

# Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 28, 2022

*Greetings and Welcome*

*Prelude by Kelly Hartz, Soloist – “Bless This House,” arr. Leonhardt*

*Call to Worship – “People of Hope”*

*Refrain: We are people of hope alive in the myst’ry, growing in faith, learning to love.  
We are people of hope throughout all of hist’ry, held by the one who will never let go.*

- 1. We are dead in our striving for wealth and for might,  
But God rich in mercy has loved us to life. *Refrain***
- 2. We are what God has made us, created in Christ,  
For justice and mercy to be our way of life. *Refrain***

**In the journey ev’ry day we’re led by the Word, saved by grace. *Refrain***

*\*Confession and Forgiveness*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

P: In 1 Peter, we hear that God is building us into a spiritual house - a house filled with diversity where all are claimed and called by God to love and serve one another. At the same time, we live as an earthly house which has been fractured by sin and forces all to fight for survival. Our selfishness and fear of others fosters this harmful environment, pushing others away from us and from God. Let us confess to God the ways that we contribute to this brokenness, and then ask for forgiveness so that we would be living stones to help make God's spiritual house a reality in our midst.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P: Most merciful 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: God has heard your confession and loves you with a life-giving love. 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**

*\*Sharing Christ's Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.*

*Hymn of Praise – “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” WOVS 765*

*Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve  
the neighbors we have from you.*

**Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,  
Master who pours out himself for them. Refrain**

**Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race,  
Neighbors are nearby and far away. Refrain**

**These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;  
All these are neighbors to us and you. Refrain**

**Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet:  
This is the way we will live with you. Refrain**

*Children's Sermon*

*First Reading: 1 Peter 4:1-19*

*Reader: Doris Robinson*

<sup>1</sup>Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention (for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin), <sup>2</sup>so as to live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires but by the will of God. <sup>3</sup>You have already

spent enough time in doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry. <sup>4</sup>They are surprised that you no longer join them in the same excesses of dissipation, and so they blaspheme. <sup>5</sup>But they will have to give an account to him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. <sup>6</sup>For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does.

<sup>7</sup>The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. <sup>8</sup>Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup>Be hospitable to one another without complaining. <sup>10</sup>Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. <sup>11</sup>Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

<sup>12</sup>Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup>If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. <sup>15</sup>But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief-maker. <sup>16</sup>Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. <sup>17</sup>For the time has come for judgement to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup>And

‘If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,  
what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?’

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

Reader: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

*\*Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:43-48*

<sup>43</sup>‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.”  
<sup>44</sup>But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup>so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup>For if you love those who

love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup>And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup>Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

P: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Song*— “We Are An Offering”

**We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you. We are an offering.  
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives. They are yours.  
We are an offering.**

**All that we have, all that we are,  
all that we hope to be we give to you, we give to you. (*Repeat twice*)**

**We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you. We are an offering.  
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives. They are yours.  
We are an offering, we are an offering.**

*Sermon* – “Love Is the Way”

*Song of the Day*— “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” LBW 315, vv. 1, 2, & 4

1. **Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav’n, to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation, Enter ev’ry trembling heart.**
2. **Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit Into ev’ry troubled breast;  
Let us all in thee inherit; Let us find thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.**
4. **Finish then thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation Perfectly restored in thee!  
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav’n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

*\*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.**

*\*Prayers*

*Stewardship Time*

“The Servant Song,” arr. Gillard  
*Faith Singers*

*\*Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*\*Words of Institution*

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

*\*Lord's Prayer*

**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.**

*Communion Songs:*

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” WOV 754

**1. Let us talents and tongues employ, Reaching out with a shout of joy:  
Bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

*Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!*

**2. Christ is able to make us one, At his table he sets the tone,  
Teaching people to live to bless, Love in word and in deed express. Refrain**

**3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out Bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! Refrain**

“Make Me a Servant”

**Make me a servant, humble and meek,  
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.  
And may the prayer of my heart always be:  
Make me a servant, make me a servant,  
make me a servant today.**

*\*Post-Communion Blessing*

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

*\*Closing Prayer*

*\*Benediction*

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you, may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

*\*Sending Song – “Forever”*

1. **Give thanks to the Lord our God and King; his love endures forever.  
For he is good, he is above all things; his love endures forever.  
Sing praise, sing praise.**

2. **With a mighty hand and outstretched arm; his love endures forever.  
For the life that's been reborn; his love endures forever.  
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise!**

*Refrain:* **Forever God is faithful, forever God is strong,  
forever God is with us, forever.**

3. **From the rising to the setting sun his love endures forever.  
And by the grace of God we will carry on; his love endures forever.  
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise! *Refrain***

*Ending:* **And ever, forever.**

*\*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude*



## Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Ken Devlin  
Greeters: Hallie Mayner & Liddy Stark  
Reader: Doris Robinson  
Usher: John Williams  
Pastor: Adam Dichsen  
Music Director: Jean Welch  
Pianist: Jean Welch  
Drummer: John Demien  
Financial Assistants: Naomi Hahn & Lisa Taylor  
Chancel Committee: Kim Heise  
Coffee Host: outdoor picnic

### Singers:

Marilyn Dichsen	Adam Krohe	Melissa Street
Kelly Hartz	Nichole Licht	Carol VanderKloot
Terri Kimler	Kris Roth	

### Church Council Members:

Barb Davenport	Kelly Hartz	Kelly Street
Ken Devlin	Mike Oldenettel	Lisa Taylor
Naomi Hahn	Karen Sibert	

The altar plants are given today by Liddy Stark  
in memory of hers and Ken's 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

### *Song Credits*

“People of Hope,” by Larry Olson & Hans Peterson, © 1998 Dakota Road Music. CCLI#973583

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“We Are An Offering,” from **Spirit Touching Spirit**, Prince of Peace Publishing, Inc, used by permission.

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“Make Me a Servant,” from **Songs for Praise & Worship**, Word Music, © 1992. CCLI#973583

“Forever,” by Chris Tomlin, from *Spirit and Song 2*, © 2005, OCP Publications. Used by permission.



## News Updates

### What's Coming Up at Faith?

Thursday, September 1, 5pm: Parish Worship Planning Committee  
6pm: Exaltation Ringer Rehearsal  
6:45pm: Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 4, 12 noon: Lunch in the Great Room  
1:15pm: Cards vs. Cubs Game in the Great Room

Wednesday, September 7, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

Thursday, September 8, 6pm: Exaltation Ringer Rehearsal  
6:45pm: Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 11, 10:30am: Sunday School Rally Day  
5-9pm: Confirmation/Youth Event

Monday, September 12, 12-1pm: Dwelling in the Word Zoom

Wednesday, September 14, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

Thursday, September 15, 6pm: Church Council Meeting  
6pm: Exaltation Ringer Rehearsal  
6:45pm: Choir Rehearsal

**Sign-Up Sheets** are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, and to Donate Flowers. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

### Outdoor Worship and Picnic Today!

A summer staple for our Faith Family has been our outdoor worship service. The fresh air, breeze blowing through the trees, and barking dogs provide a beautiful sanctuary. When faced with the decision for our summer worship schedule, the Parish Worship Committee and Council agreed that we value one Sunday morning service where we can nurture relationships together... but we still want to worship outside! For this summer, we are moving our single service outside on **August 28 & September 25**. To better accommodate all, there will be seating and communion stations on the grass, on the parking lot, and indoors (with worship visible through windows), as well as being live streamed. Following the service, we are providing a cookout picnic and time for games and activities for all. Our hope is that this will not only be a time of vibrant worship and blessing to our Faith Family, but also to others, so please invite a friend and join us for these wonderful times together!

## **Choir Rehearsals are coming!**

Beginning Thursday, September 1, **Exaltation Ringers** will meet from 6-6:30 pm. **Chancel Choir** will also meet on Thursdays from 6:45-7:30 pm. We would love to have you join us - if you're interested in either of these groups, please contact me at jrwelch53@msn.com or 217/652-7009. The choirs offer so much - not only do they add glorious praise to God during the worship services, but the fellowship between the members is also a gift. Hope you will join us!! *Jean Welch*, Director of Music

## **Cards vs. Cubs at Faith**

Join us on **Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>** to watch the Cards vs. Cubs game in the Great Room at Faith! We'll have hot dogs, brats, popcorn, and drinks available at noon. Game time is 1:15pm. As an added friendly competition (and fundraiser for our youth), **on Sundays in August** we'll be collecting loose change in a jug for each team. Whichever team has the most donated is the team Pastor Adam has to cheer for on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Will he get to remain a life-long Cardinal fan, or will he have to don Cubbie blue for a day? It's up to you!

## **Rally Day... Bake Sale... Sunday School... and Confirmation**

On Sunday, September 11, we will kick off Sunday School with a Rally Day bake sale sponsored by our children. Proceeds will go to support our Sunday School programs. After the bake sale, elementary school aged children will meet in the sanctuary for some music, then head to two classes for pre-K and grades 1-4. Youth are invited to their class in the basement with Drew Snodgrass. Adults are invited to participate with Pastor Adam in "Dwelling in the Word" in the sanctuary after the children's songs (or earlier if you want to sing along!). That evening, we will have our first Confirmation class of the season beginning at 5:30 with a meal.

## **Maintenance Ministry**

Do you like small fixup projects? Let us know! Contact the church office for a list of small projects and leave your name so we can organize a maintenance day.

## **Get Ready for Soup Luncheon 2.0 - Carry-Out Style**

Our annual Soup Luncheon will return this year with a different format. Instead of a sit-down meal, we will be offering carry-out soups and desserts on **Sunday, October 9, from 10:30am - 1:00pm**. While some of the jobs needed for a sit-down meal will not be necessary, we still need your help! On Sunday, September 11, we will have signup sheets available for a variety of ways you can volunteer from providing soups/desserts to helping in the building. We will also begin handing out tickets for you to purchase or sell to your family and friends. It has been three years since our last luncheon... even though this one

will be different, let's work together to serve our community and share some delicious Lutheran Love! If you have any tray-type cardboard boxes or small cardboard boxes to donate, please bring them to church to make carrying food out easier. Thanks!

**Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea:** Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$6.50** regular; **\$7.50** decaf & flavored; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$5.50** hot chocolate—milk & dark; **New Item: \$5.50** coffee pods). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

### **Doorbell Dinners September 12-16**

Help us deliver meals in the community. For more information and to sign up, visit the signup counter by the Fair-Trade coffee sales.

### **Women of the ELCA Convention**

The Central/Southern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA will hold its Biennial Convention on September 9-10 at Grace Lutheran Church, Springfield. Women do not have to be in a WELCA circle to participate; just be a woman in an ELCA congregation! Please see an information packet on the counter at Faith by the Fair Trade Coffee Sales which includes the registration form. **Women can register as late as September 6<sup>th</sup>**, not August 29<sup>th</sup>. We have not met since 2019 in person because of COVID and are looking forward to seeing everyone. Thank you for your help! God’s peace,

Jean Scherer, President

Central/Southern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA — [j.d.scherer2@gmail.com](mailto:j.d.scherer2@gmail.com)

### **Synod Faith Formation and Prayer Group Opportunities**

Our synod is offering some new opportunities to grow in your faith and reach out to the unchurched in our communities. Wanting to dig deeper into your understanding of the Bible? Consider taking the “Understanding the New Testament” course. Six sessions on Saturdays starting September 3. Consider joining the synod Zoom book group that reads “Deep Roots, Wild Branches” by Michael Adam Beck to stir your imagination about where the Spirit may be leading us. Or join us in prayer on the first Friday of each month on Zoom as we pray for the people and places engaged in starting new ministries and outreach. Visit [www.csis-elca.org](http://www.csis-elca.org) for more information.

### **Eastern Europe Crisis Response**

On Feb. 24, Russian forces invaded Ukraine, launching land, sea, and air attacks. Airports are now shut, and few railway lines are operational. Hundreds of thousands of civilians

fleeing the violence are heading toward Ukraine's western districts and neighboring countries. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of these Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter, basic necessities, and pastoral care. Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water, and hygiene kits. Your gifts designated for "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region. **Give through your congregation**, or pick up a form in the gathering area (by the coffee sales) to send your gift to the ELCA/Lutheran Disaster Response.