Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 25, 2024

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Susan Roegge - "My Tribute," by Andrae Crouch

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: As we consider what it means to be a disciple, we ask ourselves the question:

C: Who am I following?

P: Everybody is following something or someone, but are we following Jesus? As we gather for worship, we are here to praise God for who God is and all that God has done. We are here to receive the grace of God in water and word, bread and wine. We are here to lift our voices in prayer and song. We are here as a community of faith that walks with one another through the joys and struggles of life.

C: Let us also be here to follow Jesus!

P: Too often, we do not follow Jesus. We follow people and ideas that make us feel good, that give us what we want, and make us feel right and that others are wrong. I invite you to take this time of silence to confess all that we follow that leads us down this dark path.

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, following people, things, and ideas that lead us away from you. What we follow influences what we love, and we have not loved you with our whole hearts or 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 would follow you first, above all else, to be with Jesus, to become like Jesus, and to do as Jesus did, all 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... and, I invite you into a deeper journey of discipleship, of apprenticeship, that we would be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do as Jesus did. In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*Call to Worship – "God Is Here" ELW 526, vv. 1, 3, & 4 (organ)

- 1 God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.

 Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.
- 3 Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold; here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old. Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.
- 4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt, keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out. Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive; we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

*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.

WORD

Please stand

*Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:16-20 Reader: Barb Davenport

R: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 28th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

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

Sermon: Practicing the Way

Song of the Day - "City of God"

(piano)

1. Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.
The people in darkness have seen a great light.
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.

Refrain: Let us build the city of God. May our tears be turned into dancing! For the Lord, our light and our love, has turned the night into day!

2. We are sons of the morning; we are daughters of day.
The one who has loved us has brightened our way.
The Lord of all kindness has called us to be
A light for his people to set their hearts free. Refrain twice

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

"Words for the Beginning of Your Christian Life"

(adapted from a poem by Rev. Sarah Speed)

Hazel Melanie, if we could give you words for the very beginning -

for this journey we make together,

for the celebrations and the sorrows,

we would say, "Oh, dear child, how you are loved."

But the thing about love is that 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,

Godparents who pray for you, and this congregation that surrounds you.

You haven't done anything yet.

You've just been here, breathing, sleeping, laughing, playing – and you are loved.

And then we might say, "This world is a mess, but it is our home, and you can make it better, so always try to make it better."

And maybe most important of all:

"There is love that is bigger than our understanding, that moves through this world, and that love is called God. That love is with you always and knows your name by heart."

Those are the words we would say to you as you laugh and cry, stretch and splash in these waters today, the first day of your Christian life.

Let God be your foundation.

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 Hazel Melanie Sibert to this Christian community and to the waters of Holy Baptism.

P: Hazel, 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.

Carly and David, as you bring Hazel to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she 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 her grow in the Christian faith and life?

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

P: Alyssa and Laura, as godparents, you have a responsibility to pray for Hazel and help her always remember that she is a beloved child of God. Do you promise to nurture her in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her 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 Hazel with Christian love, praying for her, discipling her, and serving with her. Do you promise to support Hazel and pray for her in her 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: Beloved child of God, in this water, God calls you by name. Hazel, 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 Hazel 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. Hazel, 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." Carly and David, we give you this candle to light again and again as Hazel grows up. Remember this day and always know that she is and will always be a beloved child of God.

Welcome

P: Together we say:

C: Hazel Melanie Sibert, 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 Hazel 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, "Child of God, Jesus loves you!"

*Prayers of Intercession

Stewardship Time

~ Mission Moment on Discipleship ~ with Marilyn Dichsen and Adam Krohe

-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

"Our God Is Here"

(piano)

Here in this time, here in this place, here we are standing face to face.
 Here in our hearts, here in our lives our God is here.
 Here for the broken, here for the strong, here in this temple we belong.
 Here in our hearts, here in our lives, our God is here. And we cry:

Refrain: "Holy! Holy! Holy are you!" We cry: "Holy! Holy! Holy and true!"

Amen, we do believe our God is here. Our God is here.

2. Here in the Word, God is revealed, here where the wounded can be healed.

Here in our hearts, here in our lives, our God is here.

Here we become what we receive, here in this Eucharistic feast.

We are his body, living as one; our God is here. And we cry: Refrain

And we cry: "Holy! Holy! Holy are you!" We cry: "Holy! Holy! Holy and true!" Amen, we do believe our God is here. Our God is here.

- 1 Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure, through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure. Onward in his footsteps treading, trav'lers here, our home above, full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Savior's bidding. Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.
- 2 Let us suffer here with Jesus, and with patience bear our cross. Joy will follow all our sadness; where he is there is no loss. Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy; All discomforts that annoy shall give way to mirth hereafter, Jesus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
- 3 Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death he conquered death, he will free us from destruction, give to us immortal breath. Let us mortify all passion that would lead us into sin; and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heaven. Jesus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
- 4 Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead that to life we may awaken. Jesus, you are now our head, we are your own living members; where you live, there we shall be in your presence constantly, living there with you forever. Jesus, let me faithful be; life eternal grant to 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: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Pentecost

Go, make disciples, baptizing them, teaching them.
Go, make disciples, for I am with you till the end of time.
Go, be the salt of the earth. Go, be the light for the world.
Go, be a city on a hill so all can see that you're serving me. Repeat
Go, make disciples!

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Hallie Mayner

Greeters: Lillian Korous, Benen Dichsen, & Marilyn Dichsen

Reader: Barb Davenport Usher: Larry Kuster Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts Pianist: Susan Roegge Drummer: John Demien Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Ken Devlin & Monica Proefrock

Chancel Committee: Kim Heise Coffee Host: Barb Davenport

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, August 25, 9:30am: Worship + Baptism: Hazel Sibert

Friends from Faith

10:45am: Discussion: "Discipleship," in the Justice Room

Wednesday, August 28, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

Sunday, September 1, 9:30am: Outdoor Worship

10:30am: Indoor Potluck

Wednesday, September 4, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

Saturday, September 7, 8am: Cooking for

9am: Men's Breakfast

Song Credits

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News Updates

Discussion after Worship – today – "Discipleship"

Pastor Adam's new sermon series on discipleship will draw from the book, "Practicing the Way" by John Mark Comer. Following worship, all are invited to the Justice Room to discuss the book, the sermon, and other aspects of discipleship in our church and lives. Copies of the book are available for \$10 under the working cross in the gathering area. Our focus will be one chapter each week, but as always, we are always open to where the Spirit leads!

Friends From Faith -- a ministry team led by Naomi Hahn on the last Sunday of each month **Today**, you can visit the tall white table just outside the sanctuary 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.

Coming Up September 9-13: <u>Doorbell Dinners</u>

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

Men's Prayer Group

Help us grow our group! You can meet in person at Faith on **Wednesday mornings at 7:00**, or on zoom. Contact one of the guys to let them know you are coming: Gilbert Joehl, Kevin Krohe, or Larry Kuster.

Outdoor Worship and Potluck

Our final outdoor worship of the summer will be on **September 1**. To assure all can participate, there will be seating and communion stations on the east lawn, on the parking lot, and indoors (with worship visible from the Justice room windows), as well as being live streamed. Following the service, we will move indoors for a potluck meal in the Great Room. Invite a friend and join us for these wonderful times together!

Indoor Potluck on September 1

Following outdoor worship on September 1, we will move indoors for a potluck meal in the Great Room. If you can help clean up after the meal, that would be great. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy these meals together – we ran a bit short on food for the August meal. If you are able, please sign up by the Total Ministry Center to bring a dish, help set up, or help clean up.

Men's Breakfast

Come and connect with other men as we share our faith and enjoy some good food on **Saturday, September 7.** At 8:00, we hang out in the kitchen, helping to cook, drink coffee, and visit. At 9:00, we sit down for some conversation and discussion on a specific topic.

Sunday School – Rally Day is September 8!

We are making plans for this Fall's Sunday School program. If you have an interest in helping, please contact the church office or talk to Pastor Adam.

"Faith's Little Flock"

Last month, Melissa Street shared about a new format we are trying for Sunday School this year. We will be inviting children ages 2-6 to join a volunteer in a classroom during a portion of worship. The children will be walked to the Sunday school room after the children's sermon and then parents are asked to meet them for communion. This will give some education and fun for the kids and a break for parents. We realize this is a significant change from the past. We value having our children and worship and they are always welcome. Over the last few years, with so few volunteers, it has become increasingly difficult to offer Sunday school after worship and staff a nursery. This new format is an opportunity to meet some of the needs of both.

Bible Boot Camp

In an effort to offer more opportunities for fun and learning with our elementary school aged children, we are offering an exciting new program called "Bible Boot Camp." We will be meeting in the Great Room on various Sundays from 4:30-5:30pm. Each session kicks off in the Great Room with some active singing, so come ready to jump and move! Next, we will dive into a Bible story, retelling it together and engaging in some activities to bring it to life. Finally, we'll close with prayer as we bring our praises and desires to God. Then, stick around for supper! Our middle school and high school youth will be meeting later that evening for their Faith Inkubators session and will be joining us for supper from 5:30-6:00. Here are some details to note:

Kids are welcome and encouraged to invite friends!

Parents, you are welcome to stay for the lesson and meal, but are not required to do so.

We would like to have an idea on how many to expect at the session and meal, so please sign up or contact the office by the Friday before if you plan to attend. But don't let that stop you or a friend from coming!

The dates of our session will be the following Sundays: September 15, September 29, October 13, October 20, November 10, and December 15 for a fun Christmas session.

Please join us for these wonderful opportunities for our kids! If you have questions or would like to get involved in any way, please contact Pastor Adam.

Faith Inkubators

Faith's Confirmation Ministry is starting up again, but it's not just for confirmation students! For the last few years some upper elementary and high school students have joined us for a some youth time of food, learning, and fellowship. This year we will have six sessions in all as we take a closer look at the Old Testament. We meet at 5:30pm with a meal (overlapping with our Bible Boot Camp kids), then jump into our session from 6:00-7:30. If you have a middle school or high school student interested in joining us, let them know, and friends are welcome! Our sessions will be on Sundays, **September 15**, **September 29**, **October 13**, **October 20**, **November 10**, **and December 15** for a fun Christmas session.

Youth Sunday School

Last month, Marilyn Dichsen (high school senior) shared about our youth Sunday school plans. They are looking for volunteers to meet with them after worship on Sunday mornings. Don't worry, no teaching is necessary! Some Sundays we will follow a discussion guide that reflects on the readings and sermon of the day. Some Sundays we will be interviewing guests from our congregation as we get to know them and their faith

journey. Some Sundays we want to do service projects, either at church or at someone's home. If you are interested in joining us for any of these on a Sunday morning, please contact our Youth Ministry Team of Adam Krohe, Marilyn Dichsen, and Barb Davenport.

God's Work - Our Hands: Sunday, September 8

In honor of our 75th Anniversary Celebration at Faith Lutheran Church, please consider doing God's work – with your hands, on Sunday, September 8, 2024. Our goal for this event (which we canceled last year because of cold and stormy weather) will be to "clean up and beautify" our community with 75 minutes (approximately) of service.

Lori Oldenettel will provide us with equipment to do this activity. We will leave from the church after service that day with location destinations and items to do our work. After completion of our project, we will return to Faith for fellowship, pizza, and soda.

Please dress appropriately and comfortably for the day. If you want to bring your own gloves and bags, that is fine, too.

Everyone is welcome. It will a fun time, and it will feel good to *practice the way* as an apprentice of Jesus. It will be God's work with our hands!

Soup Luncheon Carry-Out Style

We would like to have our annual Soup Luncheon like we did last year — carry-out meals of a soup and dessert on **Sunday, October 13** after church until 1:00pm. Please plan to purchase lunch to take home that day and consider offering to help with the preparation. This event will also be open to the public. Sign-up sheets will be available soon! We'll need donations of soup and desserts, help to package those on Saturday morning, then help with the carry out after church on Sunday.

Music is a Great Way to Connect!

We are always looking for people to sing or play special music for a prelude or a stewardship offering. Please contact Jean Welch if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts: jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

Exploring the Lutheran Confessions – Fall Adult Faith Formation Class

The fall Adult Faith Formation class will be "Exploring the Lutheran Confessions," led by the Rev. Chris Repp (Grace, Champaign). Classes will be held from 9:00 a.m. to noon via **Zoom** on **September 14 and 28, October 12 and 26, and November 16 and 30**.

Registration is open now at <u>CSIS-ELCA.org/aff24fall</u>. The cost is \$25 for a general course audit and \$50 for Synod-Authorized Ministry students. If cost is a hardship, please contact the synod office about a scholarship. The synod thanks Immanuel Lutheran Church, Colfax, for the generous donation of funds to help keep costs low

What we believe about God affects how we talk about God. How we talk about God determines whether we proclaim the gospel or some other message that is not faithful to who God is and what God is up to in Jesus Christ. This realization is what set Martin Luther and his colleagues down the path of reform 500 years ago. It is the enduring legacy of the Lutheran movement and a gift to the ecumenical church. This course is a study of the Lutheran Confessions to see how these texts continue to be vitally important to the mission of the church today.

Pastor Chris Repp received his undergraduate degree in Russian language and literature from Purdue University, an M.Div. from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and a Ph.D. in Russian history from the University of Illinois at Chicago. From 1999 to 2003 he served as an ELCA missionary in St. Petersburg, Russia, where he taught church history and systematic and confessional theology at a Russian Lutheran seminary. He then served as pastor of Epiphany Lutheran Church in Carbondale for 12 years before accepting his current call to Grace Lutheran Church, Champaign in 2015. A former member and chair of the ELCA's Global Mission Program Committee, he chaired the synod's Candidacy Committee from 2018-2023.

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 (\$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.