



The 2018 Brat Stand Season has come to a very successful close! Anne Strasser, Pat Wicks, and Craig Miller would like to thank everyone who helped make this year the best ever! See you next June when we reopen!

Our Annual Church Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 11th after worship and a brief Fellowship break. ALL ARE ASKED TO PLEASE ATTEND!



REMINDER ALL ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS ARE DUE IN TO SUE BY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21



Firehouse Subs at 2787 Milwaukee Rd., Beloit is hosting a benefit for Faith Lutheran Church from 4-8pm on Tuesday, Oct. 23.

They'll donate 15% of all proceeds to Faith Lutheran Church! Tell your friends and family to join us - come hungry!

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS TRIVIA NIGHT & ITALIAN DINNER SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019!



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 - Jodi Binder, 4 - Sammy McCormick, 10 - June Brady, 11 - Mike Marty, 13 - Terry Schrupp, 19 - Bob Strasser, 21 - Edward Schuller, 22 - Gail Kelce, 25 - Cathy Murphy, 26 - Pat Wicks, 30 - Ray Wendell, 31 - Russell G. Scheibel

\*Please let me know if I have forgotten yours! Thanks, Sue



Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ Sunday, September 30, 2018 ~ 9:30 am 19th Sunday After Pentecost

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK

Special Guest John Stadel from The Gideons International

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS



Door Offering and Noisy Can Collection are for The Gideons

P: Blessed be the + Holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power. (A brief silence.) Source of all life,

C: we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

P: God hears our cry and send the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven + God's love is unconditional. And we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

**OPENING HYMN** Word of God, Come Down on Earth



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from  
 2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to  
 3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth  
 life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,  
 yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing, Word al - might - y,  
 cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the  
 God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.  
 world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.  
 all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

**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:** Our hymns and scriptures today teach the importance of the Word of God. We sing about the Word coming down to earth, that we keep steadfast in God's Word, and that it is the Wisdom from on high. Jeremiah proclaims that it is the one true God who has created all things. In the reading from James we hear that Christians need to pray for one another. And in our Gospel today, Jesus explains that when our hearts are "good soil", we will yield good fruit in His name. As the Bible proclaims today, "Let anyone with ears to hear, listen!"

**C:** Amen.



**Special Thanks to John Stadel from The Gideons International. We appreciate your visit, sermon, prayers, and your continued good work. We will receive a special offering at the rear of the sanctuary to support the work of the Gideons.**



*We pray for the homeless, unemployed, those with mental struggles, our shut-ins & all of our students, all military personnel & their families. We pray for friends, families & our loved ones: Adam, Alyson & Jarrett, Amber Rutherford, Aunt Bettie, Barry &*

*Shelby, Barbi, Becky, Bev, Bill, Bob, Boyd, Boyd & Inez, Bonnie, Brianna Hatch, Carol M., Cindy, Claudine, Daniel Mears, Debi, Denise, Derek & Wanda, Dick, Don, Don & Harriet, Emily & Family, Florence, Gary, Gavin, George, Heidi, Irene A., Inez, Iris, Jaleena, Janet, Janie, Jean, Jeff, Kathy Mears, Kelsy Dobs, Kenny, Kris, Larry, Linda, Linda G., Lisa, Marshall, Mary, Matt, Maureen, Michael, Nan, Niki, Patricia Sarabia, Rich, Ryan, Brynn & Ellis McGuire, Sandy, Sara & Family, Selena, Sharon, Sheri, Steve, Tammie, Ted, Terri, Tim, Todd, Tom, Vicki, Violet, Vivian.*

This week's altar flowers are donated by:  
 Anne & Todd Strasser in celebration of  
 their 23rd Anniversary



**A Very Merry Craft Show**  
**Crafters & Vendors Wanted**

*Saturday, November 17*  
 10am to 3pm

**PLEASE TAKE POSTCARDS  
 TO SPREAD THE WORD!**

**There will be a Bake Sale & Door Prizes;  
 we would be grateful for your help with  
 those - we love volunteers!**



## Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church

**We are happy to have you worship with us today!**

Please 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 to participate.**

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

### Financials Sunday, September 23, 2018 - Week #38

Attendance - 74

Actual Offering	\$1,723.50
Weekly Offering Budget	\$2,176.00
2018 YTD Actual Offering	\$83,206.55
2018 YTD Offering Needed	\$82,688.00

**In case of a pastoral need, please contact Pastor Rick**  
Cell: 815-566-5247 Home: 815-227-4679  
Email: [pastorr1@comcast.net](mailto:pastorr1@comcast.net)

#### Today's Worship Leaders

**Altar Guild** - Carol & Roger Frey

**Computer Tech** - Mike Banker

**Offering Video** - Helen Meier

**Reader** - Sue Brunson

**Counters** - Carol & Roger Frey

**Fellowship** - Patti Dunaway & Karen Murr

**Greeters** - Liz Shockley, Teresa Moffit, and Ruth Anderson

**Musician** - Betty Comins

**Ushers** - Doug Congdon & Ray Wendell

**Pastor** - Rev. Dr. Richard J. Meier

**Special Guest** - John Stadel from The Gideons

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

**C: your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you.  
Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to  
bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

*We can serve!*



### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 10:11-16

**A reading from Jeremiah, the 10th chapter.**

Thus shall you say to them: The gods who did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens. It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens. When he utters his voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightnings for the rain, and he brings out the wind from his storehouses. Everyone is stupid and without knowledge; goldsmiths are all put to shame by their idols; for their images are false, and there is no breath in them. They are worthless, a work of delusion; at the time of their punishment they shall perish. Not like these is the LORD, the portion of Jacob, for he is the one who formed all things, and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance; the LORD of hosts is his name.

R: Word of God, word of life

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## A Responsive Reading From Psalm 19

R: The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**C: The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

R: The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

**C: More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

R: By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

**C: Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

R: Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

**C: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

## SECOND READING: James 5:13-20

A reading from James, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

**C: Amen.**

## BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN O Word of God Incarnate



1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;  
3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:  
and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.  
to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,  
It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,  
oh, teach your wand - ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.  
mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.  
till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~

*"Just Another Rainy Day" by The Collingsworth Family*

*We give thee but thine own, whatever the gift may be  
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.*

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

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our savior and Light.

**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 ~

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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 4:1-9

P: The holy gospel according to Mark, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

Again Jesus began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold." And he said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

## SERMON

**"Tending to the Soil of My Heart"**

**Mr. John Stadel - from The Gideons International**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in your word; curb those who  
2 Lord Je-sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are  
3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, send peace and



by de- ceit or sword would wrest the king-dom from your Son  
Lord of lords a-lone; de-fend your ho-ly church, that we  
u-ni-ty on earth; sup-port us in our fi-nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.  
may sing your praise e-ter-nal-ly.  
and lead us out of death to life.

### *The 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.***

(\*word meaning "universal"; you may substitute "Christian" if you wish.)

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation. *(A brief silence.)* Gracious God, you gather together people of faith in every time and every place to be the risen body of Christ in the world. Enliven the church to nourish its members, to love the earth, and to serve its neighbors.  
Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Creative God, you weave together the fabric of the universe. Forests and fields bear the banner of your abundance. Give us wisdom and discernment to be good stewards of our resources. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Sovereign God, you bless people with intelligence and compassion. Inspire citizens to raise up good leaders who seek peace and reconciliation among nations and who long to repair the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Loving God, you house the homeless, free the captive, and heal the sick. Make our hands your hands in service to strangers and friends. We pray especially for . . . Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Welcoming God, you have given us to each other in this congregation. Make us glad to receive those you send to us and ready to receive their unique gifts and perspectives. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: In every time and place you raise up witnesses who testify to your love and tender mercy. We remember with thanksgiving all who made your word known in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

**C: Amen.**