

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
517-349-0620



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JULY 27, 2025 10:00 AM

PastorRev. Megan Floyd
Administrative Assistant.....Kalea Sanford
Music Director Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist Bruce Williams
Sound Technicians Cody Boyan & Raymond Herek
Church email faith@faithlutheranokemos.org
Website www.faithlutheranokemos.org
Facebook Page facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos

WIFI: Faith Lutheran; Password: LutheranFaith

WELCOME STATEMENT

We, at Faith Lutheran Church, welcome you as God’s beloved child, “for in Christ Jesus... [we] are all children of God through faith.” (Galatians 3:26). No matter your age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, marital status, neurodivergent status, faith background, political leanings, or mental, intellectual or physical ability – you are welcomed here just as you are. In this church, we commit to pursue gender and racial equity in all that we do, and to support one another as chosen family, being parents and siblings for each other regardless of who we have as biological family (Mark 3:31-35). For we are all one in Christ Jesus and rely on the unconditional nature of God’s love and grace to be our help and guide as we strive to serve our world.

For safety reasons, please do not allow your children to wander unsupervised past the coat racks or downstairs during the church service. Our nursery is open but not staffed. You are welcome to use it, but please do not leave your children unattended.

PRELUDE

“David’s Delight”

Betty Roe

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Merciful God,

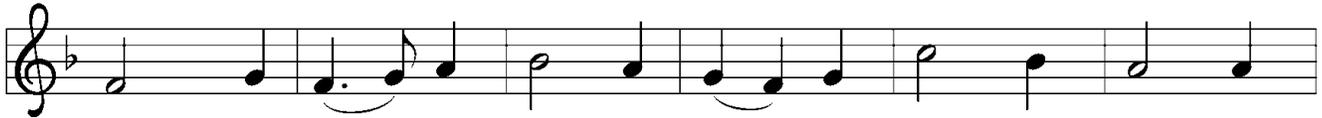
**All: you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.**

All: Amen.

Pastor: You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of † Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

All: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN – Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (ELW 631)



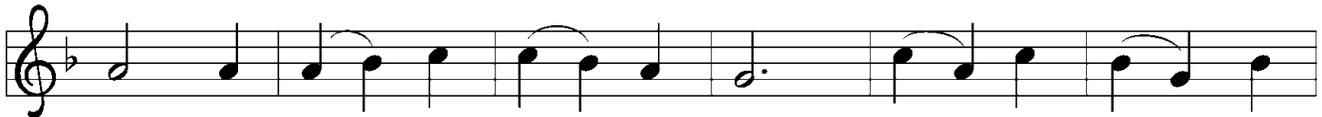
1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE - How Majestic Is Your Name (WP 66)

O Lord, our Lord, how ma - jes - tic is your

name in all the earth! O Lord, our Lord, how ma -

jes - tic is your name in all the earth! O

Lord, we praise your name. O Lord,

we mag - ni - fy your name, Prince of Peace, might - y

God, O Lord God Al - might - y.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Asst: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The assembly may be seated.

FIRST READING Genesis 18:20-32

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

²⁰ Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹ I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶ And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷ Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹ Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there."

³¹ He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³² Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 138

¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

³ When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways of the LORD,
that great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your
right hand shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the
works of your hands.**

SECOND READING Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]

The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about “the empty lure” of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. [

¹⁶ Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. ¹⁷ These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.]

Reader: The word of the Lord.

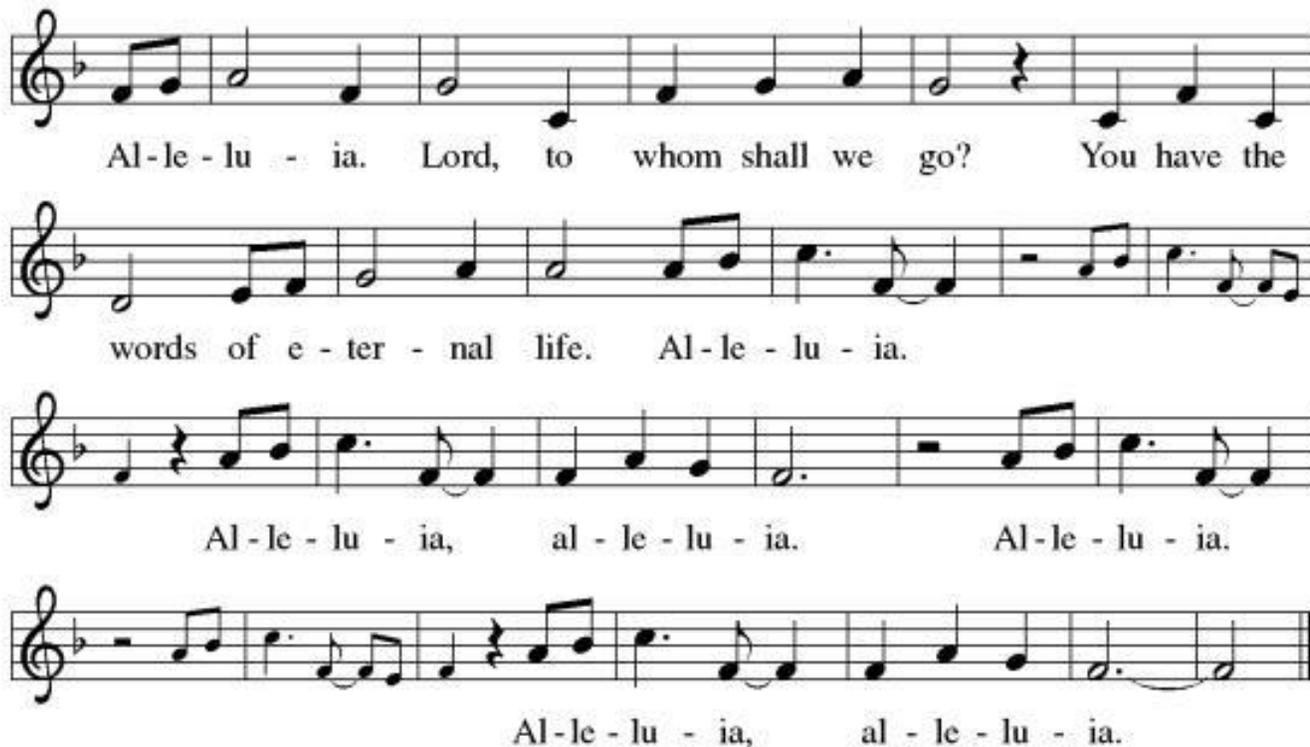
All: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON (Noisy offering for Parish House)



Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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 11:1-13

In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

¹ [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."² So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵ And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ ⁷ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The assembly may be seated.

SERMON

Floyd

Pastor Megan

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY – Seek Ye First (WOV 783)

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al -

D F#m G D G

1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its
 2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
 3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by

le - lu - ia, al - le -

D Em A⁷ D F#m

righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
 you shall find; knock and the door shall be
 ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

G D G D Em A D

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 mouth . . . of . . . God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

APOSTLES CREED

Pastor: Joining the saints from every time and place, let us confess our faith.

All: **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

Hear Our Prayer (ELW 178)



Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:
 peace to all peo - ple, hope for each soul.
 God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

Asst: In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world. *A brief silence.*

... God of Grace,
 All: **Receive our prayer.**

Pastor: Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

All: **Amen.**

Repeat Hear Our Prayer

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

The assembly may be seated.

OFFERING

"The Lord's Prayer"
Schrader

Music by Paul R. Isensee; arr. Jack

Tammy Heilman, Bob Nelson, Deb Borton-
McDonough

LITURGICAL HAND WASHING

Pastor and assisting ministers sanitize and wash their hands.

*"I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O Lord,
singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds." –
Psalm 26:6-7*

OFFERING RESPONSE – Goodness is Stronger Than Evil (ELW 721) (Sing Twice)



Good -ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;



light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death; vic-t'ry is



ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic-t'ry is



ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Asst: Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

All: **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
All: **And also with you.**
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
All: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

Pastor: 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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Sing in Spanish, then English) (ELW 473)



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.



Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: San - to_e - res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor: 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

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

All: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kin[g]dom 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 kin[g]dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice!

All are invited to come to the table to receive what the Lord offers. If, however, you would prefer not to receive communion, you may come to the table for a blessing.

Gluten free wafers are available upon request when you come to receive communion at the altar rail.

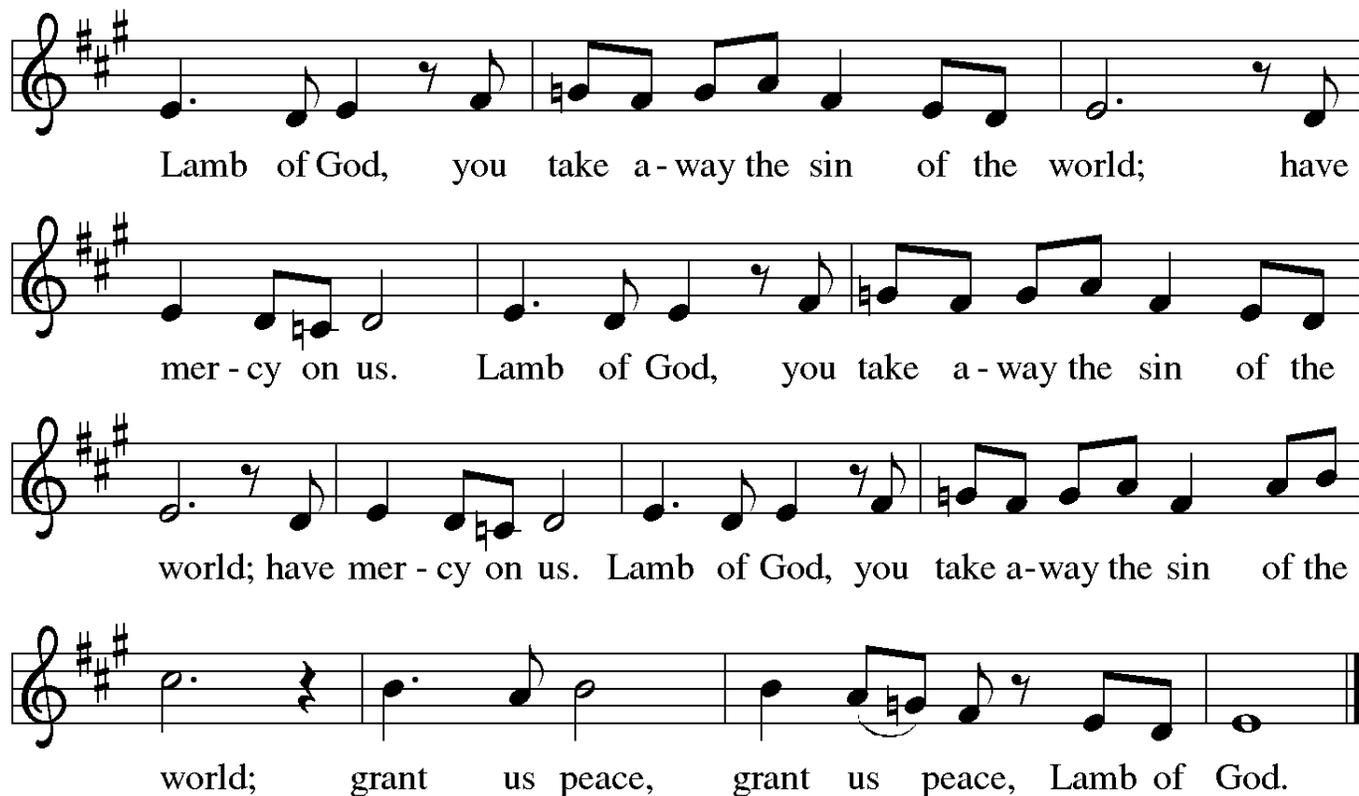
Our trays have wine (darker liquid) in the outer part of the tray, and grape juice (lighter liquid) in the center. Please choose whichever you prefer.

If it would be easier for you to have communion brought to you, please let an usher know and we will be happy to serve you at your seat.

If you have any further questions, please ask an usher.

The assembly may be seated.

LAMB OF GOD



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.

COMMUNION SONG – What A Friend We Have in Jesus (ELW 742)



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Please stand as you are able.

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
 strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Asst: Mothering God,
 you gathered us to your table
 and we drank deeply of your grace.
 Send us out by your Spirit
 to love our neighbors as ourselves
 and proclaim your love in Jesus' name

All: **Amen.**

SENDING PRAYER

Pastor: Friends in Christ, today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as we send our sibling, Rich, to participate in our churchwide assembly. There, he will help guide our larger church body toward our future mission, including the important task of electing our next presiding bishop.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you.
We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth
in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us.
Renew in us, and in our sibling Rich, the commitment
to use our gifts in the service of others, and especially of those in
need.

Inspire him with your Spirit as he discerns the future needs and
goals for this church.
Guide him, and the whole assembly as they prayerfully choose
our next leader.

Help them to remember that our primary purpose is to love you,
and love our neighbors as ourselves.
Let us all continue to be your hands to feed the hungry, shelter
the homeless, clothe the naked, comfort the weary and
outcast, welcome the stranger, care for creation,
and be loving neighbors to all people.

In your name we pray

All: **Amen.**

BLESSING

Pastor: The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.

All: **Amen.**

SENDING SONG – Go, My Children, With My Blessing (ELW 543)



- 1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
- 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
- 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

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DISMISSAL

Asst: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

FLC WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 26

- Visitation, Funeral and Luncheon for Lowell Barricklow @10:00am

Sunday, July 27

- Worship Service @ 10:00 am: **7th Sunday after Pentecost**
- **Quarterly Meeting following service**

Tuesday, July 29

- Bible Study @12pm in Library– Hybrid

Wednesday, July 30

- Quilters Meet @ 9:30 am
- Y'all Come Choir Rehearsal @7pm

Sunday, August 3

- Worship Service @10:00am: **8th Sunday after Pentecost**

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

July 27

Greeter(s): Harold & Jan Sollenberger
Usher(s): Jon Harrison
Sunday School: No Sunday School
Coffee Hour: Herek Family
Counters: Kathy Mace/Matt Schnizlein
Noisy Offering: Matt Schnizlein
Acolyte:
Reader: Harold Sollenberger
Lay Assistant: Rich Weingartner
Altar Care: Cecelia Kramer

August 3

Greeter(s): Janet Boyer
Usher(s): Tammy Heilman
Sunday School: No Sunday School
Coffee Hour: Rich Weingartner
Counters: Kathy Mac/Ramona Backman
Noisy Offering:
Acolyte:
Reader: Alexa Warwick
Lay Assistant: Ray Herek
Altar Care: Tammy Heilman

FLC Prayer List

We invite you to hold these people in your prayers each day this week.

We pray for all longing for sustainable housing, secure employment, access to medical care, and overall health and wellness, especially Rosie, Kate, Marla, and Chuck.

We pray for all those who grieve, especially the family and friends of Lowell Barricklow.

We pray for all those in military service, especially those connected to our community: Jon, Landon, Hannah, Joe, Reuben, Lane, and Aiden.

We pray for the larger church, especially our synod prayer partner, Grace Lutheran Church in Hastings and their pastor Rev. Kenneth Scheck.

****New additions to our prayers are listed in bold; names will remain on the printed list for six weeks. Please contact the church office or Pastor Megan to add or reinstate names to the prayer list.***

Prayer Partners Letter

We are participating in this activity and would love you to add your signature. The letter is located on the table under the bulletin board entitled "Prayer Partners."

