



We pray all service persons women, homeless and unemployed, shut-ins, our college students, military families & those serving in the military. We pray for our friends, families & loved ones: Aaron, Adam, Al, Alyson & Jarrett, Angie, Audrey, Aunt Bettie, Autumn, Barb, Barry & Shelby, Boyd, Boyd & Inez, Carter Gronau, Cindy, Claudine, Connie, Damon, Debi, Denise, Diane, Dick, Dodi, Don, Donna H., Ellis McGuire, Eloise, Emily, Florence, Gail, Gary, Gavin, Gene, George, Harriet, Heather, Heidi, Ian, Irene,

Jackie, Janice E., Janie, Jean, Jen, Jeff, Jessica, John, Judy, June, Karen E., Kathy Mears, Kelli, Kevin, Kim, Kim S., Kris, Larry, Laurray & John, Linda, Lisa, Margie, Marr, Mike, Mancy, Patti, Tommy, Rich, Rick & Vick, Ricky, Ruthann, Sam, Sara, Sara & Cory, Sasha, Seth, Shalom, Sharon, Shirley, Steve, Tammi, Tammy, Tatem, Ted, Ted & Irene, Ted Ziebath, Terri, Tim, Tina, Todd, Tom, Tom & Gale Miller, Tom & Rovin, Trisha, Tristan, Violet Murphy, Vance, Viola, Vivian, Zach, Zak & 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

PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP!

Sat, March 24th from 10am to Noon

It's our annual time to help beautify our church, inside and out.



Hear Ye! Hear Ye! We need YOUR help!
Please consider signing up to bring Fellowship treats, be a Reader, an Usher, or a Greeter.
Sheets are in the hallway. Thank you!



Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ
Sunday, March 18, 2018
Fifth 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

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.



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

Our last Wednesday evening services will be March 21st
 With the topic: God's Will & My Response. We will
 continue reviewing **Luther's Small Catechism**:
 March 21: Prayer & 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**



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 11 - Week #10

Attendance - 81

Weekly Offering Actual	\$2,134.50
Weekly Offering Budget	\$2,176.00
2017 YTD Actual Offering	\$23,663.14
2017 YTD Offering Needed	\$21,760.00

Today's Worship Leaders

- Altar Guild - Carol & Roger Frey**
- Computer Technician - Anne & Rachel Strasser**
- Offering Video - Anne & Rachel Strasser**
- Reader - Nicole Blakeman**
- Counters - Laurie & Pat Wicks**
- Fellowship - George and Sue Brunson**
- 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.



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: God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's light and truth into our hearts. We see God's heart most clearly in the way Jesus shares human suffering, in an agony both the John and Hebrews readings describe.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C: with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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: Jeremiah 31:31-34

R: A reading from Jeremiah, the 31st chapter.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt - a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A Responsive Reading From Psalm 51

R: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**C: Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and
cleans me from my sin.**

R: For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

**C: Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in
your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right
in your judgment.**

R: Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my
mother's womb.

**C: Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would
have me know wisdom deep within.**

R: Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me,
and I shall be purer than snow.

**C: Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have
broken may rejoice.**

R: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit
within me.**

R: Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy
Spirit from me.

**C: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me
with your bountiful Spirit.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10

R: A reading from Hebrews, the 5th chapter.

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

~ COMMUNION ~

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 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.

SHARING THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

OFFERING

~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~

“Come to the Table” by Sidewalk Prophets

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.**

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 12:20-33

P: The holy gospel according to John, the 12th chapter.

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

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say- ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

“We All Want To See Jesus”

Hymn of the Day

What Feast of Love



1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?
2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?
3 What wine of love is of-fered here, what crim-son drink from heav-en?



What food of ev-er-last-ing life, what gra-cious gift is giv-en?
What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?
What stream of ev-er-last-ing life, what pre-cious blood is giv-en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav-en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet-est wine of heav-en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man-na giv-en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv-en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv-en!

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. Guide us into a deeper knowledge of your love and grace. Increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and service. We pray for evangelists, pastors, prophets, teachers, and all servants of the church. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for the world. For seeds planted in hope of an abundant harvest. For fertile soils and sufficient rains. For shepherds and ranchers, farmworkers and seafood harvesters. For flowers and berries. For orchards, vineyards, and citrus groves. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for the nations. For countries embroiled in long-term conflicts, and for communities scarred by political unrest and upheaval. Grant wisdom to the world's decision makers. Guide them to work for peace and the well-being of all people. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for those in need. For all who suffer in any way. For those who are lonely or isolated. For those seeking employment. For those who approach the hour of their death, and all who are ill *(especially)*. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for this assembly. For those preparing for baptism. For visitors, newcomers, and those who are returning after an extended absence. Deepen us in faith. Fill us with hope, and draw us all into your loving presence. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died, especially those who have been witnesses and examples to us. Bring us with them to the promise of resurrection and 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.