

Greater Love
HAS NO ONE THAN THIS, THAN TO
Lay down
ONE'S LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.
JOHN 15:13, NKJV



**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – HAMBURG**
Veterans' Service
**Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, November 9 and Monday, November
10, 2025**

Mark 12:44 – “For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.” From Old Testament times right through to today the Lord has urged us to give to His work in the Church in proportion to how He has blessed us. He has also called us to sacrificial giving, that is, giving that actually costs us something. That's the shape of true Christian generosity.



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 HYMN

“America, The Beautiful”

- 1 O beautiful, for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!

Chorus

America, America! God shed His grace on thee;
And crowned thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

- 2 O beautiful, for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness! ***Chorus***

- 3 O beautiful, for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life; ***Chorus***

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit
C Amen!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

- P** "God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.
C If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.
P But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.
C If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
P If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
C If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives." (1 John 1:5b-10)
P Let us then confess our sins:

(A moment for silence for private personal confession to the One Who created us and redeemed us)

- C** Gracious Father, we come before You as a rebellious and sinful people. We have disobeyed Your commandments; we have worshipped ourselves and the things we have made. We have rejected Your will for our lives; we have preferred our way to that of Christ. Forgive us, O Lord, for straying away from that which You intended us to be, and for failing to follow the example of Christ.



HYMN OF CONFESSION

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

LSB #611 vs. 1-3

1 Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.

2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.

3 Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.

Text: Public domain

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. (Matthew 18:18; John 20:23) “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 keeping with true repentance. (*Eph 4:1*)

C **Amen! By God’s Grace in Jesus Christ I am saved. By grace I am forgiven. By Grace I am set free.**

PSALM 144:1-2; 18:31-35
My Rock and My Fortress

- C** ¹Blessed be the Lord, my rock,
who trains my hands for war,
and my fingers for battle;
²he is my steadfast love and my fortress,
my stronghold and my deliverer,
my shield and he in whom I take refuge,
who subdues peoples under me.



³¹For who is God, but
the Lord?

And who is a rock,
except our God?—

³²the God who equipped
me with strength
and made my
way blameless.

³³He made my feet like the
feet of a deer
and set me secure on the

heights.

³⁴He trains my hands for war,
so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

³⁵You have given me the shield of your salvation,
and your right hand supported me,
and your gentleness made me great.

**GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACHES US
THROUGH HIS HOLY WORD**

- 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)

A Time for Everything

¹ For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵ a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace



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 All 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)

The Whole Armor of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not



wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand

firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

P “Your Word is a Lamp unto our feet.

© “And a light our to my path” (Psalm 119:105)

MUSICAL RESPONSE – Jeremy Fromm, Ed Stiver

The Gospel Lesson

John 15:1-15

I Am the True Vine

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² 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. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

P "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God
C **And keep it."** (Luke 11:28)

THE SERMON HYMNS

"God Bless Our Native Land"

LSB #965

- 1 God bless our native land;
 Firm may she ever stand
 Through storm and night.
 When the wild tempests rave,
 Ruler of wind and wave,
 Do Thou our country save
 By Thy great might.

- 2 So shall our prayers arise
 To God above the skies;
 On Him we wait.
 Thou who art ever nigh,
 Guarding with watchful eye,
 To Thee aloud we cry:
 God save the state!

Text: Public domain

“My Country ‘Tis of Thee

1 My country ‘tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing.
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims’ pride,
From ev’ry mountainside,
Let freedom ring.

- 2 Our fathers’ God to Thee,
 Author of liberty, To Thee we sing.
 Long may our land be bright,
 With freedom’s holy light;
 Protect us by Thy might,
 Great God our King!

Public Domain

THE SERMON

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 First Fruits of Thanksgiving to the Lord

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 blessest us,
To Thee our firstfruits give!

Text: Public domain

The Family of God Prays Together

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE 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

- P** “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!

CLOSING HYMNS

“The Star-Spangled Banner”

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous
fight
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

“God Bless America”

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.

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Sunday: Jeremiah 22:1-23;
Matthew 25:1-13
Monday: Jeremiah 23:1-20;
Matthew 25:14-30
Tuesday: Jeremiah 23:21-40;

Matthew 25:31-46

Wednesday: Jeremiah 25:1-18; Matthew 26:1-19

Thursday: Jeremiah 26:1-19; Revelation 13:1-18;
Matthew 26:20-35

Friday: Jeremiah 29:1-19; Revelation 14:1-20;
Matthew 26:36-56

Saturday: Jeremiah 30:1-24; Revelation 15:1-8;
Matthew 26:57-75

FAITH and ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Gary Baumann Joe Calmes
David Czech Rodney Dahlke
Alice Fromm Christopher Emmerich
Wallace Emmerich Duane Grunenwald
Gerhard Hanneman Angie Harkner
Dale Janisch Cecelia & Lucille Klade
Lorraine Kleinschmidt Rob Koebe
Kim Love Bob Meyer Gene Mootz
Debbie Olson Mark Pester Bob Porath
Marge Radenz Karen Rajek
Rod and Laurie Runge Jo Schedler
Audrey Steckling Lorraine Steckling Carl Uttech
Deb Wiederhoeft Florence Williamson
Susie and Ellie Zastrow



ISI Group Meeting

Sunday, November 16

4:30 p.m.

Pine Ridge Restaurant, Merrill



ST. JOHN'S and FAITH CALENDAR

Sunday, November 9 **VETERANS' SERVICE**

8:30 a.m.

Worship at St.

John's

*Sunday School during the sermon at
St. John's*

9:30 a.m. Breakfast at St. John's

9:15 a.m. Sunday School at Faith

10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith

11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith

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

3:00 p.m. New Group at Faith: "Inspired Singles"

Monday, November 10

5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith

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

Tuesday, November 11

6:00 p.m. Church Council at St. John's

7:15 p.m. Elder's Meeting at St. John's

Wednesday, November 12

10:00 a.m. Ablelight

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

Thursday, November 13

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

Saturday, November 15

7:30 a.m. Feed My Starving Children and Mall of America

Sunday, November 16

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

Sunday School during the sermon at St. John's

9:15 a.m. Sunday School at Faith

10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith

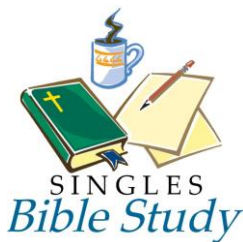
11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith

4:30 p.m. ISI at Pine Ridge Restaurant, Merrill

Monday, November 17

5:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal at Faith

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



INSPIRED SINGLES: ALONE, BUT NOT ALONE. Please come and join us on November 9, at 3:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church as we discuss starting a New Singles group.



CONFIRMATION CLASSES on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. at Faith.

THURSDAY COMMUNITY BIBLE CLASS at 10:30 a.m. at St. John's

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Classes will meet during the sermon at St. John's.
classes are at 9:15 a.m. at Faith.



Annual FRUIT SALE

Order forms are in the back of the church.

Deadline to order Wednesday, November 26
For more information, contact Terry Seidler
at 715-203-5736

All are welcome to order

FALL SPORTS ARE IN FULL SWING!! Whether you are cheering for the Badgers, Packers, Bucks and/or your favorite high school teams, don't forget your tailgating and celebration supplies whether at home or away. It's also time to remember those supplies for fall harvest or yard work. Holidays are coming up soon. Pick up scrip for all your household needs. Help support the ministry of our church through the Scrip program. ... *All without it costing you an extra penny!*





FALL EVENT

LUTHER MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

N5302 Townhall Road and Highway 17,
Gleason

Harvest Dinner on November 16

11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Buffet of Turkey, Ham, Mashed Potatoes,
Stuffing, Squash, salads and desserts

Dine In, Carryout, Drive Through

Adults \$13 Child 6-12 \$7

5 and under Free

ST. JOHN'S HUNTERS'

SERVICE

Wednesday, November 19

Meal 6:00 p.m. Worship at 6:30 p.m.



THANKSGIVING EVE

WORSHIP AT FAITH

Wednesday, November 26

6:30 p.m.



A request from Pastor Ruhbush. If anyone has **STRINGS OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

that do not work or have some bulbs burned out, don't throw them away – he goes through all of the strings and fixes what he can and uses what he can to repair others. Everything that he repairs he takes to Ablelight Thrift Shop to be sold. He enjoys doing it and has been fixing 100's of strings for many years. There is a white plastic container in the coat room that lights can be put in.



St. John's Tree of Giving

The Tree of Giving are items that families from Maple Grove School are in need of for the winter months.

Take 1 or more tags and sign your name on the sign-up sheet next to the appropriate tag number. Purchase item(s) requested and include gift receipt(s) in case the size doesn't work. Put your tag(s) on the bags so it can go to the appropriate family.

Bring purchased bags to St. John's Church by November 23, 2025. They will then be delivered to Maple Grove School on November 24, 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact Lori Baumann at (715) 573-8923.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR PINE CREST RESIDENTS

Pine Crest is asking for donation of Christmas presents and/or money which allows Pine Crest to give a gift to each resident. Items should be dropped off by Sunday, December 7 at Faith. A list of items can be found in this newsletter and on the Scrip table in the back of church.



Gifts for children: *Watch for the tree with tags in the back of church at Faith.* Gifts need to be returned by Sunday, December 14. For information, contact Bonnie Grueneberg at 715-613-0003 or

e-mail at bkg9005@gmail.com



Circuit 6
Feed My Starving Children
and Mall of America trip
November 15, 2025

THERE ARE STILL SEATS AVAILABLE.
If interested, contact Bonnie Grueneberg ASAP
at 715-613-0003

Saturday, November 15th

- | | |
|---|---|
| 7:30 a.m. | Loading @ Faith – Merrill |
| 7:45 a.m. | Depart Faith – Merrill |
| 8:30 a.m. | Pick-up @ Zion – Colby |
| <i>We will do a break stop @ Kwik Trip – Baldwin Exit</i> | |
| 11:30-11:45 a.m. | Arrival time @ Feed My Starving Children –
Eagan, MN |
| 12:00 – 1:45 p.m. | Feed My Starving Children |
| 2:15 p.m. | Arrival time @ Mall of America |
| 5:30 p.m. | Departure time from Mall of America |
| | <i>**We will travel straight through going home,
so you will either want to eat while you are at
the mall or bring your food onto the coach to
eat on the way home.</i> |
| 8:00 p.m. | Est. return time to Zion – Colby |
| 8:45 p.m. | Est. return time to Faith – Merrill |

****Cost is \$40.00 per person to cover the cost of the motorcoach transportation.**

****All ages are welcome at Feed My Starving Children – youth under the age of 14 need to be with an adult unless other arrangements have been made with their individual church group.**

****While at the Mall of America anyone under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult beginning at 3:00 p.m. – everyone must be able to show proof of identification with either a State Issued Driver's License or a State Issued ID Card. School I.D.'s are not accepted.**



Christmas Stars A Christmas Spectacular Saturday, December 6th

THERE ARE STILL OPEN SEATS.

If interested, contact Bonnie Grueneberg ASAP at 715-613-0003

Enjoy a day away! We will travel via Progressive Travel motorcoach to the Appleton area. **Departure from Faith Lutheran Church - Merrill - will be at 8:00 a.m.** to arrive at the **Fox River Mall** for a little shopping time and lunch on your own. Our next stop is at the **Xavier Fine Arts Center** to see the Christmas Stars production of **"A Christmas Spectacular"**! Get ready to see some fantastic talent from local folks of all ages from little tots on up to senior adults. Xavier Fine Arts puts on two shows a year, All Rise! for Easter and Christmas Stars for this time of year. The show last year included over three hundred people! Enjoy a mixture of comedy, dance, singing and the full Christmas Story! On our-way home we will make a stop at **Culver's** in St. Point with an estimate return time to Merrill at 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$80.00 per person
(inc. deluxe motorcoach transportation and show ticket)



Reserve a seat today by calling or texting Bonnie Grueneberg at 715-613-0003. Once confirmed, fill out the form below and send it along with your full payment to:

Progressive Travel, Inc.

211085 State Highway 13, Spencer, WI 54479

Attn: Bonnie

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____

Make checks payable to: Progressive Travel, Inc

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 Merrill Facebook Page <https://faithmerrill.webs.com/>

The Celebration of Freedom

We are in awe of our freedoms.

We can do and say what we want.

A privilege that is not universal.

Our freedoms are rare and beautiful.

Our freedoms come at a cost,

At the expense of lives and servitude,

Our freedom was purchased,

With the sacrifice of many.



A Prayer for Freedom

As Christians in America,

We put God number one.

He so loved the world

That He sent His only Son. Christians love America,

And for our nation, we pray

That God will give us mercy.

Some pray this every day. Many veterans live among us.

Part of their lives they gave,

Serving these United States.

Freedom, they wanted to save.

History of Veterans Day

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 an armistice between Germany and the Allied nations came into effect. On November 11, 1919, Armistice Day was commemorated for the first time. In 1919, President Wilson proclaimed the day should be “filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory”. There were plans for parades, public meetings and a brief suspension of business activities at 11am.

In 1926, the United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I and declared that the anniversary of the armistice should be commemorated with prayer and thanksgiving. The Congress also requested that the president should “issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.”

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) was approved on May 13, 1938, which made November 11 in each year a legal holiday, known as Armistice Day. This day was originally intended to honor veterans of World War I. A few years later, World War II required the largest mobilization of service men in the history of the United States and the American forces fought in Korea. In 1954, the veterans service organizations urged Congress to change the word “Armistice” to “Veterans”. Congress approved this change and on June 1, 1954, November 11 became a day to honor all American veterans, where ever and whenever they had served.