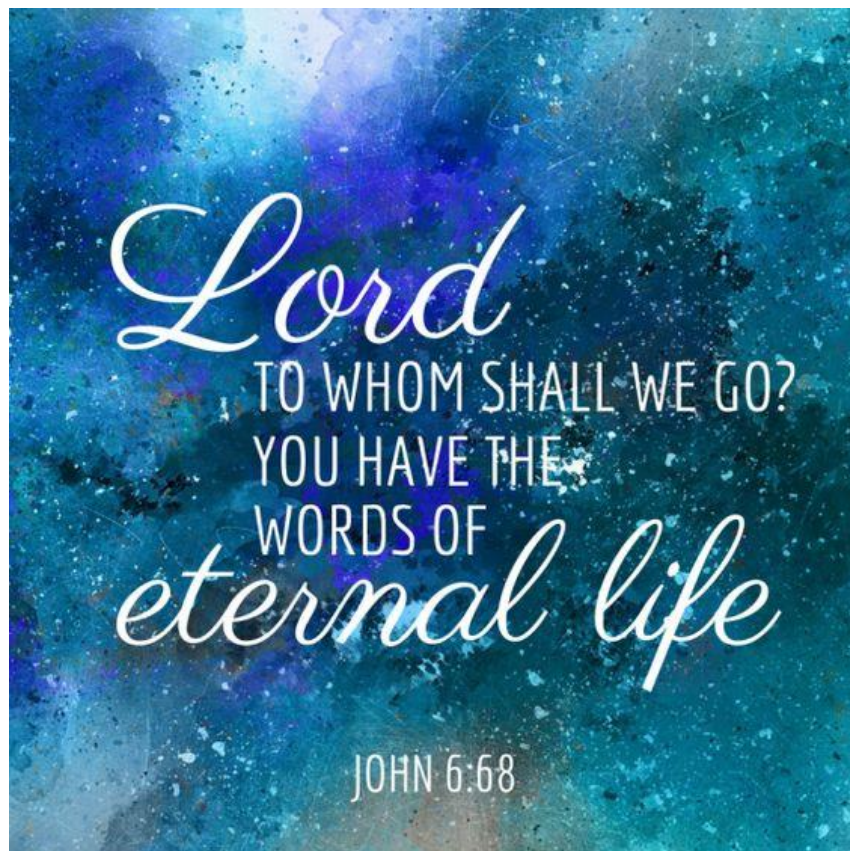

August 25, 2024

14th Sunday After Pentecost



WELCOMING OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

GATHERING

The offering is now being collected at the entrance of the sanctuary.

Prelude

PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

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

C Amen!

HYMN

Blessed Assurance

ELW 638



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

THE BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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. Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Together we pray,

C Most merciful God, 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.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE *SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD*

W&P 129

Spirit of the Living God Fall fresh on me
Spirit of the Living God Fall fresh on me
 Melt me mold me Fill me use me
Spirit of the Living God Fall fresh on me

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 Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

L The word of God.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this

present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

L The word of God.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

GOOD SOIL

W&P 52



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

GOSPEL

John 6:56-69

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

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

P The Gospel of our Lord.

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

SERMON

Pastor Armen

PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

HYMN

O Jesus I Have Promised

ELW 810



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

A Together we confess our faith,

C **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

A Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.
each petition concludes...

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

P We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

C **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

(PLEASE SMILE AND WAVE)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING

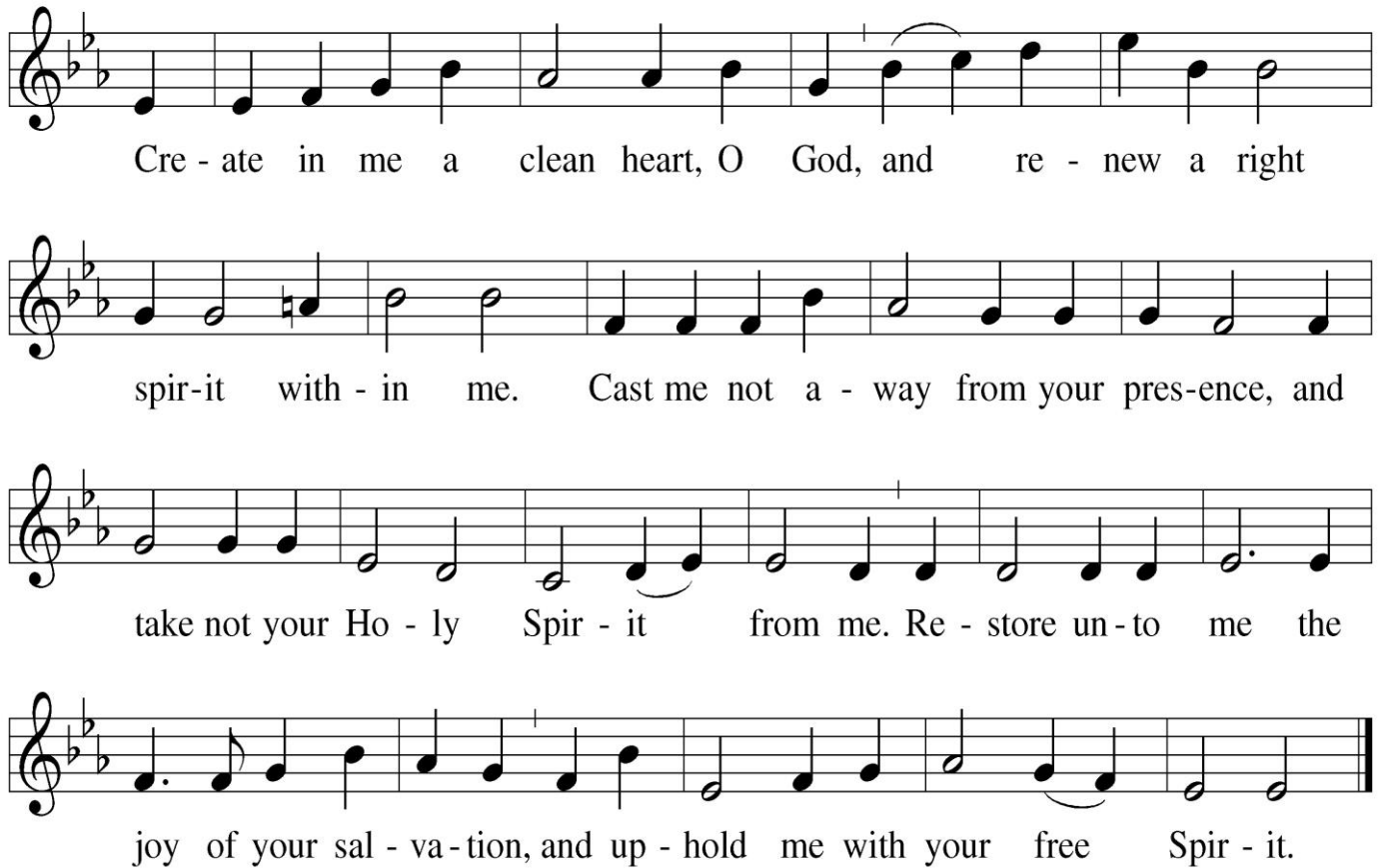
In thanksgiving for God's blessing, we respond with our tithe and offering

In consideration of health concerns, we will resume collecting the offering at the entrance doors of the sanctuary.

If you have your offering in your hand, please raise your hand and the usher will stop on the way forward.

OFFERTORY HYMN

WOV 732



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Together we pray,

C Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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

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 his grace.

C Amen.

A Together we pray,

C Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.

P The blessing of God, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever.

C Amen.



1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
 2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
 3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,



hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents will be our home.
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
 for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears.



Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong;
 for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums,
 Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;



and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
 but deeds of love and mer - cy the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.
 the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace filled with the Holy Spirit. You are the body of Christ.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Faith's Weekly Announcements

Welcome to all of you attending this morning!

Free Will Offering

This morning there is a plate in the narthex for a free will offering for Tom Renaud, who gave a concert here on August 11.

Outreach Opportunity

We need a few more people to take prepared lunches to Indian Mound Park on Tuesday evenings. You don't need to serve every week, just pick the weeks you are available. If you can help, see Cyndy Hoops for details.

Another "Undie Sunday"

September 8th is "God's Work Our Hands" Sunday, and this year we will once again be using the theme "Undie Sunday." We collect underwear and socks for Kids Needs and our homeless ministry and distribute them that week. A list of needed sizes and styles is available below. We ask that you purchase any of the items you choose and place them in the box in the narthex on or before September 8.

Sizes Requested for "Undie Sunday," September 8

Underwear

Girls sizes 6-16

Women's sizes 7, 8, 9

(Hipsters or bikinis preferred)

Boys sizes 6-8 through 18-20

(Boxer briefs preferred)

Men's sizes 28-38

(Boxer briefs preferred)

Socks

Girls (shoe sizes) 6-10, 10 ½ – 4, 4-10

Women's sizes 9-12

(Low cut preferred)

Boys (shoe sizes) 4 ½ - 8 ½, 9 – 2 ½, 3-9

Men's size 6-12

(Black or white, low cut preferred)

Ladies' Luncheon

The September Ladies Luncheon will be held at 11:30 am on Wednesday, September 18th, at The End Zone, 2440 S. McCall Rd. Their menu includes wings, burgers, fish, salads, pizza and other great menu choices. We will order off the menu with separate checks. Join us for fellowship and laughter! Deadline to sign up is Sunday, September 15th. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you need more information, see or call Kathie Wiley (941-662-5383).

Attendance Last Week: 59

ATTENTION WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE

The September meeting date has been changed to Monday, September 23rd at 10:00.

Please Check

Did you borrow a packing tape dispenser from the church office? It has not been returned and we need it or we will have to buy a new one. Please drop it in the church office ASAP.

Food Pantry

This week the food bank especially needs shelf-stable milk. All donations should be placed in the bin in the narthex.

Keep Watching...

Check upcoming bulletins and the September newsletter to learn about the developing plans for our 50th anniversary celebration next year!

WE PRAY FOR...

Lou Taylor	John Schleede	Sandy Cox
Jim Hardenstine	Bill Speth	Bob Ash
Marcia and Gary Wilkins	Tom and Linda Jackling	

Serving Today

Altar Guild: Mary Lou Fitzgerald

Lector/ Worship Assistant: Ruthie Rohrbach

Ushers: Debby Porter, Ken Stephens, Marcia Wilkins

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Every week day morning	6:30 am	AA meets at church
Monday	8:00 pm	AA meets at church
Tuesday	7:30 am	Work Crew
	9:00 am	Lutheran Chicks

Your Church Council

Jeff Kamm (President), Larry Bennett (Vice President), Sandy Cox (Secretary), Art Hanson (Treasurer), Jim Taylor, Jeff Petersen, Gene Newlon, Jay Fisher and Sue Baran.

Faith Lutheran Church of Rotonda

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

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Pastor Brian Armen, Cell (814) 248-0133

Secretary: Barbra Davis

Organist: Candace Montesi Custodian: Cyndy Hoops

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