



Saturday, Feb. 24 - It's Right Around the Corner!

Spaghetti Dinner & Trivia Night Fundraiser for the 2018 Houston Youth Gathering this summer. We have 4 young people going! Dinner at 5pm. Gluten-free dinners available. Trivia at 6:30pm.

Sign up on the board today! FREE babysitting provided!

~ There will be awesome Silent Auction Gift Baskets to bid on ~ \$10 (13 +) \$5 (4-12) 3 & under - free. If you're not a Trivia Night type of person, just plan on coming for dinner! Pay now or at the door. Cash donations also accepted! Thanks for your support.

We pray all service persons women, homeless and unemployed, shut-ins, our college students, military families, and those serving in the military. We pray for our friends, families, and loved ones, especially: Adam, Alyson & Jarrett, Audrey, Aunt Bettie, Bailey, Barb, Barry & Shelby, Betty Comins, Bill, Bob, Boyd & Inez, Carter Gronau,

Cathy, Cindy, Connie, Damon, Darrell, Dawn, Debi, Dick, Dodi, Doloris, Don, Dustin Insko, Eloise, Florence, Gary, Gavin, George, Gerri, Glenn, Harriet, Irene, Isaiah W., Jaleena, Janet, Janie, Jeff, Jen, Jessica, John, Kennadi, Kenny, Kim, Larry, Laure, Laurie, Lawrence, Linda, Lyla, Mary, Maureen, Nancy, Pat, Patti, Rich, Selena W., Shelly, Steve, Ted, Tom, Vic, Vicki, Victoria, Viola, Vivian, Willis Miller, Yogi, and Zach.



Happy February Birthday to: 1-Ted Balk, 3-Bernie Parisot, 9-Dean Birch, 10-Sue Miller, 10-Shari Birch, 11-Cameron Gruenberg, 12-Becky Gruenberg, 14-Lucy Naff, 15-Ethel Strasser, 16-Taylor Gruenberg, 16-Courtney Schuller, 18-Zach Hedrington, 21-Natasha Schneider, 22-Autumn Marty, 22-Carol Frey, 22-Ben Strasser, 28-Patti Dunaway



Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ
Sunday, February 18, 2018
First Sunday of Lent ~ 9:30 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

C: Amen.

P: *(A brief silence.)* Merciful God,

C: you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

P: Behold now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.

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.**

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

P: On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. *(A brief silence.)*

C: **Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children's Church

FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

A reading from Genesis, the 9th chapter.

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

You're all invited to join us every Wednesday during Lent for a Simple Supper followed by a worship service



Simple Supper Information

- ◆ Begins at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Room
- ◆ Followed at 6:30 pm with Lenten service
- ◆ Wednesday, February 21 and 28
- ◆ Wednesday, March 7, 14, and 21
- ◆ The sign up sheets are on the board for help with a simple meal or a dessert
- ◆ Come one, come all ~ All are invited!
- ◆ Church provides dinnerware, water & coffee, bread & butter, and crackers.

Lenten Worship Schedule ~ Wednesdays-6:30pm

February 21 - The 10 Commandments

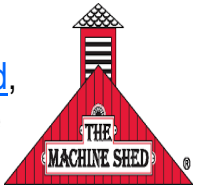
February 28 - The Creed

March 7 - The Lord's Prayer

March 14 - Holy Baptism, Confession

March 21 - Sacrament of the Altar, Prayer

The Out to Dinner Group will be going to the Machine Shed Restaurant [7475 E. State St., Rockford](http://7475.E.State.St.,Rockford), on Friday March 2nd at 6:00 PM. Signup sheet will be on the bulletin board. Sign up by Sun., February 25th.



Thanks to everyone who helped at our Beloit Culver's Scoopie Night. And thanks to everyone who came out to support our church! We'll receive our check on March 13th.



Sunshine Committee

Graduation, Sympathy and Get Well cards will be sent upon notification. Please call Karen Murr at 815-389-2353, or Patti Dunaway at 608-751-1666

BLESSING

P: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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

Communion is by intinction. Come forward by rows to receive the bread with an open hand then dip in the wine (dark) or juice (light). Gluten-free bread is an option - just indicate to Pastor when it's your turn. If you eat the bread before dipping or drop it, please ask for another piece. You don't have to be a member of Faith or be Lutheran to take Communion. Christ is the host of the meal ~ all baptized believers are welcome.

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

Financials Sunday, February 11 - Week #6

Attendance - 64

Weekly Offering Actual	\$2,006.80
Weekly Offering Budget	\$2,176.00
2017 YTD Actual Offering	\$14,569.63
2017 YTD Offering Needed	\$13,056.00
Noisy Can Collection -Scouts	\$78.20



The Scout troops of Faith Lutheran Church wish to thank everyone for their support and for the Noisy Can Collection!

Today's Worship Leaders

Altar Guild - Carol & Roger Frey

Computer Technician - Mike Banker

Offering Video - Helen Meier

Reader - Jeremy Naff

Counters - Roger & Carol Frey

Fellowship - Gail Krause

Greeters - Don & Sandy Dittmer, Dick Hedrington

Musician - Betty Comins

Ushers - Doug Congdon & Ray Wendell

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Richard J. Meier

God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

A Responsive Reading from Psalm 25

R: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

C: **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

R: Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

C: **Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

R: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

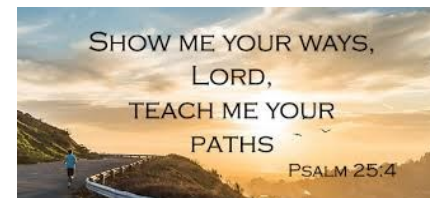
C: **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

R: Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

C: **You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

R: All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

C: **Amen.**



SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

A reading from 1st Peter, 3rd chapter.

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you - not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA

Alleluia! Lord and Savior open now your saving word!

Let it burn like fire within us;

Speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15

P: The holy gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter.

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

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer



1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem-er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

SHARING THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

OFFERING

~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~
“*Lord, I Need You*” by Matt Maher

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, in thee.*

*May we thy bounties thus, as stewards true receive,
And gladly as though blessed us, to thee our first-fruits give.*

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring - ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal, unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

~ COMMUNION ~

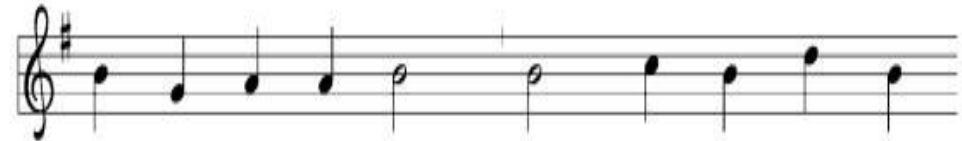
SERMON “A Covenant Journey”

Hymn of the Day

The Glory of These Forty Days



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in



brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en



things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

INSTALLATION OF 2018 Church Council Members

Craig Miller, President/Property

Todd Strasser, Vice President/Property/Christian Education

George Brunson, Property

Doug Congdon, Treasurer/Stewardship/Finance

Kelly Miller, Secretary

Cathy Murphy, Memorial

Dennis Kelce, Parish Life/Hospitality/Evangelism

Sue Brunson, Parish Life/Hospitality/Evangelism

Karen Murr, Social Ministry

Patti Dunaway, Social Ministry

Taylor Gruenberg, Youth Liaison

Pastor Rick Meier, Pastor/Worship & Music

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: Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. (*A brief silence.*) We pray for the church. For all who preach, teach, and inspire your people to lives of service. Renew your church in ministry, mission, and compassion. Unite us in faith, and uphold us in the promises of baptism. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for the world. For the well-being of both our own surroundings and of distant places. For favorable weather and sustaining rains. For creatures awakening from hibernation or beginning seasonal migrations. Provide safe habitats and abundant food for all. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for the nations. For all who govern or hold positions of authority. For those who work to make their communities safe from violence. Protect all who place themselves in danger to save others from harm. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for those in need. For those moving to new communities. For individuals who are incarcerated or recently released from prison. For those who are abused or neglected, for the lonely, and for those who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for this assembly. For musicians, artists, and poets who help us envision your love through word, image, and song. For those who have faced exclusion or felt forgotten. For all who reach out in love and welcome. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died, especially Martin Luther. As they receive the fulfillment of your promises made to them in baptism, sustain us in the hope of resurrection life with you. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.