

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 2025

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Sandi Watts

GATHERING

Call to Worship

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

C: Amen.

Confession

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence

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 us 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.

Gathering Song – “Bless the Lord”

(piano)

*Refrain: Bless the Lord, O my soul, bless God’s holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, bless God’s holy name.*

1. Remember the kindness of our God,
who showers us with blessing all our days. *Refrain*

2. Remember the justice of our God,
who stands with those forgotten and confused. *Refrain*

3. Remember the healing love of God,
who calls us to be whole and to be free. *Refrain*

**Greeting*

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

**Prayer of the Day*

P: Lord God, we bless you in our worship today. All you have made is good and your glory is revealed in every star and blade of grass. As we count our blessings, open our eyes to see your image in every person. Strengthen and unite us with your word in our worship, through scripture and songs, through bread and wine, fruit of your creation. May the praise we give you today continue always.

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

WORD

Reading: Genesis 1–2:3

Reader: John Williams

¹When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was **GOOD**, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. **And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.**

⁶And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. **And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.**

⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was **GOOD**. ¹¹Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was **GOOD**. ¹³**And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.**

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was **GOOD**. ¹⁹**And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.**

²⁰And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was **GOOD**. ²²God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³**And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.**

²⁴And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was **GOOD**.

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷So God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very **GOOD**. **And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.**

²Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ²On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

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

**Gospel Reading:* John 1:1-5

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

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

Scripture Song – “All Creatures Worship God Most High” ELW 835, vv. 1 & 6
(organ)

- 1 All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sermon: “Counting Every Blessing”

Song of the Day – “Beautiful Savior” ELW 838 (piano)

- 1 Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
- 2 Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.
- 4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

**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 goal of stewardship ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them. We thank you for the many ways you generously partner in ministry together, by offering your time, talents, and finances. We dedicate our offerings and ourselves to the glory of God and the work God has called us to share.

Please place your appeal pledge in the offering plate, along with our new worship cards.

**"Morning Has Broken" ELW 556 (piano)
by Faith Singers and Congregation**

**Morning has broken, like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing, fresh from the word.**

**Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dew fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden.
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning
God's recreation of the new day!**

**Offertory*

“Give Thanks”

(piano)

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,

Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,

Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, “I am strong,”

let the poor say, “I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.”

And now let the weak say, “I am strong,”

let the poor say, “I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.” Repeat

Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**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

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” ELW 631 (*organ*)

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.
- 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
- 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
- 4 Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!

“Great is the Lord”

(*piano*)

Great is the Lord, he is holy and just. By his power we trust in his love.
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true. By his mercy he proves he is love.
Great is the Lord and worthy of glory. Great is the Lord and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord, I lift up my voice, I lift up my voice.
Great is the Lord, great is the Lord. *Repeat*

**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.

**Sending Song – “What an Awesome God”*

(piano)

God is great, give him all the praise, hallelujah, name above all names.
Fire in his eyes, healing in his veins, everywhere, his glory on display.
Take a look at those stars, he can name them all.
Before his throne every knee falls.
The demons have to run, the angels have to praise,
even the winds and waves obey.

Refrain: **Our God is an awesome God, he reigns from heaven above,
with wisdom, power and love, our God is an awesome God.
Our God is an awesome God, he reigns from heaven above
with wisdom power and love, our God is an awesome God.**

And even when I ran, he didn't run away, he came and put death back in it's place.
Friday on a cross, broken for my shame, Sunday morning rose up from that grave.
Take a look at those scars on his hands and feet, He saved our souls for eternity.
Worthy is the Lamb. Glory to the King Oh, let all the saints and the angels sing.

(Refrain)

Eyes on the sky, there will be a day, he will come and wipe our tears away.
No more fear, no more pain, no more sorrow, sin or shame.
The King is coming back again, a reign of love that will never end.
For everything you've done, and everything you do,
and everything you are, I'll sing to you.

**My God, you're an awesome God, you're great in all you do.
I'm made to worship you, my God, you're an awesome God.**

(Refrain)

Our God is an awesome God. Our God, what an awesome God!

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Song Credits

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“Give Thanks,” from **Songs for Praise & Worship**, Word Music, © 1992. CCLI#973583

“Great Is the Lord,” from **Spirit Touching Spirit**, Prince of Peace Publishing, Inc, used by permission.

“What an Awesome God,” by Phil Wickham.

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Pam Devlin

Greeter: Judy Dillard

Reader: John Williams

Usher: Pat Glyshaw

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Pianist: Jean Welch

Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen

Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Kelly Hartz & Monica Proefrock

Chancel Committee: Kris Roth

Coffee Host: *Breakfast in the Great Room*

Singers:

Benen Dichsen

Terri Kimler

Kris Roth

Melissa Street

Kelly Hartz

Adam Krohe

Cole Street

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson

Marilyn Dichsen

Greg Kimler

Monica Proefrock

Ken Devlin

Kelly Hartz

Patty Nelson

Kay Schnitker

Kelly Street



The altar plants are donated today
by Celeste Hill in honor of her birthday on Sept. 13

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, September 14, 9:30am: Worship

10:30am: Breakfast in the Great Room – Appeal results

4:00pm: Bible Boot Camp at the Martin's

5:00pm: Youth Event at the Martin's

Wednesday, September 17, 10:00am: Discipleship Group in the Faith Library

Thursday, September 18, 6:00pm: Church Council meeting in the Faith Library

Sunday, September 21, 9:30am: Worship

11:00am: Bible Study

4:30-6:00pm: Bible Boot Camp

News Updates

Lay Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

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!*

Faith's Little Flock

(Ages 2–7) gathers during worship right after the Children's Sermon and returns to the sanctuary in time for Communion.

This month, Faith's Little Flock is excited to introduce a new curriculum aligned with the Lectionary and Pastor Adam's sermons. The children will explore stories of creation and resurrection, learn about Abraham and Isaac, and hear about Jacob's Dream. Through engaging activities, they will experience the stories by learning, living, and singing them. We also provide materials for parents to continue these lessons at home.

Faith's Little Flock warmly welcomes—and deeply appreciates—our adult and older youth volunteers. If you're interested in spending time with the children during part of the Sunday worship service or joining the teacher rotation for Faith's Little Flock, please reach out to Melissa Street or Pam Devlin. Blessings, *Melissa*

Join Us as We "Go Deeper"

After worship scripture and sermon discussions will continue in the Justice Room with Pastor Adam. We will not meet on September 14 because of the Dedication Sunday breakfast.

“Abiding in Faith for our Future” Commitment Sunday and Celebration Meal

Today we will have our Stewardship Dedication as we receive pledges for both our annual stewardship appeal and our Abiding in Faith for the Future special three-year appeal to pay off our mortgage. After worship, all are invited to the Great Room for a breakfast provided by our men’s breakfast crew while our Council tallies the pledges and announces the total. Please prayerfully consider how you can give to support our ministry together in these ways. Remember, stewardship is not about fundraising, but it is a spiritual practice.

Bible Boot Camp

Bible Boot Camp kicks off with a cookout at the Martin’s home today, **Sunday, Sept. 14** as we learn about God’s creation. We’ll read the creation stories in Genesis, explore God’s creation at their pond, have a hotdog cookout with homemade ice cream, and sing around the campfire. For the more adventurous, there are kayaks, a row boat, and fishing poles. Parents are welcome to attend and join us for the activities and meal. We will meet at Faith at 4:00 to carpool and be finished at 6:00. Our second Bible Boot Camp session will be Sunday, September 21 at Faith. Meet at 4:30 for lessons on Abraham, Isaac, and Moses. Supper will be provided at 5:30, and we will end at 6:00.

Youth Events in September

Our junior and senior high students are invited to the Martin’s home for a cookout and outdoor fun on **Sunday, September 14**. We’ll start with hotdogs, brats, and homemade ice cream at 5:30 and then have some fun boating, kayaking, fishing, and more, closing off with singing around the campfire as we watch the sunset. Meet at 5:00 at Faith for a ride or to carpool, and we’ll be finished at 8:00.

Discipleship Group

Join us for the Discipleship Group meeting at **10:00am on Wednesday, September 17**, in the Faith Library as we meet for Bible study, discussion, and fellowship. We have a lot of fun with lively discussions. Let’s grow together in compassion, connection, and purpose.

Cards/Cubs Game

Calling all Cardinal & Cub fans for an afternoon of friendly rivalry at Faith. Join us in the Great Room on **Sunday, September 28th at 2:00pm** to watch the last regular season match-up for these two teams. There will be snacks and drinks available. Plus we’ll have some friendly games in between innings. Put on your red or blue (or both!) and come join the fun!