



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost August 2, 2020

Serving us in worship today:

Jim Craver, Pastor; Gail Herbold, Lay Reader

Annette Stout & LeAnne White, Music; Lisa Owen, Children's Church

Welcome to Worship!

Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church, a people who love and follow Jesus Christ our Lord! We are blessed and honored that you chose to be with us today!

Today Pastor Jim continues a sermon series called "Faith Foundations, the essentials of our relationship with Jesus. In this series we have focused on the Bible's core teaching about Baptism, the Lord's Supper and the Bible as our foundation and the Inspiration of Scripture. Today we focus on the key Bible teaching about Grace. Grace can be simply defined as "God's unconditional love" or "*God's unfailing love and faithfulness*" (John 1:17)

The key scripture we will focus on is from Ephesians 2: ⁸ *God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.* ⁹ *Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.*

As we worship outside today, we encourage you to fellowship with other believers while maintaining a safe distance and observing our COVID-19 protocols.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PASTOR JIM

OPENING HYMN: "*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*" Verses 1 & 3 LBW #551

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

- 3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,

ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of your Baptism.

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

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P *If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all wickedness. (1 John 1: 8-9, NLT)*

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most Merciful God,

C We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor announces forgiveness in Christ Jesus

C Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: *"This is the Feast.."* pg. 81 LBW

P: This is the feast of victory of our God. Alleluia.

C: Worthy is Christ, the lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might
Be to God and Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory of our God, for the Lamb who slain
Has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

READING FROM GOD'S HOLY WORD: EPHESIANS 2:1-8

A: Our reading from the Word of God is from Paul's letter to the Church at Ephesus, where he reminds us of the power of the grace of God. God's grace – His unconditional love for people – is a gift He offers to all people.

"Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ² You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³ All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) ⁶ For He raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. ⁷ So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of His grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all He has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

⁸ God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.

A: Here ends the reading.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *"Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone"*

Verse 1

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, by now am found,
Was blind but now I see

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Chorus

My Chains are gone, I've been set free!
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood his mercy reigns,
Unending love, amazing grace.

Verse 3

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

Chorus

Verse 4

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine.
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine.
Will be forever mine.
You are forever mine.

SERMON: "The awesome grace of God!"

Pastor Jim

Foundations sermon series, part 6 *(Please see sermon notes)*

OFFERTORY: "LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL..." (LBW Pg. 86)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION with THE LORD'S PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Pastor Jim

P: May the Lord go before you to lead you, behind you to encourage you, beside you to befriend you, beneath you to uphold you, above you to protect you, and within you to inspire you.

C: AMEN!

CLOSING HYMN: "Give to Our God Immortal Praise!" LBW # 520
(Please see next page)

Give to Our God Immortal Praise!



1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and
3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of



truth are all his ways; won - ders of grace to
dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er



God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

P: Go In Peace To Love And Serve The Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

"WORDS OF FAITH" BROADCAST SUNDAYS AT 8 AM ON KWED 1580 AM RADIO

This week has been sponsored to the glory of God by Stan and Nancy Wieding in celebration of their 51st Wedding Anniversary on August 2.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

Have been given to the glory of God by Brandon and Jessica Westerholm in honor of Boone's 5th birthday on August 5.

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Julie Sagebiel	Judy Saunders	Nora Lavelett
Carolyn Sagebiel	Walt Fruehling	Kathy Ersch
Ric Landvatter	Dot Day	Gladys Fruehling
Teresa Kiel	Sue Blumberg	Pat Sagebiel
Faye Talley	Johanna Lange	Debbie Lehmann
Callie Atchley		

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS:

Month to Date (As of July): **\$36,285.03**; YTD Offerings and Misc. **\$300,148.76**
(2020 budgeted offerings is **\$549,000**)

HOW YOU CAN HELP DURING THIS PANDEMIC

As mentioned in our email announcements from July 10, we want to let our members know of some ways that they can help those on the front lines of this pandemic. The staff AND the patients at GRMC, could use our help and encouragement. Here's what we have planned so far: Our youth have written notes and letters of encouragement to doctors, nurses and patients. Our preschool students made a hand painted banner holding GRMC up in prayer. Here's where you can help: Our staff put together two "goodie baskets" for the staff at GRMC last week. We will be doing more this week and will include our area First Responders in the delivery. You can help by donating goodies! Anything from chocolate to salty snacks (all individually wrapped please) or drinks. **Even more notes of encouragement!** If you would like to donate, either monetarily or any of the items for the baskets, **PLEASE bring them by the church by Tuesday, August 4.** (Sunday would be a great time to do this)

COVID19 AND WORSHIP AT FAITH

COVID19 is again surging in Texas, including Guadalupe County and Seguin. **Faith has had four members with confirmed cases.** I, like many of you, dearly miss worshipping together in our sanctuary and look forward to the day we can resume worship inside. I know that many of our members feel strongly about inside worship and outside worship, and I appreciate that. However, in the Christian spirit of love - for God, others and ourselves - we must continue to worship outside for the time being. I know this is not going to be well received by all, but we must fall on the side of love. We will adjust the start time for worship outside to **8:30 AM to beat the Texas heat beginning July 5.** Let us all follow the command of Jesus in John 13: *"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples."* Sincerely, Pastor Jim Craver

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR LWR SCHOOL KITS:

This is the time of the year when people start thinking of school and school supplies. The stores have their shelves full of school supplies and the sales are on. So please remember to support the Women of Faith in providing school kits for Lutheran World Relief. In 2019, Charity Circle packed 151 school kits. We could not have done it without the contributions of school supplies by the members of Faith. Here is a listing of the school supplies needed for each kit:

- 4 70 sheet notebooks (wide or college ruled)
- 1 30 cm ruler with inches on other side
- 1 2 1/2" eraser
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 blunt scissors
- 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- 5 black or blue ball point pens (no gel pens)
- 1 box of 16 or 24 crayons

Please place any school supplies in the bins/tubs in the little kitchen. Thanks for your help and support in this worthwhile project.

MEN OF FAITH

Will be restarting their Bible Study / Breakfast meetings on Saturday, August 22, 8:30 - 9:45 AM. The meeting will take place in our Activity Center and will include a prepared breakfast. Pastor Jim will lead the Bible study. COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place. Please join us!

COUNCIL CORNER

The Church Council highlights did not make the August newsletter, so here are the approved discussion items from the July meeting:

Council approved the following:

- The donation of a water fountain in the garden area from Melvin Boelter.
- Discontinue babysitters for church services temporarily.
- Replace an air handler unit above the activity center using funds from the dedicated equipment repair funds.
- Updating QuickBooks and Microsoft Works

CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD

Thank you for those of you that have been dropping off items for the Christian Cupboard. The July item was canned meat. This week's update is **66 items** as of July 29. August items are personal hygiene products. This includes things like shampoo, body wash, deodorant, and toothpaste.

THE SOUTH TEXAS PREGNANCY CARE CENTER BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

The Social Concerns Team is sponsoring the Baby Bottle Campaign Drive for the South Texas Pregnancy Care Center. The primary mission of the center is to promote life for the unborn child and to offer support for the mother and child during pregnancy, birth, and the baby's early years. The fundraiser began on **Sunday, July 19, and will conclude on Sunday, August 9.** Baby bottles will be available in the narthex for Faith members to pick up and take home. If you are unable to pick one up and would like a bottle delivered to you, please leave your name with the church and a team member will deliver one to you. **Or you may make a check out to STPCC and mail it to the church.** We will include it in our campaign contribution. We thank all of you who give a monthly gift to support the pregnancy center. We encourage you to join other churches in the Seguin area by placing change, dollar bills, and/or checks (made out to STPCC) in the baby bottles to help support the services that the center provides. Services include pregnancy tests, sonograms, counseling, educational materials, prayers, newborn gift baskets, and slightly used baby items at no charge to clients. One hundred percent of the funds raised go directly to support the center's budget. The South Texas Pregnancy Care Center exists to offer hope to people who mistakenly believe abortion is their only option. Please return the bottles to the church no later than **Sunday, August 9,** and place them in the baskets in the narthex.

YOU ARE NEEDED!

The South Texas Pregnancy Care Center - STPCC - has an urgent need for volunteers. You would be encouraging new mothers and fathers as they become parents for the first time or are adding to their family. There are many positions open in various capacities that would require as little as 3 hours of your time a week to as much as you are willing to give. If you feel this calling to help others, please call STPCC at 830-303-2151 and ask to speak to Amy Cantrell. Please visit the center's Virtual Walk for Life at <https://www.southtexaspregnancycenter.com/events>

WALL OF CROSSES

With the new renovation, we are re-purposing the walls in the hall off the Narthex. Three bulletin boards will be located on the South side and a new Wall of Crosses will be created

on the North side of the hall! Pastor Jim and Diana Craver have donated the first of what we hope to be many crosses! Hand-made or store bought, let's honor the cross of Jesus with a wall of crosses!

FAITH'S HOLY LAND TRIP NOVEMBER 2021

If you are interested in visiting the Holy Land, Faith is sponsoring a trip to Israel in November of 2021. Details for this trip are available on our website: www.faithsequin.org. See the Israel Trip tab, or contact Pastor Jim.

Sermon: The awesome grace of God! **(Foundations sermon series, part 6)**

Big Idea: The love, acceptance and forgiveness we really desire can come only from a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ!

1. How do you know when you are enough and have done enough in the eyes of God?

When are you good enough, successful enough, loved enough? How do you know?

Every person struggles with this issue and will do almost anything to feel love and acceptance.

2. What is so amazing about grace?

Grace is God's choice to love, forgive, embrace, accept, and help us when we have done nothing to earn it.

To be successful, loved, talented.... is okay but cannot rescue you or save you!

3. Grace teaches us to accept God's truth about ourselves and His amazing love!

Spiritual and moral sanity begins with this recognition: "God, I have neglected You and Your ways. I have ignored You and Your way of life. There is something wrong, something broken in me, and I can't fix it."

You can have the acceptance, forgiveness, and love you desire, no matter who you are or where you have been. Stop trying to earn it. Stop trusting in your own works. Come to Jesus and receive it all from Him!