

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

La Crosse, Wisconsin  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020



***Our purpose:*** Faith Lutheran Church exists to share with all, God's love through Christ and His promise of salvation!

***As We Gather...*** As we get closer to the harvest season, we hear a tale of a vineyard from the book of Isaiah. The owner of the vineyard gave the vineyard every advantage, clearing it of stones, planting the best vines, and building the supporting structures for the vineyard to produce the best wine. But what was the result? Wild grapes. We often model this lousy vineyard, and through our fallen condition we produce fallen grapes and we too deserve the punishment of God. Thanks be to God for sending us His beloved, Jesus Christ, to work in us to bear much fruit even as we partake of His body and His blood in communion which strengthens us to life everlasting under bread and fruit of the vine.

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## 892 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

sts. 1, 4



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come; Raise the song of har-vest home.  
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come To Thy fi - nal har - vest home;



All be safe - ly gath - ered in Ere the win - ter storms be - gin;  
Gath - er Thou Thy peo - ple in, Free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied.  
There, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In Thy gar - ner to a - bide:



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; Raise the song of har - vest home.  
Come with all Thine an - gels, come, Raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

Tune and text: Public domain

### Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

### Exhortation

LSB 203

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

### Confession of Sins

LSB 203

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

## Absolution

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Introit

Proper 22A Psalm 118:22–24; antiphon: v. 1

**P** Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

**C** The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

**P** This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**C** This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**P** Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

## Kyrie

LSB 204



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 5:1–7*

<sup>1</sup>Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. <sup>2</sup>He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. <sup>3</sup>And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. <sup>4</sup>What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? <sup>5</sup>And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. <sup>6</sup>I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. <sup>7</sup>For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle Reading

*Philippians 3:4b–14*

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. <sup>7</sup>But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— <sup>10</sup>that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my

own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Alleluia

LSB 205



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Verse

LSB 205



**C** These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that  
Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

### Alleluia

LSB 205



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:33–46

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

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

<sup>33</sup>[Jesus said:] “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. <sup>34</sup>When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. <sup>35</sup>And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. <sup>40</sup>When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup>They said to him,

“He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.” <sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? <sup>43</sup>Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. <sup>44</sup>And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.” <sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Nicene Creed**

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\ddagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

### LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

**P** The Third Article

**P** Sanctification

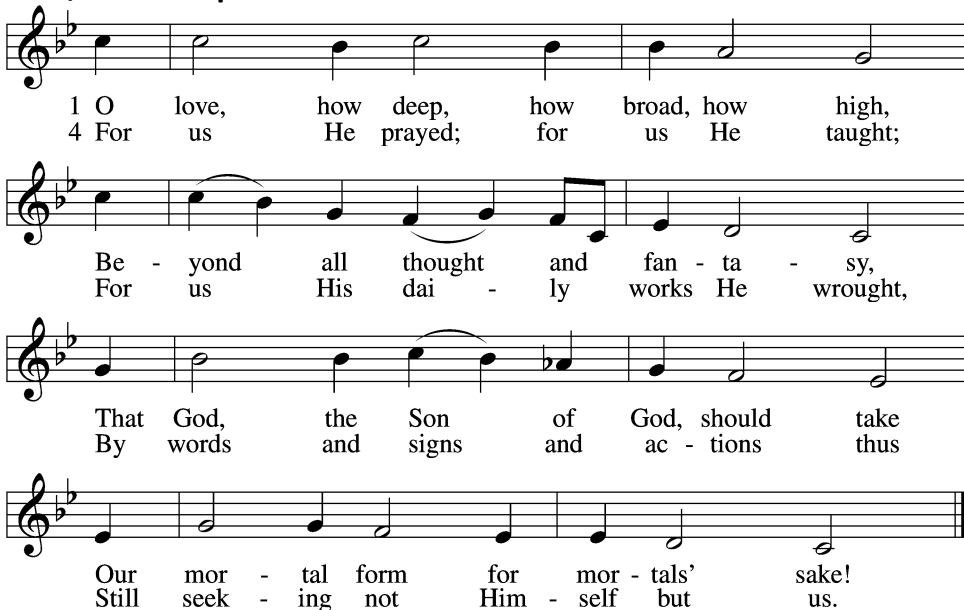
**C** I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**P** What does this mean?

**C** ...In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

### 544 O Love, How Deep

*sts. 1, 4*



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;  
Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,  
For us His dai - ly works He wrought,  
That God, the Son of God, should take  
By words and signs and ac - tions thus  
Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
Still seek - ing not Him - self but us.

Text: Public domain

### Sermon

**Text: Isaiah 5:1–7 Title: A New Vineyard Song**

One

There once was a land  
that rested in the Lord God's hands.  
All blessings it had  
So its fruit may make the Lord glad.

What more could he sweeten  
in the Garden of Eden?  
There was no sin, no death  
when Adam and Eve took first breath.  
Please permit me pardon  
say, where was this fine garden?  
We do not truly know  
'cept that the rivers did flow.  
This could be a pastor's wild imagination  
but could a vineyard on a hill be that gem of God's creation?

Eve was told not to eat it  
but the cluster looked so divine.  
She only just nibbled a bit  
maybe a bite from fruit of the vine.  
Where was Adam to save Eve?  
Did they know what the serpent had won:  
a world full of sin and death to grieve.  
Did she realize what she had done?  
God wouldn't allow it so away they went.  
The garden ran fallow and the thorns and thistles were sent.

There once was a land  
that rested in the Lord God's hands.  
What more could He do  
to make it abundant and true?

Two

There once was a man  
who rested in the Lord God's hands.  
All blessings he had  
So his fruit may make the Lord glad.



Noah heard a word from God:

“Mankind is wicked and flawed.

The world needs a new start

This grieves me to my heart.

But go and build a boat

by my directions it'll float.”

The flood came and it went

Noah left and set up a tent.

They lived near a mountain, could you even believe that?

Noah's first action? To build a vineyard, perhaps with a wine vat.

Big trouble in paradise:

Our hero Noah drank way too much wine.

Sweet grapes led Noah to sour vice.

A fresh world yet old sin in this vine.

The more we set out to purge

The more we find the sinner within

We are left to sing a dirge:

*“we're the sour grapes, we're full of sin.*

Destroy the whole world; save a few “good” men.

Then prepare yourself to hear old Noah's story again.”

There once was a man

who rested in the Lord God's hands.

What more could he do

to make him abundant and true?

Three

There once was a land

that rested in the Lord God's hands.

All blessings it had

So its fruit may make the Lord glad.

As a white church steeple

Israel was God's people

To show justice and grace

to the entire human race.

Miracles God showed them

His law he bestowed on them

The Lord even did save  
    them from a watery grave.  
The Lord took them from Egypt to the promised land.  
    They settled on a mountain, Jerusalem, just as he had planned

Instead of justice, bloodshed  
    Instead of righteousness, outcry  
Forsaking god they were dead  
    Israel betrayed their true ally.  
“Have it your way,” says the Lord.  
    “Live your life without my protection.  
Go, find your own room and board.  
    watch the nations bring insurrection.”  
The hedge was torn down and then the foreigners did reign.  
Israel fell to pieces, and has it ever come back together again?

There once was a land  
    that rested in the Lord God’s hands.  
What more could He do  
    to make it abundant and true?

#### Four

There once was a man  
    who rested in the Lord God’s hands.  
All blessings he had  
    So his fruit may make the Lord glad.

come and sing to me my  
    beloved of a hill high  
a very fertile hill  
    where sweet red water did spill  
not a vineyard, dear  
    —but with three trellises drear.  
There the one good man hung,  
    arms like a twisted vine strung  
Our tale goes to another mountain: Calvary  
    There the Lord again used wine, but to free us from slavery.

This man is Jesus the vine.

His Father threw him to the sour grapes

That He make a vintage fine

out of dread sinners of all shapes.

Instead of bloodshed, justice

Instead of outcry, righteousness

That's what we receive from Him:

Jesus Christ, our Savior, Lord, and King.

It was fruit that got us into this trouble, but by His fruit we're free.

On the day that the Lord asks us for our fruit, in Christ we have a perfect plea.

There once was a man

who rested in the Lord God's hands.

What more could He do

to make him abundant and true?

## Five

There once was a land

that rested in the Lord God's hands.

All blessings it had

So its fruit may make the Lord glad.

Come, see your place, friend

Then this can come to an end.

We're his pleasant planting,

in Christ truly enchanting.

In Christ we bear much fruit,

in Jesus *alone*, to boot.

Surely daily we sin,

but forgiveness enters in.

Christ's forgiveness turns sour grapes into fine wine.

The grapes that brought so much mischief now bring us, the Church, back in line.

Was it grapes that caused Eve's fall?

Noah drank too much wine like a fool.

Israel's evils did appall.

But from Jesus' trellis flows a pool

of his blood, a sweet wine to  
 undo all that Satan has misused.  
 Drink Christ's blood; his body chew.  
 At this altar have all wrongs excused.  
 In this Holy Meal, Christ takes away our sins, the Father only sees our good deeds.  
 In Christ He's able to look past sour grapes and thistles to see flowers in these weeds.

The Church is that land  
 that rests in the Lord God's hands.  
 His body and blood  
 Washes us in a righteous flood.

### Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*[Various petitions are offered, when the Pastor says, "Lord in Your mercy" The congregation replies "Hear our prayer."]*

**P** ... in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, whom with the Father and the Spirit, You are one God and one Lord, forevermore

**C** Amen.

### Offertory Hymn 544

st. 7

△ 7 All glo - ry to our Lord and God  
 For love so deep, so high, so broad;  
 The Trin - i - ty whom we a - dore  
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

Text: Public domain

### Preface

LSB 208

**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 Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

LSB 208



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of

life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

**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 Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

# Agnus Dei

LSB 210

**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## The Dismissal

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart  $\text{✠}$  in peace.
- C** Amen.

# Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

**C** 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.



## Benedicamus

LSB 212

- A** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

## 691 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

sts. 1, 4



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en  
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till



and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,  
har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



Rich in love and joy and peace.  
Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

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## Verse to Ponder

Luke 19:10

<sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

## Acknowledgments

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**VISITORS:** Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church. We're glad to have you join us today and hope you find your worship here to be fulfilling and joyful! Please fill out the Record of Fellowship in the pew books, sign our Guest Book in the Narthex, and be sure to speak with an usher for a Welcome packet. We hope to see you again soon!

**PLEASE NOTE...** *Faith Lutheran Church is pleased to be able to offer a loop hearing assistance system. To access this system, simply activate the T-coil setting on your hearing aid. If you don't have a hearing aid or your hearing aid lacks a T-coil switch, we have headsets available which will provide sound amplification throughout the worship service. Please see an usher if you have any questions.*

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are given to the Honor and Glory of God by Dr. John & Karen Jaeger, in memory of Gladys Ottum.

**LUTHERAN HOUR RADIO** is broadcast on WKTY 580 AM Sundays at 7:30 AM. On **Sunday Oct 11<sup>th</sup>** Rev. Dr. Michael Ziegler shares his message titled **"Unscaled Heights of Empathy."** A king's dream, a mysterious statue with feet of clay, an unearthly rock that grows to fill all the earth, and God's empathy for a weeping world, embodied in Christ—it's all part of Dr. Michael Zeigler's message, this week.

**LUTHERANS FOR LIFE** **October 4<sup>th</sup>** "Whenever I read Scripture that talks about how much God loves each of us, that He has created us, and that He wants us to share His love, I am always struck by the lack of qualifiers. I do not see where God makes distinctions about who He loves and calls into His family. He loves and calls all—each and every one of us." *Mona Fuerstenau, Bethesda Lutheran Communities* ♥ [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

**ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN PACING** We will be doing the packing for Orphan Grain Train on Thursday October 8, at 10:00 AM, immediately following Men's Bible Study. The boxes will be taken to Reedsburg, where they will be shipped out on Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>. See the bulletin's back cover for more information about Orphan Grain Train.

**THURSDAY IN PERSON BIBLE STUDIES** Men meet at 9:00, Women meet at noon!

**LIFE CHAIN** is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life individuals standing for one hour praying for our nation and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death. Join us **TODAY from 2:00 – 3:00 PM**. Meet at church at 1:30 PM and we can head out as a group to stand united.

**MIDWEEK VESPERS** We are holding evening prayer services on Wednesdays, 6:30 pm. The readings and message are different than Sunday, so one can attend both services and get something different out of them. It's intended to augment your home devotions as the readings will follow the green sheet. We will livestream the service so that you may follow along from home. *NB: While we consistently encourage everyone to follow our county health department's guidance on physical distancing and our governor's emergency order mandating masks, we are admitting to this Wednesday night service, those who, for medical reasons, cannot wear masks (see emergency order section 3.b.). Please keep this in mind as you make choices on attending this service in person as not everyone will be wearing a mask. Please note that we still require masks to be worn at the Sunday services and all Bible studies regardless of the status of the governor's mask mandate.*

**VOTER'S MEETING OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup>** We will be holding our Voter's Meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 AM. To maintain social distancing, we will be meeting in the sanctuary. This will be a hybrid platform with people present at church, online accessibility via Zoom, or simply dialing in from your telephone. A link to the Zoom meeting will be emailed shortly before the meeting. To participate via telephone, dial **1-312-626-6799**. When prompted for a meeting ID, enter **634 484 0308**, and the passcode is **1517**. We will be electing officers and Elders at this meeting. An agenda and slate of candidates is posted in the Narthex, was emailed to everyone with the newsletter, and a printed copy was included in the USPS mailed newsletters. Reports will be emailed a few days before the meeting. We do wish to keep the meeting as simple as possible to accommodate all platforms participating, so please review all reports prior to the meeting and have any questions ready. If you wish to have a hard copy of the reports sent to you home prior to the meeting, please call the church or email [office@faithonmain.com](mailto:office@faithonmain.com).

### **Communion at Faith**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that in Communion we receive not only the bread and wine, but Christ's very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. Our Lord invites all those who trust His words, repent of sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us.

Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm. Any who are not yet instructed (confirmed), in doubt, or who holds a confession differing from this congregation and the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor.

For those who prefer not to drink wine, there is one cup of white grape juice (which contains one drop of wine) in the inner ring of the cup tray. Please register your communion on the Record of Fellowship booklets at the end of the pews. Thank you!

# Orphan Grain Train †

## Mission Statement

*In loving response to Christ, the Servant, the Orphan Grain Train movement encourages and enables God's people to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ's name and character to needy people both far and near. Sometimes that character expresses itself as a word well spoken, sometimes as a bandage well applied, and sometimes as a child well fed.*

## President's Message

Dear Friends,

In late 1991 the Rev. Dr. Wallace Schulz, former Associate Speaker of The Lutheran Hour radio broadcast, and his family were sent to Riga, Latvia, to start broadcasting The Lutheran Hour in former communist countries in Eastern Europe. Early the next year, my wife and I had the opportunity to participate in Lutheran Hour Ministries' volunteer program in Riga.

While there in Riga the idea of how to provide spiritual help and humanitarian aid to hungry souls and bodies resulted in the formation of the Orphan Grain Train. Since then, with God's blessing and a generous outpouring of time, talent and contributions, Orphan Grain Train has become a hands-on mission project – a national network with regional divisions across the country organized to get necessary help to the endless requests for food, clothing, medical supplies, and Christian-centered literature to Riga, Latvia, and other areas where calamities occur.

More than 3,202 semi-trailer truckloads of food, clothing, medical supplies, and religious materials have been sent to 68 countries and several disaster areas in the U.S. since 1992. All of this is done by volunteers and individual contributors – people who are thankful for their blessings and want to provide a blessing to someone they will probably never see this side of heaven.

Volunteers sort and pack the donated items in our warehouses across the US. Contributors donate money to ship the precious cargoes of hope where most needed. (Eleven dollars sponsors the shipment of one box of aid!) Volunteers at the other end of the journey place these gifts of love into the hands of needy people. We believe that through Christ there is great hope embodied in the efforts of Orphan Grain Train. Read what is going on! Pray for it! Join us!

Sincerely in the Lord,

Rev. Ray S. Wilke, President