



Sunday, May 7, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Easter

*Serving us in worship today: Leaders: Intern Pastor Andrew Cave;
Lay Reader: Rose Mary Ermel; Music: Gina Sanders, Chancel Singers, Joyful Noise;
Children's Church: Kim Kautzsch; Ushers: Fred Blumberg, Brett Owen, Bryan Terp, and
David Moltz; AV: Matthew Fransen, Joe Eledge*

Welcome to Worship!

Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church, a people who love and follow Jesus Christ, our Lord! We are blessed and honored that you chose to be with us today! Our guests are encouraged to sign the red guestbook located at the Welcome Table in the entry hall. First time visitors, be sure to pick up a red welcome bag in the narthex.

We ask everyone to please complete the attendance sheet in the black folder and then pass it down the pew.

Children are invited to come forward for a special blessing before meeting for Children's Church. (Ages Pre-K through 3rd grade)

Prayer Cards

You will find prayer request cards on the back of the pew in front of you. We ask that anyone needing special prayer please fill them out and place cards in the box located on the Welcome Table in the Narthex.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Please Stand

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN: "Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing" LBW #363 Vs. 1, 3 & 5

(Please see next page.)

363

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound To dis - tant
 3 Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, Un - touched, un -
 4 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, Where col - or,

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, He comes to claim the
 moved by hu - man pains, But dai - ly, in the
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, He suf - fers still, yet

prais - es ring. In death his love shall nev - er die.
 here and now And con - quer ev - 'ry place and time.
 midst of life, Our Sav - ior with the Fa - ther reigns.
 loves the more, And lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.

5 Christ is alive! Ascended Lord—
 He rules the world his Father made,
 Till, in the end, his love adored
 Shall be to all on earth displayed.

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and*

cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1: 8-9, ESV)

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most Merciful God,

C: We confess that 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 of our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray, Lord God...

C: Amen

You may be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC: Chancel Singers "Sing a Joyful Song"

READING: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2, 51-60 (ESV)

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. ⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and

signs among the people. ⁹ Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen.

7² And Stephen said:

“Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran,

⁵¹ “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³ you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

PSALM 146

To be read responsively (ESV)

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

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

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

³ Put not your trust in princes,

in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

⁴ When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;

on that very day his plans perish.

⁵ Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the LORD his God,

⁶ who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them,

who keeps faith forever;

⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed,

who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸ the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.
⁹The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
¹⁰The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, to all generations.
Praise the LORD!

Please stand for the Holy Gospel.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14 (ESV)

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

A: The gospel of our Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

You may be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC: Joyful Noise "Down In My Heart"

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

MESSAGE: *"The Good Locksmith"*

Andrew Cave

HYMN OF THE DAY: *"Be Thou My Vision"* WOV #776 Verses 1, 3 and 4

- 1) Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 3) Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou, and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 4) Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

OFFERING

(The offering plate will be passed down each pew with the help of our ushers.)

Please stand when offertory has begun.

OFFERTORY: *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"* LBW #565

♪ Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; ♪
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

P: Let us pray. Great Shepherd of the sheep,

C: we are your flock, and we bring to you gifts and offerings from our hearts and lives. Be our Shepherd always, and send us forth, that we might bring to other sheep the message of your love. Amen

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

WORDS OF INSTITUTION and THE LORD'S PRAYER

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

If you would prefer to commune from your pew, our communion helpers will come to you after all tables have been served.

COMMUNION HYMNS: *"As the Grains of Wheat"* WOV #705

"Eat This Bread, Drink this Cup" WOV #706

"I Am the Bread of Life" WOV #702

"I Come to the Garden Alone"

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, we thank you that you have fed us with the gift of your Son, the Good Shepherd, Jesus our Savior. May his body and blood strengthen and unite us as one flock under one shepherd as he guides us all our days, even to the gates of heaven; through the same Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Please stand.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: *"Blessed Assurance"* WOV #699

1) Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior, all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

2) Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (Refrain)

3) Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. (Refrain)

DISMISSAL

A: Go In Peace To Love And Serve The Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT FAITH

Worship Service – 9:00 AM

Fellowship on patio following worship

Sunday School – 10:15-11:15 AM

- Pre K-1st Grade in Educational Wing
 - 2nd-5th Grade in Education Wing
- Adult Sunday School- "*Christianity: The First Three Centuries*" in Activity Center
 - Lifebridge (Young Adult) meets in the Life Enrichment Center.

"WORDS OF FAITH" BROADCAST ON KWED

Has been sponsored to the glory of God by Patti Jahns in thankfulness for 50 amazing years of marriage.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

Have been sponsored to the glory of God today by the Kuempel family in honor of all mothers and grandmothers and in thankfulness of their many blessings.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS:

Attendance on April 23 was 99; Month to Date (April): **\$41,253.23**; YTD Offerings and Misc. **\$155,609.50** 2023 budgeted offerings is **\$511,000.00**)

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Judy Saunders	Nora Lavelett	Carolyn Sagebiel
Ronnie Glenewinkel	Kelton Lange	Gladys Fruehling
Sandy Wille	Donald Jackson	Brad Flippin
Steve Foerster	Lillian Lippe	Clara Fischer
Birdie Kuempel	Doris Rinn	Candi Andrews
Paul Quello	Bertha Marie Keller	Dale Nauert
Irene Menn	Patti Jahns	David Welsch

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Tuesday, May 9	Men's Bible Study	7:30 AM (AC)
Tuesday, May 9	Staff Mtg.	9:00 AM
Tuesday, May 9	GCRSP meeting	9:30 AM (AC)
Tuesday, May 9	Council Meeting	6:30 PM
Wednesday, May 10	Quilters	9:00 AM
Wednesday, May 10	Prayer Group	10:00 AM
Wednesday, May 10	Preschool Muffins for Mom	10:00 AM
Wednesday, May 10	FLY	6:00 – 8:00 PM
Wednesday, May 10	Joyful Noise	6:00 PM
Wednesday, May 10	Hand Bell Choir	6:00 PM
Wednesday, May 11	YET	11:30 AM/1:00 PM
Thursday, May 11	Grief Care Group	6:30-8:00 (AC)

SAVE THE DATES

- **BLUEGRASS Service – Sunday, May 21**
- **FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTION – Saturday, June 3rd**
- **FIELD OF HONOR – June 10th-17th**
- **FLY Frio Trip – June 12th – June 15th**
- **VBS – June 26th – June 30th**

WORKERS FOR NEXT WEEK

Sunday, May 14-Ushers: Kerry Koehler, Andrew Koenig, John Kuempel, Matt Sherwood, John Ullrich; Lay Reader: Michelle Kuempel; Greeters: David Moltz, Lisa Owen; AV: Andrew Kuehne, Diane Gwyther; Count: Emma Jean Becker, Doris Engelhardt; Lock Up: Cathy Wensinger; Security: Jud Alexander; Communion set up: NA; Communion clean up: NA; Communion Servers: NA; Communion Aid: NA.

CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD Thank you to those of you who have been dropping off items for the Christian Cupboard. Our May items are peanut butter and jelly, any variety or brand. Total number of items collected as of April 30 is 52.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP AT FAITH?

If you are interested in finding out more information about Faith, please see Andrew or contact him at 248-687-0485. The next new member class will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, May 21st.

THE SIEKER BAND IS RETURNING!



Join us Sunday, **May 21**, for our **Bluegrass Service!** We are welcoming back the Rolf Sieker band from Austin to share some great bluegrass gospel music with us during worship! Bring your neighbor! Bring your friends!

VBS REGISTRATION IS OPEN

For children and grandchildren of Faith and students of our preschool. Please register before May 6 to ensure a place as community member registration opens on May 7. You can find registration forms on the welcome table in the Narthex, or click on the QR code to register! STELLAR VBS will be held June 26-June 30 from 8:30 AM – Noon. Our students will go on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. *Stellar* rockets kids on an out-of-this-world adventure that's light years of faith-building fun.



BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

The Social Concerns Team is sponsoring the Baby Bottle Campaign Drive for the South Texas Pregnancy Care Center. The primary mission of the center is to promote life for the unborn child and to offer support for the mother and child during pregnancy, birth, and the baby's early years. The fundraiser will begin on **Sunday, April 23, and conclude on Sunday, May 7.** Baby bottles will be available after church services or in the narthex. **You may make a check out to STPCC and deliver it to the church.** We will include it in our campaign contribution. We thank all of you who give a monthly gift to support the pregnancy center.

YOU MAY STILL PICK UP A BOTTLE TODAY. PLEASE TRY TO RETURN IT TO THE OFFICE THIS WEEK OR BEFORE SUNDAY.

We encourage you to join other churches in the Seguin area by placing change, dollar bills, and/or checks (made out to STPCC) in the baby bottles to help support the services that the center provides. Services include pregnancy tests, sonograms, counseling, educational materials, prayers, newborn gift baskets, and slightly used baby items at no charge to clients. One hundred percent of the funds raised go directly to support the center's budget. The South Texas Pregnancy Care Center exists to offer hope to people who mistakenly believe abortion is their only option. Please return the bottles to the church no later than **Sunday, May 7**, and place them in the basket in the narthex.