

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2024

Greetings and Welcome

The Story – “In the Beginning”

GATHERING

**Call to Worship*

P: Creation Shouts!

C: The world listens, waits, and hopes.

P: Creation Creates!

C: The garden grows and groans.

P: God walks, loves, and waits.

C: We come, we seek, we grow, we love, we worship.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Mysterious Maker, you are life and wisdom, the architect of the universe and all that it contains, both seen and hidden.

C: Your breath gives life to all living things. Your love is freely given to all.

P: You gave us curious minds, a sense of adventure, a thirst for knowledge.

C: You invite us to explore the world you have made, to engage all of our senses in discovering new things.

P: But in giving us so much freedom, you also allowed us to make decisions to choose how to live.

C: Lord, like the men and women who have gone before us, we have not always made good choices. We have failed to follow your guidance and chosen to take a wrong turn or a wrong path.

P: Like Adam and Eve, we still think we know better. We listen to the serpent suggesting that you have lied to us and that we should do what we want.

C: Lord, show us when we have failed. Help us to acknowledge our mistakes and seek your forgiveness, for you offer it freely.

Silence for confession

P: By the gift of grace, God hears your confession and forgives all of your sins. Hide no more and be clothed in the love and mercy of God.

**Gathering Song – “Come and Gather Beneath the Tree of Life” (piano)*

*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**

**Flowing from this tree of grace and passion,
Oh how sweet the taste, how deep and rich the wellspring of your love. Refrain**

**Here beneath the branches of your mercy,
We invoke your name, remember how your love has set us free. Refrain**

**Prayer of the Day*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray...

C: Lord God, architect of the universe, your design of creation is unflawed. Yet we continue to litter your creation with defects and imperfections. Show us how not to destroy... but to create, not to demean... but to uplift, not to hate... but to love, so that your creation may better reflect your Glory. 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

WORD

Reading: Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8

Reader: Carol VanderKloot

⁴These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; ⁶but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground — ⁷then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.

¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’

³Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God say, “You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?”’ ²The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.”’ ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

⁸They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

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

Sermon: Adam and Eve – God's Promise to a Fallen People

Song of the Day – “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

**Prayers of Intercession*

Stewardship Time

Sandi Watts

organist

–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

“God of the Fertile Fields” (ACS 1000) (organ)

- 1 **God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:
forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,
that all in ev'ry land be clothed and fed.**
- 2 **We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you all that you give;
help us in love to share, teach us like you to care
for people ev'rywhere, that all may live.**
- 3 **As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need, so your reign grows.
Let all our toil be used, no gift of yours abused,
no humble task refused your love bestows.**
- 4 **God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died to make us one:
we pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.**

“Mighty to Save” (piano)

**Everyone needs compassion, love that's never failing. Let mercy fall on me.
Everyone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Savior. The Hope of nations.**

*Refrain: Savior, He can move the mountains. My God is mighty to save.
He is mighty to save.*

*Forever, Author of Salvation. He rose and conquered the grave.
Jesus conquered the grave.*

**So take me as You find me, all my fears and failures. Fill my life again.
I give my life to follow, everything I believe in. Now I surrender. *Refrain twice***

**Shine your light, and let the whole world see.
We're singing ... for the glory of the risen King.
Jesus, shine your light, and let the whole world see.
We're singing ... for the glory of the risen King.
*Refrain twice***

**Shine your light, and let the whole world see.
We're singing ... for the glory of the risen King.
Jesus, shine your light, and let the whole world see.
We're singing ... for the glory of the risen King.**

**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: We leave this place to step out into a world given to us in Creation.

**C: As we walk through this week, let us be careful with the footprints we leave. And
as we walk gently, let us breathe in the life-giving joy of walking in the presence
of God, who loves and cherishes each child of creation.**

P: Be blessed. Be loved. Be treasured.

**Sending Song – “Let All Things Now Living” ELW 881*

(organ)

- 1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.**

**God's banners are o'er us, God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.**

- 2 God rules all the forces: the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"**

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Portions of today's liturgy come from "Spill the Beans: worship and learning resources for all ages" and Luther Seminary's Narrative Lectionary worship resources.

The altar plants are given today by
Gayla Smith in honor of her birthday

Song Credits

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Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Kay Schnitker
Greeters: Gayla Smith & Debbie Stevens
Reader: Carol VanderKloot
Usher: Pat Glyshaw
Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Music Director: Jean Welch
Organist: Sandi Watts
Pianist: Jean Welch
Drummer: John Demien
Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen
Financial Assistants: Greg Kimler & Monica Proefrock
Chancel Committee: Pat Glyshaw
Coffee Host: Kay Schnitker



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, 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

Sunday, September 15, 9:30am: Worship **Newsletter Deadline**
4:30pm: Bible Boot Camp
5:30pm: Faith Inkubators

Wednesday, September 18, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group
10:00am: Discipleship Group

Thursday, September 19, 6:00pm: Council Meeting

News Updates

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.

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, **today**, 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 with location destinations and items to do our work. After completion of our project, we will return to Faith for fellowship, pizza, and soda.

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!**

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.

“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 staff a nursery and offer Sunday school after worship. 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 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.

Soup Luncheon - Carry-Out Style

Our Carry-Out Soup Luncheon was a success last year, and we will be offering that style again! Carry-out soups and desserts will be available on **Sunday, October 13, from 10:30am - 1:00pm.** We could use your help!

Signup sheets are available for a variety of ways you can volunteer from providing soups/desserts to helping in the building: we'll need help to package food on Saturday morning (October 12), then help with the carry out after church on Sunday. Please sign up on the Coffee Sales counter next to the coat closet.

Tickets are available for you to purchase or sell to your family and friends.

Posters are available for you to take around town to help us advertise.

Let's work together to serve our community and share some delicious Lutheran Love! (Please bring in any cardboard trays or small boxes for us to use.)

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.