



# Faith Lutheran Church

**We warmly greet members  
and visitors in Jesus' name**

## **16<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

10:15 a.m., September 17, 2023



In today's second reading, Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive 77 times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

Welcome to Worship at Faith Lutheran Church  
***Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others***

7750 Beneva Road. Sarasota, FL, 34238 | 941-924-4664 | [www.faithlutheransrq.com](http://www.faithlutheransrq.com)

All the baptized are invited to the celebration of Holy Communion, trusting that Christ is present in this sacrament for the forgiveness of our sin and the strengthening of our faith.



The flowers on the altar today are given by  
Gail Murphy  
in loving memory of her husband's birthday.



**Presiding Minister**

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

**Lector**

Alix Giannini

**Director of Music/Organist**

David V. Patrick

**Cantor**

Tom Tryon

**Vocals**

Voices of Faith Quartet: Hannah Boyd  
Michelle Caulkins, Jesse V. Martin, Tom Tryon

**Greeters & Ushers**

Jerry Cooper, Eloise Dettmer, Ashley Garlitz,  
Dottie Gustavson, Grace Kaarre, Alf Kirkeeng,  
Gail Lidinsky, Judy Millard, Mark Nelson, Jan Phillips,  
Scott Rice, Joan Searles, Dave Wardach

**Videography**

Greg Cooper, Kevin Fewell,  
Andrea & Sergio Gamboa, Mark Greenwood

**Altar Guild**

Linda Fewell, Carole Inkrott, Judy Millard,  
Mark Nelson, Jan Phillips, Steve & Peggy Ragan

**Congregation Council**

Scott Rice, president; Ann Greenwood, vice  
president; Peggy Ragan, secretary; Anita Wooton,  
treasurer; Jerry Cooper; Gail Lidinsky; Mark Nelson;  
Jane Sanks; Joan Searles; Lauren Wardach

\* \* \* \* \*

**Pastor**

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

**Assistant to the Pastor**

Rev. Larry Wright

**Retired Pastors in Residence**

Rev. Marianne Powrie

Rev. John Spittal

Rev. David Wagner

**Director of Family and Children Ministry**

Deborah Dornemann

**Lead Cantor/Music Librarian**

Tom Tryon

**Operations Administrator**

Jenniffer Shaffer

**Communications Administrator**

Linda Fewell

Noted throughout the service - P: Presiding Minister    L: Lector    **C: Congregation**

Faith has a T-Coil-enabled hearing loop for those whose hearing aid(s) also are enabled.

NOTE: This service is being live-streamed and recorded. We try to avoid filming congregants, but it may happen at times.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WE STAND

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

## Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

ELW 864

*We sing together*

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib-ute bring.  
2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.  
3 Frail as sum-mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;  
4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres-ence, face to face.

Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais-es sing.  
 God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.  
 but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.  
 Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927–2005  
 Music: PRAISE. MY SOUL. John Goss. 1800–1880

## GREETING

**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.

## KYRIE

*We sing responsively*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.

For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us

pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

## GLORIA

**We sing together**

*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are

seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

WE SIT

## FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

L: A Reading from Genesis.

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime

of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, word of life.

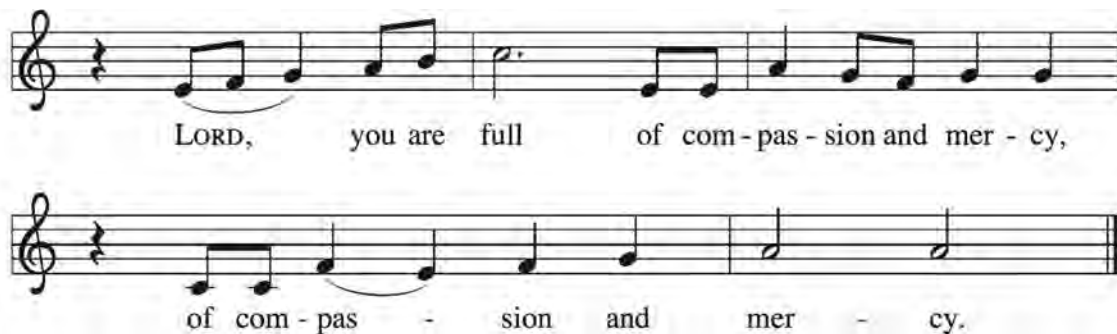
**C: Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

when children are present

### PSALM REFRAIN: Psalm 103:8

*To begin, the organist plays the refrain once, the cantor sings it once, and then we all sing it together.*



Psalm 103:8

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.  
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### PSALMODY: Psalm 103:[1-7], 8-13

L: [1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

<sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits —

<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

<sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the grave

and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

#### **C: Refrain**

L: <sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires with good things

so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

<sup>6</sup>O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

<sup>7</sup>You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.]

<sup>8</sup>LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

#### **C: Refrain**

L: <sup>9</sup>You will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

<sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

<sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

**C: Refrain**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12**

L: A Reading from Romans.

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. <sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

WE STAND



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*We sing together*



## GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

P: <sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The gospel of the Lord.

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

WE SIT

SERMON

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;  
 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;  
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.  
 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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## APOSTLES' CREED

P: Together, we confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C: 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.**

WE SIT

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors. *(brief silence)*

L: We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they may uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

L: We pray for creation. Send rain to drought-stricken lands and healing to polluted rivers. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect crops that feed those who hunger. And be with all who struggle to recover from earthquakes, wildfires, hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

L: We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in power to lead with empathy and forgiveness. We pray especially for peace between Ukraine and Russia, between Israel and Palestine, and in all places reeling from unrest. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

L: We pray for neighbors who face illness, for all strained financially, and for all living with pain, mental illness, addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy, especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you now, aloud or in our hearts. (pause) Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

L: We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

L: We give thanks for the saints who died in faith, especially Debra Ann Cox, Christine Urraro, Bill Masser and Issy Smirnow. With them, show us how to live faithfully, creatively and lovingly in your church and world. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer the prayers of our hearts, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

WE STAND

## PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Feel free to greet your neighbors with a word of peace.*

## WE SIT

### OFFERTORY

The offering is collected at this time. Online giving also is available at  
[www.faithlutheransrq.com](http://www.faithlutheransrq.com).

We deeply appreciate your support of Faith Lutheran's ministries.

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Help Us Accept Each Other

Words by Fred Kaan and Music by John Ness Beck

Voices of Faith Quartet

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us, as sister, brother, each person to embrace. Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith. Teach us to care for people, for all not just for some, to love them as we find them or as they may become. Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on: Renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

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## WE STAND

*We sing together*

Create in Me a Clean Heart

*Offering Song*

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, the second system covers the second line, and the third system covers the third line. The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are: 'Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -'.

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*We sing responsively*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

*The presiding minister sings*

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,

al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resur - rec - tion

opened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life.

And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,

we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*We sing together*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

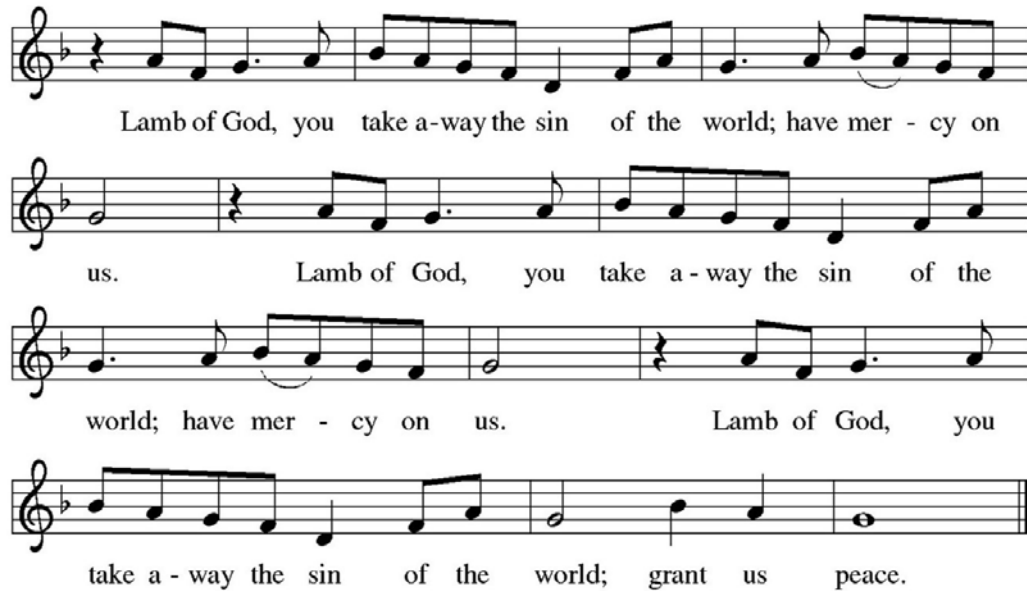
**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

*We sing together*



*WE SIT*

*Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table.*

## **COMMUNION ANTHEM**

*Come, O Lord, and Overflow Us*

Words and Music by Jack W. Hayford, Choral Setting by Jack Schrader

Voices of Faith Quartet

Come, O Lord, and overflow us with your love.  
For we bring our hearts like vessels to the ever-flowing stream.  
Come, Lord Jesus, and anoint us with your power.  
For we bring our hearts like vessels to the ever-flowing stream.  
Come, O Lord, and overflow us with your love.

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## **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you ... The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*WE STAND*

## **TABLE BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

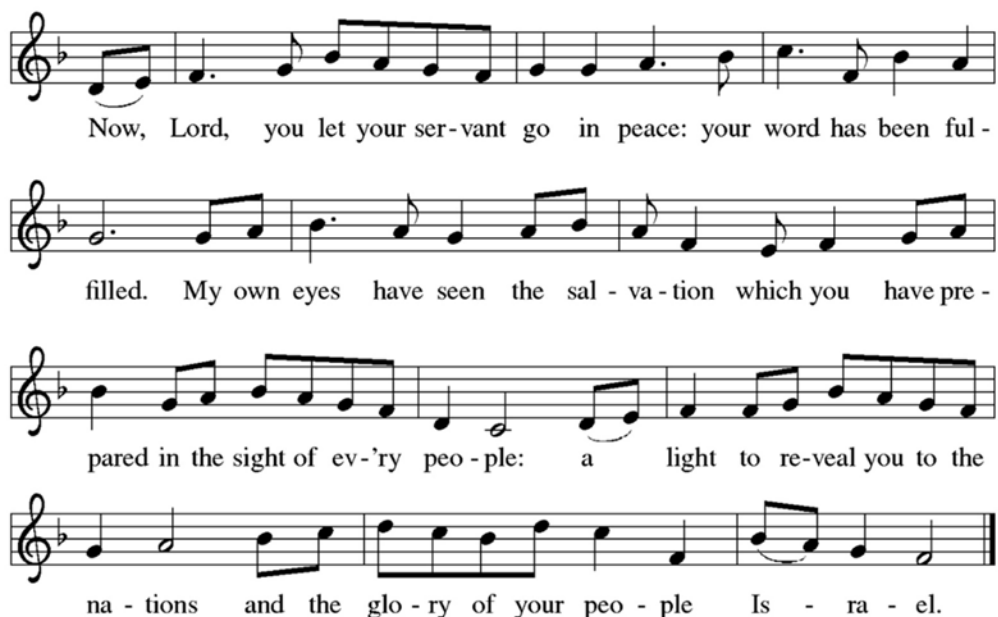
P: Let us pray. Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C: Amen.**



## NUNC DIMITTIS

We sing together



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -  
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -  
pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the  
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

## BLESSING

P: The God of glory, ✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

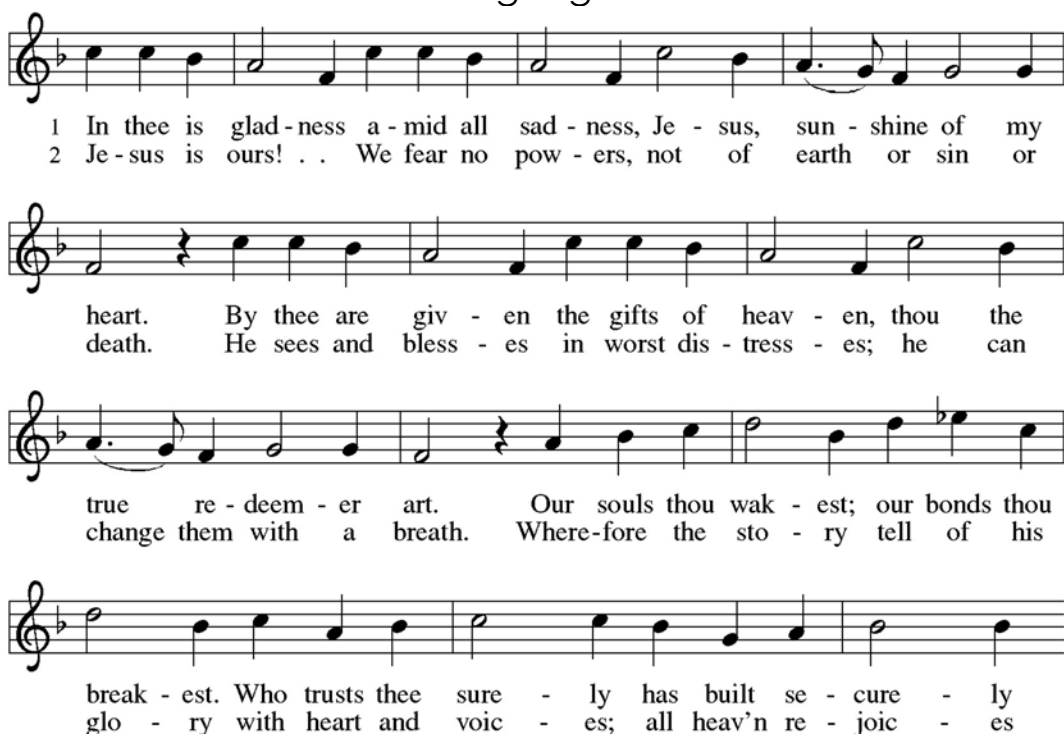
C: Amen.

## SENDING SONG

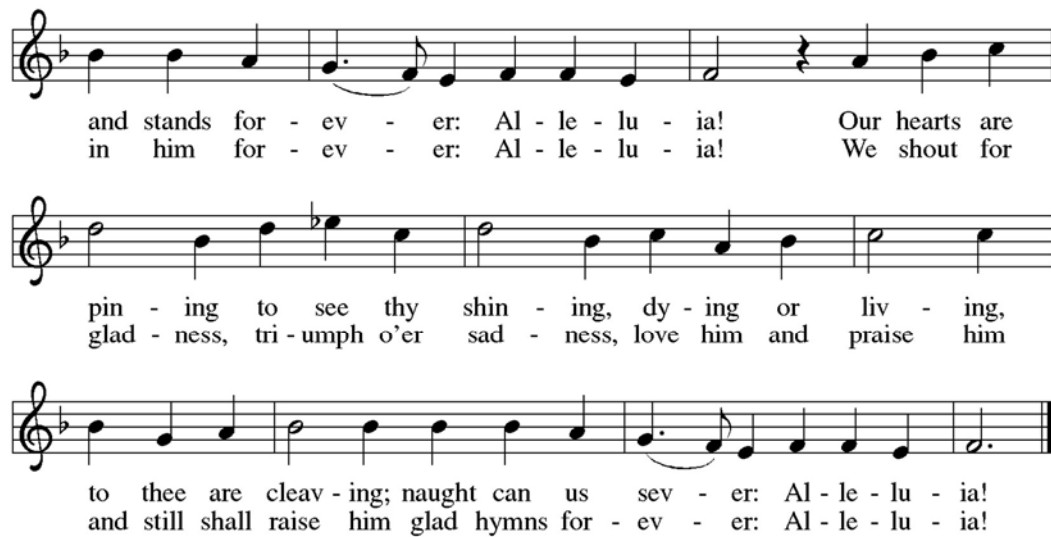
### In Thee is Gladness

ELW 867

*We sing together*



1 In thee is glad-ness a - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus, sun - shine of my  
2 Je - sus is ours! . . We fear no pow - ers, not of earth or sin or  
heart. By thee are giv - en the gifts of heav - en, thou the  
death. He sees and bless - es in worst dis - tress - es; he can  
true re - deem - er art. Our souls thou wak - est; our bonds thou  
change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto - ry tell of his  
break - est. Who trusts thee sure - ly has built se - cure - ly  
glo - ry with heart and voic - es; all heav'n re - joic - es



Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556–1622

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C: Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

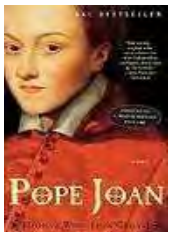
You Shall Go Out With Joy!

Douglas E. Wagner

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## Welcome, Visitors!

We are so glad you have joined us for worship. Please let us know that you visited by filling out a Visitor Card located on the table near the entrance. Kindly give the card to an usher or place it in the offering plate.



## Readers Club Meets Sept. 25

Readers Club will meet at **2 p.m., Monday, Sept. 25, in the library** to discuss *Pope Joan* by D.E. Cross. To learn more, contact Kathy Schilio, schilmo@yahoo.com. Please join!

## Men of Faith Bible Study on Hiatus, Prayer Breakfasts Continue

Men of Faith Bible Studies in the chapel are on hiatus until mid October. But all men are invited to meet as usual for breakfast and prayer at 8:30 a.m. Sept. 26 and Oct. 3 at Skilletts.



## Let's Pray Together



Join in prayer at **10:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the chapel**. We pray for ourselves, loved ones, those in need, our church community, the larger community, our nation and the world. We conclude with Holy Communion. Can't attend in person? Please join via Zoom: **Meeting ID 871 4720 3661, Passcode 041291**

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## Bereavement Group Meets Wednesdays

The Bereavement Group meets at **1 p.m. Wednesdays in the chapel**. If you or a friend can use help bearing the burden of grief, this group is for you. There is strength in community.



## Adult Forum Class Postponed



Due to technical difficulties, Adult Forum is postponed. Stay tuned for a new start date for classes, which will begin with Lesson 1, When the Rabbi Says Come, in the "That the World May Know" video series.

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## Spiral Notebooks Still Needed for School Kits

We still need 60-70 page spiral notebooks to complete school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Could you consider donating one or more notebooks? Place donations in the basket in the narthex.



## Stitch 'n' Chatter Takes a Break, Resumes Oct. 5

The Stitch 'n' Chatter group is taking a break for a few weeks. Gatherings resume at 1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 5.

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## Mary Circle Begins Meeting Sept. 19

All women are invited as Mary Circle kicks off a season of meetings at **11:30 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 19, in fellowship hall**. Jenniffer Shaffer, new operations manager at Faith, will share her experiences and what brought her to her job at church. NOTE: The Sept. 19 meeting begins 30 minutes earlier than usual to accommodate Jenniffer's schedule. Please bring your own lunch; dessert will be provided!



## Choir Rehearsals Resume Sept. 20

Voices of Faith Choir rehearsals resume **Wednesday, Sept. 20**. Join us! We have room for you! The choir rehearses **6:30-8 p.m. two Wednesdays a month in the choir room**. The singers also rehearse at **9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings** to prepare for the 10:15 a.m. service. Rehearsals are energetic, educational, fun and good for your soul. Questions? Contact Music Director David V. Patrick, [musicdirector@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:musicdirector@faithlutheransrq.com).



## Flowers Grace the Altar, Honor Loved Ones

Please consider donating altar flowers in honor of a special occasion, in memory of a loved one, or to glorify God. The cost is \$30 for one vase or \$60 for two. Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church with "altar flowers" in the memo line. Check the altar flowers donation board in fellowship hall to see if your desired date is available. If not, please choose an alternate date. **The next open date is Sunday, Oct. 1**. When you purchase altar flowers, your name and dedication will be published in the bulletin on your selected Sunday. To make a dedication:

- At church, complete an Altar Flowers envelope with your payment, and place it in the offering plate. **Indicate your wish to keep or donate the flowers on the donation board in fellowship hall.**
- By mail, send payment with a note indicating your desired date and dedication, and if you want to keep the flowers or donate them.
- By email or phone, contact the church office with your desired date and dedication, and whether you want to keep or donate the flowers. Pay through the Faith website, [www.faithlutheransrq.com](http://www.faithlutheransrq.com).

## Remembering Isolde 'Issy' Smirnow



Isolde "Issy" Smirnow, beloved Faith member, joined the church triumphant Sept. 12, and a service of resurrection and life took place yesterday at Faith. Our condolences are with her stepson, Harry; his wife, Evelyn; their children, Melissa and Richard; their grandchildren; and all family and friends who grieve Issy's death. May our dear sister rest in the arms of our Lord.

### September Stewardship Message

**One of the best things we can do with our time  
is to spend time alone each day with God.**

*"In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning, I lay my requests  
before you and wait in expectation."*

Psalm 5:3

## ***From Your Stewardship Team: Prayer Provides Power***

It's no stretch of the imagination to think that if Jesus were alive today, he would make staying in touch with his heavenly Father a priority. He would find time to pray.



Before choosing the 12, Jesus spent the night in prayer. He met alone with God regularly early in the morning right up to the time of his crucifixion. He lived out the truth of Psalm 5:3 (previous page). Other Bible characters did, too. Moses, Paul, Daniel, Elijah and David spent significant time in prayer to seek the will of God. So did Martin Luther, who said, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer." He determined that his business and busy-ness would not hinder his relationship with God. If Martin Luther, Moses, Paul, Daniel, David and Jesus all spent time alone with God, what does that say to us? Could it be that this was why they had such an impact on their world and ours?

Do you want to be effective in serving the Lord here at Faith? Do you want to do more than go through the motions of Christian service? Do you want your efforts to make an impact on people for the sake of the Gospel and for eternity? Then realize that your strength and power come from the "power room" of spending time daily in the Lord's presence so you will have all you need for the day ahead. *Thank you, Lord, for sending your Spirit, our helper and guide, to find the strength to spend time with our Lord. Amen.*

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## ***Look for Your Year-to-Date Giving Summary***



On Sept. 6, Faith's finance team sent out year-to-date giving summaries for January-August via email to those who have opted for email communication (check your spam folder if you haven't received yours) and by U.S. Mail for those who don't have or prefer not to use email.

On a related note, the finance team must confirm orders for 2024 giving envelopes by mid-September. Please **contact Patty McKee, 941-921-3709 or [financialsecretary@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:financialsecretary@faithlutheransrq.com)**, if you want to:

- **Change** to electronic online giving through Vanco, which is the preferred giving method.
- **Receive** only envelopes for special giving. This is an option if you send your regular giving electronically or in a lump sum.
- **Update** your contact information.



## Consider Electronic Giving Through Vanco

Electronic giving options are convenient alternatives to cash and checks, which are difficult when you join worship virtually, and can be forgotten at home when you worship in person. Other benefits include:



- **Ease.** Electronic giving makes it simple to give how and when you want. You can make a one-time donation or set up recurring gifts from your device.
- **Safety and security.** You never need to worry about your donation making it to Faith. Gifts made electronically go directly to our church's bank account, and your personal information remains secure.
- **No cash, no checks.** Never worry about forgetting your cash or checkbook at home. You can make a one-time or recurring donation from your phone.
- **Designated giving.** You can direct funds toward the cause of your choice.
- **Stability for Faith.** By setting up recurring donations online, you enable Faith to maintain financial stability and plan for the future.
- **Give on the go.** You can donate from the beach, the road or right at home.
- **Track your giving history.** From your electronic giving account, you can view past donations, update bank account or credit and debit card information, and set up recurring gifts or adjust existing ones.

Visit <https://faithlutheransrq.com/online-giving> to learn more. Contact Jenniffer, [officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com); Patty, [financialsecretary@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:financialsecretary@faithlutheransrq.com); or Anita, [treasurer@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:treasurer@faithlutheransrq.com), with questions.

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## FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others.

## OUR VISION

To be an ELCA congregation that displays the true, unending love of Christ. To promote peace, social justice and grace in all we do.

## THE ELCA

Faith Lutheran Church is part of the greater Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are ecumenical, saved by grace and love Jesus.

## SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE THE LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES

Would you like to receive the latest news and updates from Faith Lutheran?

Subscribe to our weekly Friday Update on our website at [www.faithlutheransrq.com](http://www.faithlutheransrq.com) or email us at [communications@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:communications@faithlutheransrq.com).



# WORSHIP AND SERVICE CALENDAR

## Worship Services

Sundays at 8 a.m. in person &  
10:15 a.m. in person and live streamed at  
[www.faithlutheransrq.com/live-service](http://www.faithlutheransrq.com/live-service)

### Sunday, Sept. 10

Online views	82
8 a.m. in person	29
10:15 a.m. in person	80

### Next Sunday, Sept. 24

#### First Reading

Jonah 3:10 – 4:11  
God's concern for the city of Nineveh

#### Psalmody

Psalm 145:1-8  
The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in  
steadfast love (Ps. 145:8)

#### Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30  
Standing firm in the gospel

#### Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16  
The parable of the vineyard workers

## This Week at Faith

### Monday, Sept. 18

### Tuesday, Sept. 19

11:30 a.m. Mary Circle, fellowship hall  
6 p.m. Diversity Voices of Sarasota,  
sanctuary

### Wednesday, Sept. 20

10:30 a.m. Prayer Group, chapel  
1 p.m. Bereavement Group, chapel  
6:30 p.m. Florida Council on Crime and  
Delinquency, fellowship hall  
6:30 p.m. Voices of Faith Choir, choir room

### Thursday, Sept. 21

9 a.m. Food Pantry Delivery and  
Prep, fellowship hall  
9:30 a.m. Finance Committee,  
conference room  
11 a.m. Executive Committee,  
conference room  
1:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee,  
conference room  
4:30 p.m. Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall  
5 p.m. Food Pantry Open  
6 p.m. Jazzercise, gym

### Friday, Sept. 22

8:30 a.m. Jazzercise, gym

### Saturday, Sept. 23

8:30 a.m. Jazzercise, gym  
9 a.m. Diakonia, conference room

### Sunday, Sept. 24



## Prayer List



Please remember in your prayers this week:

Marsha Anderson, sister of Gail Murphy  
Rev. Steve Anderson, pastor at  
    Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Jeff & Nancy Arntsen  
Anna Bancroft, 6-year-old  
    friend of Alyene Weaver  
Chuck Banta  
Sean Brett, son of Alyene Weaver  
Sandra Brinker  
Charles Budreau  
Dee Burlingame  
Elise Carmona  
Casey, friend of Faith Lutheran  
Evelyn Conlon  
Family & Friends of Debra Ann Cox,  
    mother of Amanda Bright  
Jordan Demers, cousin of Hannah Boyd  
Eloise Dettmer  
Ken Dixon  
Ryan and Valerie Donahue  
Elizabeth Farmer  
Judy & Robert Ferguson  
Carolyn & Marty Friedman,  
    friends of Marlene Radesk  
John Gallo, friend of April Shettler  
Andrea Gamboa  
Amanda Gerber,  
daughter of Sandy Gerber  
Elaine Graham  
Paula Haas, friend of Eloise Dettmer  
Alyssa Hansen, cousin of Lisa Olsen  
Jeff Hansen, nephew of Joan Searles  
Patricia Head, mother of Wayne Head  
Christiana Holmes  
Mary Janice Holt

Kevin Hooks, son-in-law of  
    Anita and Jon Wooton  
Jesus & Rita Jimenez  
Alf Kirkeeng  
Lois Light  
Paul & Debby Maresch  
Alexis Martincek, 13-year-old  
    friend of Heather Stuebe  
Family & Friends of Bill Masser  
Family and Friends of Tom MacIver  
Judi Melander  
Jeremy & Yvonne Mullins  
James & Virginia Pease  
Fran Perkins  
Wally Pina  
Kristen Pizan  
Doris Anne Prieur-Lucia  
Marlene Radesk  
Fritz Rappold  
Family & Friends of Bob Rickmeyer  
Gabriel Rockwell  
Ted and Carol Rodi  
Floyd Ryder  
Rev. John Spittal  
Family & Friends of Isolde "Issy" Smirnow  
Dianne Stoll, friend of Dorothy Gustavson  
Cathy Stubenvoll  
Ron and Leigh Tarrantino  
Colette Thornbloom  
David Turnbull  
Family & Friends of Christine Urraro  
Scotty Walters, cousin of Jerry Cooper  
Jeff Wardach,  
    son of Dave and Lauren Wardach  
Aylene Weaver  
Jon Wooton

- **Contact [officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com)** if you or someone you know would appreciate a **communion visit, hospital or home visit, to be contacted or to receive a card in the mail.**
- **Contact [communications@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:communications@faithlutheransrq.com)** if you have an **addition to the Prayer List.** Please send updates when prayers are answered.