



WORSHIP SERVICE

FAITH & ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES

POLKA SERVICE 10:00 a.m.

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 27, 2026

Matthew 21:26 – “But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd...”

Foolish Pharisees! They fear men more than they fear God, and so they miss out on the great blessing of knowing Jesus and His love. All our sins are like this: we fear something more than we fear God. And how foolish that is! Just think of the blessings we miss out on whenever we place our fear or trust in something other than 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.

†OPENING SONGS †

We Have Come into His House

We have come into His house,
gathered in His name to worship Him

We have come into His house,
gathered in His name to worship Him

We have come into His house,
gathered in His name to worship Christ the Lord
Worship Him, Christ the Lord

Above the Mountain

High above the mountain tops the angels sing

Praise the Lord for He is King

And we answer from this humble church below

Praise the Lord forever so

Chorus

All the world with joyful hearts sing praise of love

His blessings sent from up above

It is right in thanking Him and praising Him

A-men, a-men

In our lives we show our love for God each day

Each in our own special way

And we thank Him for the gifts HE gives to us

He will always be with us **(Chorus)**

† INVOCATION †

P: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. (*Colossians 3:16*)

C: And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (*Colossians 3:17*)

P: We begin our worship in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

† CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION †

P: “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness” (*2 Timothy 2:19*) and “He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.” (*Proverbs 28:13*) Therefore, let us confess and renounces our sins with a sincere heart and mind before the Lord.

C: “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me... a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (*Ps. 51: 10-12,17b*) “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” (*Luke 18:13*)

A moment for silent confession and personal reflection

P: Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. (*based on Ps 32:1,2*) 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 you, and by the command and in the stead of the Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit. “Be of Good Cheer Your; your sins are forgiven you. (*Matt. 9:2 KJV*) Now, go live a life

worthy of your calling in Christ Jesus, and produce fruit in keep with repentance. (Eph 4:1)

**C: Amen! By Grace I am saved. By grace I am forgiven.
By Grace of the Blood and Resurrection of Christ
Jesus, God's own Son I am set free.**

† RESPONSIVE SONG †
Sing With Me a Hallelujah

Chorus

***Sing with me a hallelujah, sing with me a thank you Lord
And in thanking Him for all His blessing, let us love Him
even more***

For our family and our friends, for the sunshine that He
sends

For the peace He brings within my soul
For the flowers and the trees,
for the mountains and the seas
For the rain that makes the rivers flow

Chorus

***Sing with me a hallelujah, sing with me a thank you Lord
And in thanking Him for all His blessing,
let us love Him even more***

For the wonders of His birth,
for the His teachings here on earth
For His life He gave so we could live
For forgiveness of our sins, so that we may enter in
To Heaven with Him Christ our King **(Chorus)**

**† THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACHES US
THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD†**

P: Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of
Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation.

C: For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20-21)

† Old Testament †

2 Timothy 3:10-17

All Scripture Is Breathed Out by God

¹⁰You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—



which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. ¹²Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are

able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

P Jesus replied to Satan “Man does not live on bread alone

C But on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”
(Matthew 4:4)

By Grace Through Faith

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and



raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is

the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

P and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

C **All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.** (*2 Timothy 3:15-17*)

For God So Loved the World

¹⁶[Jesus said:] “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not

**For God
so loved
the world.**

JOHN 3:16



condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to

the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God.”

P The Grass withers and the flowers fall

C But the Word of the Lord stands forever. (1 Peter 1:25)



† **SERMON SONG** †

Rock of Ages

Rock of ages cleft for me
Let me hide myself in Thee
Let the water and the blood
From Thy riven side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure
Cleanse me from its guilt and power

Not the labors of my hand
Could fulfil Thy laws demands
Could my zeal no respite know
Could my tears forever flow
All for sin could not atone
Thou must save and Thou alone

Nothing in my hand I bring
Simply to Thy cross I cling
Naked come to Thee for dress
Helpless look to Thee for grace
Foul I to the fountain fly
Wash me Savior or I die

While I draw this fleeting breath
When mine eyelids close in death
When I soar to worlds unknown
See Thee on Thy judgment throne
Rock of ages cleft for me
Let me hide myself in Thee

† **SERMON** †

† **OFFERING** †

† **CONFESSION OF FAITH** †

Apostle's Creed Song

I believe in God the Father
Maker of the earth and sky

And His only Son Christ Jesus
Who responded to man's cry
Made true man by God the Spirit
He was born of Mary pure
Suffered under Pontius Pilate
All our many ills to cure

Crucified and dead and buried
With the dead He found His place
But HE rose again with power
On the morn of Easter day
Now gone back once more to heaven
Reigns He on His Fathers right
'til to judge the dead and living
He shall come in glory bright

I believe in God the Spirit
In one church here and beyond
Joining all the saints together
In one fellowship and bond
I believe in God's forgiveness
I believe that I shall rise
And I look for life unending
In my home in paradise

† **COLLECT OF THE DAY** †

P Let us pray. Everlasting Father, source of every blessing, mercifully direct and govern us by Your Holy Spirit that we may complete the works You have prepared for us to do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen!

† **PRAYERS** †

Pastor: For the day with its glorious sun, its sunrises and sunsets.

People: God be praised for the day!

Pastor: For the earth with its hills, plains, deserts and seas.

People: God be praised for the earth!

Pastor: Let us praise God for food without which we would die.

People: God be praised for food!

Pastor: Praise God for Homes so we are sheltered from summer's heat and winter's cold.

People: God be praised for homes!

Pastor: Praise God for mothers and fathers; brothers and sisters who help us in trouble and do kind things for us.

People: God be praised for family!

Pastor: Praise God for friends who give us joy and cheer us when we are sad.

People: God be praised for friends!

Pastor: Give God praise for good health so that we have strength to do His service.

People: God be praised for health!

Pastor: For all those who could not make it to join us on this,
Your beautiful created day!

People: We Praise You O Lord!

† LORD'S PRAYER †

Lord's Prayer in Song

Our Father who art in heaven
Hallowed would 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 debts
As we forgive our debtors
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.

† BLESSING †

P: Let us do what Christ has commanded us to do to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (*Matthew 28:19-20*) “The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (*Number 6:24*)

C: Amen!

† DEPARTING SONGS †

What A Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus
All our sins and griefs to bear
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer
Oh what peace we often forfeit
Oh what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer

Have we trials and temptations
Is there trouble anywhere
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share
Jesus knows our every weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Are we weak and heavy laden
Cumbered with a load of care
Precious Savior still our refuge
Take it to the Lord in prayer
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee
Take it to the Lord in prayer
In His arms He'll take and shield thee
Thou wilt find a solace there

Lord Dismiss With Thy Blessing

Lord dismiss us with Thy blessing
Fill our hearts with joy and peace
Let us each Thy love possessing
Triumph in redeeming grace
Oh refresh us, oh refresh us
Trav'ling through this wilderness

Thanks we give and adoration
For Thy gospel's joyful sound
May the fruits of Thy salvation
In our hearts and lives abound
Ever faithful, ever faithful
To the truth may we be found

So when're the signals given
Us from earth to call away
Borne on angels wings to heaven
Glad the summons to obey
May we ever, may we ever
Reign with Christ in endless day

Let the Son Shine In

Joyful hope, love of God, and smiling faces
The heritage we have as sons of God
Christ has risen to new life, put an end to death and strife
Now we celebrate as one and sons of God

Chorus

***So let the Son shine in, share Christ with your neighbor
And happiness will never leave your heart
So let the Son shine in, shake hands with your neighbor
And happiness will never leave your heart***

On the job, in your home, or at a party
People wishing all their friends the peace of Christ
Happy feeling in the air forget your troubles and your cares
And join all those who share the peace of Christ

Chorus

***So let the Son shine in, share Christ with your neighbor
And happiness will never leave your heart
So let the Son shine in, shake hands with your neighbor
And happiness will never leave your heart***

God Bless America

(Intro – Solo by Carl Uttech)

God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with a light from above
From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home
God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with a light from above
From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home



SPECIAL THANKS to
Carl Uttech and the
Polish Cowboys for
their music in our
service today.
The service features
liturgy, prayer,
sermon and

*religious themed songs . The quartet features
Carl on the concertina, Andrew Grawien on the
second concertina, John Uttech on the trumpet
and base keyboard, and Jim Míjal on the
drums.*



Potluck

**All are welcome to join
in for the
Pots-Blessing following
worship today.**

Ham sandwiches will be
served along with a variety of potluck dishes.
Guaranteed good food and fantastic fellowship!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Sunday: Malachi 3:6 – 4:6;
Matthew 4:12-25

Monday: Deuteronomy 1:1-18;
Matthew 5:1-20

Tuesday: Deuteronomy 1:19-36;
Matthew 5:21-48

Wednesday: Deuteronomy 1:37 –
2:15; Matthew 6:16-34

Thursday: Deuteronomy 3:1-29;
Matthew 7:1-12

Friday: Deuteronomy 4:1-20; Matthew 7:13-29

Saturday: Deuteronomy 4:21-40; Matthew 8:1-17



CHURCH CALENDAR ST. JOHN'S and FAITH

Sunday, September 27

POLKA SERVICE

10:00 a.m. Dual Parish Polka
Service at Faith

Monday, September 28

NO MONDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, September 30

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at
Faith

Thursday, October 1

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

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



**Check Your
Calendar**

Sunday, October 4

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

Monday, October 5

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

Tuesday, October 6

1:00 p.m. Women of Faith

Wednesday, October 7

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

7:15 p.m. Youth Group at Faith

Thursday, October 8

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



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 WILL BE ON SALE TODAY

AT THE SCRIP TABLE IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCH

Adults \$12 Children 6-12 \$5

Children 5 and under Free



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

End of Summer Events and Activities! Back to School!

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 or in the basket on the scrip table. Thank you.



St John's will be doing

TRUNK & TREAT

on October 24 from 1-3. If anyone would like to donate candy, it would be appreciated. Anyone is welcome to come with their vehicle and hand out treats and candy. Contact Diane Hinz at St. John's if interested.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR INSPIRED SINGLES



Meeting on Sunday, October 11 at
12:15 p.m. at Faith

Rachel Waldburger will be the guest
speaker. Her topic will be an

"Introduction to AI"

INSPIRED SINGLES

Friday, October 16 at 1 p.m. Group will be touring the
Woodson Art Museum in Wausau focusing on the "Birds in
Art" exhibit.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

North and South Wisconsin LLL Joint District Convention

"Faith Formation in the Household"

Saturday, October 10



Lutheran Hour
Ministries

Rib Mountain Lutheran Church, Wausau

7:30 am. Doors Open 8:30 a.m. Opening
Worship Service

Featured speakers: Rev. Timothy Shoup, North Wisconsin LCMS
District President; Rev. Nathan Meador, South Wisconsin LCMS
District President; Rev. German Novelli, Director LHM Hispanic
Ministries

Register by visiting **lhm.org/no-sowis-lll**
Registration deadline, Monday, October 5

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.

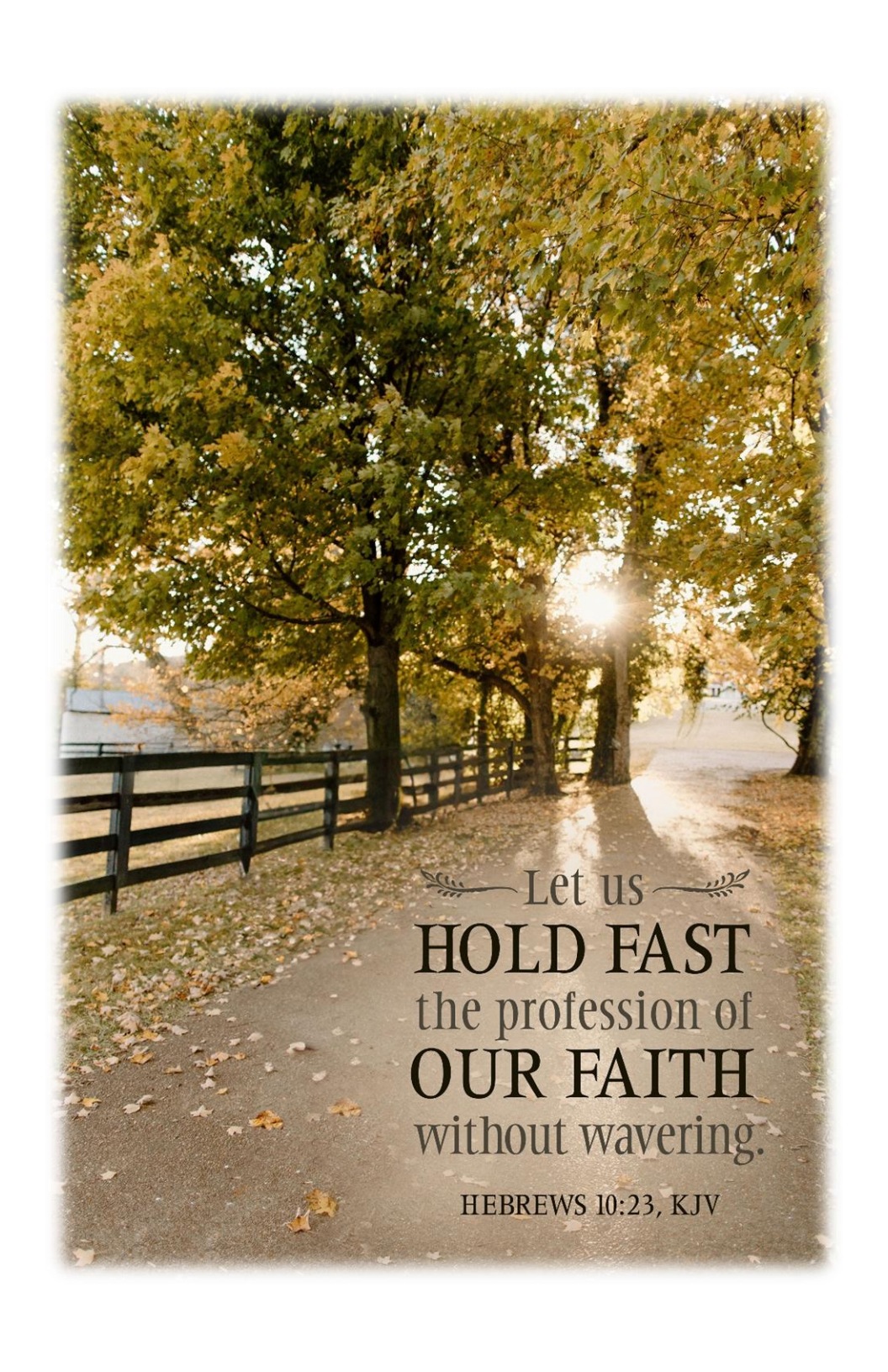
Autumn has arrived, daylight is fading earlier in the evening and another seasonal milestone is approaching:

the changing of the clocks.

The change means sunset will suddenly arrive about an hour earlier, while sunrise will also shift earlier in the morning.

When does daylight saving time end in 2026?

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.



Let us
HOLD FAST
the profession of
OUR FAITH
without wavering.

HEBREWS 10:23, KJV