



Faith Lutheran Church

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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:15 a.m., September 8, 2024



James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syro-Phoenician woman in **today's** gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles **don't** deserve the goods meant for **God's** children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

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 Deb Masser
in loving memory of her husband, Bill.**

Presiding Ministers

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

Lector

Joan Searles

Director of Music/Organist

David V. Patrick

Cantor

Michelle Caulkins

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,
Jane Sanks, Joan Searles, Dave Wardach

Media Team

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

Altar Guild

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

Congregation Council

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

* * * * *

Pastor

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

Assistant to the Pastor

Rev. Larry Wright

Retired Pastors in Residence

Rev. John Hilficker

Rev. Marianne Powrie

Rev. John Spittal

Lead Cantor/Music Librarian

Tom Tryon

Church Administrator/

Heidi Floyd

Executive Assistant to the Pastor

- 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.

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Arranged by Gilbert Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE STAND

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

(brief silence)

Gracious 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 promises to forgive our iniquity
and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ,
the source of eternal healing,
your sins are forgiven.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 834

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

We sing together

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807–1876

REETING

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



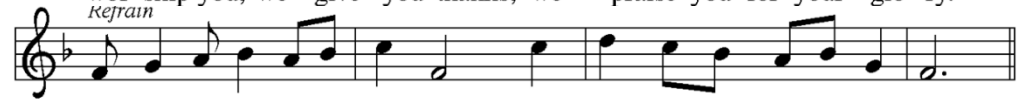
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



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.



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.



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.



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: Let us pray. Gracious God, throughout the ages, you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

C: Amen.

WE SIT

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

L: A Reading from Isaiah.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “**Be** strong, do not fear!

Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

He will come and save **you**.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM REFRAIN: Psalm 146:2



Psalm 146:2

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress

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PSALMODY: Psalm 146

L: ¹Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

²I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Put not your trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there is no help.
⁴When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.

C: Refrain.

L: ⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;
⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The Lord sets the captive free.
⁸The Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.

C: Refrain.

L: ⁹The Lord cares for the stranger;
the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
¹⁰The Lord shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

C: Refrain.

SECOND READING: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

L: A Reading from James.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “**Have** a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “**Stand there,**” or, “**Sit at my feet,**” ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? ⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “**You** shall love your neighbor as **yourself.**” ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, “**You** shall not commit **adultery,**” also said, “**You** shall not **murder.**” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those

who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.] ¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “**Go** in peace; keep warm and eat your **fill**,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

WE STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We sing together



GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, “**Let** the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the **children’s** food and throw it to the **dogs**.” ²⁸But she answered him, “**Sir**, even the dogs under the table eat the **children’s crumbs**.” ²⁹Then he said to her, “**For** saying that, you may go—the demon has left your **daughter**.” ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He

took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “**Ephphatha,**” that is, “**Be opened.**” ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “**He** has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to **speak.**”

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

WE SIT

SERMON

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

WE STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 886

Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

We sing together



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5 Look unto him, your Savior own, O fallen human race! Look and be saved through faith alone, be justified by grace! | 6 To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv'n by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n. |
|---|---|

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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

Following each prayer petition, we respond:

L: ... Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

As the prayers conclude:

... P: We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior,

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

As Long as I Have Breath
Voices of Faith Quartet

Sue Farrar

As long as I have breath, I will praise You, Lord.
As long as I have life, let my soul rejoice.

In times of sore distress; in times of loneliness;
as long as I have breath, I will praise You, Lord.
as long as I have breath, I will bless You, Lord.
As long as life is mine, I will sing your song.
Your joy brings forth my praise; Your peace fills all my days;
As long as I have breath, I will praise You, Lord.
Let me know Your loving kindness every day,
As you walk beside me pointing out the way.
As long as I have being, I will trust in You; You are my God; I lift my soul to You.
As long as I have breath, I will serve You, Lord.
As long as life is mine, **I'll** exalt Your word.
And when this life shall pass, And **I'm** at home at last;
Thru all eternity, I will praise You, Lord.

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WE STAND

We sing together Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*

The musical score is written for two voices, Soprano and Bass, in a key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

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: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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



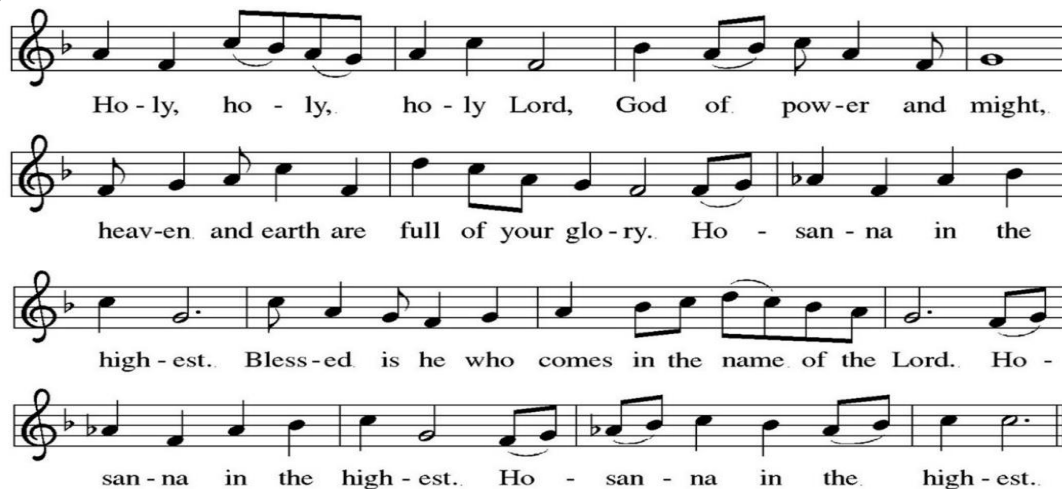
The presiding minister continues, then concludes



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HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

We sing together



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God ...

... 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 ...

... 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 welcomes you and everyone to this table. Come, here is your God.

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.

WE SIT

Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table.

COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Come Share God's Gift

Nancy Price and Don Besig
Voices of Faith Quartet

In friendship and love, faithful and true; come now and know the grace of God is all around you. In worship and praise, honoring Him; come now and pray and thank Him for all He gives to you. Come servants of the Lord and graciously receive the meal prepared for you this day. In memory of Christ, gathered in peace; come now and share this moment of fellowship and faith. Let us break bread together in His name. With our hearts joined as one, to His table now we come and we seek forgiveness in His

name. The body of Christ, broken for you; take now and eat and let His spirit dwell within you. The blood of the Lord, shed for your sins; take now and drink and let His forgiveness make you new. For all who break this bread and drink this cup are joined in Christian harmony. The gift of the Lord, offered in love; come now and share His promise of everlasting peace.

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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. Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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: Now receive a blessing: God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

ELW 726

Light Dawns on a Weary World

We sing together

1 Light dawns on a wea-ry world when eyes be-gin to
 2 Love grows in a wea-ry world when hun-gry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a wea-ry world when crea-tures, once for -

see all peo-ple's dig-ni-ty. Light dawns on a
 bread and chil-dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wil-der-ness re-born. Hope blooms in a

wea-ry world: the prom-ised day of jus-tice comes.
 wea-ry world: the prom-ised feast of plen-ty comes.
 wea-ry world: the prom-ised green of E-den comes.

Refrain
 The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
 the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing-ing!
 We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
 as all the world in won-der ech-oes sha-lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953.
 Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951
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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

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 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.

Join in ‘God’s Work. Our Hands.’ Next Sunday, Sept. 15

Each year, congregations of the ELCA set aside an annual day of service called “God’s Work. Our Hands” Sunday. It’s an opportunity for us to explore a basic Lutheran conviction: That all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

At Faith, we will serve our neighbors by fortifying our food pantry, which now provides food and other essentials for more than 250 neighbors each week. **Please plan to place donations of paper products, personal hygiene items, diapers and feminine sanitary products – essentials that the pantry needs because they generally aren’t available from All Faith’s Food Bank – in the white food pantry barrel.** During coffee hour following the 10:15 a.m. service next week, current food pantry volunteers will share info about **how easy and fun it is to help at the Faith Food Pantry on Thursdays. There are tasks for people of all ages and stages – for you!** We donate and learn to celebrate who we are – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbors.

Mary Circle Resumes Monthly Meetings Sept. 10

Mary Circle resumes second-Tuesday-of-the-month meetings at church beginning at **noon, this Tuesday, Sept. 10, in fellowship hall.** The group will welcome Linda Fewell, who, following a recent trip to China, will share perspectives and encourage discussion about that **country’s** faith traditions, people, history and culture. Bring your lunch, and enjoy dessert prepared by a circle member. All women are invited!

Worship to Go Needs Your Help

Worship to Go needs additional helpers! You can participate at:

- **1:30 p.m., tomorrow, Monday, Sept. 9, at Sarabella Senior Living, 5650 Gantt Road.** Volunteers will meet at 12:30 p.m. in the Faith chapel and will carpool to the facility.
 - **10:45 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 10, in the independent living facility’s Tiffany Room at Elancé, next door to Faith.** Volunteers will review the service at 10 a.m. in the chapel.
 - **1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 17, at Angels Senior Living, 5750 Honore.** Volunteers will meet at 12:45 p.m. in the chapel and will carpool to the facility. To join in, contact Pastor Eric directly, 716-352-0055. No experience necessary!
-

Experience the Support of Prayer

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. **Can't attend in person? Join via Zoom: Meeting ID 871 4720 3661. Passcode 041291.**

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.

Friendship, God's Word Highlight Women's Bible Study

Opportunities to study God's word among an ever-widening circle of women friends return as **G.I.F.T.S. (Growing in Faith Through Scripture) women's Bible study resumes at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays beginning Sept. 17**. All women are invited to meet in the **upstairs library** for a relatable, encouraging and easy-to-follow study by Deb Burma, "Leaning on Jesus: A Study of God's Strength." Let's make new friends and grow in faith together! Please come! Questions? Contact Peggy Ragan, 941-302-7722 or pragan12@aol.com.

You Can Help Needy through Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Pastor Eric often speaks with people about aid they require. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund allows him to assist financially, when appropriate. **The need currently is great so, if you can, please consider a donation to the fund so those in need can receive assistance.** You can give through the Online Giving page at faithlutheransrq.com, or by designating a check or cash contribution. Thank you!

Readers Club Meets Sept. 30

Readers Club will meet at **2 p.m., Monday, Sept. 30, in the upstairs library** to discuss *The Last Flight* by Julie Clark. Join in for lively discussion and fellowship.

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.**

Join Faith Walk and Talk for Active Fellowship

Prayer, an outdoor walk, coffee fellowship and a closing prayer of thanks bring people together during Faith Walk and Talk. Join the group at **9:30 a.m.**

Saturday, Sept. 14, and the second Saturday of each month outside of Panera Gulf Gate, 6589 S. Tamiami Trail. If you would enjoy the talk but not the walk, arrive at 10:30 a.m. Questions? Contact Carolyn Francis, 941-400-0083.

Donate Blood (and Perhaps Win Taylor Swift Tickets!)

There currently is a **great need** for blood of all types, but especially O Positive (O+) and O Negative (O-). If you are able, please donate at any of the Suncoast Blood Centers, at scheduled bloodmobile sites, or contact the blood center to schedule a Donate@Home appointment. **For more information, donation site locations and to schedule a donation appointment, visit www.suncoastblood.org.** Faith will again host blood drives beginning this fall. In the meantime, please **ask that your blood donations be applied to Faith Lutheran Church Account #178.** To encourage donations, everyone who **donates blood to Suncoast Blood Centers by Sept. 15 will be entered to win a pair of tickets to the Taylor Swift Eras Tour Oct. 20 in Miami!**

Adult Forum Kicks Off Sept. 22 with 'Path to the Cross'

A new season of Adult Forum classes kicks off **Sept. 22 between worship services - 9:10-9:50 a.m. in the conference room** - with an exciting new study series, "Path to the Cross." All young people who have completed confirmation and all adults are welcome to join in on Sept. 22 and subsequent Sundays to explore what it means to travel that path. Check the next page for a preview of what you'll delve into during upcoming Sundays:

- **Sept. 22, The Way of the Essenes.** At times, God chose to use the harsh reality of life in the desert near the Promised Land as a practical teaching tool to mold and shape His people. The Essenes went willingly into this wasteland to allow Him to do just that: to teach them His words and how to walk in His ways. In this lesson, you will catch a glimpse of what it means to travel this path of obedience as you continue to "prepare the way" for the Lord.
- **Sept. 29, The Way of John the Baptist.** John the Baptist focused his life entirely on preparing the Jewish people for the coming of Jesus. His ministry still holds enormous meaning for us today, and there is much we can learn from his understanding of how to prepare for the arrival of Messiah. In this lesson, you will consider what it means to live a life of wholehearted commitment to God, His word and His kingdom.

- **Oct. 6, Into the Desert to be Tested.** During their 40 years in the desert, God continued to teach and shape the Israelite nation. By the time the Israelites entered the Promised Land, a new generation had formed, a people who obeyed and trusted God with all their heart, soul and strength. Follow along as this lesson invites God to reveal what you are lacking, so you can learn to walk in His ways with all your heart, all your soul and all your strength.
- **Oct. 13, The Passover.** In the story of God making Himself known to His people, Passover is a foundational element. As the continuation of this redemptive process, the Lord's Supper finds its most profound meaning when taken in the context of Passover imagery. In this lesson, you will unpack the full meaning of the Last Supper, and learn how to engage it in deep celebration, commemorating Jesus' redemptive work on our behalf.
- **Oct. 20, The Fifth Cup.** The Passover Sedar employs four symbolic cups to help the Jews remember the miraculous ways that God delivered His people from the hand of Pharaoh. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asked the Father to take away the cup placed before Him, a "fifth cup" in a sense, which signifies the complete deliverance of God's people from the wages of our own sin. In this lesson, you will consider the implications of Jesus accepting this cup of God's wrath so that we could be spared from it, once and for all.

Mark your calendars now, and plan to participate!

About Faith Lutheran

Our Mission: 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.

Receive the Latest News and Updates: Subscribe to our weekly Friday Update at faithlutheransrq.com or email officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com.

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 Sunday,**

Sept. 29. 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.

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

***From Communications Administrator Linda Fewell:
Thank You for the Opportunity to Serve with You***

It has been an honor and privilege to serve first as office administrator and most recently as communications administrator for Faith. Organizing and communicating in ways that helped the pastors, fellow staff members and all of you to engage in ministry has been deeply rewarding ... and often fun!

My heartfelt thanks to Pastor Eric and the church council, who created the part-time communications administrator position at my request and who were supportive throughout my tenure. Thanks, too, to Pastor Marianne, Pastor Larry and Director of Music/Organist David Patrick, who provided important, timely encouragement and help. And thanks to all of you. Being on staff gave me the opportunity to meet, work **alongside and develop friendships with so many of you. I'm forever grateful.**

As we warmly welcome Heidi Floyd, our new church administrator/executive assistant **to the pastor, know that I'm not going anywhere! I will continue worshipping and** working with you as a volunteer at the Faith Food Pantry, and on altar guild and various committees.

Thanks once again. See you in church.

With you in Christ,

Linda

***From Music Ministry Leaders David V. Patrick and
Tom Tryon: Thank You for Your Faithfulness***

Dear Faith Lutheran members and friends:

After much prayerful consideration and discussion, we have decided to retire from our music leadership positions at Faith effective Sept. 30. We met with Pastor Eric earlier this summer about our desire to begin this transition. We are grateful for his continuing support and for allowing us to lead the music ministry through the summer. Our last Sunday at Faith will be Sept. 29.

We are very proud and grateful for what has been accomplished in music ministry at Faith during the past two-plus years. With **God's** guidance, and with the unwavering

support of Pastor Eric and the church council, we welcomed back and expanded the Voices of Faith Choir, reclaimed and restored the choir room, organized the music library (including eliminating illegal photocopies) and created a searchable, flexible spreadsheet of that entire library. We also have increased our reporting to OneLicense for all live-stream, recorded and printed media, and created a library of anthem rehearsal recordings on DropBox.

Thanks to your faithfulness, the music ministry at Faith is in a good place and ready for the next leader, or leaders, to begin stewardship of this important ministry.

We are grateful for each of you and the impact you have had on our lives. We know that we will miss you. We pray for **God's** blessings on you and Faith Lutheran Church and the ministries you provide in Sarasota.

Fondly,

David and Tom

The Joy of Generosity! Receiving God's Blessings

Receive with Thanksgiving

Scripture: "For every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the **Father...**" (James 1:17). **Prayer:** Dear heavenly Father, thank you for your promise to be with me and protect me. Help me to depend on you. In **Jesus'** precious name I pray. Amen.

And Be Thankful

Scripture: "Give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Too often, when we pray, we put an agenda before God. We tell him what we want him to take care of: find that person a job, heal that other person, solve our money problems, and keep our kids safe. We add our thanks as an afterthought. Try spending your whole prayer time offering thanks. The Bible tells us, "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). As his stewards, we humbly and joyfully give him thanks. **Prayer:** Dear Lord, help me to express my gratitude to you by what I say and do. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Worship and Service Calendar

Worship Services

Sundays at 8 a.m. & 10:15 a.m. in person.
Live streamed and recorded at
www.faithlutheransrq.com/live-service.

Sunday, Sept. 1

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Online views | 176 |
| 8 a.m. in person | 27 |
| 10:15 a.m. in person | 81 |

Next Sunday, Sept. 15

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a
The servant is vindicated by God.

Psalmody

Psalm 116:1-9
I will walk in the presence of the Lord.
(Ps. 116:9)

Second Reading

James 3:1-12
Dangers of the unbridled tongue.

Gospel

Mark 8:27-38

Peter's confession of faith.

12 p.m. Mary Circle, fellowship hall
6 p.m. Diversity Voices of Sarasota,
choir room and sanctuary

Wednesday, Sept. 11

10:30 a.m. Prayer Support Group, chapel
1 p.m. Bereavement Group, chapel

Thursday, Sept. 12

9 a.m. Receive and Prep Food Delivery,
food pantry
10 a.m. Jazzercise, gym
2 p.m. Stitch 'n' Chatter, Room 212
4:30 p.m. Food Pantry Prep
5 p.m. Food Pantry Open

Friday, Sept. 13

8:30 a.m. Jazzercise, gym

Saturday, Sept. 14

8:30 a.m. Jazzercise, gym
9 a.m. Diakonia, conference room
9:30 a.m. Faith Walk and Talk, Panera,
6589 S. Tamiami

Sunday, Sept. 15

God's Work. Our Hands.

This Week at Faith

Monday, Sept. 9

12:30 p.m. Worship to Go Prep, chapel
1:30 p.m. Worship to Go, Sarabella Senior
Living, 5650 Gantt Road
5 p.m. Executive Committee, conf. room

Tuesday, Sept. 10

10 a.m. Jazzercise, gym
10 a.m. Worship to Go Prep, chapel
10:45 a.m. Worship to Go, Elancé
11 a.m. Property Committee, conf. 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

Alan
Alex
Pastor Steve Anderson, friend of Jan Phillips

Chuck & Tani Banta
Barbara Brannan, mother of Kim McDonald
Arthur Brucato, friend of Karla Lewis &

Michael Leonhardt
Dee Burlingame
Judy Carlsen
Evelyn Conlon
Jeanine Davis (nee Molella), granddaughter of
Karen & John White
Eloise Dettmer
Ryan Donahue, friend of Doris Anne Prieur-Lucia
Andrea Gamboa
Jeff Hansen, nephew of Joan Searles
Patricia Head, mother of Wayne Head
Sonja Hickling, mother of Kelly Ashlock
Becky Hilton Heeps, friend of Lisa Olsen
Kevin Hooks, son-in-law of Anita & Jon Wooton
Jesus & Rita Jimenez
Alf Kirkeeng
Leonard Kotwitz, brother of Janet Falk
Lillian Lapenckas
Kevin Lasko
Chick Lehmann, husband of Suzie Lehmann
Ruth Levy, sister of Joan Hirsch
Diane Lewis, sister-in-law of Karla Lewis &
Michael Leonhardt
Julie & Eli Maresch, niece & grandnephew
of Patty McKee
Paul & Debbie Maresch, brother & sister-in-law
of Patty McKee
Dennis McCaughey, friend of Lois Weaverling
Kim McDonald
Judi Melander
Bob & Kathy Millard & families, relatives of

John & 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
Pastor Terry Parker, friend of Max &
Pastor Marianne Powrie
Family & Friends of Wally Pina
Cindy Press, friend of Kevin & Linda Fewell
Richard Keith Radcliffe, brother of
Gail Radcliffe Brown
Annabel Ryan
Robin Ryder, daughter of Floyd Ryder &
sister of Gail Murphy
Lorna Sawyers-Sucra, friend of
Jeremy & Yvonne Mullins
Kathy Schilio
Becky Sciranko, niece of Alice Rush
Joan Searles
Stephanie Sebastyn, friend of Carolyn Winemiller
Pastor John Spittal
Mark Stengel
Family & Friends of Jerry Stiles, relative of
John & Judy Millard
David Turnbull, husband of Patricia White
Brittany Wanko & her premature newborn
infants, Olivia Mae & Emmet Walter
Jon Wooton