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# Faith Lutheran Church

*We are given this awesome calling by Christ to:  
“Love God, Love Others, Share Christ”.*

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***July 23, 2023  
9:00 a.m.***

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*315 Security Blvd.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80911  
(719) 392-5076  
[www.faithlutheransecurityco.org](http://www.faithlutheransecurityco.org)*

*Pastor: Rick Mensing (402) 875-1569 cell, [ramblerrcm@gmail.com](mailto:ramblerrcm@gmail.com)  
Office Hours: Wednesday-Friday 9 a.m.- 12 p.m.*

*Office Assistant: Clark Pickart (719) 339-1837 cell, [c2pickart@comcast.net](mailto:c2pickart@comcast.net)*

## ***Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church!***

Thank you for choosing to worship with us this morning! We pray that the grace of God, given to us through Jesus Christ, will fill you to overflowing with peace and joy. We pray that each of you will sense the Holy Spirit as we worship together and celebrate God's gift of grace to us.

To help today's worship service run smoothly while being safe, we ask you to use hand sanitizer and wear a mask at your discretion. If you still feel uncomfortable being inside the building, you will be able to hear the service on radio station 95.9 FM in your car. This radio signal can only reach the immediate vicinity of our church.

We have resumed communing at the altar; however, you may continue to bring your own communion elements or they will be provided in individual packaging so that you can remain in your pew and self-distribute communion. We will have an after-service fellowship time in the Narthex.

Christian education is held after service until 11:30 a.m., Adult Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall, Grades Preschool and older in the Sunday School Room.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office at 719-392-5076 as messages are checked daily. Pastor Rick can be contacted at 402-875-1569. Thank you for continuing to support our church.

### ***Today ministering to us...***

Altar Flowers: Norma Riley for her birthday

Altar Guild: Ann Goodwin

Assistant Minister: Ken Czop

Evangelists and Stewards of God's love: Every Member

Greeters: Volunteers

Preaching: Pastor Rick Mensing

Song Leader: Kathie Hendricks or Erwin A. Spruth

Ushers: Del & Gabriele Suhr or Maria Kappelmann & Karola Kaufmann

### ***Those we are asked to remember in prayer:***

Members: Christine Banister, Rita Bucholtz, Anna Culver, Frank & Dody DeBell, The Deutsch Family, Gloriann Finck & Family, Sharon Hand, Tom & Kathie Hendricks, The Kappelmann Family, Karola Kaufmann, Dee Dee Kwiatkowski, Amanda Lopez, Phyllis Marvin, Pat Meacham, Chris Norden, Lois Pearson (in-home hospice), Charlene Pickart, Amy Reid and Family, The Riley Family, Ob Spruth & Family, Shirley Taylor, Jim & Lori Tyree, and Pat Wohlfeil.

Friends/Family: Bob Hurly

*Individuals will be listed in the prayers for 2 weeks, unless the office is notified otherwise.*

## EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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*When you enter God's house for worship, PLEASE silence or turn off all cell phones. Thank you.*

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand if you are able.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

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

**C: Amen.**

P: This is what the LORD says—Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD of Heaven's Armies:

**C: "I am the First and the Last; there is no other God." (Isaiah 44:6 NLT)**

### ENTRANCE HYMN

*Sing to the Lord of Harvest*

LBW 412

**Sing to the Lord of harvest, Sing songs of love and praise;  
With joyful hearts and voices Your alleluias raise.  
By Him the rolling seasons In fruitful order move;  
Sing to the Lord of harvest A joyous song of love.**

**God makes the clouds drop fatness, The deserts bloom and spring,  
The hills leap up in gladness, The valleys laugh and sing.  
God fills them with His fulness, All things with large increase;  
He crowns the year with goodness, With plenty and with peace.**

**Bring to this sacred altar The gifts His goodness gave,  
The golden sheaves of harvest, The souls Christ died to save.  
Your hearts lay down before Him When at His feet you fall,  
And with your lives adore Him Who gave His life for all.**

### GREETING

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

**C: And also with you.**

### KYRIE

A: In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

A: For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all. Let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

A: For Your people here, who have come to give You praise, for the strength to live Your Word. Let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

A: Help, save, and defend us, O God.

**C: Amen.**

## NOW THE FEAST

*Refrain Only:* **Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy,  
to the God of life and love and freedom: Praise and glory forever more.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

A: Let us pray for the spread of the gospel. *(brief silence)* Almighty and merciful God,

**C: You have made Your loving purpose known to us through the good news of Your salvation in Christ. Make us faithful witnesses to the truth, so that those who hear may believe and be united with all the saints in glory. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## FIRST LESSON:

Isaiah 44:6-8

A: This is what the LORD says—Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD of Heaven's Armies: "I am the First and the Last; there is no other God. Who is like Me? Let him step forward and prove to you his power. Let him do as I have done since ancient times when I established a people and explained its future. Do not tremble; do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim My purposes for you long ago? You are My witnesses—is there any other God? No! There is no other Rock—not one!"

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALM:

Psalms 119:57-64

A: LORD, You are mine!

**C: I promise to obey Your words!**

A: With all my heart I want Your blessings.

**C: Be merciful as You promised.**

A: I pondered the direction of my life,

**C: and I turned to follow Your laws.**

A: I will hurry, without delay,

**C: to obey Your commands.**

A: Evil people try to drag me into sin,

**C: but I am firmly anchored to Your instructions.**

A: I rise at midnight to thank You

**C: for Your just regulations.**

A: I am a friend to anyone who fears You

**C: anyone who obeys Your commandments.**

A: O LORD, Your unfailing love fills the earth;

**C: teach me Your decrees.**

## SECOND LESSON:

Romans 8: 18-27

A: Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will reveal to us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who His children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as His adopted children, including the new bodies He has promised us. We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.) And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father Who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand if you are able.*

**ALLELUIA**

**Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Al-le-lu-ia!**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew in the 13th chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

## THE GOSPEL:

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

P: Here is another story Jesus told: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew. The farmer's workers went to him and said, 'Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?' 'An enemy has done this!' the farmer exclaimed.' 'Should we pull out the weeds?' they asked. 'No,' he replied, 'you'll uproot the wheat if you do. Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.'"

Then, leaving the crowds outside, Jesus went into the house. His disciples said, "Please explain to us the story of the weeds in the field." Jesus replied, "The Son of Man is the farmer who plants the good seed. The field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the evil one. The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels. Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. The Son of Man will send His angels, and they will remove from His Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## A WORD for and with the CHILDREN

### SERMON Life Among the Weeds

*A certain Middle Eastern weed looks exactly like wheat. You can't tell the difference until the grain head sprouts. The weeds live side by side with the wheat until the harvest. Jesus loves every plant. The miracle of His love can change even weeds into wheat. He leaves His wheat in the field with the weeds until the time of the harvest.*

*Please stand if you are able.*

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Having now heard the Word of God, let us come before Him to confess our sins.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P: Now let us join in confessing to the Lord:

**C: Gracious and merciful God, You sent Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, into the world to become one of us and to take on Himself all of our sin and guilt. Now we pray that You will again forgive us and pardon us for our failure to live up to Your Word and serve all people with love, and for our failure to study Your Word and to remember all Jesus has done for us. Continue to have mercy on us for His sake. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, have mercy on us; forgive us all our sins, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life. You are forgiven through Christ, from Whom goodness comes. Go in peace.

**C: Amen.**

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*Come, You Thankful People, Come*

LBW 407

*If you would like prayer for you or someone else, we invite you to now come forward to the altar for prayer.*

**Come, you thankful people, come; Raise the song of harvest home.**

**All is safely gathered in Ere the winter storms begin.**

**God, our maker, does provide For our wants to be supplied.**

**Come to God's own temple, come, Raise the song of harvest home.**

**All the world is God's own field, Fruit unto His praise to yield.**

**Wheat and tares together sown, Unto joy or sorrow grown.**

**First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear.**

**Lord of harvest, grant that we Wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**For the Lord our God shall come And shall take His harvest home.**

**From His field shall in that day All offenses purge away,**

**Give His angels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,**

**But the fruitful ears to store In His garner evermore.**

**Even so, Lord, quickly come To Your final harvest home.**

**Gather all Your people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin,**

**There, forever purified, In Your garner to abide.**

**Come, with all Your angels, come, Raise the glorious harvest home!**

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

A: Let us confess our faith in the Triune God together through the words of the APOSTLES' CREED.

**C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come 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.*

## THE BAPTISM OF: Claire Annette Deutsch

### PRAYERS

A: God has given us His Spirit, and by the Spirit we pray to Him as our Father. So let us bring our requests to God.

A: Almighty God and Creator, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. How majestic is Your name in all the earth. We praise and thank You for making and upholding all things day by day. For our bodies and minds with all their powers, for food and clothing, home and family, daily work and all we need from day to day, we give You thanks. Open our eyes and ears to Your creative presence in our daily lives; and open the eyes of our hearts to Your Son through Your word. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: We thank You for Your new creation—Your church, the body of Your Son—in Whom we receive grace and mercy. Bless and protect Your church throughout the world that she may preach the gospel in all its truth unhindered to all people. Equip the leaders of our church. By Your Holy Spirit enable them to carry out their callings with joy, strength and wisdom. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: We thank You for establishing our country and society by means of our government and elected leaders. Bless those in positions of responsibility that they may willingly strive for truth and justice, and so be Your instruments of care and protection. We particularly pray that they would continue to grant freedom of religious expression so that the church may publicly declare that there is no salvation apart from Your Son Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Grant Your healing and peace to all we know are sick or undergoing medical treatment. Watch over them, give them confidence in Your good and gracious will for them and guide the surgeons, doctors, nurses and other health professionals who care for them. Meet the needs of all those we know to be in want and whom we now name aloud or silently in our hearts ... *(brief silence)* ... We also lift up: Christine Banister, Rita Bucholtz, Anna Culver, Frank & Dody DeBell, The Deutsch Family, Gloriann Finck & Family, Sharon Hand, Tom & Kathie Hendricks, The Kappelmann Family, Karola Kaufmann, Dee Dee Kwiatkowski, Amanda Lopez, Phyllis Marvin, Pat Meacham, Chris Norden, Lois Pearson, Charlene Pickart, Amy Reid and Family, The Riley Family, Ob Spruth & Family, Shirley Taylor, Jim & Lori Tyree, and Pat Wohlfeil. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Graciously protect us from fire and flood, from war and disease, from famine and strife and from every kind of disaster. Support all people in their career, particularly those who are overworked and those whose work is difficult and dangerous. Help all those who are unemployed or underemployed to find suitable work. Bless our arts and culture, our science and technology. Be with all widows and widowers, and provide for all children who have lost their parents. Comfort those who are lonely and those who mourn the loss of loved ones. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Almighty and merciful Father, hear us, Your children, as we bring our prayers to You. We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*Please stand, if you are able.*

## SHARING THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

*Greet each other: "Peace be with you." Response: "Peace be with you."*

*All return to their places. The service continues with the Offertory.*

## OFFERING

*Before or after the service, please place your offerings into the container at the doors of the sanctuary.*

## OFFERTORY

*As The Grains of Wheat*

*Refrain: As the grains of wheat, once scattered on the hill,*

**were gathered into one to become our bread;**

**so may all Your people, from all the ends of earth, be gathered into one in You.**

**As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,**

**may we share the presence of Your love. (Refrain)**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: We thank You, Lord, for giving us Your Spirit and making us Your own. Help us to live as Your children among those around us. Keep us faithful, serving You and other people.

**C: Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING.

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right and good, Lord God, holy Father, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day of the week, He overcame death by His resurrection and opened up for us the way to eternal life with You. And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we adore and praise Your glorious name:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

**Holy, holy, holy are You, God of power and might:**

**Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in Your name.**

**Hosanna in the highest; Hosanna in the highest!**



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION and CONSECRATION OF ELEMENTS

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Join hands)*

P: Now we are bold enough to call God our Abba, our Papa as we pray the prayer our Lord has 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.**

## THE MEAL

*All those who are baptized and believe that Jesus is truly present in this Holy Meal are invited to come to the altar and receive Communion. Those assisting with the Lord's Supper will commune first.*

P: Here are the gifts of God, for the people of God.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You are the Bread of Life for us all:  
have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world:  
grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.**

## COME TO THE TABLE OF THE LORD

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

WOV 771

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
as Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.**

*Refrain:* **Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. *(Refrain)***

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *(Refrain)***

**Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.**

*Please stand, after all have communed, if you are able.*

### POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: Now may the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you strong in your faith, renew you in hope, strengthen you for service, and lead you to everlasting life.

C: **Amen.**

### THANKS BE TO YOU

**Praise to You, O God of mercy: thanks be to You forever!  
Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to You forever!  
From of old You loved and sought us: thanks be to You forever!  
Truth and justice You have taught us: thanks be to You forever!  
Strong is Your faithfulness, strong is Your love,  
rememb'ring Your covenant of life with us.**

**Praise to You, O God of mercy: thanks be to You forever!  
Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to You forever! Thanks be to You forever!**

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Almighty and merciful God, You have made Your loving presence known to us in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Make us faithful witnesses to the truth, so that those who hear may believe and be united with all the saints in glory. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C: **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

#### *Praise and Thanksgiving*

LBW 409

**Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer For all things living, Created good:  
Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard, Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.**

**Bless, Lord, the labor We bring to serve You, That with our neighbor We may be fed.  
Sowing or tilling, We would work with You, Harvesting, milling For daily bread.**

**Father, providing Food for Your children, By Your wise guiding Teach us to share  
One with another, So that, rejoicing With us, all others May know Your care.**

**Then will Your blessing Reach ev'ry people, Freely confessing Your gracious hand.  
Where all obey You, No one will hunger; In Your love's sway You Nourish the land.**

### DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace to live as God's children.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please be sure to record your attendance today, in the red or black Friendship Booklet at the end of each pew.*

## *Church Announcements*

**Celebration!**—This week we celebrate the following birthday: July 26—Norma Riley. If your special dates (month/day) are not in the directory, contact Clark at [c2pickart@comcast.net](mailto:c2pickart@comcast.net) or 719-339-1837. May God bless you all with a great year!

Please join in celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Pastor Rick's Ordination into the Ministry. He was ordained on July 24, 1983 at his home church of Christ Lutheran in Austin, TX, with his whole family in attendance. After the worship service there will be cake in the narthex, and a chance to congratulate and celebrate with Pastor Rick who has served as Pastor of Faith Lutheran since May of 2016. God is good, all the time!

**Christian Education**—Adult Bible Study will continue studying the New Testament book of Hebrews. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service.

**Sunday School**—We will have different activities set up each Sunday to learn more about Jesus and His love for us. Please join us for Sunday School.

**Ladies' Bible Study**—We meet next on Thursday, August 3rd at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Rick leads our discussions. For more info see Phyllis Marvin 719-392-2160.

**Recycle Milk or Juice Cartons**—The Altar Guild requests donations of the 1/2 gallon cardboard milk or juice cartons. Please cut them down to 5 or 6 inches high. They are used for sharing the altar flowers after Sunday Service. Thank you for your support. Shirley Taylor

**Pennies**—Thank you for your Pennies for Bridges Child Placement Agency in Pueblo. Our current total is \$212.20. Please keep bringing them. Individual pennies cannot buy anything these days but a lot of them can help our chosen charity.