

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

Today we welcome Pastor Adam and his family back from Sabbatical

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Sandi Watts

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: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Silence for Reflection and Confession

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

**Call to Worship* – “Your Grace Is Enough”

(piano)

**1. Great is your faithfulness, O God of Jacob;
you wrestle with the sinner’s restless heart.**

You lead me by still waters into mercy where nothing can keep us apart.

*Refrain: So remember your people, remember your children,
remember your promise, O God.*

*For your grace is enough, your grace is enough, your grace is enough,
your grace is enough for me.*

**2. Great is your love and justice, God of Jacob; you use the weak to lead the strong.
You lead us in the song of heaven’s vict’ry, and all your people sing along.**

Refrain twice

**Greeting and Prayer of the Day*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray ...

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.

Children’s Sermon

Hymn of Praise – “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” ELW 858, vv. 1 & 4 (organ)

**1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!**

- 4 **Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!**

WORD

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Reader: Barb Davenport

¹If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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

**Gospel Reading:* Mark 12:28-31

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 12th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁸One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, ‘Which commandment is the first of all?’ ²⁹Jesus answered, ‘The first is, “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;’ ³⁰you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and

with all your strength.” ³¹The second is this, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.’

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

Sermon: "Our Sabbatical Journey"

Song of the Day – “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song” ELW 808 (piano)

- 1 **Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:
you alone are our life and our peace and our love.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.**
- 2 **Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.**
- 3 **As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,
to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.**
- 4 **I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.
And with all of the family you saved by your love,
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.**

**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 of Intercession*

Stewardship Time

“The Goodness of God”

by Johnson, Johnson, Ingram, Cash, & Fielding

Faith Singers & Congregation

I love You, Lord, for Your mercy never fails me.

All my days, I've been held in Your hands.

From the moment that I wake up, until I lay my head,

oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

‘Cause all my life You have been faithful,

and all my life You have been so, so good.

With every breath that I am able,

oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

I love Your voice, you have led me through the fire.

In darkest nights, You are close like no other.

I've known You as a Father, I've known You as a Friend,

and I have lived in the goodness of God.

‘Cause all my life You have been faithful,

and all my life You have been so, so good.

With every breath that I am able,

oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.

With my life laid down. I surrender now, I give You everything,

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me. *Repeat*

And all my life You have been faithful,

and all my life You have been so, so good.

With every breath that I am able,

oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God.

Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God.

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

“The Church of Christ in Every Age” ELW 729 *(organ)*

- 1 **The church of Christ, in ev'ry age beset by change, but Spirit-led, must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.**

- 2 **Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry for shelter and for bread to eat, and never live before they die.**
- 3 **Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.**
- 4 **For he alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever in our blood, and teach us how to share our bread and feed the starving multitude.**
- 5 **We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord; to care for all, without reserve, and spread his liberating word.**

“Here I Am, Lord”

(piano)

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***

**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

*Liturgy of Blessing and Commitment for the Renewal of Call for Pastor Adam Dichsen
and Partnership in Ministry with Faith Lutheran Church*

*The Apostle Paul's Prayer for the church in Ephesians 3 is a prayer also for Pastor
Adam and Faith Lutheran Church*
Ephesians 3:14-21

*The Apostle Paul follows his prayer for the church with a charge for integrity and
partnership.*
Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13

Renewal of Call for Pastor Adam

Adam Dichsen, in the presence of this assembly, will you renew your commitment to this trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God through the call of the church?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church? Will you carry out this ministry in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Trusting in God's care, will you love, serve, and pray for God's people, nourish them with the word and sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you invite the Holy Spirit of renewal to be at work in you, continuing in your sabbatical discoveries as you commit to sabbath-keeping practices and live out your identities as pastor, father, husband, and Child of God with integrity?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

All: Amen.

**Renewal of Commitment for the People of God at Faith Lutheran Church*

People of God, will you receive Pastor Adam, refreshed and renewed from his sabbatical, as a messenger of Jesus Christ sent to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard him as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for Pastor Adam and his family? Will you help and honor him in carrying out this ministry? In all things, will you strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you join in the Apostle Paul's prayer for the church, that you would be strengthened by the Holy Spirit, that Christ would dwell in your hearts through faith, that you would be rooted together in love, trusting that the Spirit at work within you is able to accomplish abundantly far more than you can ask or imagine?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Through God's calling to you in the waters of Holy Baptism, will you continue to lead and serve as you have in Pastor Adam's absence, eager and willing to partner with him and one another in our ministry together?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you also invite the Holy Spirit of renewal to be at work in you, continuing in your sabbatical discoveries and being open to more new discoveries that God has in store for us?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

Amen.

At the Baptismal Font:

You have been called to be among us to baptize, to teach, and to forgive sins.

At the Pulpit:

You have been called to be among us to proclaim the good news.

At the Altar:

You have been called to be among us to preside at the Lord's supper.

In Front of the Altar:

You have been called to be among us to share in our beautiful and broken community where we celebrate together, grieve together, and serve together.

A representative of the congregation gives Pastor Adam a cookie and drapes a dishtowel over his arm.

People of God, having recommitted yourself to the ministry of the gospel that we share in Jesus Christ, receive Pastor Adam into your life together and the mission you share.

Pastor Adam, having been refreshed and renewed in your time of sabbatical, receive the people of God at Faith Lutheran Church into your pastoral care.

**Benediction*

P: The God who calls us to lives of discipleship as we take up our cross and follow him is the same God who calls all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens to come and follow him, for his yoke is easy and his burden is light. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord light a fire of discipleship and outreach in you. The Lord walk with you, carry you, and give you peace.

C: Amen.

**Sending Song – “Go to the World” (ACS 991)*

(organ)

- 1 **Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**
- 2 **Go to the world! Go into ev'ry place.
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**
- 3 **Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you till the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry, Amen!"
Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song Credits

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Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Hallie Mayner

Greeter: Lynette Hamilton

Reader: Barb Davenport

Usher: Larry Kuster

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Sabbatical Pastor: Paul Schwartzkopf

Music Director: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Pianist: Jean Welch

Drummer: John Demien

Financial Assistants: Patty Nelson & Kelly Street

Chancel Committee: Pat Glyshaw

Coffee Hosts: *Potluck in the Great Room*

Singers:

Benen Dichsen

Kelly Hartz

Kris Roth

Carol VanderKloot

Louis Dichsen

Terri Kimler

Cole Street

Marilyn Dichsen

Adam Krohe

Melissa Street

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson

Kelly Hartz

Gaylon Martin

Monica Proefrock

Ken Devlin

Greg Kimler

Patty Nelson

Kelly Street

Marilyn Dichsen



What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, May 5, 9:30am: Worship
10:45am: Potluck
4:00pm: Bells in Motion Concert

Wednesday, May 8, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group
6:00pm: Women of Faith at El Patron

Sunday, May 12, 9:30am: Worship
10:45am: Sunday School

Wednesday, May 15, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group
10:00am: Discipleship Group in the Library

Thursday, May 16, 6:00pm: Church Council Meeting

News Updates

Today's the Day!

After our service today, a **potluck lunch** will be served in the Great Room. What better way to look ahead than with family, food, and faith by your side? Join us for a meal to celebrate the joyous return of the Dichsen family and to thank and send off the Schwartzkopfs in the proper Lutheran way – with a huge meal!

Bells in Motion Concert at Faith

Bells in Motion will be presenting an *Out of this World* concert **Today at 4:00 pm**. This is a free concert, but a donation would be appreciated. Some of the music they will be ringing is the Star Trek theme, Star Wars medley by John Williams, music from Lord of the Rings, plus other favorites such as *Fly Me to the Moon*.

If you want to be entertained and mesmerized by awesome bell ringing, you need to come to this concert. The kids and grandkids will love it as well.

Bells in Motion of Central Illinois Present
MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU
Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 7PM
First Presbyterian Church
204 W Prairie Ave
Decatur, IL 62523
AND
REVENGE OF THE FIFTH
Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 4PM
Faith Lutheran Church
1385 W Walnut Street
Jacksonville, IL 62650
Suggested donation \$15 for attendees over 13
www.BellsInMotion.org

Sunday School resumes Next Sunday

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.

Women of Faith Fellowship Night

Join us **on Wednesday, May 8th** at 6:00pm at El Patron for some delicious food and fun conversation. Please RSVP to Monica Proefrock at 217-737-0475 by Sunday, May 5th if you're planning to join us.

Discipleship Group

Join our monthly discussion at 10:00am on **Wednesday, May 15**, in the Faith Library. We will explore the Bible, enjoy some tasty treats, and continue to strengthen our relationships. For more information, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at khartz@sompo-intl.com.

Book Discussion – Sabbatical Book #3 - “What Makes You Come Alive”

By Lerita Coleman Brown

Our third book is about Howard Thurman, a spiritual adviser to Martin Luther King Jr. and other leaders and activists in the 1960s. He championed silence, contemplation, common unity, and nonviolence as powerful dimensions of social change. Lerita Coleman Brown beckons readers into their own apprenticeship with Thurman, walking us through Thurman's inimitable life and commitments as he summons us into centering down, encountering the natural world, paying attention to sacred synchronicity, unleashing inner authority, and recognizing the genius of the religion of Jesus.

Books are available for \$10 in the gathering area. Join Karen Dean **on May 19**, at 10:45am, in the Justice Room for the Discussion.

Doorbell Dinners

Our next times to deliver are **May 27-31**. A sign-up sheet is available in the gathering area on the counter by the Coffee Sales. May 27 is Memorial Day, but we will still deliver meals that day.

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!**

Summer Youth Camps

Performing Arts Camp (PAC) at Green Pastures Christian Retreat Center is for youth entering grades 5-12 and will take place on June 14-15, 21-22, and 28-29. Cost is \$50/camper.

Fire in Our Hearts (FIOH) at Green Pastures is for youth entering grades 5-12 and will take place on July 8-12 and 22-26. Cost is \$135/camper.

If needed, scholarships are available.

Registration link: <http://www.greenpasturesretreatcenter.org/registration>.

For more information call: 217-584-1374

Email: contact@greenpasturesretreatcenter.org

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; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$5.50** hot chocolate). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.