



Planning ahead for SUNDAY, May 20

Generosity Sunday is a synod-wide initiative to replenish our Synod Mission Fund which is vital to the funding of new and renewing ministries in our synod. It is a one-time gift from congregations and members for the Northern IL Synod Mission Fund. This is how our very own church was helped in our time of financial need. We ask you to be generous to help others in need.



We pray for the homeless, those unemployed and those with mental struggles, our shut-ins, our college students, military families & all who are serving in the military. We pray for our friends, our families & our loved ones: Ada Sorenson Family, Audrey, Beth, Betty, Betty Bonner, Betty Comins, Bill, Bob, Boyd, Brayton, Brett, Brian, Charles, Cindy, Claudine, Danile, Debi, Denise, Devin, Diane, Dick, Dodi, Don, Doug, Eloise, Florence, Gabe, Gary, George, Gere, Harriet, Heidi, Helen, Inez, Jaleena, Jamie, Janie, Janet, Jean, Jeff, Jen, Jessica, Jim, John, Karen, Kathy Mears, Kathy Strasser, Kayla, Kelli, Kenny, Kian, Kim, Kolton, Kris, Kurt, Larry, Linda, Lori, Lyla, Margot, Marion, Mary, Matt, Melissa, Mike, Missy, Mrs. Cloyah, Nan, Olivia, Pat, Patricia Sarabia, Patti, Payton, Rich, Rick, Roger, Ruthann, Sharon, Shelly, Shirley, Steve, Tammy, Ted, Teresa, Terri, Terry, Tim, Tina, Todd, Tom, Tom & Gale Miller, Tracy, Travell, Trisha, Tyren, Vicki, Viola, Vivian, Wayne, Zach, Zak, and Zoey.



Happy Birthday To You!

APRIL: 29–Inez Miller

MAY: 1–Sandy Dittmer & Rebecca Naff, 4–Michael Stinson, 7–Rob Binder, 8–Al Schnurr, 9–Betty Comins, 11–Tyler McCormick, 15–Helen Meier & Roger Frey, 21–Dorothy Taylor, 22–Diane Lipinski & Kennadi Rice-Devlin, 24–Laura Hill, 26–Donald Schlegel, 27–Grady Naff, 31–Kelli Hedrington



Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ

Sunday, April 29, 2018

Fifth Sunday of Easter ~ 9:30 am



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

For the Beloit Domestic Violence Survivor Center

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who calls us beloved children, who gathers us into one flock, who guides us into all truth.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *(A brief silence.)* Faithful and just God,

C: we confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

P: In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to atone for our sins. In the name of + Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and Inspire you to live for others.

C: Amen.



OPENING HYMN

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

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: This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding that we read of in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

C: Amen.

Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church

We are happy to have you worship with us today! Join us for beverages, snacks and conversation after worship.

Communion is by intinction. Come forward to receive the bread with an open hand then dip in the wine (dark) or juice (light). Gluten-free wafers are available - 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 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, April 22 - Week #16

Attendance - 88

Actual Offering	\$2,175.00
Weekly Offering Budget	\$2,176.00
2017 YTD Actual Offering	\$38,126.39
2017 YTD Offering Needed	\$34,816.00

Today's Worship Leaders

Altar Guild - Carol & Roger Frey

Computer Technician - Anne and Rachel Strasser

Offering Video - Anne and Rachel Strasser

Reader - Jeremy Naff

Counters - Roger & Carol Frey

Fellowship - Judy Jenner & Neal Hanson

Greeters - Tammy Dunkel and Tina Hatch

Musician - Betty Comins

Ushers - Doug Congdon & Ray Wendell

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Richard J. Meier



Church T-Shirt Orders are due May 20th

All info is on the order form. Forms are on the narthex table & in the office. Size charts are on the board. See Sue for more info.

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.



This week's altar flowers are donated by
Craig and Kelly Miller,
in celebration of God's Love



PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C: you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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: Acts 8:26-40

R: A reading from Acts, the 8th chapter.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

P: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A Responsive Reading From Psalm 22

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.

SHARING THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~
"Brother" by Need to Breathe

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. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. 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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection, you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need. (*A brief silence.*) For ministries that nurture faith formation. For missionaries and Bible study leaders. For those who are seeking, questioning, or curious. For seminarians, campus ministers, and the newly baptized, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: For the beauty and health of the earth. For vineyards and orchards, groves and plains. For rain forests and arctic tundra. For volcanoes and mountains, hills and valleys. For oceans deep and rivers wide, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: For spears to be beat into pruning hooks. For harsh words to be reformed into loving speech. For bombs and sniper attacks to cease. For justice and peace in every land, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: For homeless youth and rejected children. For isolated grandparents and lonely nursing home residents. For the shamed, the slighted, and the disregarded members of our communities. For all the sick (*especially*), let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: For all who live with post-traumatic stress disorder and postpartum depression. For all who struggle with eating disorders and anorexia. For all who suffer in silence and all who suffer alone, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: In thanksgiving for all the mystics and theologians who live eternally with you. For those we mourn and those we would rather forget. For the kingdom on earth to be as it is in heaven, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

R: A reading from 1st John, the 4th chapter.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

P: 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: John 15:1-8

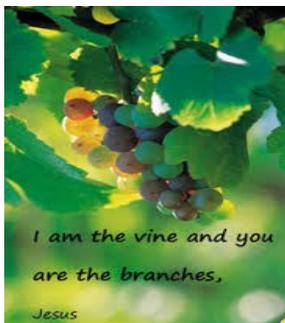
P: The holy gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

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

Jesus said: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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



SERMON "The Importance of Staying Connected"

Hymn of the Day

Abide with Me

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness,
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

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.**