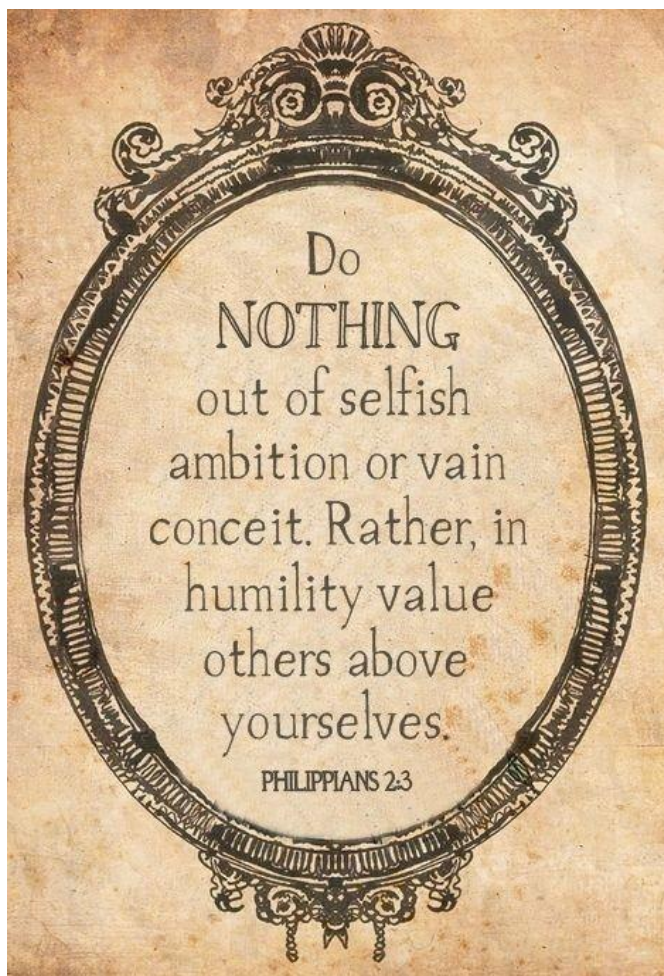


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October 1, 2023

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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# WELCOMING OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

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## GATHERING

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Prelude

*George Campbell, soloist*

### PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

C **Amen!**

### THE BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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P Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Together we pray,

C **Steadfast and faithful God, you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven. In the Spirit we have strength and life.

C **Amen.**



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

## THE GREETING

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

**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Together we pray,

C God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE THE FEAST OF VICTORY

ELW s148

*Refrain*  
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

## WORD

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### FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die.

<sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life.

<sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

L The word of God.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING:

*Philippians 2:1-13*

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be

in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

L The word of God.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ALLELUIA**

**ELW s151**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL**

*Matthew 21:23-32*

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

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup>He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

P The Gospel of our Lord.  
C Praise to you, O Christ.

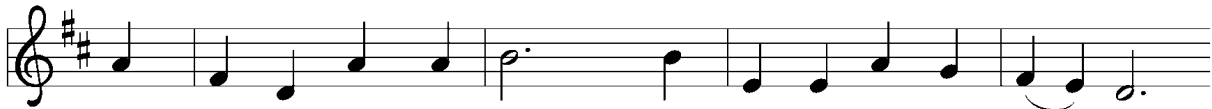
**Music Ministry**

*George Campbell, soloist*

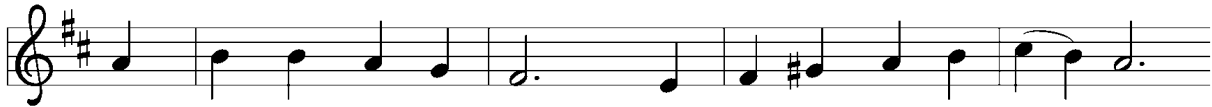
**SERMON**

Pastor Armen

**PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE**



1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,  
 2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing  
 3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;  
 4 When dan-gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;



with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:  
 what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—  
 guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;  
 help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in  
 to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless  
 but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,  
 help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,



a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.  
 what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.  
 then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.  
 and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**A** Together we confess our faith,

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

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



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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A Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*each petition concludes...*

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

P Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE (WORDS ONLY)

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P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

## OFFERING

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*In thanksgiving for God's blessing, we respond with our tithe and offering*

## OFFERTORY HYMN PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

ELW 689



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.

## OFFERING PRAYER

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A Together we pray,

**C** God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. Amen

## THE MEAL

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P The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

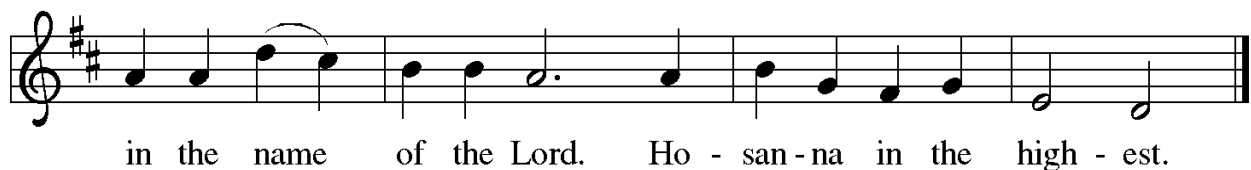
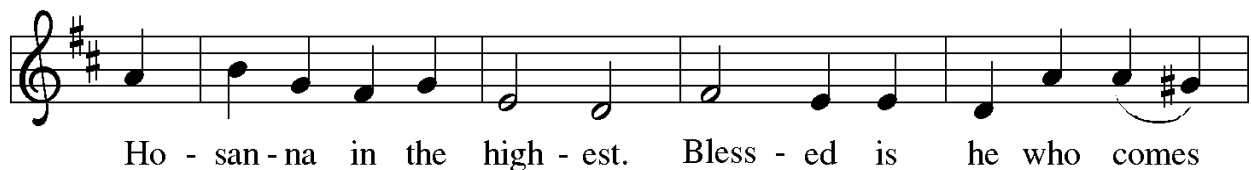
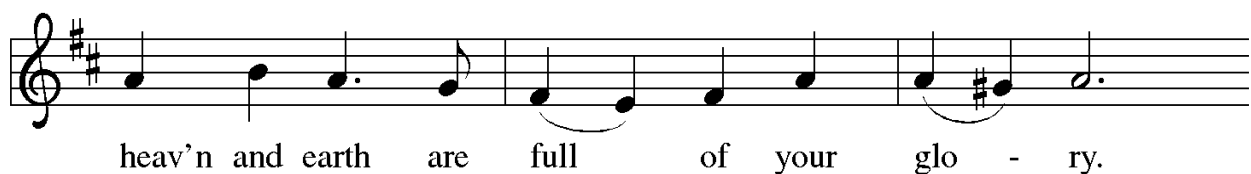
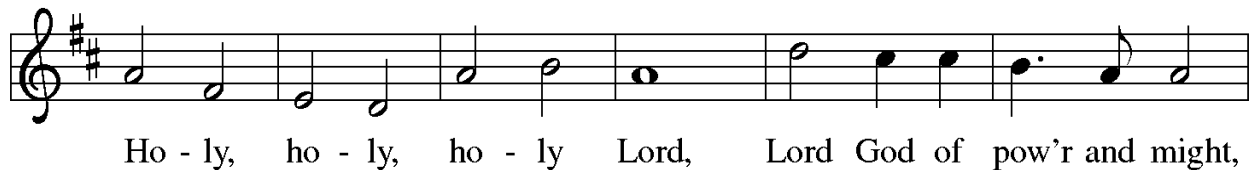
P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ELW s153



P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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A Together we pray,

**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.**

## DISTRIBUTION

As we celebrate the meal of our Lord, all are invited. If you are a guest and regularly commune at your church, you are welcome to commune here. For those not communing, please keep your hands folded and you will receive a blessing. Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are available at communion. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, notify the server. If you are unable to come to the altar rail and would like to receive communion in your seat, please notify an usher.

*after all have communed*

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.      **C Amen.**

A Together we pray,

**C Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. Amen.**

**P** May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

**C** **Amen.**

**HYMN**

*You are the Way*

*ELW 758*



1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;  
2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;  
3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;  
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.  
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.  
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.  
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

**DISMISSAL**

**P** Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Postlude

***Faith's Weekly Announcements***  
*Welcome to all of you attending this morning!*

**We Have Guests**

Starting this morning, Grace Community Church will be holding their worship service here at Faith, following our service (at 11:30). They wanted you all to know how very grateful they are to have a place to meet for a few months.

**Want to Order a Brick?**

We will be placing an order for memorial bricks tomorrow, so TODAY is your last chance to sign up for one this time. See Mary Lou Fitzgerald to be sure you are included. The forms for ordering are in the narthex, under the large bulletin board. Ordering details are in the flyer.

**Men's Breakfast**

Guys, you are invited to join us this Tuesday morning, 7:30, at Stefano's Restaurant. Good food and lots of fun and fellowship, no sign-up needed.

**Join us**

We have scheduled a clean-up day for our Memorial Garden this Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 8:30 am. Please come out and join the crew, then stay for coffee and goodies afterward.

**Choir Rehearsals to Begin**

Choir rehearsals will begin next Sunday, October 8, AFTER the worship service (at 10:30) in the choir room.

**Food Pantry**

This week the food bank especially needs canned soup. All donations should be placed in the bin in the narthex.

## **October Ladies Lunch**

Ladies, we will meet for lunch at Arturs on October 11th at 11:30 am. Arturs is located on Indiana Avenue, just north of Dearborn St. They specialize in Polish food but have a full menu of luncheon favorites. We will order off the menu and have separate checks. Hope you can all join us for a lovely time and lots of fellowship!! Signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex. Deadline is Sunday Oct. 8th. Questions? See or call Kathie Wiley (941-662-5383).

## **The Halloween Safe Walk is Coming up Fast!**

Every year Faith has a table at the annual Halloween Safe Walk on Dearborn Street. This is an outreach to local families, and we always ask our members to help by contributing bags of wrapped candy for distribution that night. It's better to have candy that won't melt and has no nuts. There will be a tub in the narthex for your contributions.

## **God's Work Our Hands Totals**

We received a total of \$1621.00 in cash and other donations for the God's Work Our Hands outreach. Details are in the October newsletter. Check it out, and thanks for your contributions.

## **Reserve the Date**

We're planning a fall Church Picnic at the Englewood Garden and Beach Club on Manasota Key. The date is October 29<sup>th</sup>, about 3 to 6 pm, including evening devotions by the Gulf. Please mark your calendars now.

**Attendance last Sunday: 54**

## **WE PRAY FOR...**

Jerry Marsh  
Joyce Schultz  
Art Hanson

Rosie LaQuay  
Debby Lynn Costello  
Neal Schattauer

Verna Newlon  
Bruce Grosvenor

## **Serving Today**

**Altar Guild:** Gloria Marsh

**Lector/ Worship Assistant:** Kathryn Gallagher

**Ushers:** Jay Fisher, Art Hanson, Jim Hughs

## **Your Church Council**

Steve Wolfe (President), Jeff Kamm (Vice President), Jeff Petersen (Secretary), Art Hanson (Treasurer), Ellen Lindhurst, Jim Taylor, Gene Newlon, Larry Bennett, Jay Fisher.

## **THIS WEEK AT FAITH**

<b>Every week day morning</b>	6:30 am	AA meets at church
<b>Monday</b>	6:30 pm	Mutual Ministry
	8:00 pm	AA meets at church
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:30 am	Men's Breakfast
	8:30 am	Work Crew/ Memorial Garden Clean-up
	9:00 am	Lutheran Chicks
	5:00 pm	Girl Scouts
	6:00 pm	Prayer with Grace

## **Faith Lutheran Church of Rotonda**

551 Rotonda Boulevard West – Rotonda West, FL 33947  
(941) 697-3313

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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Pastor Brian Armen, Cell (814) 248-0133

Secretary: Barbra Davis

Organist: Candace Montesi      Custodian: Cyndy Hoops

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**Secretary Office Hours: 9:00 Am – Noon (M-F)**

**PASTOR'S OFFICE: 10:00 – 1:00 (M-TH) AND BY APPOINTMENT**

*Our Guiding Principle: GOD'S GRACE WINS....*

*As we WORSHIP Jesus as our Lord and Savior*

*As we LOVE one another, welcoming everyone*

*As we SERVE, inspired by the Holy Spirit*

*As a deep FAITH is taught and caught*

*As we make WITNESS and MISSION our life*