

# Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 2023

*Greetings and Welcome*

*Prelude by Allie Snodgrass – “Revelation Song,” by Kari Jobe*

## GATHERING

*\*Call to Worship and Confession*

P: Blessed be God, who loves, forgives, and restores what is broken.

**C: Amen.**

P: What does it mean to live a good life? It may be easier to describe the opposite. A good life is absent when our relationships are broken – relationships with others, relationship with creation, and relationship with God. Through our sin, we have broken these relationships, and we take time to reflect and confess.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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’s gift of grace is at work in you, restoring what is broken. Your sin has been forgiven and no longer stands between you and God. May God’s grace be at work in all of our relationships, removing our pride, ending conflicts, and opening ears and hearts to embrace one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

**C: Amen.**

P: We recognize this grace at work among us as we share the peace of Christ with one another. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Gathering Song* – “Love Has Brought Us Here Together” (ACS 1040) (organ)

- 1 **Love has brought us here together; love of fam'ly, love of friends;  
love, our vow till death should part us; love, God's gift, that never ends.  
From our birth, throughout our lifetime, love's insistence calls our name.  
Floods of waters cannot drown it or put out its dancing flame.**
- 2 **Love is gentle, love is patient, soft in words and kind in deeds.  
Love is strong and never pompous; love puts first the other's needs.  
Not quick-tempered or resentful, prone to take offense or brood,  
love excels in grace and mercy, never jealous, never rude.**
- 3 **Love does not rejoice at evil; love rejoices in the right.  
Keen in giving and forgiving, spreading love is love's delight.  
When two people pledge their union, all who witness are renewed,  
feasting at love's earthly banquet, tasting heav'n's beatitude.**

*Children's Sermon*

## WORD

*Reading:* Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7

Reader: Barb Davenport

- <sup>10</sup>My beloved speaks and says to me:  
‘Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away;  
<sup>11</sup>for now the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone.  
<sup>12</sup>The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtle-dove  
is heard in our land.  
<sup>13</sup>The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom;  
they give forth fragrance.  
Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away.  
<sup>6</sup>Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
as a seal upon your arm;  
for love is strong as death,

passion fierce as the grave.  
Its flashes are flashes of fire,  
a raging flame.  
<sup>7</sup>Many waters cannot quench love,  
neither can floods drown it.  
If one offered for love  
all the wealth of one's house,  
it would be utterly scorned.

P: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

*\*Gospel Reading:* Mark 8:35-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?

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

*Song* – “In Christ Alone,” sung by Melissa Street

*Sermon:* "What makes a good life?"

*Song of the Day* – “Love Divine, All Love’s Excelling” ELW 631 (organ)

- 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.**

- 3 **Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.**
- 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!**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

“Words for the Beginning of Your Christian Life”

*(adapted from a poem by Rev. Sarah Speed)*

Ronan James, if we could give you words for the very beginning—  
for the stretches and the yawns, and the opening of eyes,  
for the first hiccups and the first smiles, and the first purse of your lips, we would say,  
“Oh, dear child, how you are loved.

But the thing about love is you can't stop there,  
so we would go on to say, “You are strong, stronger than you think.  
And you are not alone—look at these parents who adore you  
and this congregation so happy for you, and you are enough, already enough.

You haven't done anything yet.  
You've just been here, breathing, sleeping, and already, you are enough.  
And then we might say, “This world is a mess, but it is your home,  
and you can make it better, so always try to make it better.

And maybe most important of all:  
there is a love that is bigger than our understanding,  
that moves through this world, and we call that love God.  
And that love is here, here is this room, and that love knows your name by heart.”

Those are the words we would say to you  
as you stretch and yawn and open your eyes on the very first morning  
of your very first day of your life in Christ.  
Let that be your foundation,  
like Zechariah did for John.  
Let love be your beginning.

P: God is our foundation. Love is our beginning. And in God's great love, we are given a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. By water and the Word, God frees us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world. In the waters of baptism, God proclaims to us who we are. We are beloved children of God.

## **Presentation**

Parents: We bring Ronan James to this Christian community and to the waters of Holy Baptism.

P: Ronan, you are a beloved child of God and today you are given the name Christian. To help you grow into your name, your parents are called to make promises.

Cole and Megan, as you bring Ronan to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people,  
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
place in his hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture him in faith and prayer,  
so that he may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help him grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Kelsey and Nic, as godparents, you have a responsibility to pray for Ronan and help him always remember that he is a beloved child of God. Do you promise to nurture him in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Godparents: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

*The congregation stands.*

P: People of God, you have a responsibility to support and surround Ronan with Christian love, praying for him, discipling him, and serving with him. Do you promise to support Ronan and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

**C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

## Profession of Faith

P: There is evil in this world that we name devil and brokenness we call sin. We are powerless to overcome them, but the grace of God gives us strength to stand against them and forgiveness when we fall. Together, we profess our desire to live in this grace and in opposition to this brokenness.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,  
the powers of this world that rebel against God,  
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**C: I renounce them.**

P: As we live together in Christ, we are made one in baptism and profess one faith. It is this faith that centers us on the grace of our Triune God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

## Thanksgiving at the Font

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

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

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

*Water is poured into the font.*

P: We give you thanks, O God. In the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. In the waters of the flood you called Noah and brought forth new life. By Moses, you called the people of Israel to follow you through the waters and led them from slavery into freedom. You nourished them with water from the rock and brought them to the promised land. At the river your Son was baptized by John and you proclaimed to all that he is your “beloved child.” In the waters of baptism, you create, you bring forth new life in us, you set us free from the power of sin, and you proclaim that we too are your beloved Children.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Holy Baptism**

*The congregation sits*

P: Ronan James, in this water, God calls you by name. Beloved child of God, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*Laying on of Hands*

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Ronan with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**C: Amen**

*Anointing with Oil*

P: In the Old Testament, oil is used to anoint and set people apart. In baptism, we are set apart as God’s beloved children to live lives of love, justice, and mercy. Ronan, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**C: Amen.**

## *Giving of a Candle*

Congregational Representative: In John 8:12, Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. The one who follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” In Matthew 5:14, Jesus said, “You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven.” Cole and Megan, we give you this candle to light again and again as Ronan grows up. Remember this day and always know that he is and will always be a beloved child of God.

## **Welcome**

### ***Welcome Song – “Jesus Loves You”***

*As Ronan is brought into the midst of the congregation, we welcome him  
as God’s beloved child as we sing...*

**Jesus loves you, this we know, for the Bible tells us so.  
Little ones to God belong, you are weak but God is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves you! Yes, Jesus loves you!  
Yes, Jesus loves you! The Bible tells us so!**

P: Together we say:

**C: Ronan James Street, you are beloved and blessed. By the grace of God that flows in the waters of baptism, we are drenched in our love for you, washed in our delight for you, and born anew by the grace that flows from the heart of our God who bore you to us. We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and in bearing God’s creative and redeeming love to all the world.**

*Every day we are to remember our baptism and remember that God’s promises are for us as well. We have just heard the proclamation that Ronan is God’s beloved child. Now it is time for you to hear it for yourself. Turn to your neighbor and exchange the sweet assurance that you are also God’s beloved child as you say, “Jesus loves you!”*

*\*Prayers*

*Farewell and God Speed*



*Stewardship Time*

“Jesus Be Praised,” by Handt Hanson

*Mackenzie Hartz, Ellie Kimler, Isla Snodgrass, Lily Snodgrass, & Maria Snodgrass*

*–Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew–*

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion are gifts of God's grace to claim and sustain us in our lives as disciples of Jesus. Baptism proclaims our identity, that we are beloved children of God, called to love God and our neighbors. Holy Communion reconnects us to the Body of Christ and nurtures our lives of faith with forgiveness and life.

**C: We give thanks to God as we receive this gift of grace anew today.**

*\*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*

**"Be Like You" *(piano)***

**1. Teach me to love, teach me to serve. Teach me to tell of the truth of Your Word.  
Help me be weak, help me be strong, to love what is right and to hate what is wrong.**

**I know that I have a long way to go until I'm made pure and true.**

**But, 'til that day, this Lord I pray, help me to be like You.**

**2. Teach me to trust, teach me to pray. Teach me to walk in the faith to obey.  
Help me be meek, help me be bold. Help me to serve both the young and the old.**

**I know that I have a long way to go until I'm made pure and true.**

**But, 'til that day, this Lord I pray, help me to be like You.**

**To be a friend of compassion, a servant with passion, a lover of Your dear bride.  
To be filled with conviction, a part of Your mission, a servant of Christ who died.**

**3. Teach me to stand, teach me to fall, down on my knees in response to Your call.  
Help me to die, help me to live. Help me to share the true love that You give.**

**I know that I have a long way to go until I'm made pure and true.**

**But, 'til that day, this Lord I pray, help me to be like You.**

**But, 'til that day, this Lord I pray, help me to be like You.**

**"Day by Day" ELW 790 *(organ)***

- 1 Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,  
bringing comfort to my anxious soul.  
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me  
draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.  
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,  
brings to naught the burdens of my quest;  
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,  
where at last I'll find eternal rest.**

- 2 **Day by day, I know you will provide me  
strength to serve and wisdom to obey;  
I will seek your loving will to guide me  
o'er the paths I struggle day by day.  
I will fear no evil of the morrow,  
I will trust in your enduring grace.  
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow  
till in glory I behold your face.**
- 3 **Oh, what joy to know that you are near me  
when my burdens grow too great to bear;  
oh, what joy to know that you will hear me  
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.  
Day by day, no matter what betide me,  
you will hold me ever in your hand.  
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,  
I will reach at last the promised land.**

*\*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*

## SENDING

*\*Benediction*

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

C: **Amen.**

\*Sending Song – “Make Me an Instrument”

(piano)

*Refrain: Make me an instrument of your love; let me be a channel from above;  
Make me an instrument of your love, an instrument of your love.*

1. **When a friend is in need of an open heart, let me be there, oh, let me be there.  
When a friend is lost with nowhere to go, let me be there. Refrain**
2. **When someone is hungry, when someone is cold,  
let me be there, oh, let me be there.  
When someone needs help to carry their load, let me be there. Refrain**
3. **If someone should wonder, is God still alive, let me be there, oh, let me be there.  
If someone should wonder, does God really care, let me be there. Refrain**

*Dismissal*

**P:** Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

## Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Hallie Mayner

Greeter: Lillian Korous

Reader: Barb Davenport

Usher: Hallie Mayner

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Pianist: Susan Roegge

Organist: Sandi Watts

Drummer: John Demien

Financial Assistants: Kelly Hartz & Patty Nelson

Chancel Committee: Karen Sibert

Coffee Hosts: Judy Dillard & Vicki Robson

Singers:

Benen Dichsen

Rigby Dichsen

Adam Krohe

Carol VanderKloot

Louis Dichsen

Kelly Hartz

Kris Roth

Marilyn Dichsen

Terri Kimler

Melissa Street



Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Kelly Hartz	Patty Nelson	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Greg Kimler	Mike Oldenettel	Kelly Street
Marilyn Dichsen			

The plants at the altar today are donated by  
Amy Stevens Kaufmann in celebration of her birthday on July 11

**Song Credits**

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“Make Me an Instrument,” words and music by Larry Olson and Karol Baer, Dakota Road Music, © 1989.  
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**What’s Coming Up at Faith?**

Sunday, July 16, 9:30am: Worship – Baptism of Ronan James Street

**Newsletter Deadline**

Wednesday, July 19, 7-8am: Men’s Prayer Group

10am: Discipleship Group in the Library

6pm: Women of Faith at The Hangout for supper

Friday, July 21, 7:00pm: Show “Shelebrate!,” directed by Christine Smith

Saturday, July 22, 4:30pm: Show “Shelebrate!,” directed by Christine Smith

Sunday, July 23, 9:30am: Worship

2:00pm: Show “Shelebrate!,” directed by Christine Smith

Wednesday, July 26, 7-8am: Men’s Prayer Group

**News Updates**

**Discipleship Group**

How well do you know your Faith Family? Join us at 10am on Wednesday, July 19 in the Faith Library to find out. If you haven’t attended before, this would be a great time to start as we will dive a little deeper into the “Questions Box” and learn more about each other. For more information, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at [khartz@sompo-intl.com](mailto:khartz@sompo-intl.com).

## **Women of Faith Fellowship Night**

The Women of Faith fellowship group is meeting for dinner on Wednesday, July 19 at 6:00pm at The Hangout Bar & Grill. We'd love for you to join us! Please RSVP to Monica at 217-737-0475 **by Sunday, July 16.**

## **Synod Newsletter**

If you'd like to keep up with what's going on in our Central/Southern Illinois Synod, you can visit the Synod website ([www.csis-elca.org](http://www.csis-elca.org)), click on Synod Newsletter, and that will direct you to a subscriber form. Otherwise, we could forward the Newsletters to you from the church office – just let us know.

## **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, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

## **Friends From Faith**

Last month, we debuted a new ministry team led by Naomi Hahn called “Friends from Faith.” On the last Sunday of each month, everyone is welcome to send a greeting card. Visit the tall counter where you can select a card, sign a card, or deposit a card in the mailbox to send. Cards and stamps are provided for your use. If you have extra cards or stamps to spare, please bring them and donate them in the provided jar.

## **“Shelebrate! A Taste of Shel Silverstein”**

Please join us here at Faith for “Shelebrate! A Taste of Shel Silverstein,” arr. by Ken Bradbury and directed by Christine Smith. The 45-minute performances will be

Friday, July 21, at 7:00pm

Saturday, July 22, at 4:30pm

Sunday, July 23, at 2:00pm

All performances will be free to attend, but a free-will offering will be collected. Our own Benen, Rigby, and Louis Dichsen will be in the cast. Hope to see you there!

## **Outdoor Worship and Picnic**

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. Last year we experimented with outdoor worship once each month with a picnic and games... it was a hit! Join us again this summer **August 6 and September 3.** To assure all can

participate, 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 having a cookout picnic and time for games and activities for all. **If you can provide something for the meal**, see the sign-up sheets on the counter by the Mission & Ministry Center/coat closet. 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!

### **Picnic Ministry – Sign Up to help with Outdoor Picnics**

Our Picnic Ministry Team is looking for some volunteers to help with preparing for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month outdoor picnics this summer. **You can help by signing up on the sheets** by the Coffee Sales next to the Mission & Ministry Center/coat closet:

- **Dates:** Sundays August 6 and September 3
- **Setup** (6 volunteers each Sunday for tables and chairs at 8:30 am)
- **Side Dishes** (8 volunteers each Sunday – see the sign-up sheet for specifics)
- **Desserts** (3 volunteers each Sunday)
- **Clean Up** (6 volunteers each Sunday to put away tables and chairs and clean in the kitchen)

For more information, talk with Kevin and Martha Krohe on our Picnic Ministry Team.

### **Zuiderveld Memorial Concert**

Celebrating the life and music of Rudy Zuiderveld

Friday, August 25, 7:30pm  
First Presbyterian Church  
321 S. 7<sup>th</sup> St.  
Springfield, IL  
Admission is free

Featuring Stephen Tharp, Nichol DelGiorno, Thomas Drury, Homer Ferguson, Sr. Lori Kirchman, and Timothy Spelbring with Garrett Allman, *pianist*; Devon Carpenter, *harpist*; and Diane Dietz, *soprano*.

### **Music Update**

I wish everyone a safe and fun summer, and we will meet again in the fall. If anyone is interested in doing something musical during the summer, please contact me.

Jean Welch, *Director of Music*

### **Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea**

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange (on the counter outside of the coat closet). Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display. Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

### **Contribution Envelopes for 2023**

are available in the office. If you don't see a box with your name on it, please mention this to Barb Davenport, Pam Devlin, or Kris Roth. We will happily provide you with a box. If you would like to register for our easy, **automatic online giving service**, contact the church office.