



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

You and Jesus Were Born For a Purpose

No matter how you came into this world, you were born for the purpose of having an eternal love relationship with God, and praising God with all that you are here in this temporary broken world and in the joy of eternity where there is no death, mourning, crying or pain.

We are all born into this world and because of sin we will all die and leave this world. The repentant believers of Jesus Christ know that Jesus Christ was born for them, died for them, and rose again for them. We know we come from God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth. We live to praise God, and we will go to live eternally with God who created this gigantic ever-expanding universe.

The purpose of Jesus conception and birth was for every conception and every birth, and that includes you. Yes, you. Take time in these Christmas holidays, and again on your birthday, the birthdays of your family and friends, and even the people you do not know that the birthday that we celebrate at Christmas was personal for you and them. Think about this Biblical teaching deeply. Make sure you continue to grow and nurture this deep into the soil of your thoughts and soul that the Nativity was for you.

He was conceived and born for you specifically to bear, the burdens of every single one of your sins. He was conceived and born in poverty so that everyone might know that he was born for them that they may have eternal riches which is the forgiveness of sins and the gift of everlasting life.

Finally, as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ this Christmas if you can remember



the details of your birth, and then remember the details of Christ's birth. Remember His birth was for your birth. His life for your life. Because of Christ, you are forgiven and have the gift of eternal life. As the angel Gabriel told Joseph concerning Jesus conception and birth, "you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

Have a Blessed Christ Christmas!
Pastor Love



**Lenten Midweek
Services
6:30 p.m. at Faith**

*This Year's Advent Midweek will follow the Theme of Advent Adventures
and will feature the four names of the Advent Candles*

Wednesday, December 3 – *Hope*

Advent Adventures of Hope in Hardship

Luke 1:5-25;57-66

Wednesday, December 10 – *Peace*

Advent Adventures of Peace in Peril

Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday, December 17 - *Joy*

**Advent Adventures of Joy
in Life's Jarring and Jolting Journey**

Luke 2:8-20

Wednesday, December 24 - *Love*

**Adventures of Love in A World at War With
Itself**

Luke 2:1-7



Be A Faithful Steward

"We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves" (1 Thess. 5:12-13).

Have you finished your Christmas shopping yet? Do you have a person or two on your list that you just don't know what to give them? While I know you are running short of ideas...dad doesn't really want another tie, and your kid's teacher doesn't need another coffee mug. It can be nothing short of maddening to try to figure things out in the middle of this busy season!

As stewards of all of life and life's resources, we know that life is more than giving gifts. We stewards never want to take anything the Lord provides for granted. During this season of Advent and Christmas, it is a great idea to do whatever you can to be a faithful steward of your pastor. Even more so than the rest of the year, the demands on their time, their presence and their stewardship of the Gospel in the congregation become heightened.

The demands on pastors can wear them down and wear them out. How does the steward in the congregation serve as a faithful steward of the treasure that is their pastor? Here are a few ideas:

- Put them at the top of your prayer list. – Pray that the Lord guards them against the weariness that makes them susceptible to the work of the devil.
- Make worship a priority – St. Paul admonishes the Thessalonians and us to respect those who labor among us. There is no greater way to steward your pastor than to respect him enough to show up and receive what he has been sent to offer in the proclamation of the Gospel and administration of the Holy Sacraments.
- Be receptive to his work – If your pastor is tasked with calling you to repentance or encouraging you to be in worship, know that he is only caring for your soul.
- Esteem him highly – Take the time to thank him for his faithful service to Christ, the congregation and your family.
- Be at peace – This is an easy time for even minor annoyances to get blown out of proportion and become full-blown conflict. This not only spoils the season of Advent and Christmas, but it

also spoils our stewardship of the Gospel and those who serve us in that Gospel. Remember that Jesus came into the world to be the Prince of Peace. This is an act of grace and mercy. The steward seeks to reflect this toward their pastor and their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Stewardship at Christmas can be a challenge. Stewardship of your pastor during this time of the year is critical to our shared stewardship of the Gospel at a time of year when many are more open to hear and receive it.





FAITH BIRTHDAYS

December 7	Dorothy Woller
December 8	Caleb Ney
	Dawson Schade
December 10	Mark Porath
December 11	Emma Hein
	Andrew Pfaff
	Russell Stogbauer
December 12	Cole Calmes
December 16	Jerome Buch
	Sally Hannemann
	Carol Wegner
December 18	Angelique Garvin
December 19	Amber Slozes
	William Wayda
December 20	Travis Klug
	Laurie Goetsch
December 21	Cade Rajek
December 26	Robert Duwe
	Mary Olsen
December 27	Jensen Olson
December 28	Rebecca Schulz
	George Wood Jr.
December 29	Sarah Blum
	Shane July
	Kim Young
December 30	Carol Wakely
December 31	Evan Roubal
	Michael Sturm

ST. JOHN'S BIRTHDAYS

December 2	Barb Czech
December 4	Kathy Sturm
	Carol Kleinschmidt
December 10	Lori Baumann
December 13	Zack Jahnke
December 20	Wallace Emmerich
December 27	Tanner Hoffman
December 30	Dan Sturm

FAITH ANNIVERSARIES

December 3	Leon & Beth Bartelt
	42 years
December 9	Gene & Karen Pagel
	58 years
December 11	Robert & Debbie Kufahl
	44 years
December 14	Alan & Sheila Klug
	41 years
December 28	Edward & Connie Stiver
	57 years
December 31	Harold and Phyllis Zocher
	Woller
	17 years

ST. JOHN'S ANNIVERSARIES

December 1	Randy & Lisa Stack
	13 years



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.



Gifts for children:

Tags are available 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

Faith Lutheran Church

15425 South County Road K

Merrill, WI 54452

Church e-mail: faithmerrillwi@gmail.com

Church website: faithlutheranmerrill.com

Pastor Donald Love

Office Phone 715-536-5443

Home Phone 715-722-0540

Cell Phone 715-350-3871

Pastor's Office Hours

Mon. and Tues: Home

Wednesday: Faith

Thursday: St. John's

Church Office Hours

Tues. and Thurs. 9 a.m.-12 noon

Mon., Wed., and Fri. varies

Emergency Contacts

Terry Seidler 715-536-9742

(home) 715-203-5736 (cell)

ALTAR GUILD DECEMBER SCHEDULE

December 1 - 15 Chris Pfaff & Phyllis Beilke

December 16 - 29 Keith & Pat Wendt

December 30 – January 12 Susan Pankow & Karen Olsen

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1:30 p.m. Women of Faith Christmas Outing at Ballyhoo's Spouses welcome	2	3 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith 6:30 p.m. Advent Worship with Holy Communion	4 10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's	5	6
7 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Bible Study	8 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting	9	10 10:00 a.m. Ablelight 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith 6:30 p.m. Advent Worship	11 10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's	12	13
14 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship CHRISTMAS CAROLING	15	16	17 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith 6:30 p.m. Advent Worship	18 10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's 3:00 p.m. Outdoor Living Nativity at St. John's	19	20
21 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Bible Study	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:30 p.m. Candlelight Service at St. John's 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service at Faith	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 8:30 a.m. Worship at St. John's 10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith	26	27
28 10:15 a.m. Worship	29 6:30 p.m. Worship	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE			

Pick up Fruit Orders at Faith

December 2025 Elder, Usher, Greeter, Scrip Schedule

Sunday, November 30 10:15 a.m.

Elders Keith Wendt, Jeff Laabs
 Ushers Carol Hein, Beth Bartelt
 Greeter Beth Bartelt
 Scrip Cindy Krenz
 Audio Bonnie Grueneberg

Sunday, December 7 10:15 a.m.

Elders Mike Bielke, Mark Porath
 Ushers Brian and Lynn Klug
 Greeter Brian Klug
 Scrip Lynn Klug
 Audio Bonnie Grueneberg

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 14 10:15 a.m..

Ushers Jeff Laabs, Kyle Young
 Elders Leroy Laabs, Chris Stogbauer
 Greeter Chris Stogbauer
 Scrip Becky Rajek
 Audio Bonnie Grueneberg

Sunday, December 21 10:15 a.m.

Elders Mike Bielke, Mark Porath
 Ushers Carol Hein, Bernice Porath
 Greeter Carol Hein
 Scrip Bernice Porath
 Audio Bonnie Grueneberg

CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, December 25 10:15 a.m.

Elders Lee Pfaff, Keith Wendt
 Ushers Leroy Laabs, Beth Bartelt
 Greeter Beth Bartelt
 Scrip Becky Rajek
 Audio Bonnie Grueneberg

Sunday, December 28 10:15 a.m.

Elders Joe Heisinger, Kyle Young
 Ushers Brian and Lynn Klug
 Greeter Brian Klug
 Scrip Lynn Klug
 Audio Bonnie Grueneberg

Sunday, January 4 10:15 a.m.

Elders Mark Porath, Mike Bielke
 Ushers Leroy Laabs, Beth Bartelt
 Greeter Leroy Laabs
 Scrip Cindy Krenz
 Audio Bonnie Grueneberg

Wednesday, December 3 6:30 p.m.

Elders Joe Heisinger, Kyle Young
 Usher Amanda Heisinger
 Greeter Amanda Heisinger
 Scrip Debbie Stogbauer
 Audio Joe and Amanda Heisinger

Wednesday, December 10 6:30 p.m.

Elders Jason Westfall, Lee Pfaff
 Usher Ed Stiver
 Greeter Ed Stiver
 Scrip Cindy Krenz
 Audio Bonnie Grueneberg

Wednesday, December 17 6:30 p.m.

Elders Joe Heisinger, Rodney Dahlke
 Ushers Amanda Heisinger
 Greeter Amanda Heisinger
 Scrip Debbie Stogbauer
 Audio Bonnie Grueneberg

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT

Wednesday, December 24 7:00 p.m.

Elders Jason Westfall, Joe Heisinger
 Ushers Ed Stiver
 Greeter Ed Stiver
 Scrip Cindy Krenz
 Audio Bonnie Grueneberg

HOLY COMMUNION

Wednesday, December 3 6:30 p.m.
 Sunday, December 7 10:15 a.m.
 Sunday, December 21 10:15 a.m..
 Sunday, January 4 10:15 a.m
 Monday, January 5 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 29 6:30 p.m.

Elders Jeff Laabs, Rodney Dahlke
 Usher Chris Stogbauer
 Greeter Chris Stogbauer
 Scrip Deb Stogbauer
 Audio

Monday, January 5 6:30 p.m.

Elders Jason Westfall, Keith Wendt
 Usher Ed Stiver
 Greeter Ed Stiver
 Scrip Deb Stogbauer
 Audio Lee Pfaff



Faith Christmas Poinsettia Fund

In the beauty and celebration of Christmas, we are decorating the Faith Sanctuary and Narthex with poinsettias this year. Donations for the POINSETTIA FUND will be taken through **Sunday, December 14.** Please fill out the form on the Scrip table and enclose it with your check payable to Faith Lutheran Church. Place the form in the basket on the Scrip table or drop off at the church office.



Memorial Gifts

In memory of **JOYCE HANNEMANN**, a gift for the Sunday School and for VBS from Bob and Bernice Porath

In memory of **LOYD KLEINSCHMIDT**, a gift for the Special Purpose fund from Bob and Bernice Porath

OUTDOOR LIVING NATIVITY

St. John's – Hamburg will be having a **LIVE NATIVITY** on Thursday, December 18 from 3 to 6pm. *Free soup and cookies will be available.*



Annual Fruit Sale At Faith, Fruit pick up

December 12-13-14 at Faith.
Contact Terry Seidler at 715-203-5736 if you have any questions



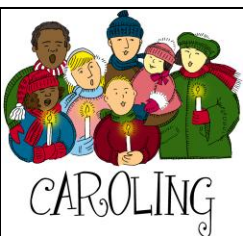
Children's Christmas Program

Faith Lutheran Church
Sunday, December 14

St. John's Lutheran Church
Sunday, December 14

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Lunch will be served after worship service at Faith followed by caroling to shut-ins on **Sunday, December 14.**



*Come along and
help share the Christmas spirit.
Bring a friend!*

St. John's Lutheran Church

134058 County Road L

Athens, WI 54411

715-536-1810

Pastor Donald Love

Office Phone 715-536-5443

Home Phone 715-722-0540

Cell Phone 1-715-350-3871

Friday Off (Family Day)

Pastor's Office Hours

Mon. & Tues. Home

Wednesday Faith

Thursday St. John's

Elders

Mark Czech 715-409-9174

Bob Burish 715-573-7078

Don Gille 715-573-8197

Mike Schultz 715-539-0995

Elder of the Month

Jeremy Fromm 715-574-2003

Setting the Lord's Table

Joy Free

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 ADVENT 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith 6:30 p.m. Advent Worship with Holy Communion at Faith	4 10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Mary Martha Guild	5	6
7 8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion <i>Sunday School during sermon</i>	8	9 6:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting 7:15 p.m. Elders' Meeting	10 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith 6:30 p.m. Advent Worship at Faith	11 10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study	<div>FRUIT PICK UP AT FAITH</div>	
14 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 8:30 a.m. Worship <i>Sunday School during sermon</i> CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT FAITH	15	16	17 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith 6:30 p.m. Advent Worship at Faith	18 10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Outdoor Living Nativity		
21 8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion <i>Sunday School during sermon</i>	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:30 p.m. Candlelight Worship at St. John's 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship at Faith	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 8:30 a.m. Worship at St. John's 10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith	26	27
28 8:30 a.m. Worship	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE			



DECEMBER 2025

Sunday, November 30

First Sunday in Advent

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

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

Wednesday, December 3

Midweek Advent I

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

Sunday, December 7

Second Sunday in Advent

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

10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith

Wednesday, December 10

Midweek Advent II

6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith

Sunday, December 14

Third Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m. Children's Christmas Program and Worship at St. John's

10:15 a.m. Children's Christmas Program and Worship at Faith

Wednesday, December 17

Midweek Advent III

6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith

Sunday, December 21

Fourth Sunday in Advent

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

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

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship at St. John's

7:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship at Faith

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day

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

10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith

Sunday, December 28

First Sunday after Christmas

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

10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith

Monday, December 29

6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith

St. John's Spring Hanging Basket Sale

Hello, this is the order form for the Mother's Day hanging basket sale put on by St. John's Lutheran Church in Hamburg. Your order needs to be paid in full, and submitted to St. John's Lutheran Church by February 28. Please include your name, address and phone number with this order. Orders will be ready for pickup on Friday, May 8, in St. John's parking lot between noon and 4 pm. Please mail your orders and a check for the balance to St. John's Lutheran Church 134058 County Road L, Hamburg, WI 54411. Attention Diane Hinz.

All hanging baskets are locally grown by Grass Creek Greenhouse LLC. If you have questions regarding the baskets being offered, please call Steve at 715-409-3182. DO NOT send money or orders to Grass Creek Greenhouse. The Petunias offered all have white dappled flowers.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

St John's Spring Hanging Basket Sale

All
10 Inch Hanging Baskets
\$27.50 each



Pure Joy Mix

Calibrachoa mixes

Pure Joy Mix *The hottest callie mix out there*
in Rose, Blue and Yellow

Stand Up And Cheer *always a classic*
in Red, White & Blue

Fruit Salad *New in 2024*
in Mango, Cherry and Raspberry

Petunia Mixes

Show the Flag
in Red, White & Blue

Fruit Punch
in Mango, Banana and Hot Pink

Pure Delight, *A petunia take on the most popular Callie mix out there, Pure Joy*
in Blue, Hot Pink and Banana Yellow

Petunias

Bolero Blue

Magenta Mambo

Purple Polka

Disco Ball Melon Pink

Disco Ball Purple



Blue Eyes



Dark Eyes



Swingtime

Fuchsias

Blue Eyes trailing

Dark Eyes trailing

Marinka trailing

Swingtime trailing

New Millennium trailing

Similar to Dark Eyes, but a deeper dark purple, almost black

MEMORY VERSES

Week of December 7, 2025

Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

Week of December 14, 2025

Zephaniah 3:17

The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

Week of December 21, 2025

John 1:4

In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Week of December 28, 2025

Luke 2:10-11

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."



The
Season
of

Advent

READING PLAN

Hope

- ◇ Day 1: Jeremiah 29:10-14
- ◇ Day 2: Romans 15:8-13
- ◇ Day 3: 1 Peter 1:3-12
- ◇ Day 4: Hebrews 10:19-39
- ◇ Day 5: Psalm 33
- ◇ Day 6: Titus 2:11– 3:8

Joy

- ◇ Day 13: Philippians 4:4-9
- ◇ Day 14: Psalm 16
- ◇ Day 15: James 1:2-18
- ◇ Day 16: Psalm 30
- ◇ Day 17: Luke 2:8-20
- ◇ Day 18: John 15:1-11

Peace

- ◇ Day 7: Isaiah 9:1-7
- ◇ Day 8: John 14:1-7, 25-31
- ◇ Day 9: John 16:25-33
- ◇ Day 10: Romans 5:1-11
- ◇ Day 11: Ephesians 2:11-22
- ◇ Day 12: Colossians 3:1-17

Love

- ◇ Day 19: Micah 7:18-20
- ◇ Day 20: Romans 8:31-39
- ◇ Day 21: John 3:16-21
- ◇ Day 22: 1 John 4:7-21
- ◇ Day 23: Philippians 2:1-11
- ◇ Day 24: 2 Thessalonians 2:13 – 3:5
- ◇ Day 25: Ephesians 2:1-10



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
15425 South County Road K
Merrill, WI 54452

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 44
MERRILL, WI 54452

