



Faith Lutheran Church

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

Transfiguration of Our Lord

10:15 a.m., March 2, 2025



Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world.
It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James and John.
We pray that it will be true for all of us who see God's glory
in the word and in the supper,
and who are being "transformed into the same image" by God's Spirit.

***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

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 Ruth Calkins and Suzie Lehmann in thanksgiving for spring with God.

Ministers

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen
Rev. Marianne Powrie
Rev. Larry Wright

**Lector
Crucifer**

Jim Winemiller
Deacon Mark Greenwood

**Music Director
Cantor
Flutist
Vocals**

Andi Zdrava
Hannah Boyd
Julianne Geysler
Voices of Faith Choir

Greeters & Ushers

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

Media Team

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

Sunday School Teacher

Emily Holst

Altar Guild

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

Congregational Council

Ann Greenwood, president; Joan Searles, vice president; Lauren Wardach, secretary; Anita Wooton, treasurer; Jane Sanks, assistant treasurer; Jerry Cooper; Quyen Dang; Julianne Geysler; Mark Nelson; Peggy Ragan; Deacon Scott Rice

* * * * *

**Pastor
Assistant to the Pastor
Retired Pastors in Residence**

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen
Rev. Larry Wright
Rev. John Hilficker
Rev. Marianne Powrie
Rev. John Spittal

Interim Executive Assistant

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.
- Smile! Faith worship services are live-streamed and recorded.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

WE STAND

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector,
our wellspring of life.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us
confess our sin.

(pause for reflection)

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: God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In † Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen.

We sing together

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

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 together


Refrain



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.




Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the




u-ni-ty of all; for
hun-gry and the poor; that
friends and fam-i-ly; for
wa-ter and the word; that you



this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

CANTICLE

We sing together

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be
peo-ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
Refrain
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of
vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -
le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of

your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WE SIT

FIRST READING: Exodus 34:29-35

L: A reading from Exodus.

²⁹ Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³² Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³ When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴ but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵ the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM REFRAIN: Psalm 99:9

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

Pro - claim the great - ness of the LORD;
wor - ship up - on God's ho - ly hill.

Psalm 99:9

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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PSALMODY: Psalm 99

L: ¹ The Lord is king; let the people tremble.

The Lord is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.

² The Lord, great in Zion,

is high above all peoples.

³ Let them confess God's name, which is great and awesome;

God is the Holy One.

⁴ O mighty king, lover of justice, you have established equity;
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

C: Refrain.

L: ⁵ Proclaim the greatness of the Lord and fall down before God's footstool;
God is the Holy One.

⁶ Moses and Aaron among your priests, and Samuel among those who call upon
your name, O Lord,
they called upon you, and you answered them,

⁷ you spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;
they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.

⁸ O Lord our God, you answered them indeed;
you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.

⁹ Proclaim the greatness of the Lord and worship upon God's holy hill;
for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

C: Refrain.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2

L: A reading from 2 Corinthians.

¹² Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³ not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵ Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶ but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

^{4:1} Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

WE STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We sing together

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

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

P: ²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.

³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

[³⁷ On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸ Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹ Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” ⁴¹ Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” ⁴² While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked

the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ^{43a} And all were astounded at the greatness of God.]

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

WE SIT

SERMON

Rev. Marianne Powrie

WE STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY How Good, Lord, To Be Here!

ELW 315

We sing together



1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;



your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858–1933, alt.

Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

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: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world and all creation.

L: Transfiguring God, through the glory of your presence, you transform us. Move the church from complacency to boldness in sharing the good news with others.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for your creation. As seasons change, give patience and skill to all who tend to animals giving birth. Grant nourishing weather for the growing of crops.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for all in leadership, especially for those who lead states, counties and town councils. Give them wisdom to protect local resources so that all will flourish both now and in the years to come. We also pray for the whole world, and for an enduring, just peace in Israel, Gaza, Russia, Ukraine and all areas rocked by unrest.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Bring your healing grace to those who feel distant from you. Speak comfort to those who need your words of mercy. We pray for those close to our communities and our hearts, especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you now, aloud or in silence (*pause*).

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of our past, present and future, lead us into new beginnings, trusting in the promise of new life in Christ. Accompany congregations that need to close, and give courage to congregations starting new ministries.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Renewing God, the saints who have gone before us witnessed to the ways you transform your church and people. We give thanks for their example and pray that you will help us carry it forward.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

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. You also can give online by scanning the QR Code printed here or via the Online Giving page at faithlutheransrq.com. We deeply appreciate your support of Faith Lutheran's ministries.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Sing a New Song to the Lord
Voices of Faith Choir

Natalie Sleeth

WE STAND

We sing together

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

We sing together

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

C: We praise you, O God.

P: Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

C: We bless you, O God.

P: We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

C: We thank you, O God.

P: 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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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: The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.
All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

COMMUNION SONG

We sing together



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God,

WE SIT

Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table.

COMMUNION ANTHEM We Come to Your Table
Voices of Faith Choir

James E. Clemens

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. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.

In the name of Christ we pray,

C: Amen.

2025 Bold Woman Presentation

BLESSING

P: The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

ELW 815

I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light *We sing together*



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God.

Welcome, Visitors!

We are so glad you have joined us for worship. Please let us know that you visited by signing our guestbook and/or 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.

Faith Honors a Bold Woman Today

Today is Bold Women Sunday. Mary Circle is delighted to honor the person chosen by its members. In honor of our 2025 Bold Woman, Mary Circle is hosting coffee hour today, which also is a fund-raiser for the circle. Please consider a free will offering. Thank you!

Our Journey Through Lent to Easter Begins This Week

Ash Wednesday, March 5

8 a.m. Drive-Through Prayers and Imposition of Ashes, parking lot
 Noon & 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship with Imposition of Ashes, sanctuary

Lenten Wednesdays: March 12, 19 and 26, and April 2 and 9

Noon Midweek Lenten Worship followed by a common meal, sanctuary/fellowship hall

Palm Sunday, April 13

8 a.m. Celebration Worship with Holy Communion, sanctuary
 10:15 a.m. Celebration Worship with Holy Communion and choir, sanctuary
 5 p.m. Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion, sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, April 17

7 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion, sanctuary

Good Friday, April 18

7 a.m. Multi-Denominational Stations of the Cross, park at Church of the Redeemer, 222 S. Palm Ave.; take a free trolley to the starting location
 2 p.m. Stations of the Cross, sanctuary
 7 p.m. Tenebrae Worship, sanctuary

Holy Saturday, April 19

7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil Part One, parking lot

Easter Sunday, April 20

7 a.m. Easter Vigil Part Two, Memorial Garden

9 a.m. Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt, fellowship hall and playground

10:15 a.m. Easter Celebration Worship with Holy Communion and choir, sanctuary

Join in Prayer and Bible Study

- **Adult Forum** meets between the two morning worship services in the conference room. Next week, the group will study Lesson 4, *Ascension: The King Takes His Throne*, in the "Mission of Jesus" series.
 - **Women of Faith** meet for breakfast, prayer and camaraderie at 8:30 a.m., tomorrow, Monday, March 3, at Skilletts, 8635 S. Tamiami Trail. Questions? See Pastor Marianne or email her, pastorp2.0@gmail.com.
 - **Men of Faith** meet for breakfast and prayer at 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays at Skilletts, 8635 S. Tamiami Trail.
 - **G.I.F.T.S. (Growing in Faith Through Scripture) Women's Bible study** meets at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays in the library to focus on "Leaning on Jesus: A Study of God's Strength."
 - **The Prayer Support Group** meets at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the chapel to pray for all in need, our community, nation and world, and to share Holy Communion.
 - **The Bereavement Group** meets at 3:15 p.m. Wednesdays in the chapel. If you or a friend can use help bearing the burden of grief, this group is for you.
-

Move to the Music During Zumba Class

Zumba begins at 6 p.m. Mondays in the Community Center (gym). All fitness levels are welcome! It is free for congregation members, and a voluntary donation from non-members is appreciated. Join in the fun!

All New Garden Benches Have Been Dedicated

The new garden benches for the Memorial Garden have all been purchased and dedicated in memory of loved ones. Thank you.

Mary Circle Meets, Hosts, Packages Seeds, Requests Personal Care Donations and Invites You

- **Mary Circle meets at noon, Tuesday, March 11, in fellowship hall.** All women of the church are invited! Bring your lunch; dessert is provided. The group

will discuss plans for the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA) Mid-Gulf Spring Gathering, which Faith will host.

- **Save the date for the WELCA Mid-Gulf Spring Gathering, Saturday, April 12, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Faith.** It will be a day of fellowship, Bible study and a special presentation by Faith's own Al Ernst. Both continental breakfast and lunch will be served at a cost of only \$10. Plan to join us!
- This past week, Faith volunteers packed 1,000 packages of tomato seeds that will be sent all over the U.S. and the world as part of the Hope Seeds program, which provides seeds so people in need can feed themselves. The next opportunity to help is at **10:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 25, in fellowship hall.** Come and try it out! Sign up on the narthex table so Hope Seeds will know how much material to provide.
- Mary Circle volunteers recently delivered Lutheran World Relief kits for shipping – now it's time to **start collecting personal-care kit items for next year! Please place nail clippers, combs, bath-size soap and adult-size toothbrushes in the bin in the narthex.** A Thrivent grant will cover the cost of towels for the kits. If you are unable to shop, monetary contributions are welcome.

Donate Altar Flowers in Honor or in Memory

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, choose an alternate date. **The next open date is April 6.** When you purchase altar flowers, your name and dedication appear in the bulletin on your selected Sunday.

To make a dedication:

- At church, complete an Altar Flowers envelope with 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 Altar Flowers option on the Online Giving page of the Faith website, faithlutheransrq.com.

Contact Joan Hirsch, 941-726-7885, with questions or specific requests about who or what organization should receive flowers that you purchased and choose to donate.

Coffee Hour Is Important! Please Volunteer!

Coffee hour needs additional volunteers. All you have to do is provide and put out snacks, and clean up afterward. Faith can cover the cost of the snacks if you would like to volunteer but don't have resources to purchase them. Sign up on the sheet beside the coffee pot in fellowship hall.

Daily Lenten Devotion and Prayer Will Be Coming Your Way

To enrich our Lenten experience, the Faith Evangelism Ministry team will share daily devotions and prayers from Luther Seminary called “There in God’s Garden.” You will receive a devotion via email from Faith each morning during Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday. Printed devotional booklets also are available on the table in the narthex for people who do not use email. During midweek Lenten lunches on Wednesdays, which will follow midweek worship, you will be invited into meaningful discussion based on the daily devotions. The Evangelism Ministry team prays that the devotions and discussions will draw us closer as a congregation during our Lenten journey.

Two Special Presentations Address Topics of Interest: Come, Listen, Be Inspired

You are invited to attend one of two special presentations, both of which will take place March 6:

- Jacob L. Wright, professor of Hebrew Bible at Emory University’s Candler School of Theology, will speak about Defeat, Hope and the Creation of the Hebrew Bible at 6 p.m., March 6, in the Sainer Auditorium at New College of Florida, 5800 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota, FL, 34243. The presentation is free and open to the public, but tickets are encouraged so logistics can be planned appropriately. For tickets or more information, contact ncf.edu/socraticstage. Wright’s most recent book, *Why the Bible Began: An Alternative History of Scripture and Its Origins*, has won multiple awards, including the 2024 PROSE Award, and was included in *The New Yorker’s* “Best Books We Read in 2023.”
 - Rev. Eugene Cho, president and CEO of Bread for the World, will speak about the worldwide hunger crisis and how the church can get involved at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 6, in the sanctuary at Church of the Palms, 3224 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, FL, 34239. Bread for the World recognizes that hunger cannot be solved by charities and food pantries alone – feeding the world takes all of us, and it is a solvable crisis. Christians can encourage world leaders across all aisles to rise to the occasion. Rev. Cho is an international leader with deep knowledge of the hunger crisis that faces nearly one in every 10 people globally. During the special March 6 event, he will share insights and show what a united church can do.
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Joy in Receiving God’s Blessings: Being a Faithful Steward

“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy” (1 Corinthians 4:7). God has granted us, his stewards, many blessings, but the decision is ours whether we will use those gifts for the work of the Lord. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God enables us to use our gifts faithfully and joyfully for his purposes. May God help us all to be the faithful stewards that he wants us to be.

Lord, grant me faith to be a committed, joyful steward of all you entrust to me. Amen.

Faith's Prayer List Begins Anew: Use Email or Prayer Request Cards to Add To or Keep Someone on the List

It's time to update the Faith Prayer List so, beginning Sunday, March 9, the list will begin anew. To add someone to the list or to ensure that someone who had previously been on the list remains there:

- Email officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com, or
- Complete a Prayer Request Card. The cards are found in the pews, on the tables at the back of the sanctuary and in the narthex. Place completed cards in the offering plate. You are welcome to use the back of a card for additional names.

It is a privilege and joy to pray for those in need, and all prayer requests are welcome. Names can remain on the list for as long as prayers are requested.

Readers Club Meets March 31

The Faith Readers Club meets at 2 p.m. on the final Monday of each month. The group will meet March 31 to discuss *How We Learn to be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith* by Mariann Budde, exploring thoughts of the Episcopal bishop of Washington, D.C. Come and join the conversation. All are welcome.

Worship and Service Calendar

Sunday Worship Services

8 a.m., 10:15 a.m. & 5 p.m. in person.
Morning services live streamed and recorded at
www.faithlutheransrq.com/live-service
and at facebook.com/faithlutheransrq.

Sunday, Feb. 23

Online views	295
8 a.m. in person	31
10:15 a.m. in person	128
5 p.m. in person	17

Next Sunday, March 9

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways. (Ps. 91:11).

Romans 10:8b-13
If you confess that Jesus is Lord, you will be saved.

Luke 4:1-13
The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for 40 days.

This Week at Faith

Monday, March 3

- 8:30 a.m. Women of Faith Breakfast, Skilletts, 8635 S. Tamiami
- 6 p.m. Zumba, community center

Tuesday, March 4

- 8:30 a.m. Men of Faith Breakfast, Skilletts, 8635 S. Tamiami
- 9:30 a.m. G.I.F.T.S. Women's Bible Study, library
- 6 p.m. Diversity Voices of Sarasota, choir room and sanctuary

Wednesday, March 5

- 8 a.m. Drive-Through Prayers with Imposition of Ashes, parking lot
- 10:30 a.m. Prayer Support Group, chapel
- 12 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship, sanctuary
- 3:15 p.m. Bereavement Group, chapel
- 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship, sanctuary

Thursday, March 6

- 9 a.m. Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall
- 4:30 p.m. Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall
- 5 p.m. Food Pantry Distribution
- 6 p.m. Defeat, Hope and the Creation of the Hebrew Bible with Jacob L. Wright, New College of Florida, 5800 Bay Shore Road
- 6:30 p.m. Bread for the World and the Hunger Crisis with Rev. Eugene Cho, Church of the Palms, 3224 Bee Ridge Road
- 6:30 p.m. Voices of Faith, choir room

Friday, March 7

- 8 a.m. Jazzercise, community center

Saturday, March 8

- 8 a.m. Jazzercise, community center
- 9 a.m. Diakonia, conference room

Contact officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com:

- If you or someone you know would appreciate a communion, hospital or home visit; to be contacted; or to receive a card in the mail.
- To add or remove a name from the Prayer List.

Prayer List

Pastor Steve Anderson, friend of Jan Phillips
Michele Bajor
Tani Banta
Randy Boid
Barbara Brannan, mother of Kim McDonald
Gail Brown
Arthur Brucato, friend of Karla Lewis &
Michael Leonhardt
Dee Burlingame
Judy Carlsen
Jerry Clancy
Evelyn Conlon
Doug Dahlquist, father of Hannah Boyd
Jeanine Davis (nee Molella), granddaughter of
Karen & John White
Eloise Dettmer
Joe & Joan Dongarra
Beth & Mary Farmer
Andrea Gamboa
Vicki Goffinet
Hope Hall & Family, sister of Faye Adkins
Jeff Hansen, nephew of Joan Searles
Sonja Hickling, mother of Kelly Ashlock
Becky Hilton Heeps, friend of Lisa Olsen
Friends & Family of Marilyn Hirsch
Bob Hurdle, friend of the Kolschowskys & Coppers
Pete Inkrott
Jan and Michele
Jesus & Rita Jimenez
Alf Kirkeeng
Leonard Kotwitz, brother of Janet Falk
Lillian Lapenckas
Kevin Lasko
Ruth Levy, sister of Joan Hirsch
Diane Lewis, sister-in-law of Karla Lewis &
Michael Leonhardt
Pat Longo & Ronnie Mojo, friends of
Susan Wakefield
Julie, Eli, Paul & Debbie Maresch, family of
Patty McKee
Kim MacDonald
Matt McKelvey, friend of Lois Weaverling

Judi Melander
Jay Millard, son of John and Judy Millard
Alison Nommay, friend of Karla Lewis &
Michael Leonhardt
Terry O'Connell, friend of Marlene Radesk
Meghan Ortega, niece of Lisa & Pastor Eric Olsen
Judy Osborn, sister of Peggy Ragan
Sue Ostrom
Family & Friends of Pastor Terry Parker, friend of
Max & Pastor Marianne Powrie
Fran Perkins
Carl Petersen
Richard Keith Radcliffe, brother of
Gail Radcliffe Brown
Annabel Ryan
Floyd Ryder
Robin Ryder, daughter of Floyd Ryder &
sister of Gail Murphy
Lorna Sawyers-Sucra, friend of Jeremy &
Yvonne Mullins
Kathy Schilio
Shirley Schimke
Heather Schott, Les Lorenz's step-daughter-in-law
Becky Sciranko, niece of Alice Rush
Joan Searles
Stephanie Sebastyn, friend of Carolyn Winemiller
Pastor John Spittal
Pamela Spry, mother of Hannah Boyd
Ed & Gail Straight, friends of Nancy Dandino
Tess Stransky, cousin of Lynn Clancy
Kris Sullivan
Leigh Tarantino, friend of Marlene Radesk
Melissa Thompson, cousin of Lisa Olsen
Friends & Family of Tyler Tynefield,
loved one of Dee Burlingame
Jessica Uebel, cousin of Adele Smith
Dr. Patty White
Friends & Family of Paul Wick
Dorothy Wolfe, cousin of Adele Smith
Jon Wooton
Celeste & John Yee, friends of Marlene Radesk

