



Thanks to everyone who helped make the Spaghetti and Trivia Night fundraiser a great success! Thanks to Anna Maria's Restaurant for supplying the delicious main meal. A great time was had by all. Our 4 participants in the "This Changes Everything" conference thank you, too!



Capital Improvements Committee Members Needed

If you're interested in joining, please contact Craig Miller, Todd Strasser, Mike Banker or George Brunson.



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, Al, Alysson & Jarrett, Angie, Audrey, Barb, Barbara, Barry & Shelby, Becky Hart Family, Betty Comins, Boyd & Inez, Brayton, Brian, Brett, Carter Gronau, Cindy, Connie, Courtney, Damon, Danielle, Debi, Denise, Dick, Dodi, Don, Donna, Doug, Ellin McGuire, Eloise, Ethel Strasser, Florence, Gail, Gary, Gavin, George, Goeff, Harriet, Heidi, Irene, James Wiseman, Janie, Jean, Jeff, Jen, Jim H., Joey, John, Judy, Kathy Mears, Kelli, Kelly, Ken, Kennadi, Kenny, Kevin, Kim, Kris, Kurt, Larry, Linda, Lucas, Marcia, Marion, Matt, Mia, Nancy, Patti, Rachel, Rich, Robert, Roger, Ron, Ruthann, Sarah, Sharon, Shelly & Family, Tami, Tammy, Ted & Irene, Teresa, Tim, Tina, Todd, Tom, Tom & Gale Miller, Tracy, Trisha, Veronica, Vicki, Viola, Vivian, Zach, and Zoey.



Happy Birthday Wishes to:

FEBRUARY: 28-Patti Dunaway
MARCH: 7-Aubrey Miller, 7-Hayden Gruenberg, 10-Dennis Kelce, 16-Aaron Miller, 20-Mike Murphy, 26-Bailey Binder, 31-Aly Hatch, 31-Amber Miller

LOOKING AHEAD

First Day of Spring - Tuesday, March 20th
 Cubs Home Opener - Monday, April 9 vs. Pirates
 Brewers Home Opener - Monday, April 2 vs. Cardinals



Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ
 Sunday, February 25, 2018
 Second 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 In the Cross of Christ I Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
 love up - on my way, from the cross the
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

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: The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

C: **Amen.**



Lent

As is the Lutheran custom, we offer a special worship opportunity at 6:30pm on Wednesday evenings during Lent, preceded by a light supper at 5:30pm. The liturgies, like our devotional, will focus on God's will in various dimensions: God's Promise, My Inadequacy, My Dreams, My Identity, My Worldview, and My Response. At the same time, since I prefer to do something different in Lenten services to replace traditional sermons, I'm inviting us to re-visit and re-learn Luther's Small Catechism.

Yes, we probably studied it years ago when we were in Confirmation, but now we'll get to go through that little booklet once again over a five-week period.

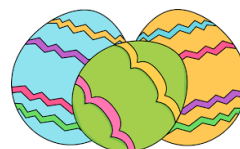
So here is the schedule: Feb. 21, The Ten Commandments; Feb. 28, The Apostles' Creed; March 7, The Lord's Prayer; March 14, The Sacrament of Holy Baptism and Confession; March 21, The Sacrament of Holy Communion and Prayer.

I believe you will be blessed by your faithful participation in each of these services, which will only be 30-45 minutes in length.



We also need people to sign up to bring food for the light suppers. Thank you to those who will do so. The suppers will begin at 5:30 and the worship at 6:30. The Holy Week schedule will be announced at a later date. I look forward to going on another Lenten journey with you as we grow together in the Spirit of God!

Pastor Rick Meier



Annual Easter Food Drive
March 4 - March 25 for Caritas
 Please bring canned or boxed food items to help those less fortunate.
 Thank you for your generosity!
Karen Murr & Patti Dunaway
Social Committee Co-Chairs

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 wafers are 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 18 - Week #7

Attendance - 74

Weekly Offering Actual	\$2,434.50
Weekly Offering Budget	\$2,176.00
2017 YTD Actual Offering	\$17,004.13
2017 YTD Offering Needed	\$15,232.00

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 -

Greeters - Don & Sandy Dittmer, Dick Hedrington

Musician - Betty Comins

Ushers - Doug Congdon & Ray Wendell

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Richard J. Meier



Our condolences to the Strasser Family on the passing of Ethel Strasser on Wed., Feb. 21. Funeral arrangements are pending. She was 97 years old.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C: **by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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 17:1-7, 15-16

A reading from Genesis, the 17th chapter.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you." God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

A Responsive Reading From Psalm 22

R: You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

C: **For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

R: From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

C: The poor shall eat and be satisfied. Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

R: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

C: For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

R: Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

C: Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

R: They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

C: Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

A reading from Romans, the 4th chapter.

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") - in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness."

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: 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.**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.



SHARING THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

OFFERING

~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” by Cave Quest

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: Let us pray. By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C: **we give you thanks and praise.**

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 ~

Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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 8:31-38

P: The holy gospel according to Mark, the 8th chapter.

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

Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

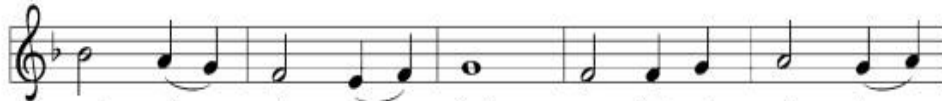
“Losing Life to Save It”

Hymn of the Day

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

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. Make us bold to proclaim your love. Give us courage to carry the cross that confronts us each day and follow Christ. Strengthen pastors, bishops, deacons, and all who minister in your name. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for the world. For flowing streams and still waters. For urban parks and wilderness reserves. For pastures and forests. Instill within us a reverence for the earth as your creation and our fragile home. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for the nations. Teach us to honor our common humanity within diversity. Turn enemies into friends. Lead us away from hatred, fear, and misunderstanding. Show our hearts the way to peace and fill us with compassion. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for those in need. For people whose struggles we fail to acknowledge. For those who leave their homes and families in search of safety or employment. For those who grieve, and for all who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for this assembly. For those who prepare this space for worship. For ministries of fellowship and hospitality. For those preparing for baptism or confirmation, and for all who provide care and support to those who are homebound. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us in the faith. Bring them to the fullness of their inheritance in Christ and into the joy of eternal 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.