

Scripture Alone

Faith Lutheran Church
St. John's Lutheran Church – Hamburg
REFORMATION SUNDAY
Sunday, October 26 and
Monday, October 27, 2025

Revelation 14:6 – "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." During the Reformation, this text was used to refer to Luther's ministry and the Lutheran message. We have an eternal Gospel to proclaim. Christ has freed us from our sins without any works on our part. We are saved by grace alone! And, ironically enough, Luther said this should make him the "apostle of works." Once we are freed by grace, we are truly free to serve God in works that flow from thankfulness and praise.

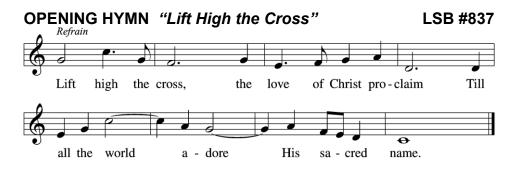


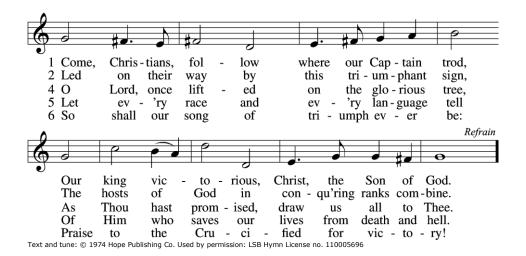
welcome visitors. We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors today. We pray that your worship with us is rewarding. Please be sure to sign your name and address in our guest register, located in the narthex. If you are looking for a church home we would like to invite you to be a part of our Bible 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.

+ PRESERVICE MUSIC +





INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

- In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

TEN COMMANDMENTS INSTRUCTION

- The Law would forever bind us, sentencing us to eternity entangled in the shackles of death. It is <u>not</u> the purpose of the Law to save. Since the fall, we are unable to keep the Law of God.
- "There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins." (Eccl. 7:20)
- P The Law was given to show us our sin, guide us in our lives, and to discipline our behavior.
- "Therefore, no one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the Law; rather, through the Law we become conscious of sin." (Romans 3:20)
- In the Law, the righteous unchangeable will of God is revealed to His people. God's Law is written upon our hearts, and yet, knowingly and unknowingly we act contrary to His commands. We, therefore confess our sins to God, admitting that we have sinned against Him in thought, word, and deed.

CONFESSION OF SINS

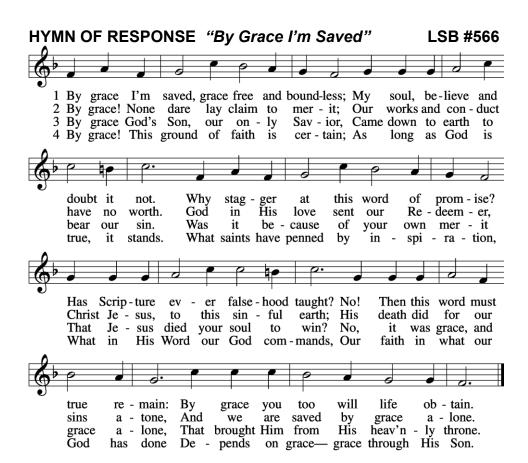
Almighty God, I have not always feared, loved and trusted you above all things. I have not loved my neighbor according to all of Your Holy Commands. I have sinned and I daily fall short of the of Your Holy Law. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless 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.

OFFICE OF THE KEYS

- P The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given and entrusted to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners. The Office of the Keys is a special Godgiven way of applying the Gospel to the individual. "God is surpassingly rich in His grace." (Luther's Small Catechism, The Smalcald Articles)
- "And with that He breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven'." (John 20:22-23, Matthew 18:18) Here the Office of the Keys is given to all the Apostles not just to Peter. The "you" in the original Greek is plural.

ABSOLUTION

- The Christian congregation by the command of Christ calls pastors to carry out the Office of the Keys publicly in His name and on behalf of the congregation. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 4:11; Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 4:1)
- Amen. By Grace I am saved. By Grace I am set free. "Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits -- who forgives all your sins" (Psalm 103:1)



- 5 By grace to timid hearts that tremble, In tribulation's furnace tried, By grace, in spite of fear and trouble, The Father's heart is open wide. Where could I help and strength secure If grace were not my anchor sure?
- 6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying; In Jesus' promise I rejoice; For though I know my heart's condition, I also know my Savior's voice. My heart is glad, all grief has flown Since I am saved by grace alone.

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+ THE HOLY WORD OF GOD +

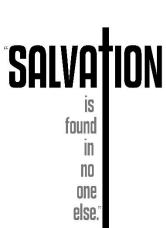
- Preaching the counsels of God's Word, and rightly administering the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion are all essential elements in exercising the Office of the Keys. The Word and the Sacraments are the means of grace which God has given to His Church, to sustain its life and increase the faith of His people.
- "Jesus came to them and 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)

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 4:1-12

As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes



ACTS 4:12, NIV

gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,

whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

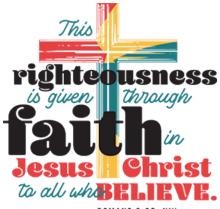
- "And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it <u>not</u> as the word of men,
 - but as it <u>actually is</u>, the <u>word of God</u>, which is at work in you who believe." (1 Thessalonians 2:13-14)

CHORAL RESPONSE "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

EPISTLE Romans 3:19-28

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore, no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has

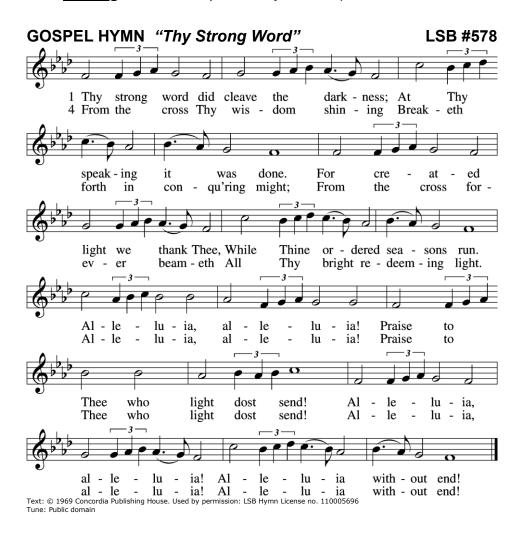


ROMANS 3:22, NIV

been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished -- he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

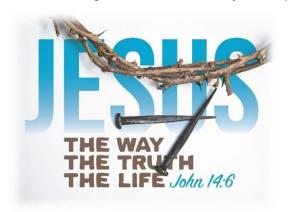
- "and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through <u>faith in</u> <u>Christ Jesus</u>." (2 Timothy 3:15)
- "All Scripture is God-breathed and is <u>useful</u> for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be <u>thoroughly</u> equipped for <u>every good work.</u>" (2 Timothy 3:16-17)



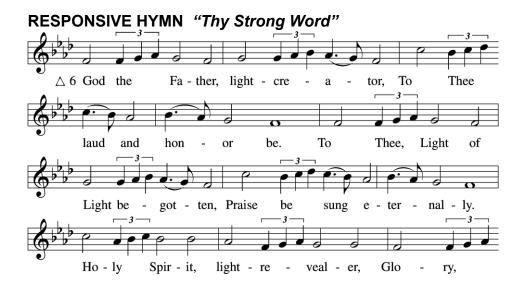
HOLY GOSPEL John 14:1-6

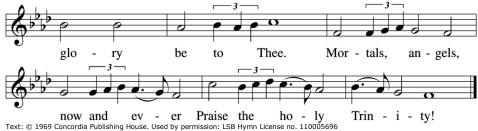
"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to

myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.



- "Man does not live by bread alone."
- "But on every word that comes from the mouth of God."
 (Matthew 4:4)





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APOSTLES' CREED

- I, therefore, ask the members of the congregation and all who are gathered here today, Do you believe in God the Father?
- Yes, I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and 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. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
- P Do you believe in God, the Holy Spirit?
- 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. Amen.





THE SERMON

WE BRING OUR FIRST FRUITS UNTO THE LORD

The Offering (Malachi 3:6-18; Mark 12:41-ff; 2 Cor. 9:6-15)

OFFERING HYMN "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart" LSB #806 Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give thanks to the Ho - ly One, Give thanks be - cause He's giv - en Je - sus Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, Give to the Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be-cause He's giv-en__ thanks Je-sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say Let the poor say strong," "I rich,"_____ Be-cause of am what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak strong," Let the poor say am say am

the Lord has done

give

thanks.

for

us.

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_ Be-cause of what

rich,"_

Give thanks,

LORD'S PRAYER

- Our Father who art in heaven,
- P God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children.
- C Hallowed be Thy name,
- P God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us, to do this dear Father in Heaven.
- Thy Kingdom come,
- God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word.
- Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- P God's will is done when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die.
- Give us this day our daily bread;
- P Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body.
- And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
- P We pray that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.
- **C** And lead us not into temptation,
- P We pray that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice.
- But deliver us from evil.
- P We pray that our Father would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions, and reputations.
- For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.
- He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us.
- C Amen.
- "Yes, yes, it shall be so." (Luther's Small Catechism)

THE SACRAMENTS

(Sacrament is a Latin word meaning "Mystery." It is a mystery how God can accomplish His promises through these simple things but He clearly promises that He does.)

+The Sacrament of Holy Baptism+

- During our instruction in the Lutheran faith we spoke of the benefits of Baptism. It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this. (Luther's Small Catechism)
- "Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:3-4) and "Baptism now saves you also" (1 Peter 3:21)
- P Each time we gather for worship we should remember our own Baptism. Our baptized life in the name of the holy Trinity offers comfort in distress and strength in adversity. It is a promise between God and His children.

+The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper +

- P As the Lord has blessed us with the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, He has also given to His Church the gift of Holy Communion. In this Sacrament we receive the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in, with, and under the bread and the wine.
- "Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? (1 Corinthians 10:16)
- Scripture teaches us to prepare ourselves for a right reception of this holy and precious gift.
- "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." (1 Corinthians 11:28)
- Scripture also teaches us that the Sacrament is given that we might have the forgiveness of sins and that we might be strengthened in our faith.
- Jesus said "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. (Matthew 26:28)
- Scripture likewise teaches us that partaking of the Sacrament also make ourselves one with the teachings of that altar and witness of oneness in faith with each other.

- "Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.... Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar?" (1 Corinthians 10:16-18)
- May we always hold as sacred and very holy these gifts that God has given us and has attached His holy solemn promises.

C Amen!

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

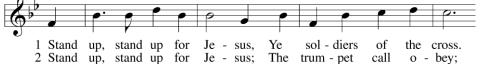
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and Ḥ give you peace.

C Amen



"Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus"

LSB #660



- 3 Stand up, stand up for Je sus; Stand in His strength a lone.
- 4 Stand up, stand up for Je sus; The strife will not be long;



Stand forth in might - y con - flict In this His glo-rious day. of flesh will Ye The arm fail you, dare not trust your own. This day the din of bat - tle, The next the vic-tor's song.



From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry His ar - my He shall lead
Let all His faith-ful serve Him A - gainst un-num-bered foes;
Put on the Gos-pel ar - mor; Each piece put on with
The sol-diers, o - ver - com - ing, Their crown of life shall see



Till ev - 'ry foe is van-quished, And Christ is Lord in - deed.

Let cour - age rise with dan - ger And strength to strength op - pose.

Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, Be nev - er want - ing there.

And with the King of Glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

Text and tune: Public domain





Sunday: Deuteronomy 28:1-22;

Matthew 18:1-20

Monday: Deuteronomy 29:1-29;

Matthew 18:21-35

Tuesday: Deuteronomy 30:1-20;

Matthew 19:1-15

Wednesday: Deuteronomy 31:1-29; Matthew 19:16-30 **Thursday:** Deuteronomy 31:30 – 32:27; Matthew 20:1-16 **Friday:** Deuteronomy 32:28-52; Deuteronomy 33:1-29;

Matthew 20:17-34

Saturday: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Matthew 21:1-22

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



REFORMATION SUNDAY Sunday, October 26

8:30 a.m. Worship 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 Faith11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith4:30 p.m. ISI at Stogbauer Cabin

Monday, October 27

5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith Wednesday. October 29

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

Thursday, October 30

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

Sunday, November 2

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 with Holy Communion at Faith

11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith

Monday, November 3

5:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal at Faith

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



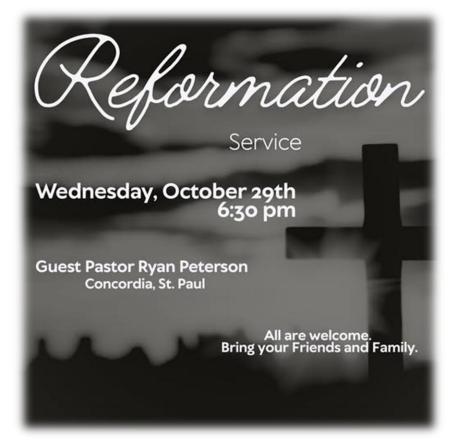
ISI Today Sunday, October 26 4:30 p.m. Chris Stogbauer's Cabin 16050 16050 N. 60th Avenue, Merrill



+ Special Church <u>VETERANS DAY</u>
<u>SERVICES</u> at St. John's and Faith
on Sunday, November 9.

Breakfast following worship at St.
John's. Everyone is welcome.





Trinity Lutheran Church

107 N State St, Merrill, WI

Celebrate this special time of reflection and renewal on Wednesday, October 29 at 6:30 p.m.

We're excited to welcome Guest Pastor Ryan Peterson from Concordia, St. Paul as he leads us in worship.

All are welcome—bring your friends and family for an evening of faith, fellowship, and inspiration!



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.





FALL EVENT

LUTHER MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

N5302 Townhall Road and Highway 17, Gleason Harvest Dinner on November 17

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

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 wheth er 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!.



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.



All You Can Eat PANCAKE DINNER and BAKE SALE

Sunday, November 2 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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

Adults - \$10 Children 6-12 - \$5 5 years old and under - Free Carryouts available

Proceeds from the Pancake Dinner will be gift cards given to teachers at both Trinity Lutheran-Merrill and St. John-Merrill to purchase items for their classrooms

Faith Lutheran Church

15425 Highway K South - Merrill



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

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 We

will do a break stop @ Kwik Trip - Baldwin Exit

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

**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.

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

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. Deadline: November 1, 2025. 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/



