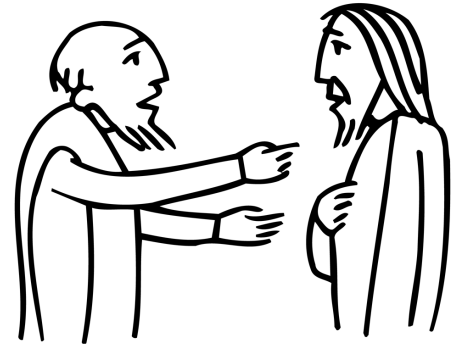


Faith Lutheran Church

13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 23rd, 2026



Forum today:

Alexa Wuebben's Mission Trip

Introduction

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

Gathering

Gathering Hymn

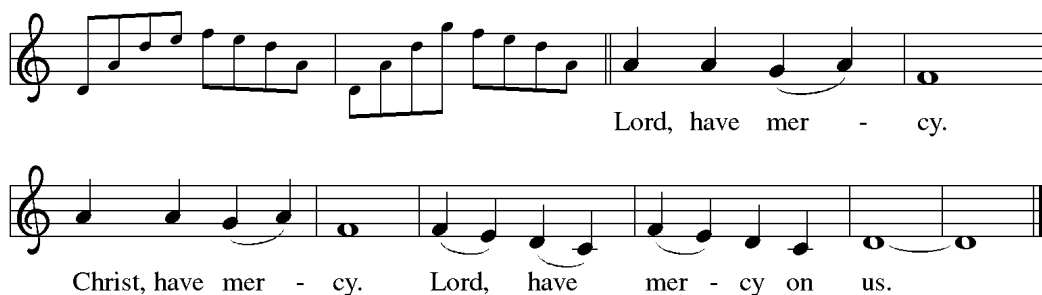
ELW 791 "We Sing to You, O God"

Confession and Forgiveness

Responses on the screens

Kyrie

ELW 158



Greeting

Prayer of the Day

Children's Sermon

Word

First Reading *Isaiah 51:1-6*

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

*Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.***

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. R**

Second Reading Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 16th chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon & Silent Reflection

Hymn of the Day

ELW 654 "The Church's One Foundation"

Prayers of Intercession

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Meal

Peace

Offering

"For Jesus, the quality of the gift is not how large it is, but the and the heart with which you give it." There are many options for plate giving, text to give (833-686-4752) or through our website.



proportion you give giving including

Offertory Hymn

ACS 1059 "Come Now, You Blessed"



1 "Come now, you bless - ed, eat at my ta - ble,"
2 When did we see you hun - gry or thirst - y?
3 "When you gave bread to earth's hun - gry chil - dren,
4 Christ, when we meet you out on life's road - ways,

said Je - sus Christ to the righ - teous a - bove.
When were you home - less, a strang - er a - lone?
when you gave wel - come to war's ref - u - gees,
look - ing to us in the fac - es of need,

"When I was hun - gry, thirst - y, and home-less,
When did we see you sick or in pris - on?
when you re - mem - bered those most for - got - ten,
then may we know you, wel - come and show you

sick and in pris - on, you showed me your love."
What have we done that you call us your own?
you cared for me in the small - est of these."
love that is faith - ful in word and in deed.

Offering Prayer

Thanksgiving for the Word

...For your Word that sustains the earth, we thank you, O God.

We thank you, O God.

...For your Word in our Lord Christ, we praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

...For your Word in our lives, we entreat you, O God.

We entreat you, O God.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Sending

Blessing

Sending Hymn

ELW 812 "Faith of our Fathers"

Dismissal

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Faith Lutheran Church is a community living in God's love which embraces and welcomes every person as part of God's Beloved Community. We celebrate each person created in God's image as we strive for justice, peace, and racial equity in our community and the wider world. We openly welcome and affirm all persons of every race, age, socioeconomic class, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical and mental ability, marital and family status, background, and experience. We seek to live as a community of God's people that values each person's voice, gifts, and full participation in all areas of the congregation's life and worship. We embrace the work of the Holy Spirit moving in and through us as we care for the earth and all of God's people.

FAITH ACTIVE IN LOVE

**Gathered as a community living in God's love we serve all people, care
for the earth and embrace the work of the Holy Spirit.**

*Faith Lutheran Church will be recognized as a community of spiritual growth, a place of
acceptance and inclusion, a gateway for environmental stewardship, a creator of partnerships
and an advocate for social justice and peace.*

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP this Sunday includes:

Leading and Preaching	<i>Seminarian Tom Schoofs</i>
Pianist	<i>Pamela Gergens</i>
Reader	<i>Linda O'Leary</i>
Greeter	<i>Ruth Gollnick</i>

Ushers
Live Stream

The Milam Family

August Mission of the Month: Family Sharing



Sunrise Circle begins a new year!

It is almost September and the Sunrise Circle ladies are ready to get back to their regular schedule. The main project of this group is to make quilts to be donated to people in need. We have a wide variety of fabric ready to be made in to beautiful quilts. We meet at the church the first three Wednesdays of each month, September thru May. Our first meeting will be **Wednesday , September 2nd at 9:00 a.m.** Come join us to see and hear if this is something you would be interest in. We have many projects for anyone interested in helping out. Dessert and beverage are always served! If you have questions or would like more information, you may contact Ruth Gollnick at 414-305-4261 or any of our members. Perfect attendance is not required!

Financial Update

Thank you for Growing in Faith as we carry out our congregation's mission together. You are making a difference in our community and world! Here is a summary of progress toward our financial goals for this year. If you have questions about our finances, please contact our Treasurer Tim Gergens or any of our Church Council members. Your gifts make this ministry possible- thank you.

	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>
	6/30/2026	6/30/2026	6/30/2025
Income	\$88,821	\$126,900	\$100,701
Expenses	\$122,018	\$125,122	\$121,006
Net Loss	(\$33,197)	(\$4,222)	(\$20,305)

2026 Appeal & 70th Anniversary Dinner

If you haven't heard about this year's anniversary appeal special incentives, take a look at the narthex thermometer! Here is what happens at certain giving levels. See the narthex thermometer change for updates!

The 70th celebration this year includes a spaghetti dinner on September 19th at 12:00pm. A link is provided in the weekly email, please use that to get a ticket to the feast! The dinner will be: spaghetti marinara, meatballs, chicken Dijon, salad, garlic bread, and dessert! Follow the QR code to sign up or talk to Cindy Dellegrazio, Bev Yurske, Alisa Norquist, and Cory or Tom Schoofs to sign up in person.



Mums

Along with a dinner, we will have a mum sale. Our mums this year are from Groth's Garden. They are 12" and potted with colors of: tricolor, red, purple, orange, yellow or white and cost \$22 each. There are limited quantities available so order soon to snag the color you want! Order envelopes are in the narthex. Orders are due September 14th!

Lutheran World Relief School Kits

This summer we will again be collecting school supplies for Lutheran World Relief. At this time, there are so many displaced children around the world. These school kits are needed more than ever.

We need the following items to fill each school bag:

So far we need:

- 6 scissors
- 9 (5pk) pens (that's 215 pens)
- 26 boxes crayons
- 20 rulers

We have collected enough pencils, erasers, and pencil sharpeners. Thank you!

All items should be new and in good condition. No patriotic symbols.

Watch for "Back to School" sales on these items. Choose whatever items you would like to provide, as many or as few items as you like. You do not need to try to purchase all the items needed for one bag. Our greatest need will be notebooks.

Cash donations marked "LWR School Kits" would be greatly appreciated. We will purchase any items not donated that are needed to complete the bags. If you would like to help cover the cost of mailing the kits overseas, mark your cash donation for "Mailing LWR School Kits". Donations can be either left in the offering basket, dropped off in the church office, or given to Laverne Gresch.

In July there will be a collection box in the narthex and one in the hallway opposite the office. We will be packing the school kits in September. How many school kits can we fill this year? The need is great!

Thank you for supporting this project to help children all over the world who need materials for learning.

Revealing God

Jesus came to earth as God *incarnate*, meaning “in or having bodily form.” This was no accident. The prophets of the past had used their bodies and their words so people could understand God. In Christ, God was revealed in flesh and blood, allowing us to know who God is and what God’s priorities are for creation.

Peter points this out to us, saying that Christ is “the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16). As a *living* God, moving among us as Jesus Christ, God reveals Godself directly. God reveals the divine nature and priorities through Jesus’ earthly life. Jesus lives without possessions, sharing in the suffering of people who are poor and oppressed. On the Galilean coast he feeds thousands of people before teaching them. He befriends outcasts like Zacchaeus the tax collector and the Canaanite woman. He calls out the greed and misplaced priorities of the wealthy by flipping tables. Instead of merely telling us, Christ incarnate shows us that God has a serious concern for all people on the margins of society.

As the church is formed into the body of Christ, we too now reveal to the world who God is and what God’s priorities are. How does our ministry show God’s concern for those who are poor and marginalized today? Do we seek out and walk alongside people cast out by dominant society? Do we not only preach the word but make sure people are fed as well?

By accompanying our neighbors in their struggles for dignity, justice, and the right to flourish, we do the good work of followers of Jesus, striving with God for the end of all oppression and death, for a world made whole.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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