



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

## NOVEMBER

### OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Congregation of Faith Lutheran Church is hereby summoned to its annual meeting on **Sunday, November 13 at 10:30 am** following worship.

**Luncheon will be provided after the meeting.**

## DECEMBER

### Sat., Dec. 3 - Secret Sister Reveal, Final Gift & Luncheon

This year's program will begin in January 2017 and run through December 2017 for all women of Faith Lutheran. **Secret Sisters** is a ministry between you and another Sister in our church family. You become her silent prayer partner and her secret encourager for the year. She doesn't know who you are, *but she will know you are there*, and praying for her and her needs. **Secret Sisters** is about encouraging and supporting one another in prayer as well as with personal notes, cards and small gifts. It is my hope that during these months your prayer life will bring you into a deeper relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ as you lift your sister and her needs up.

**This is a year long commitment to lift up your Secret Sister in prayer on a regular basis. Encourage her.** Send cards, notes, etc. at least once a month (more often if possible!). **Remember your Secret Sister on her special occasions.** Mark specific dates on your calendar; include her birthday, anniversary, etc., as well as the holidays. **Keep her a secret! Don't let her know who you are!** Then we'll have a *fun* Secret Sister Reveal Party and Luncheon in December! Here you will bring her your final, very special card and gift. **Any new women who join our church during this 12-month period are welcome to become a participant.**

### Sunday, December 4 - Decorate church for Christmas



## Faith Lutheran Church

*Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ*

Sunday, October 23, 2016

23rd Sunday After Pentecost ~ 9:30 am

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

C: **Amen.**

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. (A brief silence.) Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: **Amen.**

~ OPENING HYMN ~

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry  
 3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy  
 trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us  
 life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,  
 find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;  
 more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,  
 ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with  
 Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.  
 its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.  
 with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.  
 crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

- 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.**



**Next Sunday is Reformation Day,  
 the 499th anniversary  
 of the Lutheran Church.  
 Remember to  
 WEAR RED to worship!**

**The following Sunday, November 6, is  
 All Saints' Day, when we remember our  
 loved ones who have passed away.  
 Come early to light a candle in honor of  
 those you wish to remember.**



**The Out to Dinner Group has been invited to Pastor  
 Rick & Helen's home for dinner on Friday, Nov. 11th  
 at 6:00pm. Their address is 1915 Jonquil Place,  
 Rockford. For more information please phone  
[815-566-5247](tel:815-566-5247) or [815-227-4679](tel:815-227-4679). Maps will be availa-  
 ble at the church for your travel information. Signup  
 sheet is on the bulletin board. Everyone is invited!**

- ◆ **Thanksgiving Food Drive**
- ◆ **Through November 13**
- ◆ **Cash donations accepted**



***We are looking for 2017 Council  
 Members! Contact Kelly Miller,  
 Sue Miller or Mike Banker.  
 Terms are 3 years. We need you!***



## First, We Give of Ourselves Giving in Generosity

### “God’s Generosity”

The “generosity of God” is the focus of our conversation this week and surrounded by the words of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 2:1-11. What do you think of when you hear this description of God acting in our lives. Are your thoughts of wealth or other material things that have come your way? Perhaps one’s understanding of the generosity of God is linked with wealth given to us by God in response to some action or attitude on our part. This is called ‘the theology of abundance’ which finds its center in God rewarding a person with wealth and blessings for some favorable action on the recipient’s part. But this is not what the generosity and abundance of God is about.

Rather, God’s generosity is the sacrificial giving centered on the cross where Jesus died for our sins that we might have forgiveness and life. It is the cross that defines the core of God’s generosity and defines our own.

In what ways have you experienced “giving in generosity” this week by either giving or receiving?

Please think and pray generously as you consider your financial commitment to Faith Lutheran Church for 2017. We will offer our pledges on Stewardship Sunday, November 20.

## INTRODUCTION

- P:** Genuine repentance and pretentious piety stand in stark contrast in the gospel and all around us. All creation stands in need of God’s forgiveness. Keep the faith. God’s people - “all who have longed for his appearing” - shall be accounted righteous for Jesus’ sake. Our God is merciful to sinners. For all this the assembly glorifies God forever.
- C:** Amen

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P:** Let us pray. (A brief silence.)
- ALL:** Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## Children’s Church

*After the children’s message, they are dismissed to go with their teacher downstairs.*

## FIRST READING: Jeremiah 14:7-10,19-22

A reading from Jeremiah, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Although our iniquities testify against us, act, O LORD, for your name’s sake; our apostasies indeed are many, and we have sinned against you. O hope of Israel, its savior in time of trouble, why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveler turning aside for the night? Why should you be like someone confused, like a mighty warrior who cannot give help? Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; do not forsake us! Thus says the LORD concerning this people: Truly they have loved to wander, they have not restrained their feet; therefore, the LORD does not accept them, now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins.

## Today's Worship Leaders

**Altar Guild** - Roger & Carol Frey

**Computer Technician** - Mike Banker

**Offering Video** - Helen Meier

**Counters** - Roger & Carol Frey

**Fellowship** - Gerry Cliffe

**Greeters** - Liz Shockley & Teresa Moffitt

**Musician** - Betty Comins

**Reader** - Craig Miller

**Ushers** - Doug Congdon and Shawn Guffey

**Pastor** - Rev. Dr. Richard J. Meier

For a pastoral care emergency or hospitalization this week, please contact **Pastor Rick on his cell phone: 815-566-5247.**

Have you completely rejected Judah? Does your heart loathe Zion? Why have you struck us down so that there is no healing for us? We look for peace, but find no good; for a time of healing, but there is terror instead. We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD, the iniquity of our ancestors, for we have sinned against you. Do not spurn us, for your name's sake; do not dishonor your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant with us. Can any idols of the nations bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Is it not you, O LORD our God? We set our hope on you, for it is you who do all this.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## **PSALM 84:1-7 ~ A Responsive Reading ~**

R: How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts!

**C: My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

R: Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young, by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king and my God.

**C: Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you.**

R: Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

**C: Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.**

R: They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.



**We pray for Agate Family, Amy, Anna Maria, Audrey, Barb, Barry, Bartram Family, Bea, Bev, Bill, Bob & Terry, Boyd, Brayton, Brett, Brian, Carl, Carla, Chris Kuehl, Cindy, Claudine, Colin, Connie, Courtney, Dave, Debi, Denise, Dennis, Davis, Dick, Dominick, Don, Dylan, Emily, Ian, Florence, Gary, Gavin, George, Gina, Harriet, Heather, Heidi, Helen Meier, Irene A. Jason Vigdal, Jayleena Ducksworth, Jean, Jeff, Jen, Jerome, Jim, Jimmy, John, Joyce, Joyce Hatch, Judy, Kathleen, Kelli, Ken, Larry, Larry Munch Family, Lisa Wright, Logan, Lorrie, Lucas, Marjean, Marion, Mary, Mary B., Mary Lou, Maureen, Nancy, Noah, Noah Jones, Patty, Renee, Rich, Rick, Ricky, Roger, Sam, Sara, Sarah, Scott Wright, Shalom, Shannon, Shirley, Steve, Sue, Ted, Teresa, Terri, Terry, Tim, Todd, Tom, Trisha Cliffe, Tristan, Vance, Vicki, Viola, Zach, all service men & women, all those in need of prayers from our Faith family and friends, and all homeless persons and those who are unemployed.**

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Worship

**Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church.** We are so happy to have you worship with us today! Please join us after worship in our Fellowship Room for beverages, snacks and conversation.

**Communion** is by intinction. Come forward as directed by the ushers, receive the bread with an open hand then dip it in the wine (dark) or juice (light). If you accidentally eat the bread before dipping or drop it, please ask for another piece. You do not have to be a member of Faith or be Lutheran to take Communion. Christ is the host of the meal and ALL baptized believers are welcome!

**Offering** ~ As always, if you are unable to attend worship, please make sure to catch up with your **offering** the next week. Or, if you'd like, please mail it to the church office and write "offering" on the envelope and it will be included in that week's offering and seen only by the designated counters for the day. Thank you for being faithful in giving generously to God's work here at Faith Lutheran!

### Financials for Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016 - Week 42

Attendance - 70

Weekly Offering Actual	\$1,614.00
Weekly Offering Budget	\$2,068.00
2016 YTD Actual Offering	\$84,571.50
2016 YTD Offering Needed	\$86,856.00
Offerings YTD Toward Roof Loan	\$2,594.50



*Today's altar flowers are presented by  
Russell G. Scheibel in memory of  
Myrtle and Russell H. Scheibel*

## SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

A reading from 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: **Thanks be to God!**

### "ALLELUIA"



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

~ COMMUNION ~

**GOSPEL: Luke 18:9-14**

P: The holy gospel according to Luke, the 18th chapter.

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

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**"A Legacy of Humble Service"**



**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: We come again to you. Oh God, giving you thanks that in this feast of mercy you have embraced us and healed us, making us one in the body of Christ. Go with us on our way. Equip us for every good work, that we may continue to give you thanks by embracing others with mercy and healing; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

**BLESSING**

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen**

**CLOSING HYMN**

**~ CHORAL BENEDICTION ~**

**May the light of God shine on us today.  
May the light of God shine on us today.  
May it show us where to travel,  
lead us back if we should stray.  
May the light of God shine on us today.**

**May the love of God live in us today.  
May the love of God live in us today.  
May the warmth we feel within us,  
show in all we do and say.  
May the love of God live in us today.**

**May the peace of God be with us today.  
May the peace of God be with us today.  
May it guide us and protect us,  
as we go our separate ways.  
May the peace of God be with us today.**

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C: **Amen**

## DIALOGUE

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 and praise to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE 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.**

## ~ Hymn of the Day ~

### Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,



watch - ing for you and for me.  
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
par - don for you and for me.

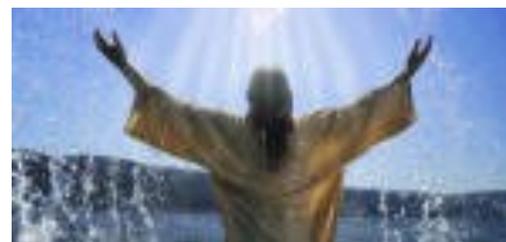


You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909  
Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson



## 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,  
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.**

**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

P: Set free by the truth of God's gracious love, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's good creation. (*A brief silence.*) Only you are righteous, O God. Lead your church to true repentance so that we reflect your light and truth to the world.

Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Only you can bring rain, O God. Be with those who lack clean water or must walk miles to quench their thirst. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Only you can judge the nations, O God. Raise up leaders with humble hearts so that your peace spreads across the earth. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Only you can bring healing, O God. Be with all whose hearts ache, who hold out empty hands, who long for forgiveness. Comfort the grieving and heal the sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Only you know the depths of our hearts, O God. Call this congregation to loving action in your name and open our eyes to what you are doing among us. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Those who live in your house are happy, O God. Keep us by your grace until we join the saints around your throne. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Into your hands, faithful God, we place ourselves and our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~  
"Redeemer" by The Crabb Family**