



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 23, 2020

Serving us in worship today:

*Jim Craver, Pastor; Bill Ermel, Lay Reader; Diana Craver, Children's Church;
Annette Stout, LeAnne White Music*

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 will share a message that builds on "Faith Foundations, the essentials of our relationship with Jesus" from last month. Today we focus on a powerful commitment one family made to follow the Lord – no matter what happens. Joshua, the successor to Moses, called a nation to return to the Lord and challenged them to love and serve the Lord! God's Word on Joshua 24 will be our focus:

"So fear the Lord and serve Him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord alone... But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."

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

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING HYMN: "Have you Seen Jesus My Lord"

(Children meet at Bell tower for Children's Church)

(Refrain)

Have you seen Jesus my Lord
He's here in plain view
Take a look open your eyes
He'll show it to you

1) Have you ever look at the sunset
With the sky mellowing red
And the clouds suspended like feathers
Then I say..... you've seen Jesus my Lord *(Refrain)*

2) Have you ever stood at the ocean
With the white foam at your feet
Felt the endless thundering motion
Then I say...you've seen Jesus my Lord *(Refrain)*

3) Have you ever looked at the cross
With a man hanging in pain
And the look of love in his eyes
Then I say..... you've seen Jesus my Lord *(Refrain)*

4) Have you ever stood in the Family
With the Lord there in your midst
Seen the Face of Christ on each other
Then I say...You've seen Jesus My Lord *(Refrain)*

INVOCATION AND ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS:

P: We begin in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: As we come before the Lord our God, let's be honest with Him and ourselves about our true condition.

C: Father in heaven, I confess that I am not as close to You as I should be. This is my fault. I do not love You with all my heart, soul and mind. I do not know Your Word as deeply as I could. I have a tendency to follow my own way, not Yours. For these and all of my sins I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe and accept that by faith in Jesus, You forgive, accept and will always love me. Amen.

Pastor announces forgiveness in Christ Jesus

PRAYER OF THE DAY: (from Psalm 27:4-6):

⁴ The one thing I ask of the Lord— the thing I seek most— is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections and meditating in His Temple.

⁵ For He will conceal me there when troubles come; He will hide me in His sanctuary. He will place me out of reach on a high rock.

⁶ Then I will hold my head high above my enemies who surround me. At His sanctuary I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy, singing and praising the Lord with music.

Please be seated.

READING FROM GOD'S HOLY WORD: Joshua 24:102, 13-18

A: The first reading from God's Holy Word is from the 24th chapter of Joshua (Joshua 24: 1-2, 13-18) and records Joshua's challenge to people of God to be serious about following the Lord.

Then Joshua summoned all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, including their elders, leaders, judges, and officers. So they came and presented themselves to God.

² Joshua said to the people, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says:

¹³ I gave you land you had not worked on, and I gave you towns you did not build—the towns where you are now living. I gave you vineyards and olive groves for food, though you did not plant them.

¹⁴ "So fear the Lord and serve Him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord alone. ¹⁵ But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."

¹⁶ The people replied, "We would never abandon the Lord and serve other gods.

¹⁷ For the Lord our God is the one who rescued us and our ancestors from slavery in the land of Egypt. He performed mighty miracles before our very eyes. As we traveled through the wilderness among our enemies, He preserved us. ¹⁸ It was the Lord who drove out the Amorites and the other nations living here in the land. So we, too, will serve the Lord, for He alone is our God."

A: Here ends the reading.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 16:14-20

A: Our Gospel reading comes from Mark 16 and records the final words of Jesus in this Gospel:

¹⁴ Still later [Jesus] appeared to the eleven disciples as they were eating together. He rebuked them for their stubborn unbelief because they refused to believe those who had seen him after he had been raised from the dead.

¹⁵ And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. ¹⁶ Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. ¹⁸ They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed."

¹⁹ When the Lord Jesus had finished talking with them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand. ²⁰ And the

disciples went everywhere and preached, and the Lord worked through them, confirming what they said by many miraculous signs.

A: The gospel of the Lord.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *"Blessings"*

1) We pray for blessings
We pray for peace comfort for family
Protection while we sleep
We pray for healing for prosperity
We pray for Your mighty hand
To ease our suffering
And all the while You hear each spoken need
Yet love is way too much to give us lesser things

Chorus

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
And what if a thousand sleepless nights
Are what it takes to know You're near
And what if trials of this life
Are Your mercies in disguise

2) We pray for wisdom
Your voice to hear
We cry in anger when we cannot feel You near
We doubt Your goodness
We doubt Your love
As if ev'ry promise from Your Word is not enough
And all the while You hear each desp'rate plea
And long that we'd have faith to believe *(Chorus)*

Bridge

When friends betray us
When darkness seems to win
We know that pain reminds this heart
That this is not, this is not our home
It's not our home

Chorus 2

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears

And what if a thousand sleepless nights
Are what it takes to know You're near
What if my greatest disappointments
Or the aching of this life
Is a revealing of a greater thirst
This world can't satisfy
And what if trials of this life
The rain the storms the hardest nights
Are Your mercies in disguise

*CCLI Song # 5897818
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SERMON: "We will serve the Lord!"

Pastor Jim

(Please see sermon notes on back of bulletin)

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY: "Create In Me A Clean Heart..." Pg. 96 LBW

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
And uphold me with your free Spirit.

APOSTLES CREED:

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 shall 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.

PRAYERS / LORD'S PRAYER

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, within you to inspire you.

C: AMEN!

CLOSING HYMN: "Thine the Amen" WOV #801



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.
thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

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 David and Betty Moltz in thankfulness of His many blessings.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

Have been given to the glory of God by George and Gina Mannel in celebration of their 41st wedding anniversary, Crew Harvey's 4th birthday and in thankfulness for their many blessings.

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	Debbie Lehmann	Ronnie Foreman

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS:

Month to Date (August): **\$28,121.15**; YTD Offerings and Misc. **\$331,284.91**
(2020 budgeted offerings is **\$549,000**)

PRAYERS REQUESTED

For the family of Robert Stoeltje. Mr. Stoeltje passed through death into eternal life on Sunday, August 16, here in Seguin. Please keep his family in your prayers in the days and weeks to come.

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 basket located in the narthex. Thanks for your help and support in this worthwhile project.

LWR DONATIONS DESTROYED

According to a news story from Lutheran World Relief, three 40-foot shipping containers filled with humanitarian aid that included thousands of handmade quilts and kits were destroyed in the devastating August 4 explosions at the port of Beirut, Lebanon. The total value of the lost shipments was approximately \$624,000 and included 22,000 handmade quilts, 100 cartons of school supply kits, 300 cartons of personal care kits and 125 cartons of baby care kits. The quilts and kits from Faith are scheduled to be shipped this fall, and the ladies are accepting donations now for the school supply and health kits. If you would like to help LWR, you can visit <https://lwr.org/beirut> or Faith will be collecting a special monetary offering until the end of August to send to help replace and give aid to refugees living in Lebanon, principally from Syria and the Palestinian territories.

WORSHIP UPDATE: We are again entering a new phase of the COVID-19 pandemic and can begin making plans to return to inside worship. Please remember - Church was never canceled, it just looked different for a while as we worshipped outside and via live-stream, Facebook and YouTube platforms. The Gospel is proclaimed and the Lord's Sacraments continue to be celebrated among us. I would like to share with you the current plans that we have to return to a more regular worship life. Please understand that the schedule below is tentative and depends on the status of the COVID19 pandemic in Guadalupe County.

August 23 and 30 Worship under the trees at 8:30 AM, weather permitting, online only should rain or bad weather occur.

(Continued on next page)

September 6 and 13- Worship outside at 8:30 AM (weather permitting) with Children's Church, and, inside at 9:30 AM – please choose one. Those who choose to worship inside will be asked to follow the COVID19 protocols posted on the doors and in place since March 2020. (Temperature check as you enter, hand sanitizing and masks are required during this period.)

September 20 - We will resume our regular every Sunday worship time of 9 AM in the Sanctuary. COVID19 protocols during this period will depend on the health / risk status as determined by local health professionals. Sunday School and Bible Class will resume soon afterwards.

SOCIAL CONCERNS TEAM would like to thank the congregation for its support of the South Texas Pregnancy Care Center through the Baby Bottle Campaign. We were able to send a little over \$2,400 to the center through your generosity. This will do so much in helping the center care for healthy babies and families. If you have a bottle or still want to make a contribution, please bring it to the church. Please continue to keep this ministry in your prayers.

Sermon Notes "We will serve the Lord!"

Big Idea: We live in chaotic times and have many choices – the biggest is our commitment to the Lord!

"Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!" - Patrick Henry at St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia, March of 1775

1. Because we follow Jesus, we must be careful about doctrine.

Doctrine: a set of beliefs Christians follow based on the Word of God.

Simply ponder the chaos we live in because sound Biblical teaching is not followed.

We need preachers and prophets – not pundits and platitudes!

2. Because we follow Jesus, we must pay attention to our decisions.

"And then He [Jesus] told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned." Mark 16:15-16

There are more trends, causes and expressions today than ever before – how are we to make wise decisions as Christ-followers?

"For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear." 2 Timothy 4:3

We know that our God is not impressed with play-acting or pretend Christianity!

3. Because we follow Jesus, we must be devoted to His Lordship!

The Church has paid a high price for living mediocrity and worldliness. What will we do? *"So fear the Lord and serve Him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord alone... But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."*