

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

www.faithlutheranmerrill.com

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Good Shepherd Sunday

Sunday, May 11, 2025 8:30 a.m. & 10:15 a.m. Monday, May 12, 2025 6:30 p.m.

John 10:27 – "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." On their own sheep are in great danger. They need a shepherd to guide them. The sheep know the Shepherd's voice, and we delight to go where He leads. Of course, the world, the devil, and our own sinful flesh want to pull us in another direction. Namely, they want to pull us in the direction of death. But following the Shepherd means life. So, no matter how difficult the path is, let us follow the Shepherd!



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.

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.

PRINTED ORDER OF WORSHIP Special Music – Ed Stiver, Jeremy Fromm

OPENING HYMNS "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord"
Open the eyes of my heart Lord.
Open the eyes of my heart Lord.
Open the eyes of my heart Lord.
I want to see you. I want to see you. (repeat)

To see You high and lifted up, Shining in the light of Your Glory. Lord pour out your power and love, As we sing.Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy. I want to see you. "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" (sing twice)

Lord I lift Your name on high

Lord I love to sing Your praises

I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth

To show the way

From the earth to the cross

My debt to pay

From the cross to the grave

From the grave to the sky

Lord I lift Your name on high

"Step-By-Step"

Oh God you are my God, and I will ever praise You.
Oh God you are my God, and I will ever praise You.
I will praise You in the morning
And I will learn to walk in Your ways
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days.

INVOCATION

Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, 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 28:18-20)

We begin our worship as we began our Christian life, through Holy Baptism, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

"God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24) 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 renounce our sins with a sincere heart and mind before the Lord, receiving His Almighty, Divine, and Eternal forgiveness.

(A moment of silence for personal confession and reflection.)

- P We confess:
- God forgive me, a sinner. 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 "For God so loved the world that He gave His onlybegotten Son, so that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but shall have everlasting life. (John 3:16) "Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against him, and in whose spirit is no deceit. (Based on Psalm 32:1, 2) By 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 NIV) 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. (Matthew 9:2 KJV) Now, go and live a life worthy of your calling in Christ Jesus, and produce fruit in keeping with real repentance. (Ephesians 4:1)

RESPONSIVE HYMN

"Amazing Grace! My Chains Are Gone"

- 1 Amazing grace how sweet the sound
 That saved a wretch like me
 I once was lost, but now I'm found
 Was blind but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
 And grace my fears relieved;
 How precious did that grace appear,
 The hour I first believed!

Chorus

My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, My Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood His mercy reigns. Unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me,
 His word my hope secures;
 He will my shield and portion be
 As long as life endures.

Chorus (sing twice)

My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, My Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy reigns.
Unending love, amazing grace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who call'd me here below,
Will be forever mine.
(Will be forever mine)
(You are forever mine)

The Lord shepherd, is my shepherd, shall not want.

Psalm 23: I

PSALM 23

The 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.

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS HOLY WORD

- "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope."
- "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 15:4-6)

FIRST READING

Acts 20:17-35

¹⁷Now from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸And when they came to him, he said to them:

"You yourselves know how I lived among you the



whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house,

²¹testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²²And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, ²⁷for I did not

shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. ³²And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace. which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive."

- The grass withers and the flowers fall,
- "but the Word of God stands forever." (Isaiah 40:8)

EPISTLE Revelation 7:9–17

⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They

have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.



15"Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple;

and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;

the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,

and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

- "And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you received from us, you accepted it, not as the word of men,
- "but as it actually is, the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe." (1 Thess. 2:13-14)

HOLY GOSPEL John 10:22-33

²²At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one."



³¹The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. ³²Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" ³³The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."

P "As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, 'Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you.'

"He replied, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God, and obey it."

(Luke11:27-28)

SERMON HYMN

"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want" LSB #710

SERMON

CATECHISM REVIEW

- **P** THE FIRST COMMANDMENT
- You shall have no other gods.
- **P** What does this mean?
- We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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.

WE BRING OUR FIRSTFRUITS TO THE LORD

OFFERTORY RESPONSE "Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart"

LSB #806

THE FAMILY OF GOD PRAYS TOGETHER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

- 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

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Sunday: Leviticus 20:1-16, 22-27; Luke 11:37-54

Monday: Leviticus 21:1-24; Luke 12:1-12 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 4:31-24



CHURCH CALENDAR ST. JOHN'S and FAITH Sunday, May 11 Mother's Day 8:30 a.m. Worship at St. John's Sunday School during Sermon

10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith

11:15 a.m. Bible Class at Faith

Monday, May 12

5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith

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

Tuesday, May 13

1:00 p.m. Trustees' Meeting at Faith6:00 p.m. Church Council at St. John's7:00 p.m. Elders' Meeting at St. John's

Wednesday, May 14

10:00 a.m. AbleLight Volunteers

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

Friday, May 16-17

30-Hour Famine Youth Activity

Saturday, May 17

5:30 p.m. Pickin' and Grinnin' at Dt. John's

Sunday, May 18 Confirmation Day

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

Wednesday, May 21

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday-Saturday, May 16-17

30 Hour Famine - Circuit 6 Youth Activity

Saturday, May 17

Pickiin' and Grinnin" Talent Show at St. John's

Sunday, May 18

Confirmation at Faith and St. John's



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 Barry Krenz
Mabel Marquardt Bob Meyer Debbie Olson Mark Pester
Edgar Pfaff Bob Porath Marge Radenz Karen Rajek
Jo Schedler Linda Seidler Audrey Steckling
Lorraine Steckling Carl Uttech Deb Wiederhoeft
Susie and Ellie Zastrow



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

"Celebrate the Savior"

June 9-11 5:00 p.m.– 8:00 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)



<u>Children and Adults</u> 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

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

Join Us For Pickin' and Grinnin' at St. John's Lutheran Church May 17, 2025 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Bring your talents you want to share (CLEAN jokes, storytelling, singing).

Dinner at 5:30 p.m. (freewill offering) and talents to follow.

Sign up will be available in May.







The 30 Hour Famine

Faith In Action

Youth from Circuit 6 will participate over the weekend of May 16-17. Events begin at Faith on Friday evening and end at St. Paul's on Saturday.

Youth loving God and fighting hunger

One in nine people in the world don't get enough to eat. Many poor farmers can't grow enough food to feed their own families, much less sell to get income for essentials like education and healthcare. That's why World Vision partners with communities to address immediate food needs — but also to equip them to grow food for the long term. And this change happens when groups raise money through the 30 Hour Famine!

ONE DOLLAR and THIRTY CENTS feeds ONE CHILD for

ONE DAY ... can you help?

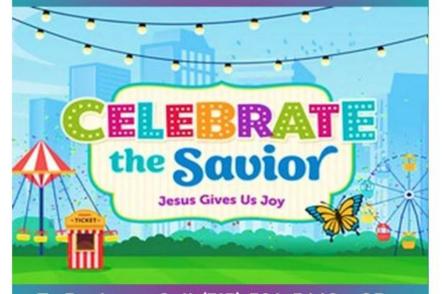
Jars/containers will be available in the back of church to drop your loose change.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Matthew 5:6





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

