

# Faith Lutheran Church St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church - Hamburg Confirmation Sunday Fifth Sunday of Easter Sunday, May 18, 2025



**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

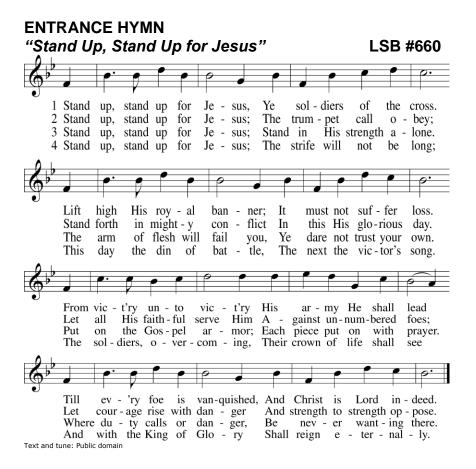
In deep Christian love and commitment to the Word of God we continue to hold to the Biblical and Ancient practice of close communion. **We believe that this is no Ordinary Meal**. We believe that those who commune together must confess the same faith, and recognize the great power and real presence of 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





Please TURN OFF ALL CELLPHONES before service begins. Phones that are on may interfere with transmission of the service to social media and shutting down your phone can help solve network connectivity problems



## **INVOCATION**

P: We begin our Worship as we began our new lives in Holy Baptism in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

# **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

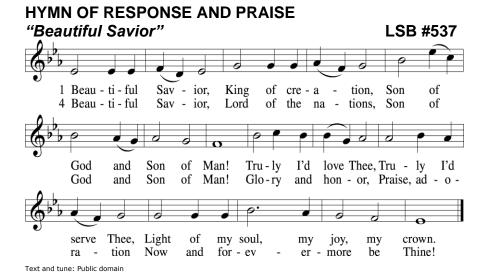
P: "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness" (2 Timothy 2:19) and "He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy." (*Proverbs 28:13*) Therefore, let us confess and renounces our sins with a sincere heart and mind before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

C: Almighty God, I am a sinner. Although those around me may have seen or may not have seen my sins. You have seen them for I cannot hide them from you. I may be able to fool others, and even at times myself, but I cannot fool you. I confess that I have sinned in my thoughts and desires. I have sinned in what I have said. I have sinned in what I have done or have failed to do. As King David confessed, so do I, that I am sinful from birth; sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Indeed, I am undeserving of Your love and depend only upon Your forgiveness. Without Your grace, I would be lost forever to sin, the devil, and everlasting judgement. I therefore call to You and ask that You would forgive me in the name of Christ and for His sake. Wash away all my sins. Create in me a clean heart, and renew me as Your child and heir of eternal life. Amen!

A moment for silent confession and personal reflection

P: The Holy Spirit teaches in the Holy Bible: 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 (*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, (*John 20:22-23; Matthew 16:19, 18:18*) 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 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 true repentance. (*Eph 4:1*)

C: Amen! By Grace I am saved. By grace I am forgiven. By Grace I am set free. (Ephesians 2:8-9)



#### THE COLLECT

# + GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACHES US THROUGH HIS HOLY WORD +

- **P:** "And how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
- C: <u>All</u> Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

# New Testament Reading Hebrews 10:19-26; 32-39

"Since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our

bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries

Let us araw god

near to god

with a sincere heart ... Let us hold
unswervingly to the hope we profess ...

Hebrews 10:22-23, NIV

But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach affliction, and and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property. you since knew that vou vourselves had a better possession and an abiding Therefore, do not throw one.

and preserve their souls.

P: "The grass withers and the flowers fall,

C: but the Word of our God stands forever." (Isaiah 40:8)

# The Epistle Reading

2 Peter 3:10-18

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on



your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen,

P: "And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men,

C: but as <u>it actually is</u>, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe." (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

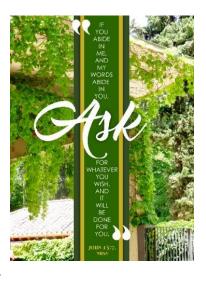
CHORAL ANTHEM (Faith)
"Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

# **Gospel Lesson**

John 15:1-14

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By

this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I Father's have kept my commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.



P: Jesus said to Satan "Man does not live on bread alone

C: But on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

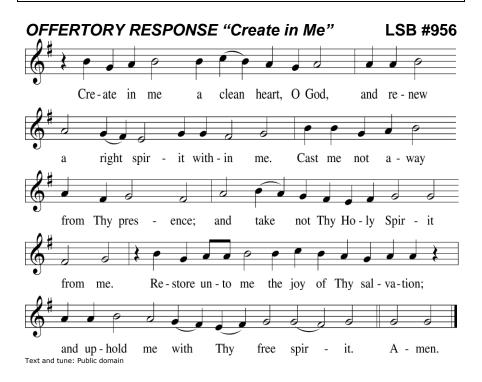
Matthew 4:4

SERMON HYMN "Christ Be My Leader"

LSB #861



#### SERMON



#### WE BRING OUR FIRST FRUITS UNTO THE LORD

#### RITE OF CONFIRMATION

CHORAL ANTHEM (Faith)
"Lord, Be My Rock"

ST. JOHN'S: Lydia Rose Faber

Born February 21, 2011 Baptized March 30, 2011

Alisdair Jeremiah Erich Zastrow

Born October 11, 2010 Baptized November 21, 2010

FAITH: Darby Jo Bonnell

Born February 26, 2011 Baptized June 27, 2011

Khloe Lynn Olson

Born April 12, 2011 Baptized April 24, 2011

Koi Lee Olson

Born April 12, 2011 Baptized April 24, 2011

Evelyn Faye Reinhardt

Born May 5, 2011 Baptized August 7, 2011

P: Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."

You have been baptized and you have been taught the faith according to our Lord's bidding. The fulfillment of his bidding we now celebrate with thankful hearts, rejoicing to confess the faith into which you were baptized and which you yourselves will now confess before the Church.

Jesus said: "Whoever confesses me before men, I will confess him before my Father in heaven. But he that denies me before men, I will deny him before my Father in heaven.

Lift up your heart, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what, in the name of the Lord, as a minister of his Church, I now shall ask you.

- P: Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts which God gave you in your Baptism?
- C: I do.
- P: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?
- C: I do.
- P. Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?
- C: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
- P. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?
- C: Yes, I believe 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.
- P. Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
- C: Yes, 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.
- P. Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?
- C: I do so intend with the help of God.
- P. Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn

from them, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

- C: I do.
- **P.** Do you desire to be a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation?
- C: I do.
- P. Do you intend faithfully to conform your life to the divine Word, to be faithful in the use of God's Word and sacraments, which are his means of grace, and in faith, word, and action to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?
- C: I do so intend by the grace of God.
- P. Give then your hand as pledge of your promise, and kneel to receive the blessing.

  God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, gives you his Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, of grace and prayer, of power and strength, of sanctification and the fear of God.
- P. Upon this your profession and promise, I invite and welcome you, as a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation, to share with us in all the gifts our Lord has for his Church and to live them out continually in his worship and service.
- P. Let us pray for the newly confirmed.

  Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for your great goodness in bringing your sons and daughters to the knowledge of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them with a heart to believe and with a mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C. Amen
- P. The almighty and most merciful God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless and keep you.
- C. Amen.



### THE FAMILY OF GOD PRAYS TOGETHER

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus, imploring the presence of the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, once You came upon the disciples of our Lord, shaping their speech, and encouraging their witness. So also, we implore Your presence in our own midst. Open our ears that we may hear the Word; open our mouths that we may declare it boldly; open our hands that we may be servants to all people. Hear us, O Holy Spirit.

C: Come, Holy Spirit, come!

P: Holy Spirit, in the midst of brokenness and fear, You convey comfort and security. Come to those who are now discouraged and disheartened by life's sin and sadness. Come and re-create families torn by anger and where the rift between generations is severe, leaving little room for love and genuine human care. Come upon the aged, the sick, and all those who eagerly await the New Jerusalem. Come, Spirit, come!

C: Come, Holy Spirit, come!

P: We remember especially

...(include petitions for people with special needs).

C: Come, Holy Spirit, come!

P: Come, Spirit, come upon a world enmeshed in sin and its consequences. Through Word and Sacrament, lift up Jesus before us, revealing to us the glory of His constant grace. Come and ignite spiritual renewal among Your people.

C: Come, Holy Spirit, come!

P: Come, Holy Spirit and reclaim the people of this nation, that we may cease bitterness and strife. Shape the decisions of our leaders that they may pursue the health and welfare of all citizens according to Your righteous and good will.

C: Come, Holy Spirit, come!

# THE FAMILY OF GOD CONTINUES TO PRAYS TOGETHER

Petitions are concluded with...

P: Lord in Your mercy. C: Hear our prayer.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

#### WE CELEBRATE THE HOLY SACRAMENT

#### FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH & ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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. 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 and practices. Please pray with us for honest unity around the Word of God.

# THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

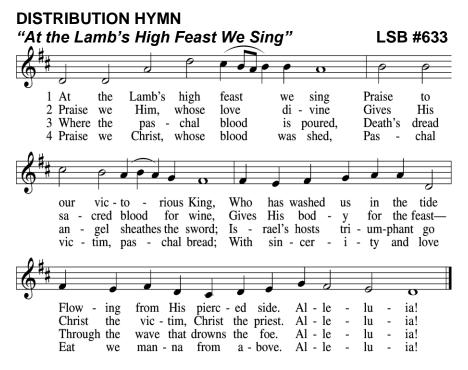


- 5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long, Steals on the ear the distant triumph song, And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!
  - 6 The golden evening brightens in the west; Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest; Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 7 But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day: The saints triumphant rise in bright array; The King of Glory passes on His way. Alleluia! Alleluia!

 $\triangle$  8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host, Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text and tune: Public domain



- 5 Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie; You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!
- 6 Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall; You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!
- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy; From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be.Alleluia!
- △ 8 Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live, Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!



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#### THE CLOSING PRAYER

#### **BENEDICTION**



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#### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

**Sunday:** Leviticus 20:1-16, 22-27; Luke 11:37-54 **Monday:** Leviticus 21:1-24;

Luke 12:12

Tuesday: Leviticus 23:1-22; Luke 12:13-34 Wednesday: Leviticus 23:23-44; Luke 12:35-53 Thursday: Leviticus 24:1-23; Leviticus 25: 1-55;

Luke 12:54 - 13:17

Friday: Leviticus 26:1-20; Luke 13:18-35

**Saturday:** Leviticus 26:21-33, 39-44; Numbers 1:1 – 2:34;

Luke 14:1-24

## CHURCH CALENDAR ST. JOHN'S and FAITH

Sunday, May 18 Confirmation Day 8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at St. John's Sunday School during Sermon

Sunday School during Sermon at St. John's

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

11:15 Bible Class at Faith

12:15 p.m. Stewardship/Evangelism at Faith

# Monday, May 19

5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal at Faith

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

7:30 p.m. Elders' Meeting at Faith

# Wednesday, May 21

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

Sunday, May 25 Memorial Day

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

10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith

Monday, May 26

**NO MONDAY WORSHIP at Faith** 

Wednesday, May 28

10:00 a.m. Ablelight





# FAITH and ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Please remember the following in your prayers:
Gary Baumann Joe Calmes Rodney Dahlke
Alice Fromm

Christopher Emmerich Wallace Emmerich Gerhard Hannemann Angie Harkner Dale Janisch Cecelia & Lucille Klade David Knospe Rob Koebe Bob Meyer Debbie Olson Barry Krenz Mark Pester Edgar Pfaff Bob Porath Marge Radenz Karen Rajek Linda Seidler **Audrey Steckling** Jo Schedler Lorraine Steckling Deb Wiederhoeft Carl Uttech Susie and Ellie Zastrow



Prayers for the family of

# Mabel Marquardt

March 24, 2924 – May 9, 2025 Mabel has joined her Lord in her heavenly home. Services are planned for Tuesday, May 27.

"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10)



GRADUATIONS, CONFIRMATION, SUMMER FUN! 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!

# **EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!**

After cleaning and re-organizing the kitchen and other areas of the church, there is a table in the back of the church with items that anyone can take. Please help





Heartfelt gratitude for your prayers and support during my recent surgery and hospitalization. Your thoughts and well wishes have been a source of comfort and strength. Your kindness has lifted my spirits. Thank you again, Linda Seidler

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



"Celebrate the Savior"

June 9-11 5 p.m.– 8 p.m.

Sign up sheets are on the Scrip table in the back of church to sign up to volunteer for VBS. Questions, call Bonnie Grueneberg (715-613-0003) and/or Kathy Sturm (715-443-2653)



Children and Adults can pick up registration forms for classes in the back of the church as well. Or you can register online at

www.myvbs.org/churchoffice

# 2025 Church Softball League

Today, Sunday, May 18 Game at 3:30 p.m. at Faith No Games Memorial Weekend



#### **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

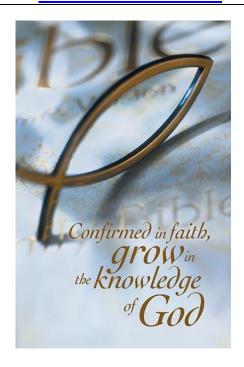
15425 County Road K South Merrill, WI 54452 or

#### ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

134058 County Road L Athens, WI 54411

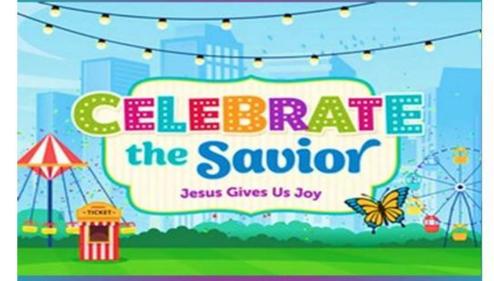
(Please do not send hard cash through the mail)
Please help us spread the Word. Visit us online at Pastor's
(Don Love) Facebook Page, or Faith Lutheran Church, or
on the church website at **WWW.** 

faithlutheranmerrill.com





AT FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 15425 S. COUNTY ROAD K, MERRILL



To Register: Call (715) 536-5443 - OR - Online at www.myvbs.org/churchoffice

June 9 - 11, 2025 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Meal provided starting at 5:00 p.m.)

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