others,
though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ.
7 But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking
care of her own children. 8 So, being affectionately desirous of
you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of
God but also our own selves, because you had become very
dear to us.

9 For you remember,
brothers, our labor and toil: we
worked night and day, that we
might not be a burden to any
of you, while we proclaimed to
you the gospel of God. 10 You
are witnesses, and God also,



how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. [11]For you know how, like a father with his children, [12]we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

[13]And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

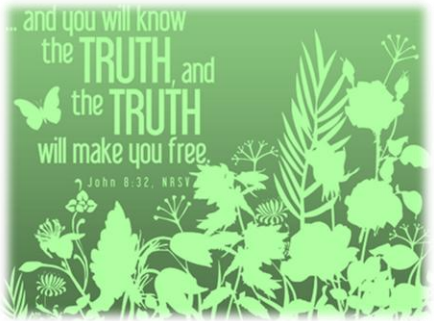
P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia *LSB 190*

Holy Gospel *John 8:31–36*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.
C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

[31]So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, [32]and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." [33]They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"



[34]Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. [35]The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. [36]So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Sermon Hymn
"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" **LSB #655**

Sermon

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 *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.

Prayers of the Church

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.**

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 ✢ give you peace.

C **Amen, amen, amen.**

Closing Hymn
"Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling" **LSB #650**

Acknowledgments

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

Sunday: Deuteronomy 27:1-26; Matthew 17:14-27
Monday: Deuteronomy 28:1-22; Matthew 18:1-20
Tuesday: Deuteronomy 29:1-29; Matthew 18:21-35
Wednesday: Deuteronomy 30:1-20; Matthew 19:1-15
Thursday: Deuteronomy 31:1-29; Matthew 19:16-30
Friday: Deuteronomy 31:30 – 32:27; Matthew 20:1-16
Saturday: Deuteronomy 32:28-52; Deuteronomy 33:1-29; Matthew 20:17-34

CHURCH CALENDAR
ST. JOHN'S and FAITH



Sunday, October 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
11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith
Monday, October 26
NO MONDAY WORSHIP
Wednesday, October 28
10:00 a.m. AbleLight
5:30 p.m. NO CONFIRMATION CLASS
6:30 p.m. Circuit REFORMATION WORSHIP at Faith
7:30 p.m. Ice Cream Social at Faith
Thursday, October 29
10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's
Sunday, November 1
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
11:00 a.m. Pancake Dinner and Bake Sale
Monday, November 2
5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal at Faith
6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith
Tuesday, November 3
10:00 a.m. Trustees' Meeting at Faith
1:00 p.m. Women of Faith
Wednesday, November 4
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith
Thursday, November 5
10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's
6:00 p.m. Mary Martha Guild 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 Dorothy Duncan Alice Fromm
Christopher Emmerich Wallace Emmerich Jim Goetsch
Duane Grunenwald Gerhard Hannemann
Angie Harkner Rev. Hans Heisinger Dale Janisch
Cecelia & Lucille Klade Rob Koebe Jim Koebe
Hugo Koppa Brian Luedtke Bob Meyer Gene Mootz
Debbie Olson Sarah Piel Mark Pester Bob Porath
Karen Rajek Elvira Saeger Jo Schedler
MiKenzie Schultz Audrey Steckling Lorraine Steckling
Carl Uttech Deb Wiederhoeft Florence Williamson
Laurie Young Susie and Ellie Zastrow

Marie Magdalena (Wirz) Skic

October 30, 1927 - October 17, 2026



Prayers for encouragement and peace for the Hein, Calmes and Skic families as they mourn the death of their mother and grandmother. *Well done, good and faithful servant.*



Needed for live nativity which will be on December 17 from 3 to 6 pm St. John's is looking for 2x or 3x large bathrobes. We need large robes to go over heavy winter clothes. Contact Kathy Sturm at 715-218-5293 if you have any questions or can help. *Soup, hot chocolate and cookies will be served inside during the live nativity.*

Faith Lutheran Church

All You Can Eat

PANCAKE DINNER and BAKE SALE

Sunday, November 1

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Homemade Potato Pancakes and Buttermilk Pancakes served with Scrambled Eggs and Breakfast Sausage

TICKETS ARE ON SALE TODAY AT THE SCRIP TABLE IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCH

Adults $12 Children 6-12 $5

Children 5 and under Free



Fall has Arrived! Time for Yard Clean-up and then Enjoying Baseball and Football! For all of your upcoming events and activities, don't forget to pick up Scrip Cards. One can always use cards for everyday personal and household needs such as gas and food, Help support the ministry of our church through the Scrip program … *all without it costing you an extra penny!*





PLEASE HELP update all of the church's data and be sure to fill out the membership information form to keep everything current. Phone numbers and addresses have changed along the way and it is important that we are able to reach you by phone and/or via mail. One form for each person in your household please. Forms can be given to an usher or dropped in the church office of in the basket on the scrip table. Thank you.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Is hosting the CIRCUIT REFORMATION SERVICE

on Wednesday, October 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Officiant: Rev. Donald Love

Guest Pastor: Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske
Executive Director of Lutherans For Life

Organist: Irene Beethe

Choir and Chimes: Circuit group directed by Miriam Lipke

Join us for an ice cream social following worship hosted by the Circuit Youth Ministry Team and the youth group

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



Sunday, November 1

clocks fall back from
2 a.m. to 1 a.m.

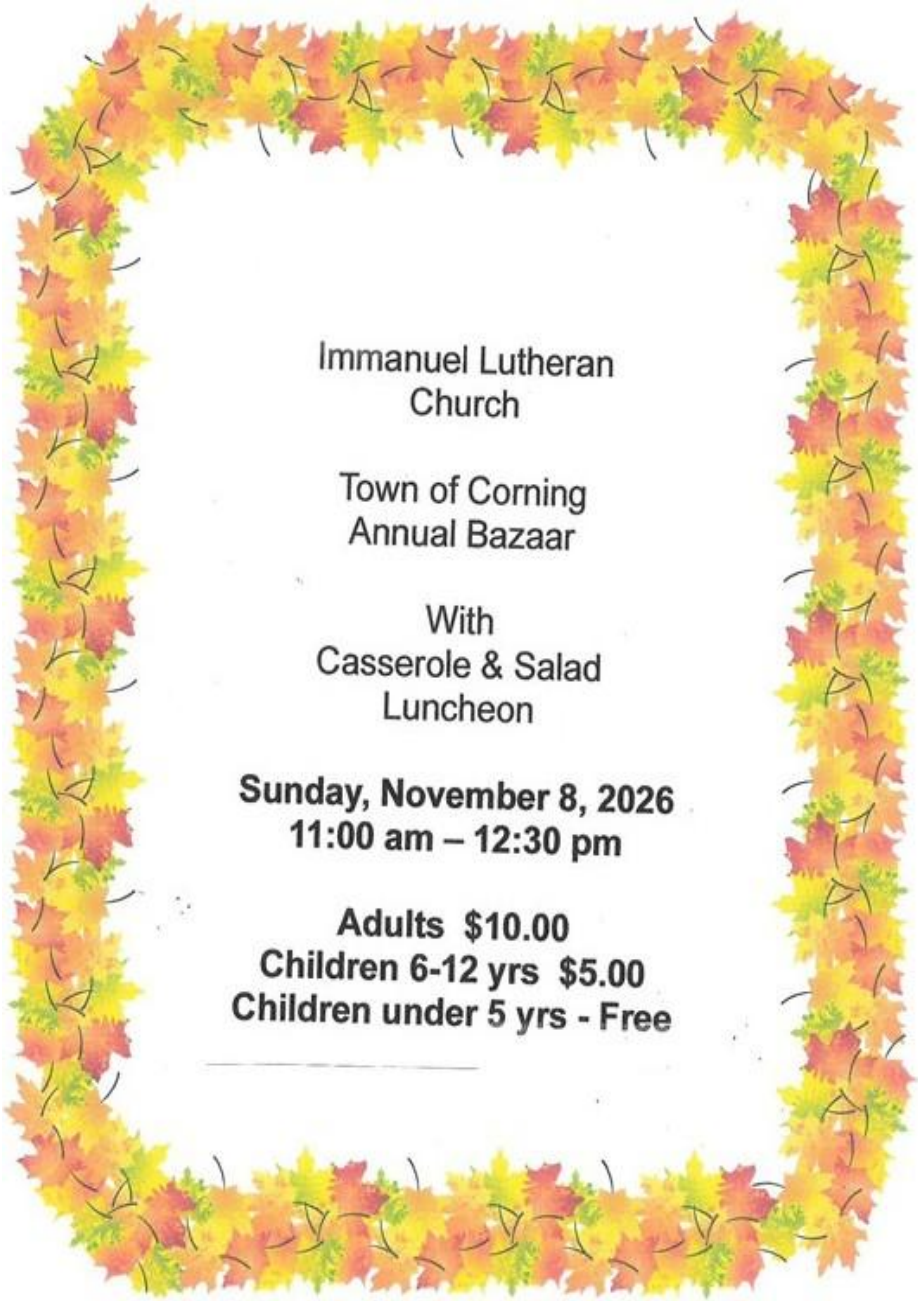
Autumn has arrived, daylight is fading earlier in the evening and another seasonal milestone is approaching: the changing of the clocks.

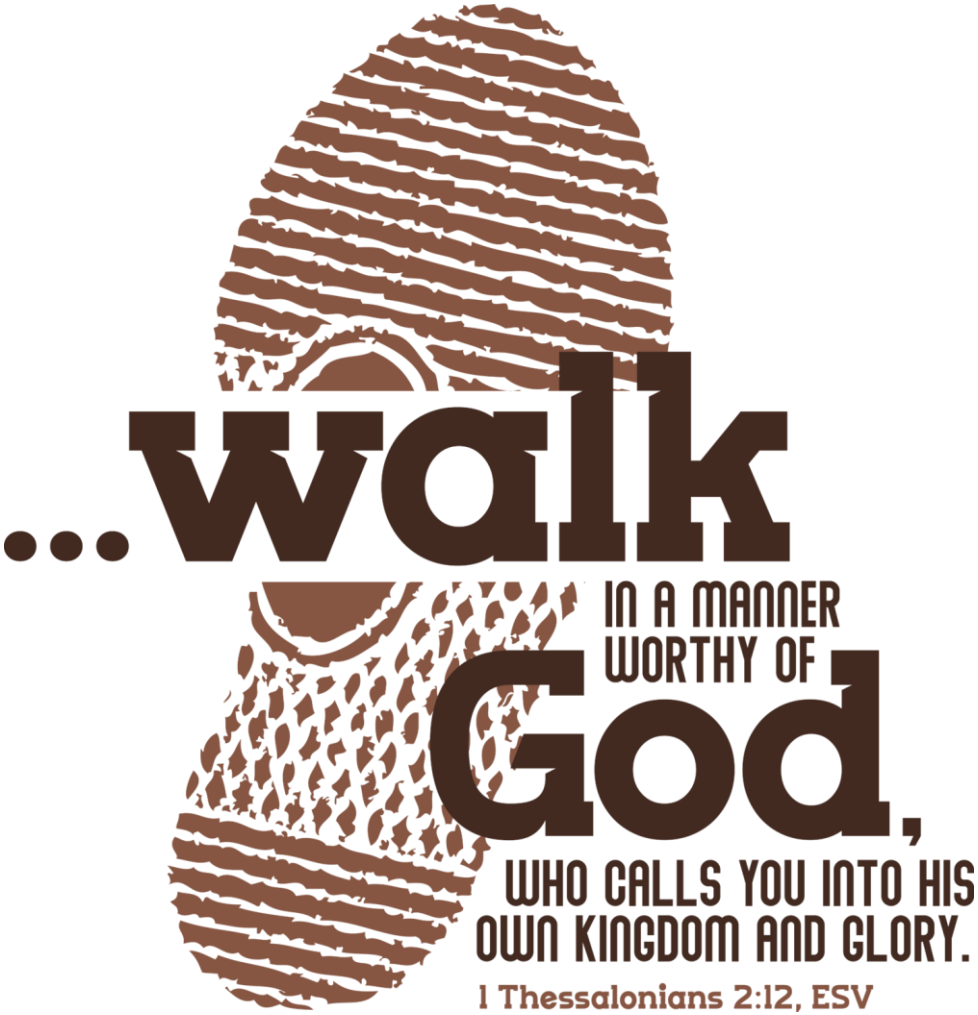
The change means sunset will suddenly arrive about an hour earlier, while sunrise will also shift overnight earlier in the morning. Daylight saving time officially ends on Sunday, Nov. 1, when clocks fall back from 2 a.m. to 1 a.m., giving most people across the United States an extra hour overnight.

ATHENS CARING CIRCLE

704 Pine Street, Athens
715-997-3957

A non-profit caring community reaching out to local faith communities to help make an impact on those who need it most. Since established in 2026, the Caring Circle serves around 80 families each month with new attendees expected. They currently offer four scheduled regular monthly pantry sessions per month. In November, they are open Tuesdays, November 3 and 17 from 12 noon – 2 pm and on Thursdays, November 5 and 19 from 4 – 6 pm. Current pantry needs include peanut butter and jelly, canned chicken, canned fruits and vegetables, canned soups and stews, kid-friendly food such as applesauce, mac and cheese, granola bars, etc., toilet paper and toothpaste and toothbrushes. For more information, call the Athens Caring Circle.


Immanuel Lutheran
Church
Town of Corning
Annual Bazaar
With
Casserole & Salad
Luncheon
Sunday, November 8, 2026
11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Adults $10.00
Children 6-12 yrs $5.00
Children under 5 yrs - Free


...walk
IN A MANNER WORTHY OF
God,
WHO CALLS YOU INTO HIS OWN KINGDOM AND GLORY.
1 Thessalonians 2:12, ESV