Welcome to

Faith Lutheran Church

September 4, 2016



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Pastor Ellen Schoepf

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**Come and Die**

At a Lutheran camp, confirmation youth carry a large wooden cross from activity to activity for one full day during their week-long session. They don’t carry it as individuals but together with their group. When another group sees them carrying the cross to the pool or on a hike or walking to supper, they call out, “Hey, why do you carry that cross?” The group carrying the cross responds, “Because Jesus Christ is the center of our lives!”

When youth are asked what it’s like to carry the cross together for a whole day, they say, “It’s a pain. It’s awkward. It’s hard to be that close to each other all day. It’s hard to do when you’re tired or the trail is muddy. I got splinters. It made me think about what Jesus did. Jesus carried the cross to where he died, but we just carried it to the lake where we had fun.”

What does it mean to carry the cross and follow Jesus? Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor, was put to death for his part in a plot to kill Hitler. He wrote in his book The Cost of Discipleship that “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.” Sometimes people feel called by Jesus to take stands or actions that do mean they might lose their life literally as Bonhoeffer did. But all of us are called by Christ in our ordinary lives to die to things that get in the way of fully serving Christ and our neighbor—perhaps especially our own comfort, whether through relationships or possessions.

This Labor/Labour Day weekend we reflect on Christ’s call to labor at carrying the cross for the sake of others. Marked with the sign of the cross in baptism, may the Spirit who came to us then center our lives in Christ now.

**Sunday, September 04, 2016**

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship today, we might be helped by translating Paul’s request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of the Christ in the blessed sacrament and recalling God’s grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to “choose life”—to choose life in God as our own.

*If hearing assistance is needed, please ask an usher for a personal PA receiver.*

*The ushers also have large print copies of today’s worship folder available.*

*If it will be difficult for you to stand along with the congregation during*

*any part of the worship service, please feel free to remain seated.*

*There is a nursery available during the worship service for those who wish*

*to use it. It is located at the end of the hall beyond the coat racks.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We cordially greet all who have come to worship today.*

*Please register your attendance and join us in fellowship after the service.*

Prayer Requests

PRELUDE

*The pre-service music signals the beginning of the worship service. Silence during the*

*pre-service music enables worshipers to prepare for worship through quiet meditation.*

“I Love To Tell the Story” arr. Dale Wood

Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

*The assembly stands.*

Thanksgiving for Baptism

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked*

*at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father,

and of the ☩ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning

your Spirit moved over the waters and by

your Word you created the world,

calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood

you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people

Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by

John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as

daughters and sons, making us heirs of

your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,

and above all we praise you for the gift of new life

in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew

our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise

through Jesus Christ our Lord

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathering Song*#772*

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Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Kyrie 

Canticle of Praise



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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

*Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.*

A reading from Deuteronomy.

15See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. 16If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. 17But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, 18I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. 19I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, 20loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading: Philemon 1:1-21**

*While Paul was in prison, he was aided by a runaway slave named Onesimus. The slave’s master, Philemon, was a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to his master and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.*

A reading from Philemon.

1Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,   
  To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, 2to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:  
  3Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
  
  4When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God 5because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. 6I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. 7I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.  
  
  8For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, 9yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. 10I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. 11Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. 12I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. 13I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; 14but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. 15Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, 16no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.  
  17So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. 18If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. 19I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. 20Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. 21Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation (ELW p. 171)**



**Gospel: Luke 14:25-33**

*Jesus speaks frankly about the fearsome costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

25Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, 26“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. 27Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. 28For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? 29Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, 30saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ 31Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. 33So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *#325*



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Creed

**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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing in the Spirit’s work among us,

let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*Prayers of intercession are prayed.*

*To each petition, the assembly responds:*

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the*

*prayers, and the assembly responds:*

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace,*

*and may say, “Peace be with you,” or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

Offering

Choir Anthem

“Kum Ba Ya” (Wagner)

*The assembly stands.*

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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

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 on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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:  


Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

Lord’s Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,

let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*The assembly is seated.*

Communion

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond*

Amen.

Communion Song



 CONGREGATIONAL SONG *#661*



CONGREGATIONAL SONG #677

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*The assembly stands.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

Strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God,

that you have refreshed us through

the healing power of this gift of life.

In your mercy, strengthen us through

this gift, in faith toward you and in

fervent love toward one another;

for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

Sending Song*#768*

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Music: Doris Akers

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**“Trumpet Voluntary” arr. John Travers**

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Psalm 81:1 (ESV) invites us, “Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob!” And so we will. Welcome to worship!

Pastor Ellen Schoepf prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org

Secretary Katie Love klove@faithlutheranokemos.org

Director of Christian Education Melinda Schultz

Director of Music Debra Borton-McDonough

Organist/Pianist Bruce Williams

August 28 worship attendance: 104

Serving Faith Today September 11

Acolyte

Alter Care Kay Showers & Gwynne Kadrofske

Communion assistants Diane Wilke Deb Borton-McDonough

Warren Heilman August Colandrea

Greeters Mike Eschelbach Harold Sollenberger

Lay Assistants Diane Wilke Deb Borton-McDonough

Readers Warren Heilman August Colandrea

Ushers Dingledine Family Dingledine Family

Nursery Corey & Kim Melinda & Lauren