

God is love.

1 JOHN 4:16

THIS MEANS EVERYTHING TO US.

WE EXPERIENCE IT.

WE DEPEND ON IT.

WE MIRROR IT.



God is Love

2022-23 School Opening Weekend

August 18, 20 & 21, 2022

LARGE PRINT SERVICE FOLDER

PASTORAL WELCOME

God is Love

M: Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths;

C: guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long (*Psalms 25:4-5*).

M: This is what the Lord says—your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:

C: “I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go” (*Isaiah 48:17*).

M: Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds;

C: tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

M: Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road,

C: when you lie down and when you get up (*Deuteronomy 11:18-19*).

M: Train a child in the way he should go,

C: and when he is old he will not turn from it (*Proverbs 22:6*).

HYMN RESPONSE

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb | 804:1

- 1. I am Jesus' little lamb; ever glad at heart I am,
for my Shepherd gently guides me,
knows my need and well provides me,
loves me ev'ry day the same, even calls me by my name.**

M: “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me”
(*John 10:14*).

CHILDREN: Feed my lambs.

M: “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these (*Luke 18:16*).

CHILDREN: Feed my lambs.

M: “Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (*Matthew 18:4*).

CHILDREN: Feed my lambs.

HYMN RESPONSE

I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb | **804:2**

2. **Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,
into pleasant pastures leads me;
when I thirst, he bids me go where the quiet waters flow.**

M: Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;

C: his greatness no one can fathom.

M: One generation will commend your works to another;

C: they will tell of your mighty acts (*Psalm 145:3-4*).

M: I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things from of old—

C: what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us.

M: We will not hide them from their children;

C: we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord (*Psalm 78:2-4*).

M: May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant

C: brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,

M: equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him,

C: through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen
(*Hebrews 13:20-21*).

HYMN RESPONSE

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb | 804:3

**3. Who so happy as I am, even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended, by his angel host attended,
he shall fold me to his breast, there within his arms to rest.**

M: As God's children, of all ages, he tells us to confess our sins to him. Yes, he knows them, has seen them, and is already aware of them. Yet, he tells us in his Word: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Confess with me:

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love.

M: God's promise is clear. He told us he is faithful and just and will forgive us. And God never goes back on his word. Therefore, as a called servant of Jesus but by the authority which comes from the very throne of God, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Shepherd of Tender Youth | 756:1,4-5

1. **Shepherd of tender youth, guiding in love and truth
through devious ways,
Christ, our triumphant King, we come your name to sing
and here our children bring to join your praise.**

4. **O ever be our guide, our shepherd and our pride,
our staff and song.
Jesus, O Christ of God, by your enduring Word
lead us where you have trod; make our faith strong.**

5. **So now and till we die sound we your praises high
and joyful sing:
infants and all the throng who to your Church belong,
unite to swell the song to Christ, our King!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Timothy 4:1-8

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a

great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. ⁶ For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near.

⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which

the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

HYMN

Lord, Bless Your Word to All the Young | **762:1-2**

- 1. Lord, bless your Word to all the young;
let them, your truth possessing,
declare your praise with heart and tongue,
their faith in Christ confessing.
From birth your firm embrace
has held them in your grace.
Baptized into your name,
redeemed and free from blame,
as your dear children keep them.**
- 2. When faced with pressure, grief, or pain,
when Satan comes alluring,
may their baptismal grace remain
a refuge reassuring.
God's promises are sure;
his mercy will endure.
They shall not be undone
who trust in Christ alone;
God is their mighty Father!**

SERMON

1 John 4:8

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

“In All Things Remember – God IS Love!”

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will 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.

OFFERING

9:30 *Before You I Kneel* | **Faith School Faculty**

Thursday, Saturday, and 7:45 services continue on p. 10 with Prayer of the Church

INSTALLATION 9:30

M: Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ said to his Church: *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

A Christian school is one way we carry out our Lord’s command as we let children come to him and do not hinder them, but rather nurture them with the life-giving Word of God. We do this trusting God’s promise: *“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”*

Mr. Jay Selle has been Called to teach in our Lutheran Elementary School and assist in the daily spiritual strengthening of the children entrusted to our care.

Dear brother in Christ, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church has Called you to serve as a teacher. You have been prepared for this ministry by careful instruction in the Word of God so that you carry out your duties in conformity with that Word. As an ambassador of Christ, you are to teach the pure doctrine of God's Word, to instruct the young in the way of salvation, and always to have in your heart the spiritual welfare of every soul under your care. You are to devote yourself to the meditation and study of the Scriptures. You are to be an example to others in godliness and Christian living, putting no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that the ministry will not be discredited. You are to speak the truth in love, as the apostle Peter reminds us: *"Love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever."* Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. The ability to carry out this calling is not in us, but comes alone from God, as St. Paul reminds the Corinthian Christians: *"Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God."*

M: And so I now ask you, are you willing to apply yourself faithfully to your work and to carry out the responsibilities given to you? If so, answer: I am and I ask God to help me.

Mr. Selle: I am and I ask God to help me.

M: On the basis of your Call and in the name of this congregation, I now install you as teacher at Faith Lutheran School in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. May the Lord lead you in faithfulness, wisdom, and love. May he bless you – and may he bless us – as you labor among us.

EXHORTATION TO THE CONGREGATION

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, you have heard the solemn promise given by the teacher you have Called. I urge you, therefore, to receive Mr. Selle with joy and to keep in mind always what the Word of God expects of you as members of this congregation: Work together with him for our Lord's kingdom so that by your works of service the Body of Christ might be built up. Help him by your word and example. Pray for him continually, that his ministry among you may be greatly blessed and that he may have a cheerful spirit in all his duties. Provide also for his physical needs, for the Lord says, "*The worker deserves his wages.*" Honor and love him as the apostle Peter urges, "*Live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.*"

M: And so, members of Faith congregation I now ask you, in the presence of God: Are you willing to receive this worker as a servant of Christ? Will you show him love and honor, and support him with your gifts and prayers? If so, answer: we will, and we ask God to help us.

C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

PRAYER

M: Let us pray: Almighty God, fountain of all wisdom, we praise and thank you for your goodness in giving us a Lutheran elementary school. Continue to bless our labors here, so that your Word may dwell richly in us and in our children and that your name may be glorified. Give the Holy Spirit to this newly Called teacher and equip him with heavenly wisdom and strength, that he may lead our children to you. Move our students to godliness and obedience and cause them to grow through their instruction in your word, so that they may serve you throughout their lives and finally inherit eternal life. Amen.

CONCLUDING EXHORTATION

M: Go then and take up the work to which you have been called. The Lord bless you and make you a blessing to many, that you may bear fruit, and that your fruit may remain to eternal life.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: God is the source of all wisdom and knowledge. Let us ask him to bless those who seek to learn and their teachers. For students as they begin this new school year, that the Spirit of God may give them the gifts of wisdom and understanding, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Fill us with your wisdom, Lord.

M: For teachers, that they may share their knowledge with gentleness, patience, and concern for their students, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Fill us with your wisdom, Lord.

M: For those who seek knowledge of the things of this world, that they may always pursue God's wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

M: For parents, the first teachers of their children, that their faith and love may be an example to us always, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

M: Lord, we begin this school year in your name and asking your blessing.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

Sun. *What Is This Bread* | 665

I Come, O Savior, to Your Table | 670

(Distribution hymns are printed on last page)

We kindly ask that our visitors read the explanation of our communion practice printed on the communion cards in the pew rack in front of you.

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

M: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing | **930:1-4**

9:30 – sung by children only

- 1. Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.**

9:30 – sung by children & staff

- 2. Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.**

9:30 – sung by children & parents

- 3. Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you;
here his tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.**

9:30 – all sing

- 4. I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace;
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, my children; I will keep you and give you peace.**