

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 2023

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Sandi Watts, organist

GATHERING

**Call to Worship and Confession*

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

C: Amen.

P: *(Jeremiah 17:7-8)* ⁷Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.

C: ⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

P: Our family tree of faith is filled with men and women who live by faith and make mistakes. When we stumble, we are in good company. Yet, we are also surrounded by a company of saints, redeemed by the mercy of God. Let us confess our sin and put our trust in this mercy.

Silence

C: Forgiving God, we confess that our actions do not always reflect your goodness. Like Abraham, we question your promise. Like Jacob, we take what is not ours. Like Moses, we fear that we are not enough. In your love and compassion, prune our faults and failures and keep us connected to you.

P: God has heard your confession and forgives your sin. Jesus is living water for you and all. May the Holy Spirit dwell in you richly that you bear the fruit of love for God and one another.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song – “Beneath the Tree of Life” (organ)

*Refrain: Come and gather beneath the tree of life.
Come and gather beneath the tree of life –
Root of wisdom, branch of peace, fruit of healing and release.
Come and gather beneath the tree of life.*

**Here we raise the saving cross of Jesus,
singing praise to him who leads us on from death into new life. Refrain**

Children’s Sermon

Hymn of Praise – “All My Days” (piano)

**1 All my days I will sing this song of gladness,
give my praise to the Fountain of delights;
For in my helplessness You heard my cry,
and waves of mercy poured down on my life.**

**2 I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer, I will sing of the blood that never fails;
Of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed, of death defeated and life without end.**

*Refrain: Beautiful Savior, Wonderful Counselor, clothed in majesty, Lord of history,
You’re the Way, the Truth, the Life, Star of the Morning, glorious holiness,
You’re the Risen One, heaven’s Champion, and You reign, You reign over all!*

**2 I long to be where the praise is never ending,
Yearn to dwell where the glory never fades;
Where countless worshippers will share one song,
And cries of ‘worthy’ will honor the Lamb! Refrain**

WORD

Reading: Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

Reader: Terri Kimler

¹The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, ‘My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread,

that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.’ So they said, ‘Do as you have said.’ ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, ‘Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.’ ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, ‘Where is your wife Sarah?’ And he said, ‘There, in the tent.’ ¹⁰Then one said, ‘I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.’ And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, ‘After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?’ ¹³The LORD said to Abraham, ‘Why did Sarah laugh, and say, “Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?”’ ¹⁴Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.’ ¹⁵But Sarah denied, saying, ‘I did not laugh’; for she was afraid. He said, ‘Oh yes, you did laugh.’

²¹The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. ²Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. ⁴And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶Now Sarah said, ‘God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.’ ⁷And she said, ‘Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.’

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

**Gospel Reading:* Luke 1:30-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ ³⁴Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ ³⁵The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power

of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.'

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

Song: "El-Shaddai" (piano)

*Refrain: El-Shaddai, El-Shaddai, El-Elyonna Adonai,
Age to age you're still the same, by the power of the name.
El-Shaddai, El-Shaddai erkamkana Adonai,
we will praise and lift you high, El-Shaddai.*

**Through your love and through the ram, you saved the son of Abraham,
Through the power of your hand you turned the sea into dry land.
To the outcast on her knees you were the god who really sees,
and by your might you set your children free. Refrain**

**Through the years you made it clear that the time of Christ was near,
Though the people couldn't see what Messiah ought to be.
Though your Word contained the plan, they just could not understand,
Your most awesome work was done in the frailty of your Son.**

*Refrain: El-Shaddai, El-Shaddai, El-Elyonna Adonai,
Age to age you're still the same, by the power of the name.
El-Shaddai, El-Shaddai erkamkana Adonai, I will praise you till I die, El-Shaddai.
Refrain*

Sermon: "A Trunk of Faithfulness: Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac"

Song of the Day – "We Are Called" ELW 720 (organ)

- 1. Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.**

*Refrain: We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.*

2. **Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and blindness will be no more. *Refrain***
3. **Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love. *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:

Stewardship is about our grateful response to God's grace for us. How do you respond? If you would like to financially support our ministry together, you can place a donation in an offering box or through our website. If you would like to support our ministry together through service, you can find a list of ministry teams online or on our ministry team menu. Consider joining a ministry team, or starting a new one, today!

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

**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

“He Is Exalted”

(piano)

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high. I will praise Him.

He is exalted, forever exalted and I will praise His name!

He is the Lord. Forever His truth shall reign.

Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name.

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high!

"When Peace Like a River" ELW 785 (*organ*)

1 **When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.**

*Refrain: It is well (it is well), ... with my soul, (with my soul),
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

2 **Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul. Refrain**

3 **He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! Refrain**

4 **Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. Refrain**

**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 – “Firm Foundation”

(piano)

*Chorus: Jesus, You’re my firm foundation, I know I can stand secure.
Jesus, You’re my firm foundation, I put my hope in your holy Word,
I put my hope in your holy Word.*

1. **(I have a living hope) I have a living hope
(I have a future) I have a future
(God has a plan for me) God has a plan for me
(Of this I’m sure) Of this I’m sure.**
2. **(Your Word is faithful) Your Word is faithful
(Mighty in power) Mighty in power
(God will deliver me) God will deliver me
(Of this I’m sure) Of this I’m sure.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Pam Devlin

Greeter: Hallie Mayner

Reader: Terri Kimler

Usher: Larry Kuster

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Pianist: Marilyn Dichsen

Organist: Sandi Watts

Drummer: John Demien

Financial Assistants: Kelly Hartz & Greg Kimler

Chancel Committee: Kim Heise

Coffee Hosts: *Carry-Out Soup Event*

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 altar plants are donated today
by Eleanor Stevens in celebration of her birthday, and twin brother,
on October 16

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, October 8, 9:30am: Worship

10:30am Carry-Out Soup Event

10:45am: Sunday School

Wednesday, October 11, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

Thursday, October 12, 5:30pm: Outreach Core Team Meeting

Sunday, October 15, 9:30am: Worship

10:45am: Sunday School

Monday, October 16, 11:30am: Potluck & Movie

Wednesday, October 18, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

10am: Discipleship Group in the Library

6-7:30pm: Women's Fellowship – Game & Pizza Night

Thursday, October 19, 5:30pm: Choir Rehearsal

6:00pm: Church Council Meeting

Song Credits

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“El-Shaddai,” from **Amy Grant – Age to Age**, © 1982 Word Music. CCLI#973583

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“He Is Exalted,” © 1985, StraightWay Music. CCLI#973583.

“Firm Foundation,” Integrity's Hosanna! Music & Integrity's Praise! Music, © 1994. CCLI#973583

News Updates

Sunday School

Calling all kids! After worship, fellowship, and snacks, we will gather for music and then head to our classes. We 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.

Soup Luncheon Carry-Out Style – TODAY

After church, please stop in the gathering area and buy a Soup Lunch to take home! Tickets are \$8.00 and include Carry-Out Soup (cold), Dessert, cornbread, and crackers. We will also be selling Carol Kilver's Sweet House salad dressing, 8 oz. jars for \$5.00. THANK YOU to all who signed up to help work and/or provide food and monetary donations, and Thank You to Steak n' Shake for once again providing oyster crackers!

Music Rehearsals!!!

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: a rehearsal will be held on Thursday, October 19, and we will sing on Sunday, October 22 We begin at 5:30pm for 45 minutes in the sanctuary. Anyone interested in singing, we need you!

Exaltation Ringer rehearsals are on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month after service at 10:45am in the sanctuary (but not on October 8). We ring one Sunday each month. If you are interested in ringing, please let me know.

Jean Welch, *Music Director*

75th Anniversary Choir

Faith Lutheran's 75th Anniversary Celebration is November 12th. Music has played an important part in the life of this congregation through the years. In celebration of this event, we would like to invite you to sing with the Chancel Choir that day. This is an invitation to those who may be coming back to visit also.

A **rehearsal** is scheduled for **Saturday, November 11th at 1:30 pm in the sanctuary.** Please contact Jean Welch at 217.652.7009 (text) or email jrwelch53@msn.com and she can set you up with the music and a recording prior to the rehearsal.

Mark Your Calendar:

Faith Lutheran Church 75th Anniversary Celebration on November 12!

Discipleship Group

Take Two! It's time to put the "attitude" in the Beatitudes! Join us at **10am on Wednesday, October 18**, 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

In October we're doing a Gal's Game & Pizza Night! Join us in the Great Room on **Wednesday, October 18th at 6:00 pm** for some friendly competition and yummy pizza. Bring your favorite board or card game and we'll choose ones that evening to play. Please RSVP to Monica at 217-737-0475 by Sunday, October 15th so we can provide enough food.

The Giving Boutique Is Coming

This fall Kathy Trenter and Karen Dean are planning a new project in anticipation of the giving season. This Giving Boutique will take place following worship on **Sunday, October 29**. It will feature handmade/designed crafts for decoration or gift giving. We already plan wreaths, trees, book stacks, shelf sitters, nativity stones, and tier trays.

The Giving Boutique comes with a twist! The emphasis will be on the Giving! The "purchase" of any item will actually be a donation to the group of YOUR choice: HUGS, Faith Lutheran Youth Group, Jacksonville Food Center, "Share the Light" Ministry, or Lutheran World Relief. You will receive a gift card to present to a special recipient that a gift has been made in their honor. You may then keep the item for yourself, share it with that recipient, or even give it to another. The Giving goes on!!

If you would like to participate, we would love to include your crafts in the event. Please sign up on the list on the Coffee Sales counter. Not all that crafty?? No worries. The most important participants will be all those who take advantage of this event to remember special friends and family members in this creative way. More information will follow, but start crafting now to be part of the Giving!

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

Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches Fall Collection

The JACC is collecting items to help at-risk youth in our area. Donated items will be delivered to Midwest Youth Services, who serve at-risk, runaway, and homeless youth. This program serves youth ages 14-24 who may be struggling to pay rent, searching for independence, pregnant or parenting, living with friends, living with relatives, couch surfing, living in a shelter, homeless, or at risk of being homeless. Needed items include:

Small bottles of dish soap	All-purpose cleaner	Paper towels
Hand soap	Disinfectant spray or wipes	Rubber gloves
Windex	Sponges	Small bottles of toilet bowl cleaner

Please place your items in the blue box by the Mission & Ministry Center **through October 29**.

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.

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!*

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.