# Faith Lutheran Church in Valders

# *Sharing God’s Word; Showing God’s Love; Serving God’s World.*

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**C: Amen.**

P: Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for

 in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld

 Eden’s verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your

 people passed through the sea into freedom’s land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless

 baptismal life. Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus’ death

 and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice

 with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of

 the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**Opening Hymn “Now the Green Blade Rises” #379**

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: Let us pray.

**C: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection,**

 **that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,**

 **who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**First Reading**: Acts 8:26-40

26An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) 27So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” 30So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. 33In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” 34The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 36As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” 38He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 39When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

7Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. 13By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. 15God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 17Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. 18There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 19We love because he first loved us. 20Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. 21The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation** Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. **Page 151**

**Gospel:** John 15:1-8 **C: Glory to you O Lord. (sung)**

[Jesus said:] 1“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 2He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. 3You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 4Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 5I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. 6Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.” P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)**

**Message ~ Pastor Dan Lyman**

**Hymn**  **“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing” vs. 1-4 #389**

**Holy Baptism – Harley Rose Beckman**

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he**

 **rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living**

 **and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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.**

**Passing of the Peace** *(We are conscious of the lingering flu and cold season. You may shake hands, but feel*

 *free to offer your elbow for social distancing. There is sanitizer available in each pew. )*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

P: We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly

 baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of

 grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers

 and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every

 level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or

 seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another,

 for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of

 grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for our Bishop Anne Edison-Albright, our presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, our pastor, and for all the people

 of Faith Lutheran Church. We pray for this community of believers, inspire us with your Holy Spirit and lead us in

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

P: Every year is a year with you Lord. We pray for those who are celebrating their birthday this week: Cambria Behnke,

 James Cain, Keagan Hougen, Marion Orde, Rhys Wilker, Bev Schnell, Addison Spindler, Joan Pritzl, Emma

 Karstaedt, Terra Peterson, Austin McCulley, DJ Schisel, Nicole Spindler, Kim Tan, Stacy Olm, Eric Haupt, Walker

 Ulness, Dominic Hernandez, Lori Bruckner and Rachel Robley. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for all those who are in need of healing, especially: Bev Hildebrandt, Marge Klessig, Larry and Sharon Naidl,

 Judy Jorgenson, Marlene Thomsen, Jim and Jan Reinertson,Harry Kwasny, Ginger Linsmeier, Merle Graf and Wayne

 Allen Huske. Lord you are the Great Physician. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: We remember all those who are currently serving in the military, especially:Daniel Brandl, Matthew Brill, Dylan

 Conrad, Carter Hildebrandt, Andy Schnell and Ethan Tienor. Be their constant companion and bring them safely home

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

P:We name now before you, Lord, those in need of your presence and care \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Help them to know and

 firmly believe that you are with them. God of grace, **hear 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. **Amen.**

**Offering**

**Offertory Response “We Give Thee But Thine Own”** vs. 1 **#686**

**Offertory Prayer**

P: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us

 to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

**C: Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer**

#### Benediction

P: Alleluia! He is risen! **C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ☩ bless you now and always.

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn “On Our Way Rejoicing” #537**

P: Go in the Spirit of Christ to love and serve the Lord!

**C: Sharing God’s Word, Showing God’s Love, and Serving God’s World!**

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**Serving Us Today**

Organist: Devin Zahringer Head Usher: Glenn Otto

Greeter: Mike Zutz Acolyte: Audrey Sorenson

Ushers: Brian and Tammy Brill, Keith Lippert Lector: Lynn Merino

Sound Operator: Loren Ulness Video/Live Stream: Carter Lenzner

Projection: Loren Ulness

**Serving Us Next Week @ 10:30**

Organist: Sue Riesterer Head Usher: Matt Krogh

Greeter: Ariana Herrick Acolyte: Alison Goehring

Ushers: Steve & Ginny Schwoerer, Bob Wigen Lector & Communion: Stefanie Kaderabek

Sound Operator: Loren Ulness Projection: Kolten Schisel

Video/Live Stream: Travis Schisel

**Last Week** – Sunday: 143 Wednesday: 35 Offerings to the Lord’s work: $7,067.90

*A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped with the cleanup day last Saturday. Many hands make light work, and your work was so appreciated!*

The **Women’s Bible Study** will be starting Monday, May 6th at 9:00 AM in the gathering space. Note the change of days from Thursdays to Mondays. For more information, contact Julie Endries (920)973-9881 or Carol Ulness (920)242-2931.

**This morning, we welcome Harley Rose Beckman into God’s kingdom and our congregation through Holy Baptism.** Harley was born to Daniel and Abigail Beckman on December 7, 2023 and her baptismal sponsors are Ben and Elizabeth Roepke. Grandparents are John and Lora Murphy and Brian and Tammy Brill. Great-grandparents are Ralph and Judi Brill and Richard and Linda Menza. Big sister is Hadley. We rejoice at Harley’s rebirth through water and the Word!

**Faith’s Opportunities April 28-May 5**

**Sunday** 10:00 A.M. Fellowship Hour

 10:15 A.M. Sunday School and Inspiration Choir

**Monday** 5:30 P.M. Jazzercise

**Tuesday** 3:00 & 6:00 P.M. Bible Study

**Wednesday** 9:00 A.M. Jazzercise

 6:15 P.M. Worship

 6:30 P.M. Board of Education

 7:15 P.M. Confirmation

**Thursday**  8:00 A.M. Quilting

 5:30 P.M. Jazzercise

**Sunday** 10:15 A.M. Sunday School and 9th grade confirmation (last one)

 10:30 A.M. Worship

Please sign the **thinking of you cards** for our homebound members on the table in the Gathering Space. They look forward to hearing from you.

**Geranium orders for Pentecost Sunday, May 19** are being taken in the Gathering Space until May 1. Plants are $2.50 a pot and red in color.

**April Stewardship is Baptism Quilts**

*Each time someone is baptized they receive a beautiful handmade quilt. These quilts are made by one of our members as a gift on behalf of the congregation.*

Materials needed:

1½ yards of baby appropriate cotton material for top & bottom. Can also be a baby flannel.

1½ yards of batting (either cotton or low loft). Can also be a crib size 45x60 in a bag.

Any cash or gift cards can be given to Christine in the office. Place any items in the Stewardship Cabinet across from the office. Thank you.

It is again rummage sale season.  When out & about, could you be on the look-out for: receiving blankets, baby gowns (hole on the bottom, no feet) and t-shirts (9mo-2T) - NO ONSIES please. I will also need flat fold cloth diapers and diaper pins. All items must be without stains. Thank you for your continued support. – Terry Haupt

**Time to dig out some old photos!**

We are looking for pictures of all your beautiful mothers. It may be of children and their mother, adults and their mother, or just a favorite picture of your mother! Whether she is still with us today or she is a beautiful memory. Please share your mother with us so we can honor her this Mother’s Day during service! You may drop off a hard copy in the office for us to scan into the computer or email us a copy. **Today is the deadline to submit a photo.** Please give to or email Bridget valleskeyb@gmail.com or hand deliver to Christine in the office during normal office hours.

**Sunday School -- May 2024**

Mark your calendars for our final 2 weeks of Sunday School…Sunday May 5th, class will begin at 10:15. Please drop your child off downstairs in their classrooms before heading up to our special service at 10:30am. The children will come up to service to sing a song for you and Pastor Peters, enjoy a Children’s Sermon, and then they will be dismissed back to their classrooms where they will continue to practice their songs for Mother’s Day Service and have a special snack/fun day! Class will end at **11:30** (or the conclusion of service).

Sunday May 12th (Mother’s Day) the children will be singing 3 songs during the 9am service. Please drop your child off downstairs by 8:45am. After they are done, they will return to sit with you. Invite family and friends for this very special day!!! Please don’t forget your change… during the offering time. The kids can help collect a “noisy offering” that will once again go toward the new risers that we bought this spring. They are just short of ½ paid for after the last noisy offering. Your generosity is appreciated!!