



We pray for our shut-ins, college students, all military service men & women and their families, all homeless or unemployed, our friends and family, including:

Alexis, Audrey, Aunt Bettie, Bert, Beth, Bev, Bill, Bob, Brad, Brayton, Brenda, Brett, Brian, Chloe, Cindy, Claudine, Conquist Family, Danilla, Darlene, Debi, Denise, Diane, Dick, Dodi, Don, Don & Harriet, Doug, Doug N., Eloise, Emma, Evelyn, Family of George Gilbert, Florence, Gail, Gary, Gary, Renee & Jack McGuire, George, Heidi, Helen, Inez, Irene, Jaleena, Jan, Janet, Janie, Jean, Jeff, Jen, Jim, John, Julia, Julie, June, Kamya, Katherine, Kathy Harty, Kathy Mears, Kelli, Kennadi, Kenny, Kris, Larry, Linda, Lori, Marion, Matt, Maurice Kehoe, Melissa, Mike, Mike H., Mikey, Nancy, New Zealand, Pam Stultz, Pat, Rich, Robin, Roger, Ruthann, Ryann, Brynn & Ellis McGuire, Sarah, Sharon, Shelly, Steve, Susan, Tammy, Ted, Teresa, Terri, Terry, Tim, Tina, Todd, Tom, Tony Sherman, Tracy, Violet, Vivian, Zach, Zarah



MARCH

1 - Mason Rice-Devlin, 7 - Aubrey Miller & Hayden Gruenberg, 10 - Dennis Kelce, 16 - Aaron Miller, 17 - Jean Warn, 20 - Mike Murphy, 26 - Bailey Binder, 28 - Melissa Castro, 31 - Aly Hatch and Amber Miller

APRIL

4 - Shirley Wright, 8 - Aaron Hill, 11 - Trisha Dunaway, 15 - Nate Blakeman, 18 - Sue Boyette, 23 - Pat Parisot, 29 - Inez Miller



Saturday, April 13 - 9 to Noon

We are looking for volunteers to help spruce up our church, inside and outside!

An updated Shut-In information sheet is on the board. Please feel free to take one & send them a card & prayer!



Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ

Third Sunday in Lent - March 24, 2019

9:30 am



PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

C: Amen.

P: In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy. *(A brief silence.)* Gracious God,

C: we have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.

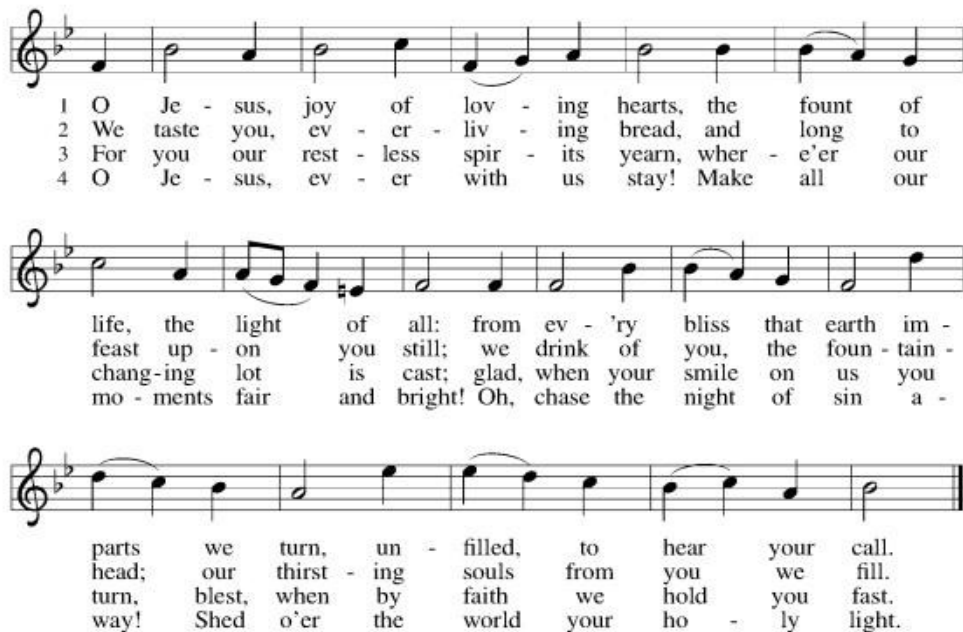
P: Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of ☩ Christ, leading you from death into life.

C: Amen.



OPENING HYMN

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of
 2 We taste you, ev - er liv - ing bread, and long to
 3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our
 4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our

life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -
 feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -
 chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you
 mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -

parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
 head; our thirst - ing - souls, from you we fill.
 turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.
 way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

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 warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent.
 Lent is a season of repentance. Cut it out or get cut down! The
 warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness:
 "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live."
 The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's
 readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for
 all of us.

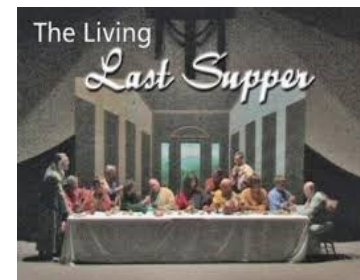
C: Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C: your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the
 life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear
 your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition
 in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who
 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
 and forever. Amen.

Thursday, April 18 at 7pm
Living Last Supper Performance
 Men: see Pastor if you are able
 to join the cast, as we need a few
 more. Thank you very much!
 Family & Friends are invited, too!

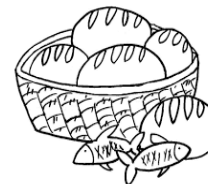


Easter Sunday, April 21

Pancake Breakfast at 8am followed by Worship at 9:30am



Please help us beautify our Easter Sunday altar with
 donations of your choice of tulips, hyacinth, kalanchoe,
 or Easter lily plants! The order forms are located in the
 office and on the table in the narthex. All are \$12.50 ea.
 The deadline to place your order is Sunday, April 7th.



**The Out to Dinner Group will meet at 6:00
 PM at the Belvidere Moose Lodge, 575 Beloit
 Rd., Belvidere, on Friday March 29th. Signup
 sheet is on bulletin board. Everyone is invited!
 You must be signed up by TODAY, Thanks.**



We are looking for musicians for our Praise and
 Worship Service the last Sunday of each month.
 If you have any friends or family members who
 can help us, please contact Pastor Rick.

Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church

We are happy to have you worship with us today!
Join us in our Fellowship Room for a bite to eat & drink.

COMMUNION ~ Receive your bread or gluten-free wafer, take a small cup of wine (dark) or grape juice (light). Dispose of your cup in the receptacle on your way back to your seat.

OFFERING ~ If you are unable to attend worship, please make sure to catch up with your offering or mail it in. Thanks for being so faithful in giving generously to God's work at Faith Lutheran.

Financials Sunday, March 17 - Week #11

Attendance - 79

Weekly Offering Actual \$2,541.75

Weekly Offering Budget \$2,150.00

2019 YTD Actual Offering \$25,329.90

2019 YTD Offering Needed \$23,650.00

Today's Worship Leaders

Altar Guild - Carol & Roger Frey

Computer Tech - Mike Banker Reader - Jeremy Naff

Counters - Pat & Laurie Wicks Fellowship - The Frey's

Greeters - Mike & Cathy Murphy Musician - Betty Comins

Ushers - Doug Congdon & Bob Strasser

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Richard J. Meier

In Case of a Pastoral Need:

Please contact Pastor Rick Meier

Cell: 815-566-5247 Home: 815-227-4679

Email: pastorr1@comcast.net



EASTER FOOD DRIVE

EMPTY EASTER BASKET **FOOD DRIVE**

Our Food Drive is from
Sun., March 10 - Sun., April 7th.
Your donations will be taken to
Caritas. There is an envelope for
cash donations, too.

Thanks for your generosity,
Karen Murr & Patti Dunaway

Children's Church

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

A reading from Isaiah, the 55th chapter.

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A Responsive Reading From Psalm 63:1-8

R: O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

C: Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.

R: For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

C: So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.

R: My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

C: when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.

R: For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

C: My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

A reading from 1 Corinthians, the 10th chapter.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

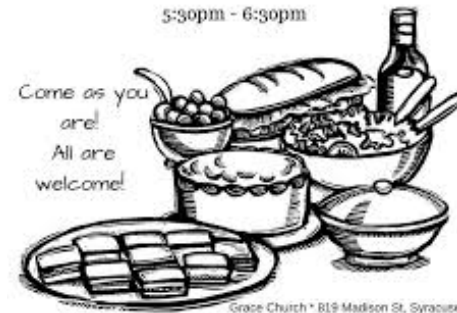
P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PLEASE JOIN US! THIS WED. AT 5:30!

Wednesday Night Suppers

5:30pm - 6:30pm



- ♦ All are invited to attend.
- ♦ Church provides plates & cups, water, coffee, bread, butter, and crackers.
- ♦ March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10
- ♦ Please sign up to help with a meal or dessert
- ♦ Worship follows at 6:30

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*We give the but thine own, whatever the gift may be.
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
May we thy bounties thus, as stewards true receive.
And gladly as thou blessed us, to thee our first fruits give.*

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Generous God, you feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need. Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest.

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 ~

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy. Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: God, who fills the creations with abundance, Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, ☩ bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

C: Amen.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

P: The holy gospel according to Luke, the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. Jesus asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"Seek the Lord, Bear Some Fruit"



Hymn of the Day

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

MARTIN LUTHER'S EXPLANATION

TO THE 2ND ARTICLE OF THE CREED: ON REDEMPTION

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God,

begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human being,

born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being.

He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death,

and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver,

but with his holy, precious blood

and with his innocent suffering and death.

He has done all this in order that I may belong to him,

live under him in his kingdom,

and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence,

and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead

and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation. (*A brief silence.*) Holy God, build up the body of Christ and cause the gifts of your Spirit to grow among us. Lead us to recognize your saving work through the spiritual practices you encourage. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Water the earth with gentle rains and melting snow. Provide clean water for drinking, washing, and nourishing plants that will bear fruit for your creatures. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Uphold people who speak your righteousness in the face of religious or political persecution. Receive martyrs into your everlasting peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Provide relief for those suffering and in pain (*especially*). Grant wisdom to health care workers who seek to diagnose ailments, and bring healing to patients. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Promote unity within your church and among the nations. Uncover the common threads in our shared humanity, and keep us from making hasty judgments about others. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Knit together the communion of saints, and bind us to Christ, our head. Through the diversity of gifts present in our communities, help us to overcome our limitations and increase our understanding of ourselves and others. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SHARING PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY

"Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?"

by Johnny Cash and Family