



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 & loved ones: Adam, Alysson & Jarrett, Ann,

Audrey, Bailey, Barb, Barry & Shelby, Beth, Betty, Beverly, Bill, Bob, Boyd, Brayton, Brett, Brian, Carter Gronau, Cazy, Cindy, Claudine, Courtney, Damon, Dannilea, Debi, Denise, Dick, Dodi, Don, Ed Schuller, Eloise, Florence, Gail, Gary, Gavin, Gene, George, Gere, Harriet, Heidi, Inez & Boyd, Irene, Jaleena, Janie, Jean & Rachael, Jen, Jim, Jimmy H., John, Julie, June, Kayla, Kelli, Kennadi, Kenny, Kevin, Kim, Kim Schnad, Kris, Larry, Lauri, Linda, Lori, Lucas, Marion, Mary, Matt, Maureen, Melissa, Michelle, Mike, Nancy, Pat, Patti, Payton, Rachel, Ray Parisot Family, Rich, Robert, Roger, Ruthann, Sharon, Shelly, Tammy, Ted, Ted & Irene, Ted Zierath, Teresa, Tim, Tina, Todd, Tom, Tracy, Trisha, Vic, Vicki, Viola, Vivian, Zach, and Zoey.



March 4 - March 25 for *Caritas*

Please bring canned or boxed food items to help those less fortunate. Thank you for helping!

We have tickets to see The Gaither Vocal Band!

Sunday, April 22 - Coronado Theater, Rockford - 6pm

\$25 each Limited availability Sign up sheet on board



CALLING ALL CHURCH MEMBERS!

Sat, March 24th from 10am to Noon It's our annual time to help beautify our church, inside and out. Please sign up to help.



Happy St. Patrick's Day ~ Sat., March 17th



Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ

Sunday, March 11, 2018

Fourth 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

My Faith Looks Up to Thee



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

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 fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith, for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

C: **Amen.**



PLEASE COME! We eat a simple supper at 5:30, then enjoy a shortened worship service at 6:30. All are invited every Wednesday. Bring your family!

Our 2 remaining Wednesday evening services will be God's Will & My Worldview, and God's Will & My Response.

We will continue reviewing **Luther's Small Catechism:**

March 14: Holy Baptism and Confession

March 21: Prayer and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.



Sunday, March 25th - 9:30am*

Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as Savior and King. As Jesus rode a donkey into town, a large crowd gathered and laid palm branches and their cloaks across the road, giving Jesus royal treatment. We receive our symbolic palms. This marks the start of Holy Week, His final days of earthly ministry before His crucifixion.

***Following the service Pastor Meier will offer a First Communion class for children.**

Mark
Your
Calendar



3 Days of
Worship

Living Last Supper



Thursday, March 29th - 7:00pm

We will be having a very special Maundy Thursday event: "The Living Last Supper" a re-enactment of the Last Supper with 12 men from our congregation.

Good Friday, March 30 - Tenebrae Service - 7:00pm

Tenebrae (Latin for "shadows" or "darkness") includes the gradual dimming of the lights and extinguishing of candles. We'll hear the 7 last words of Jesus spoken from the cross.



Easter Sunday, April 1st

Our Annual Family Breakfast will be from 8am-9:15am. For items needed, please see the tear-off sheet on the hallway bulletin board. Thanks!
Easter Celebration Worship - 9:30am



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, March 4 - Week #9

Attendance - 90

Weekly Offering Actual	\$2,777.80
Weekly Offering Budget	\$2,176.00
2017 YTD Actual Offering	\$21,528.64
2017 YTD Offering Needed	\$19,584.00

Today's Worship Leaders

Altar Guild - Carol & Roger Frey

Computer Technician - Mike Banker

Offering Video - Helen Meier

Reader - Pat Wicks

Counters - Laurie & Pat Wicks

Fellowship - Pat Wicks

Greeters - Mike and Cathy Murphy

Musician - Betty Comins

Ushers - Doug Congdon & Shawn Guffey

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Richard J. Meier



Butterfly Set-Up Day & EASTER EGG HUNT
Saturday, March 31

2 exciting things on one day! We are looking for volunteers to help string up our Easter season butterflies from 10-11am. The Easter Egg Hunt is

from 1pm to 2pm. We are asking for wrapped candy donations to fill hundreds of Easter eggs! The box is in the narthex. Thanks.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C: **rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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: Numbers 21:4-9

R: A reading from Numbers, the 21st chapter.

From Mount Hor, the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

A Responsive Reading from Psalm 107

R: Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.

**C: Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God
redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

R: gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the
west, from the north and from the south.

**C: Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their
sins they were afflicted.**

R: They loathed all manner of food and drew near to
death's door.

**C: Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you
delivered them from their distress.**

R: You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them
from the grave.

**C: Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**

R: Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your
deeds with shouts of joy.

C: Amen.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

R: A reading from Ephesians, the 2nd chapter.

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved - and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

Lift High the Cross



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

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 ~
“*This Is Amazing Grace*” by Phil Wickam

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. O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; 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.

~ COMMUNION ~

S 142b



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

P: The holy gospel according to John, the 3rd chapter.

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

Jesus said: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

“Cross-Gazing at Grace”



Hymn of the Day

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace! — how sweet the sound — that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour, I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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. Direct and guide us in following your will. Grant us clarity in the midst of confusion, and give us courage in the face of challenge. Make us passionate to share the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for the world you so deeply love. For wilderness places. For deserts and mountains, fruit trees and gardens. For places devastated by flooding or drought, by wind, fire, or earthquake. Restore damaged habitats and protect fragile environments. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for the nations. Grant wisdom to our leaders. Teach us to resolve conflicts without violence. Strengthen those who protect human rights, civil rights, and civil liberties. Bring an end to warfare, famine, and hunger. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for those in need. For those who lack meaningful employment or stable housing. For those who live with mental illness. For those who have chronic pain, and for all who are grieving, sick, or injured (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for this assembly. For those preparing for baptism. For parish nurses and all who provide health care in our community. For those who make quilts and gather supplies for global relief ministries. For ministries of prayer and visitation. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith, especially those whom we have known and loved. Bring us with them to the fulfillment of your promise of life eternal 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.