

# Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 15, 2024

*Greetings and Welcome*

*The Story – “Count the Stars”*

*Pillars of Africa Children’s Ministry Welcome*

## GATHERING

*\*Call to Worship*

P: Our God flings stars into space and says, “See! You are all my children, each and every one.”

**C: We come, stars in the skies, sand on the shore, all God’s children everywhere, drawn to God, drawn to love, drawn to worship.**

*Confession and Forgiveness*

P: Star Maker, as we gaze up at the night sky and look in wonder at these tiny dots of light, we remember that you once promised Abram that his descendants would outnumber the stars in the sky.

**C: We are his descendants, billions of us, living thousands of years later. His story is our story and your story.**

P: Lord, you keep your promises, then and now. You promise to be with us always, to love us no matter what, and to forgive us when we ask.

**C: Lord, we are sorry that we need to ask for your forgiveness so often, that we fail you time and time again. Have mercy on us, forgive us for our sins, and give us a fresh start.**

*Silence for confession*

P: Dear children of Abraham, through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May you, like Abram, believe God’s promises, trust in God, and follow God more faithfully day by day. Amen.

*\*Gathering Song – “We Worship You”*

*(piano)*

**You are God of all the earth, you are worthy, mighty king, we worship you today.  
You are God who wins the battles, we glorify your name, we worship you today.**

*Sing 2 times*

**Chorus: We worship you, O Lord, we worship you today (2 times),  
We worship you today, we worship you today, we worship you today (2 times),**

**Fill my heart with a thirst for worship,  
use me unstoppable to declare your holy name  
Jireh Rapha Nissi... El-Shaddai, Adonai... your glory is sufficient to me.**

*Sing 2 times*

*Prayer Interlude*

Bridge (leader first time, then All next time):

**Your love is great you died for me, You shed your blood and now I’m free.  
You picked me up and brought me change, You are Yahweh, You are Yahweh.**

*Sing 2 times*

*Chorus*

Jireh: “The Lord will Provide”

Rapha: “The Lord who Heals”

Nissi: “The Lord our Banner”

El-Shaddai: “Lord God Almighty”

Adonai: “Lord, Master”

*\*Prayer of the Day*

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Let us pray...

**C:** God of the covenant. As you promised that Abram’s descendants would outnumber the stars, you have also promised us that we might live under those stars as your people, faithful and loved. Show us how to live as your people, and how to nurture all your children with whom we share the same canopy of sky night after night. 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.*

*\*Song – “Darling Jesus”*

*(piano)*

**Darling Je-e-sus, darling Jesus, O my darling Jesus**

**You are wonderful Lord.**

**I love you so much, darling Jesus, O my darling Jesus**

**You are wonderful Lord.**

**Hey-o-ay-o... Hey-o-ay-hey-o-bom, bom, bom**

**Hey-o-ay-o... Hey-o-ay-hey-o-bom, bom, bom**

*Children's Sermon*

## WORD

*Reading:* Genesis 15:1-21

*Reader:* Kelly Hartz

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.’ <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, ‘O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’ <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, ‘You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.’ <sup>4</sup>But the word of the Lord came to him, ‘This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.’ <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, ‘Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ <sup>6</sup>And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, ‘I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.’ <sup>8</sup>But he said, ‘O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?’ <sup>9</sup>He said to him, ‘Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.’ <sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.

<sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. <sup>13</sup>Then the Lord said to Abram, ‘Know this for certain, that your offspring shall be aliens in a land that is not theirs, and shall be slaves there, and they shall be oppressed for four hundred years; <sup>14</sup>but I will bring judgement on the nation that they serve, and afterwards they shall come out with great possessions. <sup>15</sup>As for yourself, you shall go to your ancestors in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. <sup>16</sup>And they shall come back here in the fourth generation; for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.’

<sup>17</sup>When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup>On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, <sup>19</sup>the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, <sup>20</sup>the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, <sup>21</sup>the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.’

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

*Sermon:* Abram: God’s Prodigal Promise

*Song of the Day* – “Great is Thy Faithfulness” ELW 733

(organ)

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

*Refrain*

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain***

- 3 **Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain**

*\*Prayers of Intercession*

*Stewardship Time*

“Living Hope,” *arr. Wickham*  
*Faith Singers*

*–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*

“Goodness of God”

*(piano)*

**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.**

“Alleluia Ensemble”

*Sung by youth at Pillars of Africa Children's Ministry*

*\*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: As we leave this place...

**C: Let us step out in faith and confidence. We have a God in whom we can trust and in whom we have faith. So let us live in that faith, serving the one who has faith in us.**

P: God's blessings be with you this day and always. Amen.

*\*Sending Song – “Send Me, Lord” ELW 809*

*(piano)*

1 (Send me, Lord.)

**Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus,  
send me, Jesus, send me, Lord.**

2 (Lead me, Lord.)

**Lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus,  
lead me, Jesus, lead me, Lord.**

3 (Fill me, Lord.)

**Fill me, Jesus, fill me, Jesus,  
fill me, Jesus, fill me, Lord.**

4 (Thuma mina.)

**Thuma mina, thuma mina.  
Thuma mina, Somandla.**

*\*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*\*Postlude:* Songs from Pillars

*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.*

## Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Pam Devlin  
Greeter: Lillian Korous  
Reader: Kelly Hartz  
Usher: Liddy Stark  
Pastor: Adam Dichsen  
Music Director: Jean Welch  
Musician: Jean Welch  
Drummer: John Demien  
Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen  
Financial Assistants: Gaylon Martin & Patty Nelson  
Chancel Committee: Martha Krohe  
Coffee Hosts: Verla Buckner & Laura Sweatman



### 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 |             |               |                  |

### Song Credits

"We Worship You," Ugandan song.

"Darling Jesus," Ugandan song.

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"Goodness of God," by Jenn Johnson, Brian Johnson, Jason Ingram, Ed Cash, & Ben Fielding. © 2019 Shout Music Pub.. CCLI#973583



## What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, September 15, 9:30am: Worship **Newsletter Deadline**

10:30am: Youth Sunday School

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, 5:45pm: Council Meeting

Sunday, September 22, 9:30am: Worship

10:30am: Youth Sunday School

Wednesday, September 25, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

Thursday, September 26, 5:30pm: First Communion Class

## News Updates

### **Bible Boot Camp – our first session is this afternoon!**

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 – our first session is this afternoon!**

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.

### **“Faith’s Little Flock”**

The new format for Sunday School is going well! Children ages 2-6 are invited to join a volunteer in a classroom during a portion of worship. The children are walked to the Sunday school room after the children's sermon, and then parents are asked to pick them up for communion. This gives some education and fun for the kids and allows 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.

### **Soup Luncheon - Carry-Out Style**

Our Carry-Out Soup Lunch 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 there for you to purchase or sell to your family and friends.

**Posters** are also 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.)

## **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.

## **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.

## **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](mailto: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!