

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Outdoor Service
September 3, 2023

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Jean Welch, pianist – “Let There Be Peace on Earth,” arr. Miller/Jackson

GATHERING

**Call to Worship and Confession*

P: “The heavens declare the glory of God;

C: The skies proclaim the work of God’s hands.” (Psalm 19:1)

P: “In the beginning, God laid the foundations of the earth,

C: And the heavens are the work of God’s hands.” (Psalm 102:25)

P: “O Lord, how manifold are your works!

C: In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.”
(Psalm 104:24)

P: “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.

C: For God founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.” (Psalm 24:1-2)

P: We praise God for the beauty of creation and the blessing of this day. At the same time, we see the brokenness and despair that are the result of sin. We repent of the ways that we have contributed to this brokenness in our lives and those around us.

C: “My help comes from the Lord, creator of heaven and earth.” (Psalm 121:2)

Silence for Reflection and Confession

P: Holy and gracious God,

C: We confess that we have sinned against you this day. Some of our sin we know – the thoughts and words and deeds of which we are ashamed – but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, we ask forgiveness. “Create in us clean hearts and renew our spirit.” (Psalm 51:10)

P: By the tender mercy and grace of God, your sins are forgiven. “Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice:

C: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it:

P: Let the field exult, and everything in it.

C: Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord.”

(Psalm 96:11-12)

P: “This is the day that the Lord has made;

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.” (Psalm 118:24)

**Sharing of the 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.

Gathering Song – “Love Has Come”

**1 With one voice the angels sing songs that make creation ring.
Prophets hear and call us to live in spirit and in truth.**

**2 God the Father, Elohim, voice of thunder, spirit, wind:
Breathe on me your very life; grace will make the darkness bright.**

Refrain: Word of God, enthroned, dwell in us forevermore.

Love has come to show the way.

Hallelujah, peace be with us. Love has come to show the way.

**3 God of Covenant, divine, lead us to the end of time,
Beyond sorrow, beyond fear, beyond pride and earthen tears. Refrain**

Children’s Sermon

Hymn of Praise: “Listen, God Is Calling” ELW 513

*Refrain: Listen, listen, God is calling through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.*

**1 Jesus gave his mandate: share the good news
That he came to save us and set us free. Refrain**

**2 Let none be forgotten throughout the world.
In the triune name of God go and baptize. Refrain**

**3 Help us to be faithful, standing steadfast,
Walking in your precepts, led by your Word. Refrain**

WORD

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Reader: John Williams

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ and he said, ‘Here I am!’ ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ But he said, ‘I did not call; lie down again.’ So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, ‘Samuel!’ Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ But he said, ‘I did not call, my son; lie down again.’ ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, ‘Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, “Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.”’ So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’

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

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:9

Reader: John Williams

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

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

**Gospel Reading:* John 15:16

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

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

Song: “We Are Called”

1. **We are called. We are claimed. We are loved by the holy name.
We are healed. We are whole. The Savior ransomed our souls**

*Refrain: And we're singing Glory, Glory, Glory Hallelujah! Glory, Gloria.
Oh, Glory, Glory, Glory Hallelujah. Glory, Gloria!*

2. **We are here. To proclaim. God is here; calls us each by name.
We are here. To give praise. The love of God will not change. Refrain**

Sermon: “Speak, Your Servant is Listening”

Song of the Day – “Here I Am, Lord”

1. **I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

*Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

2. **I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? Refrain**

3. **I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? Refrain**

**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

“Goodness of God,” arr. Kerr
Faith Singers

—Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder provided by the Ushers—

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

"Spirit Calls, Rejoice"

1. **I hear the wind of the Spirit calling me home.
I feel the wind of the Spirit filling my heart with love.
Hearing heaven's voice, when the Spirit calls rejoice!
When the Spirit calls, lift up your voices singing, life in the Spirit bringing.
When the Spirit calls ... rejoice!**

2. **I hear the wind and it's saying come to me now.
I feel the wind of the Spirit breathing new life in me.
Hearing heaven's voice, when the Spirit calls rejoice!
When the Spirit calls, lift up your voices singing, life in the Spirit bringing.
When the Spirit calls. . .**

**When the Spirit calls rejoice! When the Spirit calls!
Lift up your voices singing, life in the Spirit bringing.
When the Spirit calls ... rejoice!**

“Will You Come and Follow Me” ELW 798

1. **Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**
2. **Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?**
3. **Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**
4. **Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?**
5. **Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

**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: “Ablaze”

**1. Cold is the wind that blows in the night.
The darkness is deepest where there’s no light.
Who will You send to carry the flame? Who will proclaim your name?
People are lost and don’t even know it.
If we know the way, then why don’t we show it?
Ignite the flame, O Lord fan the spark that we may shine in the dark.**

*Chorus: Set us ablaze, O Lord. Set us ablaze to tell Your story.
Shout aloud the hope of glory so that the lost will find the way.
Set us ablaze, O Lord, and fill your church with holy fire,
To share your love our one desire All our days. Set us ablaze.*

**2. For You, Lord, alone are the one who can save.
Your cross alone, and Your empty grave.
Hearts to renew, and sins to forgive that all of the world might live.
Ignite the flame, O Lord, send your Spirit,
that we proclaim, and that they may hear it
Send us to show them the way that is true. Send us to lead them to You.**

Chorus twice

**I’ve got a calling. I’ve got a mission.
Out of the boat and on with the fishing, Ablaze!
Hearts that are burning, minds that are learning,
filled with a yearning to see lives turning. Ablaze!**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song Credits

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Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Ken Devlin
Greeter: Malinda Carlson
Reader: John Williams
Usher: Liddy Stark
Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Music Director: Jean Welch
Musician: Jean Welch
Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen
Drummer: John Demien
Financial Assistants: Malinda Carlson & Kelly Hartz
Chancel Committee: Kris Roth
Coffee Host: *Outdoor Picnic*



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 Gayla Smith in honor of her birthday
and
by the Roth/Snodgrass family in honor of Bishop John's retirement

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, September 3, 9:30am: **Outdoor Worship & Picnic**

Wednesday, September 6, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group
5:15pm: Worship Team

Thursday, September 7, 5:30pm: Choir Rehearsal

Doorbell Dinners, September 11-15, 11:00 am

Sunday, September 10, 9:30am: Worship
10:45am: Sunday School & Bell Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 13, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group
10am: Total Ministry Session
6pm: Total Ministry Session

Thursday, September 14, 5:30pm: Choir Rehearsal

News Updates

Outdoor Worship and Picnic

Please join us for our final picnic of the season today!!

Doorbell Dinners: September 11-15

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Join this exciting new ministry team! Sharon Zuiderveld and her sister, Mary Ellen Peterson, are looking for crocheters and knitters (or those who want to learn) to help make prayer shawls. The shawls will then be given to friends as reminders that they are covered by our prayers and the love and grace of God. Anyone interested in knitting or crocheting for the Prayer Shawl ministry may contact Sharon Zuiderveld. Beginners (and lefties) are welcome. Please let her know what day and time are best for you.

Her email is: sharonzuiderveld@hotmail.com and her cell is: 217-883-1258

Soup Luncheon - Carry-Out Style

Our Carry-Out Soup Luncheon was a success last year, and we will be offering that style again! Carry-out soups and desserts will be available on **Sunday, October 8, from 10:30am - 1:00pm**. We could use your help! Today we have signup sheets available for a variety of ways you can volunteer from providing soups/desserts to helping in the building (on the counter by the Coffee Sales). We will also begin handing out tickets for you to purchase or sell to your family and friends (\$7.00 advance/\$8.00 at the door). Let's work together to serve our community and share some delicious Lutheran Love! (Please bring in any cardboard trays or small boxes for us to use.)

Choir Rehearsals to Begin!!!

As we look back over 75 years of our church's history, we can see the importance that music has played in this church in many forms. We have seen changes in the style of music we sing and the instruments we use all to the glory of God. I would encourage all of you to consider the musical talents you have and join us as we continue to celebrate the Word of God through music.

Chancel Choir will begin rehearsals on Thursday, September 7th. We will begin at 5:30pm for 45 minutes in the sanctuary. Anyone interested in singing, we need you! We sing once or twice a month during church.

Exaltation Ringers will have rehearsals the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month after service at 10:45am in the sanctuary. These will begin Sunday, September 10th. We ring one Sunday each month. If you are interested in ringing, please let me know.

Jean Welch, *Music Director*

Sunday School returns September 10!

Calling all kids! Come and join us for Sunday School starting on September 10. After worship, fellowship, and snacks, we will gather for music and then head to our classes. We will have two classes this year, one for pre-K through Kindergarten and the other for early elementary. If you have questions or are interested in helping, contact Patty Nelson at 217-653-3105.

Discipleship Group

It's time to put the "attitude" in the Beatitudes! Join us at **10am on Wednesday, September 20**, in the Faith Library to find out more about the way Jesus wants us to live our lives. Bring your favorite Bible with you or borrow one from the Faith library. Most importantly, bring yourself! For more information, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at khartz@sompo-intl.com.

Women of Faith Fellowship Night

The Women of Faith fellowship group is meeting for dinner on **Wednesday, September 20th at 6:00pm** at Los Rancheros. We'd love for you to join us! Please RSVP to Monica at 217-737-0475 by Sunday, September 17th.

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!*

Installation of our New Bishop

You are invited to attend the Rev. Greg Busboom's installation as Bishop of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod of the ELCA. The worship service will be held **Saturday, September 23, at 11:00am at St. Agnes Catholic Church**, 245 N. Amos Ave., Springfield. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will preside at the service. A reception will follow the service at St. John's Lutheran Church, 2477 W. Washington St., Springfield. Rostered ministers are invited to vest and process. The color of the day is red. In order to help the planning team prepare communion elements, bulletins, and seating arrangements, you are requested to RSVP at CSIS-ELCA.org/rsvp by **September 8**.

Western IL FCA – 2023 Fall Fundraising Banquet in Jacksonville

Over the past seven years, God has done exciting things through Western Illinois FCA...impacting the lives of coaches, athletes, and others in our community. We are continually looking for opportunities to expand Fellowship of Christian Athletes and take the love of Christ to more of our local schools!

Date – **Saturday, November 11, 2023 @ Hamiltons**

Format – Our event will begin at 4:30pm with remarks from local athletes and coaches, words of encouragement from St. Louis Cardinal, Tommy Edman, and a wonderful dinner. Guests must make reservations through a table host or through www.WesternILFCA.org. There is no cost to attend, but we will receive an offering to support the ministry of Western IL FCA. Seating is limited.

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.