



Faith Lutheran Church

**We warmly greet members
and visitors in Jesus' name**

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:15 a.m., April 28, 2024



Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other
in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and
the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and
life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life.
As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table.
We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

Welcome to Worship at Faith Lutheran Church
Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others
7750 Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL, 34238 | 941-924-4664 | www.faithlutheransrq.com

All the baptized are invited to the celebration of Holy Communion, trusting that Christ is present in this sacrament for the forgiveness of our sin and the strengthening of our faith.

The flowers on the altar today are given by Jane Sanks, in loving memory of her husband.

Presiding Ministers

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen
Rev. Marianne Powrie
Rev. Larry Wright

Lector

Judy Carlsen

Guest Organist

Robert Woody

Guest Conductor

Hannah Boyd

Cantor

Jesse V. Martin

Vocals

Voices of Faith Choir

Greeters & Ushers

Jerry Cooper, Eloise Dettmer, Ashley Garlitz, Dottie Gustavson, Grace Kaarre, Alf Kirkeeng, Gail Lidinsky, Judy Millard, Mark Nelson, Jan Phillips, Scott Rice, Joan Searles, Dave Wardach

Media Team

Kelly Ashlock, Greg Cooper, Kevin Fewell, Andrea & Sergio Gamboa, Mark Greenwood

Altar Guild

Linda Fewell, Dottie Gustavson, Carole Inkrott, Judy Millard, Mark Nelson, Jan Phillips, Steve & Peggy Ragan

Congregation Council

Scott Rice, president; Lauren Wardach, vice president; Mark Nelson, secretary; Anita Wooton, treasurer; Jane Sanks, assistant treasurer; Jerry Cooper; Quyen Dang; Ann Greenwood; Peggy Ragan; Joan Searles

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Pastor

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

Assistant to the Pastor

Rev. Larry Wright

Retired Pastors in Residence

Rev. John Hilficker

Rev. Marianne Powrie

Rev. John Spittal

Rev. David Wagner

Director of Family and Child Ministry

Deborah Dornemann

Director of Music/Organist

David V. Patrick

Lead Cantor/Music Librarian

Tom Tryon

Operations Administrator

Jennifer Shaffer

Communications Administrator

Linda Fewell

- Noted throughout the service - **P**: Presiding Minister **L**: Lector **C**: **Congregation**
- Faith has a T-Coil-enabled hearing loop for those whose hearing aid(s) also are enabled.
- Smile! Faith worship services are live-streamed and recorded.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**CHILDREN'S SERMON***WE STAND***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

C: Amen.

P: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. (*brief silence*)

Holy God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**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.**

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: In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister
of the church of Christ,
and by his authority,

I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father, and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

When Morning Gilds the Skies

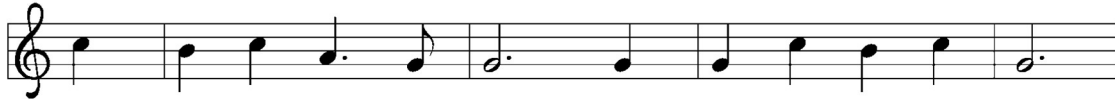
ELW 853

Verses 1, 2 and 5

We sing together



1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known
4 Let all of hu - man - kind in this their con - cord find:
5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,



may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
has none that can com - pare with "Je - sus Christ be praised!"
the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!
ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
to - day and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.
Music: LAUDES DOMINI, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

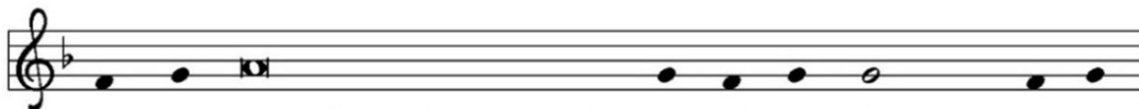
C: And also with you.

KYRIE

We sing responsively



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us

pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

GLORIA

We sing together

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WE SIT

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

L: A Reading from Acts.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM REFRAIN: Psalm 22:27

To begin, the organist plays the refrain once, the cantor sings it once, and then we all sing it together.

All the ends of the earth shall re -
mem - ber and turn to the LORD.

Psalm 22:27

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.
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PSALMODY: Psalm 22:25-31

- L: ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.
²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise!
May your hearts live forever!
²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.
²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.

C: Refrain.

- L: ²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.
³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.
³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

C: Refrain.

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

L: A Reading from 1 John.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but

that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

WE STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We sing together

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. The first staff is a vocal line in G major (one flat) with a treble clef. It contains the lyrics: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,". The second staff is a piano accompaniment line in G major with a treble clef. It contains the lyrics: "al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The music is written in a simple, melodic style suitable for congregational singing.

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower.

²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.

³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

WE SIT

SERMON

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

WE STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY

Where Charity and Love Prevail

ELW 359

We sing together



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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APOSTLES' CREED

P: Together, we confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

WE SIT

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Following each prayer petition, we respond:

L: ... God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

As the prayers conclude:

P: ... Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C: Amen.

WE STAND

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Feel free to greet your neighbors with a word of peace.

WE SIT

OFFERTORY



The offering is collected at this time. Give online by scanning the QR Code printed here or at www.faithlutheransrq.com. We deeply appreciate your support of Faith Lutheran's ministries.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Precious Jesus
Voices of Faith Choir

Jay Althouse

All that I am and all that I can be, all that I know and all that I can see:
These are the things my Jesus gave to me, Jesus, my Lord and friend.
Once I was alone and day seemed dark as night.
Once I was blind, but I've been given sight.
Jesus, my Redeemer, led me to the light, Jesus, my Lord and friend.
Precious Jesus, blessed Jesus, Your love is a love without end.
Now, like a shepherd, he guides me on my way.
Now I will follow; I cannot go astray.
Jesus keep me near you; this I humbly pray. Jesus, my Lord and friend

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WE STAND

We sing together
Create in Me a Clean Heart
Offering Song

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.
 May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.
 Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

We sing responsively

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

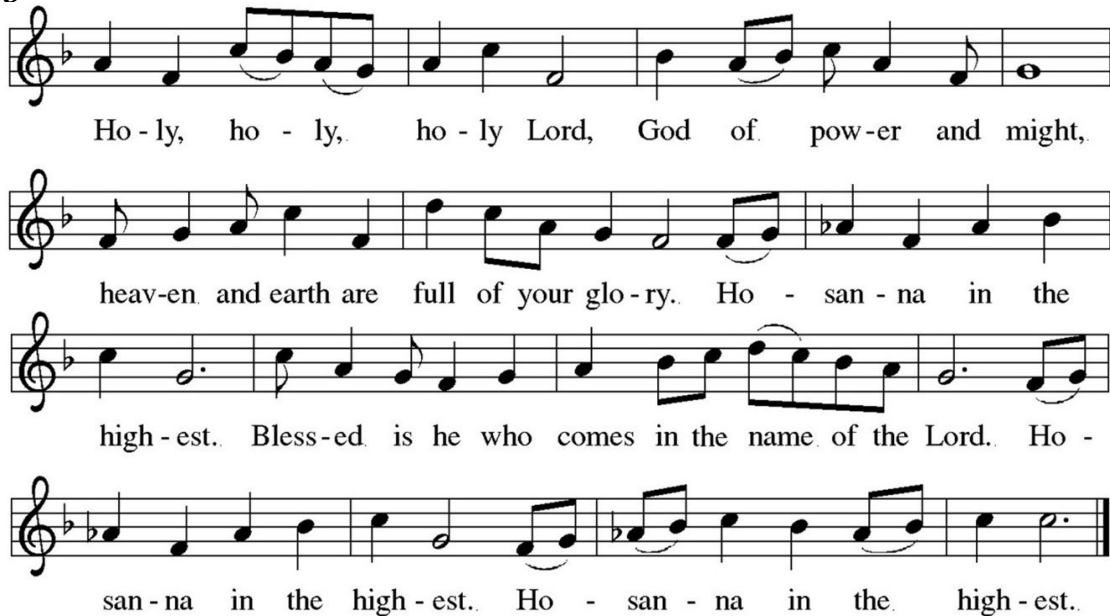
PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ...

... and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

We sing together



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father ...

... For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

COMMUNION SONG

We sing together



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

WE SIT

Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you ... The blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

A Communion Contemplation

Douglas Nolan and Mary Martin

Voices of Faith Choir

Bread of Life, You feed us from the finest wheat,
Grain of heaven's harvest, crushed at Calvary.
Now we thank You, Lord, for meeting every need.
Living in your promise, we are made complete.
Fruit of Life, You fill us with Your grace divine.
Grapes from heaven's garden, crushed to make the wine.
Now we thank You, Lord, for meeting every need.
Living in Your promise, we are made complete.
Lord of Life, now lead us through this world below.
Walking in communion, serving as we go.
Now we praise You, Lord, for meeting every need.
Living in Your promise, we are made complete.

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WE STAND

TABLE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS

We sing together



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -

pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

BLESSING

P: Now receive a blessing: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always.

C: Amen!

SENDING SONG

In Christ There Is No East or West

ELW 650

We sing together

- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com - mu - nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;

but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man-kind.
All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Rigaudon

Andre Campra

Welcome, Visitors!

We are so glad you have joined us for worship. Please let us know that you visited by signing our guestbook and/or filling out a Visitor Card located on the table near the entrance. Kindly give the card to an usher or place it in the offering plate.

April Stewardship Message

**The most important aspect of serving the Lord
is simply making ourselves available.**

“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful”
(1 Corinthians 4:2).

Find Out How You Can Help Faith Better Serve Families

Following the Children’s Sermon during the 10:15 a.m. service, Director of Family and Child Ministry Deborah Dornemann and volunteers help young people learn about the gospel through age-appropriate lessons and fun activities. **Are you interested in how Faith Lutheran can better serve families? Contact Deborah, familyandchild@faithlutheransrq.com or 941-914-7553.**

Join in Prayer and Bible Study

- **Adult Forum meets between worship services in the conference room.** Next week, participants will study Lesson 3, "He Leads Them Like a Shepherd," in Volume 10, "With All Your Heart – Being God’s Presence to Our World," in the "That the World May Know" video series.
- **Men of Faith** meet for breakfast and prayer at **8:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 30, at Skilletts, 8635 S. Tamiami Trail.**
- **G.I.F.T.S. (Growing in Faith Through Scripture) Women’s Bible study meets at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays in the library** to focus on “Be Still and Know – A Study of Rest and Refuge.”
- **The spring session of Adult Bible Study** focuses on chapters from a favorite resource: “**Reading Biblical Literature,**” with Dr. Craig R. Koester, professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary. **Each remaining one-hour session begins at 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays, May 1-15, in the second-floor classroom.** Pastor Larry leads the study, which continues with Psalms: The Bible’s Songbook; Luke on the World Upside Down; and John on the Word Made Flesh. Light refreshments provided! Great discussion! Fun fellowship!
- **The Prayer Group meets at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the chapel** to pray for all in need, our community, nation and world, and to share Holy Communion. Can’t attend in person? Join via Zoom: **Meeting ID 871 4720 3661. Passcode 041291.**

Bereavement Group Meets Wednesdays

The Bereavement Group meets at **1 p.m. Wednesdays in the chapel**. If you or a friend can use help bearing the burden of grief, this group is for you.

Help Feed the Hungry at St. Paul's Lutheran

From 3 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 30, be part of the crew that will cook and serve for about 70 food-insecure and homeless siblings in Christ at St. Paul's Lutheran in downtown Sarasota. **To volunteer, sign up on the sheet in the narthex or contact the church office.**

Faith Mission Endowment Fund Supports New Ministries

The Faith Mission Endowment Fund Committee -- Ann Greenwood, chairperson; Patty McKee, vice chairperson; Denise Kirkeeng, secretary; Terry Copper, treasurer; Rev. John Spittal, finance assistant; Marlene Radesk, marketing; and Karen Kolschowsky, grant coordinator -- is passionate about helping to fund new ministries that are not within the current church budget. If you have a need, idea or question, see any committee member. They want to hear from you!

Kids and Families: Register for VBS

Register now for **Vacation Bible School (VBS) Day Camp, July 22-26 at Faith**. It will run 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday of that week, concluding at noon Friday with a special program for families and friends. There is **no cost to attend, and lunch and snacks are included!** Taught by trained teachers from Camp Luther Springs, VBS will include Bible study, worship, games, arts and crafts, nature studies and more. Look for details, and the registration and health forms in the Faith Friday Update email. To ask questions or get hard copies of the forms, contact Deborah Dornemann, familyandchild@faithlutheransrq.com or 941-914-7553.

Your Contributions Help Maintain the Memorial Garden

The Faith Memorial Garden, located behind the church along Eugene Ave., is the site of special worship services, the final resting place for ashes of Faith members and friends who have joined the church triumphant, and a place of quiet respite. Volunteers work diligently to maintain the garden and continually enhance its beauty. The cost of garden maintenance is covered by the Faith Memorial Garden Fund. You can contribute to that fund through the Online Giving page at faithlutheransrq.com, or by designating a donation made by cash or check. Please visit the garden – you are welcome there. And thank you for your generosity.

Readers Club Meets Tomorrow

The Readers Club meets at **2 p.m. tomorrow, Monday, April 29, in the library** to discuss *The Leftover Woman* by Jean Kwok. Please join!

Donate Altar Flowers in Honor or in Memory

Please consider donating altar flowers in honor of a special occasion, in memory of a loved one or to glorify God. The cost is \$30 for one vase or \$60 for two. Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church with “altar flowers” in the memo line. Check the altar flowers donation board in fellowship hall to see if your desired date is available. If not, choose an alternate date. **The next open date is Sunday, June 2.** When you purchase altar flowers, your name and dedication appear in the bulletin on your selected Sunday. To make a dedication:

- At church, complete an Altar Flowers envelope with payment, and place it in the offering plate. Indicate your wish to keep or donate the flowers on the donation board in fellowship hall.
 - By mail, send payment with a note indicating your desired date and dedication, and if you want to keep the flowers or donate them.
 - By email or phone, contact the church office with your desired date and dedication, and whether you want to keep or donate the flowers. Pay through the Altar Flowers option on the Online Giving page of the Faith website, faithlutheransrq.com.
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Resources Help Us Learn About, Participate in Israeli/Palestinian Justice Initiatives

The Rev. Khader El-Yateem, executive director of Service and Justice for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shared the following resources related to Israeli/Palestinian justice initiatives during the special adult forum on Good Shepherd Sunday, April 21. Pastor Eric encourages you to make yourself familiar with these resources.

- Sumud: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, <https://www.elca.org/sumud>.
- Welcome to Sumud: For Justice in Palestine and Israel, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qy9cjJcpNiA>.
- Sumud: April 2024 News, <https://support.elca.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1766>.
- Churches for Middle East Peace, <https://cmep.org/>.
- Jewish Voices for Peace, <https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/>.

Look for invitations to follow-up discussions about this important topic during the season of Pentecost.

Faith Food Pantry Needs Your Donations

The Faith Food Pantry distributes food for about 200 people each week! Help care for our hungry neighbors by placing donations of food or paper products in the white food pantry barrel. Thank you!

Mary Circle Meets May 15

All ladies are Faith are invited to the next meeting of Mary Circle at noon, Tuesday, May 14. The agenda includes planning for next year, and completing and boxing personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Bring your lunch; dessert is provided.

Thrivent Choice Dollars Strengthen Ministries

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you! Thanks to all Thrivent membership clients who have directed Thrivent Choice Dollars® to Faith Lutheran. The grant funds received from Thrivent help support our Faith journey and mission: "Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others."

Through April 8 of this year, Faith has received a total of \$686 in Thrivent grants:

- January: \$280 thanks to Gail Lidinsky and Peggy Ragan.
- February: \$224 thanks to William Herb, Janet Petersen, Peggy Ragan, Steve Ragan and John White.
- March: \$182 thanks to Alf Kirkeeng and William Little.

Here's information about how Thrivent Choice Dollars® are transferred to and received by Faith Lutheran Church:

- Thrivent Choice Dollars® are electronically transferred directly into the church's operating account at Synovus bank, generally on the 7th or 8th of the month.
- Thrivent provides Faith with the names and addresses of those who designate Choice Dollars® to the church along with the total deposit of funds. Thrivent does **not**, however, include the amount of Choice Dollars® directed individually by a person. That's because all funds distributed under the Thrivent Choice® program are exclusively Thrivent's funds and are never owned by clients. This also means that Faith can't provide tax receipts to people who direct Choice Dollars® to Faith, nor can a record of those Choice Dollars® appear on any giving statement from Faith.
- Faith does, however, sincerely thank each and every person who directs Thrivent Choice funds to support Faith's work and mission.

If you have questions about Thrivent Choice Dollars® -- or if you have updated bank, email or contact information -- call Thrivent, 1-800-847-4836. When prompted, say "Thrivent Choice." You may also contact Patty McKee, financialsecretary@faithlutheransrq.com or 941-921-3709.

Worship and Service Calendar

Worship Services

Sundays at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Live-streamed and recorded at:

www.faithlutheransrq.com/live-service

Sunday, April 21

Online views 74

8 a.m. in person 35

10:15 a.m. in person 157

Next Sunday, May 5

First Reading

Acts 10:44-48

The Spirit poured out on the Gentiles.

Psalmody

Psalm 98

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands.

(Ps. 98:4)

Second Reading

1 John 5:1-6

The victory of faith.

Gospel

John 15:9-17

Christ the friend and lover.

This Week at Faith

Monday, April 29

10 a.m. Lasko Funeral Service, sanctuary

11 a.m. Lasko Funeral Reception,
fellowship hall

2 p.m. Readers Club, library

Tuesday, April 30

8:30 a.m. Men of Faith Prayer Breakfast,
Skilletts, 8635 S. Tamiami

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study, library

10 a.m. Jazzercise, gym

3 p.m. Feed the Hungry, St. Paul's
Lutheran, 2256 Bahia Vista

7 p.m. Diversity Voices of Sarasota,
sanctuary

Wednesday, May 1

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study, upstairs
classroom

10:30 a.m. Prayer Group, chapel

1 p.m. Bereavement Group, chapel

Thursday, May 2

9 a.m. Receive and Prep Food Delivery

10 a.m. Jazzercise, gym

1 p.m. Stitch 'n' Chatter, room 212

4:30 p.m. Food Pantry Prep

5 p.m. Food Pantry Open

6:30 p.m. Confirmation, conf. room

Friday, May 3

8:30 a.m. Jazzercise, gym

Saturday, May 4

8:30 a.m. Jazzercise, gym

9 a.m. Diakonia, conf. room

Sunday, May 5

9:10 a.m. Adult Forum, conf. room

9:30 a.m. Voices of Faith, choir room

10:25 a.m. Sunday School, classroom

Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers this week:

Marsha Anderson, sister of Gail Murphy
Rev. Steve Anderson, pastor at
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Tim Anderson, son-in-law of Dick and Jetty Zarfos
Friends & Family of Tina Arnold
George and James Ball, brothers of Alix Giannini
Anna Bancroft, 6-year-old
 friend of Alyene Weaver
Chuck Banta
Chloe Bennenthum, friend of Gail Murphy
Sean & Rebekah Brett, son and daughter-in-law
 of Alyene Weaver
Charles Budreau
Jason Byrne, friend of Anita Wooton
Elise Carmona
Evelyn and John Conlon
Jordan Demers, cousin of Hannah Boyd
Eloise Dettmer
Philomena Dimichelle, friend of Conrad Zabor
Ken Dixon
Ryan and Valerie Donahue
Elizabeth Farmer
Judy & Robert Ferguson
Carolyn & Marty Friedman,
 friends of Marlene Radesk
John Gallo, friend of April Shettler
Andrea Gamboa
Laurie Good, friend of Ann Greenwood
Paula Haas, friend of Eloise Dettmer
Jon Hale
Alyssa Hansen, cousin of Lisa Olsen
Jeff Hansen, nephew of Joan Searles
Patricia Head, mother of Wayne Head
Michael Helpin, friend of Marlene Radesk
Christiana Holmes
Kevin Hooks, son-in-law of
 Anita and Jon Wooton
Tesa Inkrott,
 granddaughter of Pete & Carole Inkrott

Jesus & Rita Jimenez
Alf Kirkeeng
Lillian Lapenckas
Family & Friends of Kathy Lasko
Jacqueline Laurent,
 friend of Margaret Borrows
Diane Lewis, sister-in-law of Karla Lewis &
 Michael Leonhardt
Lois Light
Shirley Manning, friend of Margaret Borrows
Paul & Debby Maresch
Vincenzo Mariani, friend of Conrad Zabor
Annabelle Martone
Kathleen McBride
Judi Melander
Jeremy & Yvonne Mullins
Beverly Novak, cousin of Patty McKee
Olaf Olsen, father of Pastor Eric Olsen
Judy Osborn, sister of Peggy Ragan
James & Virginia Pease
Fran Perkins
Wally Pina
Kristen Pizan
Marlene Radesk
Fritz Rappold
Gabriel Rockwell
Ted and Carol Rodi
Floyd Ryder
Mike Schell
Phillip Schlueter
Family & Friends of Fire Lieutenant James Joel Slack
Family & Friends of Donna Souders, mother of
 Lois Weaverling's friend
Rev. John Spittal
Ron and Leigh Tarrantino
Werner Thomsen, brother of John Thomsen
Colette Thornbloom
David Turnbull
Alyene Weaver
Jon Wooton

- **Contact officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com** if you or someone you know would appreciate a **communion, hospital or home visit, to be contacted or to receive a card in the mail.**
- **Contact communications@faithlutheransrq.com** if you have an **addition to the Prayer List.** Please send updates when prayers are answered.

About Faith Lutheran Church

Our Mission

Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others.

Our Vision

To be an ELCA congregation that displays the true, unending love of Christ.

To promote peace, social justice and grace in all we do.

The ELCA

Faith Lutheran Church is part of the greater Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are ecumenical, saved by grace and love Jesus.

Receive the Latest News and Updates

To receive the latest news and updates from Faith Lutheran, subscribe to our weekly Friday Update at www.faithlutheransrq.com or email communications@faithlutheransrq.com.

