

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Outdoor Service
September 1, 2024

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Marilyn Dichsen & Adam Krohe – “Jesus Loves Me, Alleluia,”
arr. Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ

GATHERING

Call to Worship (from the ELCA National Youth Gathering)

A: People of God, this is the day that the Lord has made.

C: Thanks be to God!

A: You are created in the image of God.

C: We are created to be loved.

A: You are created to be brave.

C: We are created to be truth-tellers.

A: You are created to be authentic.

C: We are created to be free to serve others.

A: You are created to be disruptive at tables where injustice is revealed.

C: We are created to be disciples who follow Jesus.

A: People of God, welcome to worship.

Confession and Forgiveness (from the ELCA National Youth Gathering)

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

C: Amen.

P: Holy God, you gather us together as your people.

A: We are created to be brave in the face of our fears.

P: Help us. Remind us of your mercy. Hear our broken words...

A: For the days we are afraid to show up

C: Forgive us.

P: For the days we are afraid to speak up.

C: Forgive us.

A: For the days we are afraid to welcome someone others have ignored.

C: Forgive us.

P: For the times we are afraid to tell our own story or listen to someone else tell theirs.

C: Forgive us.

A: For the times we are afraid to be honest.

C: Forgive us.

P: For the times when we are afraid to challenge what is accepted.

C: Forgive us.

P: For the times we are afraid to follow you.

C: Forgive us.

P: Dear friends...

God created you to be loved, to tell the truth, to be free to live the fullness of this life God offers to you. By God's grace you have been saved from every broken promise, every assumption of privilege, every ignored invitation. In the name of Jesus (+) your sins are forgiven.

C: Thanks be to God! Amen.

**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 – “Come, Now is the Time to Worship”

Refrain: Come, now is the time to worship.

Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship.

Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

One day every tongue will confess you are God.

One day every knee will bow.

Still the greatest treasure remains for those,

Who gladly trust you now. Refrain

Children's Sermon

- 1 **This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.**
- 2 **This is my Father's world; the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world; he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev'rywhere.**
- 3 **This is my Father's world; oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let heaven ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!**

WORD

Psalm 139

Reader: Barb Davenport

- ¹O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
- ²You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
- ³You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- ⁴Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.
- ⁵You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
- ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
- ⁷Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
- ⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
- ⁹If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
- ¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me,

and your right hand shall hold me fast.
¹¹If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night’,
¹²even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
¹³For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.

**Gospel Reading:* Matthew 5:14-16 (The Message) Reader: Marilyn Dichsen

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand — shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God.

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

Sermon: “Created to Be”

Song of the Day – “Give Us Your Vision”

1. **Give us your vision, Lord, this is our pray’r
O, help us to see when the way is not clear
And gift us with wisdom and lead us, we pray
Let grace be our calling and our strength for today.**

2. **Give us belonging so that we may feel
Your warm arms around us, your help in our need
And gift us with friendship that brings us new life
And binds us together in a circle of love.**

**3. Give us believing to trust in your Word
With wisdom to teach so the gospel is heard
And faith for each moment and hope ev'ry day
To do in our living what believing we say.**

**4. Give us becoming so that we may be
All that you intended, created and free
A gift freely given, the hope for rebirth
The kingdom of heaven at work on the earth.**

**The Apostles' Creed*

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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

*~ Mission Moment on Discipleship ~
with Youth Camp Participants*

–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 Distribution

“Sanctuary”

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.**

**Lord, prepare me, to be a testimony, meek and lowly, more like you.
In submission, sharing your vision, I'll be a testimony, for you.**

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.**

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

**1. Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

*Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.*

*Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!*

**2. Lord, I come to Your awesome presence, From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness;
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness;
Shine on me, shine on me. 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: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song: “Lord, Reign in Me”*

**1. Over all the earth You reign on high, Ev’ry mountain stream, ev’ry sunset sky.
But my one request, Lord, my only aim Is that you’d reign in me again.**

*Refrain: Lord, reign in me, reign in your pow’r,
Over all my dreams, in my darkest hour.*

You are the Lord of all I am, So won’t you reign in me again? Repeat

2. **Over ev'ry thought, over ev'ry word May my life reflect the beauty of my Lord.**
'Cause you mean more to me than any earthly thing.
So won't you reign in me again? Refrain

You are the Lord of all I am, so won't you reign in me again?

Dismissal

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Song Credits

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Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Youth

Greeter: Hallie Mayner

Readers: Barb Davenport & Marilyn Dichsen

Usher: Hallie Mayner

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Musician: Susan Roegge

Financial Assistants: Kelly Hartz & Kelly Street

Chancel Committee: Kris Roth

Coffee Host: *Indoor Potluck*

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, 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

Sunday, September 8, 9:30am: Worship + Rally Day
10:45am: God's Work—Our Hands Community Clean Up

Monday-Friday: Doorbell Dinner Delivery

Wednesday, September 11, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group
4:00pm: Worship Core Team Meeting
6:00pm: Women of Faith Game Night at Pam Devlin's

News Updates

Outdoor Worship and Potluck

Our next outdoor worship service of the season is today. To assure all can participate, there is 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. All are welcome!

Indoor Potluck Today

Following outdoor worship today, we will move indoors for a potluck meal in the Great Room. If you can help clean up after the meal today, that would be great.

Coming Up September 9-13: Doorbell Dinners

Help us deliver meals in the community. For more information and to **sign up**, 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: Kevin Krohe or Larry Kuster.

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.

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 be 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!**

“Faith's Little Flock”

Last month, Melissa Street shared about a new format we are trying for Sunday School this year. Beginning on Sunday, September 8, 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 pick them up for communion. This will give some education and fun for the kids and allow parents the option for more focus in worship. We realize this is a significant change from the past. We value having our children in 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. We are thankful to already have three volunteers who have stepped forward and would like to find a few more. Interested? Please talk to Melissa or Mariah Street.

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 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.

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 on September 8 as well as tickets to purchase! 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)

Tasha Layton Concert September 22

Faith Lutheran is joining forces with other community churches to host a Christian concert on the square on September 22 with one of today's top female Christian artists, Tasha Layton. The **Opening Act is at 4:30pm; Tasha Takes the Stage at 6:15pm**. It is a free concert and an outreach to the entire community. Grab a lawn chair and some friends and join us for this wonderful community concert!

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 [CSIS-ELCA.org/aff24fall](https://www.csis-elca.org/aff24fall). 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.