

Sunday, August 16, 2026
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



Faith Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

*"Building a welcoming, nurturing faith community that
is guided by Jesus and shares the Gospel."*

MINISTERS

SENIOR PASTOR

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Every Member

Derek Harkins

Sylvia Bull

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN: ACS 1036 "Commonwealth Is God's Commandment" *

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

GREETING

KYRIE: by Ben Splichal Larson

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Word: God speaks to us through scripture reading, preaching and song.

READINGS: see next page

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: by Ben Splichal Larson

GOSPEL READING: see next page

CHILDREN'S SERMON & SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 612 "Healer of Our Every Ill" *

APOSTLES' CREED

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING & HOLY, HOLY, HOLY: by Ben Splichal Larson

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN:

ELW 491 "Come, Let Us Eat" *

ELW 479 "We Come to the Hungry Feast" *

Sending: God blesses us and sends us into the world to love and serve our neighbors.

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: ELW 886 "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" *

DISMISSAL

**ELW = Red Hymnal; ACS = Purple Hymnal*

READING(S)

First Reading: *Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8*

Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Second Reading: *Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32*

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 15: [10-20] 21-28*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 14th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes

into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday - Prayer of the Day

The prayer of the day is based on one in the 2002 Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (p. 174). We pray that just as Christ’s arms on the cross welcome all people, we might become his arms, living with constant compassion toward the whole world.

Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy

Each Sunday that we sing Kyrie, we join with the Canaanite woman pleading for the Lord’s mercy. In the Bible “Lord” is a complex title. In its most common usage it is an address to a distinguished male; in early Christian confession it affirmed the resurrection of Jesus the Messiah; and in Jewish theological language it substituted for pronouncing the Hebrew name of God. Christian invocation of the Lord is a trinitarian title: God as Lord, Christ as Lord, the Spirit as “the Lord and giver of life.”

Wednesday - Especially for Children

The nineteenth century popularized the idea, quite new to Christianity, that children are wholly innocent of sin. Currently it is commonplace to lay most blame for children's misbehavior on parents and outside influences. Yet despite the adult-sounding list of sins in today's gospel reading, we respect the children in our midst by helping them see that they are responsible for their evil actions. What are the evils that arise in children's hearts? At least one can discuss bullying. Yet also in the heart of the baptized is the Holy Spirit, who helps us to be clean, in and out. In the heart of the baptized is Jesus, who forgives.

Thursday - Images in the Readings

That Jesus obliquely refers to the Canaanite woman as a *dog* has inspired much creative interpretation over the centuries. Traditionally the sentence was explained away as the technique Jesus employed to test the woman's faith. Some contemporary exegesis reads the exchange seriously and thus credits the woman with instructing Jesus about the breadth of God's mercy. Both of these explanations assume that the story is accurate historical reporting. The story also suggests that if our faith is strong enough, our wishes will be granted. Like the Jesus of Matthew's narrative, we too think of the other as a dog. Like the storyteller, we hope that our faith will bring us instant healing. It is a difficult story to proclaim and expound.

Friday - Reflection on the Gospel

The optional first half of the reading repeats the Matthean theme of the interiority of righteousness. Such biblical passages were central to the development of the Christian doctrine of sin. The narrative of the Canaanite woman, so odd in its depiction of Jesus, indicates Matthew's understanding that, despite the emphasis on righteousness in the kingdom of heaven, faith in Christ is what saves. Much Christian interpretation has explained away Jesus' talk by claiming he was merely testing her faith, although Matthew does not say this.

Saturday - A Hymn for the Day

Each of the day's three readings deals with the question of which group of people

is more acceptable to God, and a hymn that complements these readings is “In Christ there is no east or west” (ELW 650). In the first century, the groups were Jews, Canaanites, Gentiles: in our time, what are the groups that assume precedence over others? In this hymn we pray to be delivered from such rivalry into “one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.” William Arthur Dunkerley, a British layman, publisher and author who wrote under the pseudonym John Oxenham, composed this hymn in 1908 as part of a religious pageant, and he was well-known for his books about the life of Christ.



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$12,887.92** for the week of **August 9th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Kayla Mahowald, in memory of Darlene Kaul. **Thank you!**

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated items for our school kits. We now have enough supplies to fill **about 100 kits later this summer!** Your support and willingness to help are a wonderful blessing.

Rice Pudding is coming up! Please join us **during Coffee Hour on Sunday, August 30th for Rice Pudding Sunday!** Enjoy our famous Rice Pudding, and **sign-up** to cook Rice Pudding, drive batches or work our booth during **this year's Street Fair from Friday, September 18th-Saturday, September 19th.** Look out in the September newsletter for a brief history of this fun tradition!

This summer, **we are looking for more people willing to give rides to church!** We are currently looking for a few more drivers to use their personal vehicle, or our bus or van, to transport a group of people to service this summer, and to the 8:30 starting in the Fall. We are also looking to potentially pair up individuals or couples who can give rides with other couples or individuals that would like one. **If you can give rides to a group about once a month, or could regularly give rides to one individual or couple, or would be interested in a ride, please call the front office** to let us know you are interested, and which service you normally attend.

Women of all ages are invited to our **WELCA Gathering on Tuesday, September 1st at 7pm.** Join us for fellowship, discuss past and future events, and **hear from Mercy Carkuff about the WELCA Triennial Gathering this past July!**

Thanks to all of you who participated in the **Summer Gladness Favorite Hymn contest** this summer. We started with 64 ordinary hymns (nothing seasonal). We have a rich tradition of beautiful music and there was a little sadness each week as someone's favorite didn't make the cut. **"How Great Thou Art" was the overall favorite hymn winner by 4 votes!** "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying" came in second.

"How Great Thou Art" is a famous Christian hymn. It tells of God's power in nature and His love on the cross. Carl Boberg wrote the first words in Sweden in 1885. Stuart K. Hine made the English version in 1949. The hymn was popularized by George Beverly Shea and Cliff Barrows during Billy Graham's crusades. "How Great Thou Art" was ranked second (after "Amazing Grace") on a list of the favorite hymns of all time in a survey by *Christianity Today* magazine in 2001 and in a nationwide poll by Songs Of Praise in 2019.

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" was written by Ken Medema in 1970. Medema writes songs on Christian life. Blind from birth, he responds to what he hears and sees in his heart, often improvising songs on the spot, offering compassion, honesty and desire for integrity in worship and in life.

Message: Pastor Steve Sathre

Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Assisting Minister: Brad Carroll

Music: Dmytro Somkin

Worship Team -

Team E: Joe Grotsun, Hannah Grotsun, Brooke Sundvor, Steve Sundvor, Allison Germolus, Ben Kubischta, Judy Kubischta, Mercy Carkuff, Emily Grote, David Ruiz

CALENDAR

Monday, August 17

3:00 Worship & Music

7:00 AA

Tuesday, August 18

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

Wednesday, August 19

10:00 Bible Study

7:00 Worship

Thursday, August 20

Friday, August 21

8:00 NA

Saturday, August 22

Sunday, August 23

9:30 Worship

MISSION Focus

JULY/AUGUST: BECEP

BECEP, located across 14th Street from our church, works together with families and the community to support and promote Early Childhood Education. They serve children birth to 5 years old, and work with their families to give young children the best environments to grow and thrive in. We are asking for donations to help them in their mission!

They are currently asking for children's clothes (size 4/5 through 8/10), girls and boys backpacks, hats, waterproof mittens, and snow pants.

"[Jesus] said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them." - Mark 10: 14b-16

