



# WELCOMING OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

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## GATHERING

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### Prelude

PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

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

**C** Amen!

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### **A Litany and Prayer at the Conclusion of Sabbatical**

**[Pastor Autumn]** Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God for the opportunities God gives this congregation, and for the leadership Pastor Brian provides. We seek God's blessing on us and on Pastor Brian as he returns to us from this Sabbatical time. We give thanks to God for using this intentional time apart for rest, growth and renewal, both for Pastor Brian and for our congregation.

We give thanks to God for bringing Pastor Brian back to our community safely and we look forward to the new things that God is doing in our midst as we seek together to Glorify God with our gifts of listening, caring and serving all people.

**[Congregation]** We rejoice that God has brought you back into our presence refreshed, and renewed and we welcome you with open arms.

**[Pastor Brian]** It is good to be back among God's people here at Faith! During this sabbatical time, I've had the opportunity to rest, grow and be renewed in my faith, in relationship with family and gain a better understating of self and my call to ministry. I am grateful to you for this sabbatical time.

**[Congregation]** We thank the Lord for this time apart, for Pastor Autumn's care and now for this time of returning!

**[Pastor Brian]** I thank God for our shared ministry over the past 8 years. I look forward to resuming our ministry together here at Faith. I am

grateful for Pastor Autumn's leadership while I was away, and your commitment to doing God's work during this time.

Together we pray:

**[Congregation] Eternal God, you fill us with every good thing and your steadfast love endures forever. We thank you for Pastor Brian, his family, and for our life together here at Faith. As we resume our journey together after this Sabbatical time, enfold us back into the life and ministry of this congregation as we do Jesus' work in this community and in the world. Fill us with your Spirit that we will be a blessing to others and each other. We pray that together, as your church, we may be open to your Spirit's leading in the future, to step out in faith to follow where you lead us through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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**HYMN**

*Lift High the Cross*

*ELW 660*

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Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

## THE BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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P Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Together we pray,

**C God of mercy and forgiveness, we confess that sin still has a hold on us. We have harmed your good creation. We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Turn us in a new direction. Show us the path that leads to life. Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

P Beloved of God: your sins are forgiven † and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

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**HYMN OF PRAISE**

**STEP BY STEP**

**WNP 132**

**Oh God, You are my God  
And I will ever praise You  
Oh God, You are my God  
And I will ever praise You  
I will seek You in the morning  
And I will learn to walk in Your ways  
And step by step You'll lead me  
And I will follow You all of my days  
And I will follow You all of my days  
And I will follow You all of my days  
And step by step You'll lead me  
And I will follow You all of my days**

## THE GREETING

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**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

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**P** Together we pray,

**C** **Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## WORD

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### FIRST READING

*Deuteronomy 30:15-20*

<sup>15</sup>See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity.

<sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

<sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The word of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING

*Philemon 1-21*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, <sup>2</sup>to Apphia our sister, to

Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus.

<sup>6</sup>I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. <sup>7</sup>I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup>For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, <sup>9</sup>yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus.

<sup>10</sup>I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup>I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self.

<sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The word of God.                   **Thanks be to God.**

**PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE**

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

## GOSPEL

*Luke 14:25-33*

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

<sup>25</sup>Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

L The Gospel of our Lord.

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

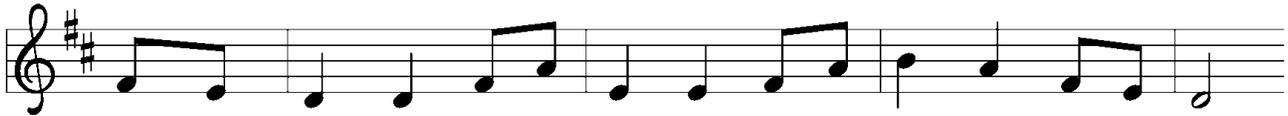
SERMON

Pastor Armen

**PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE**



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";  
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;  
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.  
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.  
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

## 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** As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

*each petition concludes...*

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

**P** Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C** **Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

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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

ELW 884

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

## OFFERING PRAYER

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A Together we pray,

**C Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. 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 stg 3 s144b*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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.

Again, 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**

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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 children who are 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 grape juice to wine, please raise an index finger when the server comes to you.

If you require 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 God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, † one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

C Amen.

HYMN

*Lead On, O King*

ELW 805



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

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**P** Go in peace, Christ is with you.

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

Postlude

### ***Faith's Weekly Announcements***

*Welcome to all of you attending this morning!*

*A special welcome back to Pastor Armen.*

### ***Altar Flowers***

The flowers on the altar this week were given:

- ~ by Jim and Debby Porter in celebration of their anniversary
- ~ in celebration of Pastor Armen's return

### **Next Week**

September 11 is "God's Work Our Hands Sunday," and we are collecting donations for our camper (homeless) ministry this year. If you plan to participate, it would be helpful to have your check, with a notation of "camper ministry" today. This will help us tally the total amount given and announce it next Sunday.

### **September Ladies Luncheon**

The ladies of Faith Lutheran will gather for lunch on Wednesday, September 14, 11:30 am at Paraiso. The restaurant is located on Placida Road. While primarily a Mexican restaurant, Paraiso also offers other items like fish and burgers. The ladies will order from the regular menu. You are encouraged to join us, just sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Be sure to include your phone number so we can reach you if there is a problem. Deadline to be included is next Sunday.

## Can You Help

Cyndy Hoops needs a wheelchair with foot rests for her doctor visit on September 7<sup>th</sup>. If you can provide one, see Pastor Armen today.

## Want to Join the Family?

We will be bringing in new members this month, and would love to have you join us. If you would like to be included, see Pastor Armen today or call Barbra in the church office (941-697-3313).

## Food Pantry

This week the food bank especially needs canned fruit. Please leave your donations in the white container in the narthex.

## WE PRAY FOR...

Gary Wilkins

Tom Jackling

Dave Deitrich

Lou Taylor

Harold Schultz

Bill Linsberg

Chris Hoops

Bob Ash

Jack Myers

Harv Claussen

Cyndy Hoops

Attendance last Sunday: 48

## Serving Today

**Altar Guild:** Linda Hughs

**Lector/ Worship Assistant:** Debby Porter

**Ushers:** Gene & Verna Newlon

## THIS WEEK AT FAITH

<b>Every week day morning</b>	6:30 am	AA meets at church
<b>Monday</b>	8:00 pm	AA meets at church
	<b>Labor Day – Office Closed</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:30 am	Men's breakfast
	8:30 am	Work Crew
	9:00 am	Lutheran Chicks



## **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      Choir Director: Charlene Howe

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**

[www.alivingfaith.org](http://www.alivingfaith.org)

[office@alivingfaith.org](mailto:office@alivingfaith.org)

*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*