# Faith Lutheran Church in Valders

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

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 27, 2022

## **Gathering**

**Welcome and Announcements**

P: We begin our worship in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Let us declare our trust in our loving Creator.

**C: God, your love is the one true constant in our lives. When we are overwhelmed by day-to-day**

 **stresses, you are there to strengthen us, to guide us, and to ease our burdens. We have come to be**

 **renewed by your faithful love. Give us a desire to grow in your Word, to follow Jesus, and to bring**

 **your love to a needy world.**

P: Let us also confess our sins and seek God’s forgiveness.

**C: Lord God, I have not loved you with my whole heart and too often I have neglected to love my**

 **neighbor as myself. I have not helped others when I could have. Forgive the sins of my actions and**

 **inaction, cleanse my heart, and bring me back to you.**

P: God knows our hearts and is always pleased when we come to him in prayer. Let us find joy in the truth of

 God’s deep, abiding love for us, shown in his Son, Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and who rose again so

 we would have the hope and joy of life with him here and forever.

**C: Amen!**

**Opening Hymn “Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”** #527

P: The grace of the 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: Lord God of our salvation, it is your will that all people might come to you through Jesus your Son.**

 **Inspire our witness to him, that all may know power of his forgiveness and the hope of his**

 **resurrection, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!**

**The Holy Scriptures**

**Old Testament Reading:** Jeremiah 31:31 – 34

 “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD.

 “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**New Testament Reading:** 2 Corinthians 5:16 – 21

 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Song “Shout to the Lord”** #821

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 15:1 – 3, 11b – 32

 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

 Then Jesus told them this parable: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

 “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ So he got up and went to his father.

 “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

 “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

 “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

 “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

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

**Message “Declaring Our Independence”**

**Song of Response “Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”** #608

P: Let us confess our faith in our God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—in the words of an African Creed.

**C: We believe in one High God, who out of love created the beautiful world and everything good in it.**

 **He created people and wanted them to be happy in the world. God loves the world, and every nation**

 **and tribe on the earth. We have known this High God in the darkness, and now we know him in the**

 **light. God promised in the book of his Word, the Bible, that he would save the world and all nations**

 **and tribes.**

 **We believe that God made good his promise by sending his Son, Jesus Christ, a man of flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left his home and was always on safari doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching them about God and humanity. Showing that the meaning of religion is love, He was rejected by His people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died. He lay buried in the ground, but on the third day he rose from the grave. He ascended to the skies. He is Lord.**

 **We believe that all our sins are forgiven through him. All who have faith in him must be sorry for their sins, be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God, live the rules of love, and share the bread together in love, announce the good news to others until Jesus comes again. We are waiting for him. He is alive. He lives. This we believe. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

P Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

P: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting your promise to hear us; through Jesus Christ our Savior and

 Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer** 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, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**OFFERING**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**C: Gracious God, Creator of all that exists, and the giver of the gift of life, help us not to think of this time in the service as taking a collection for the needs of the church, but as our offering to You. And may this offering remind us that first, and foremost, we need to offer ourselves to you. We ask this in the name of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Benediction**

**Closing Song “Shine, Jesus, Shine”** #671

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: Sue Riesterer Head Usher: Scott Reinertson

Greeter: Mitchell Zutz Acolyte: Libby Olson

Ushers: Jim Ahrens and Keith Lippert Lector: Ava Ulness

Sound Operator: Carter Lenzner Projection: Luke Evenson

Video/Live Stream: Mike Lenzner

**Serving Us Next Week**

Organist: Peggy Madson Head Usher: Delton Duchow

Greeter: Mitchell Zutz Acolyte: Whitney Ulness

Ushers: Steve and Ginny Schwoerer Lector: Stefanie Kaderabek

Sound Operator: Lucas Spindler Projection: Hunter Spindler

Video/Live Stream: Gage Spindler Communion Aide: Stefanie Kaderabek

**Last Week** – Sunday: 88 Video: 60 Wednesday: 89 Offerings to the Lord’s work: $6,123.00

**Known to have been hospitalized or in need of prayer:**  Kevin Schultz, Marlene Thomsen, Lynn Burzynski, Harry Kwasny, Connie Schisel, Donald Tienor, Lorraine Reindl, Delores Johnson, Ginger Linsmeier, Bob Klessig, Doug Wilson, Jim Loritz, Elling Jones, Merle “Butch” Graf, Wayne Allen Huske.

**Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the following who are serving in the military:** Daniel Brandl, Matthew Brill, Kyle and Dylan Conrad, Corey Evenson, Carter Hildebrandt, Jeff Konz and Andy Schnell. If there are others we should be remembering, please inform the church office.

**Faith’s Opportunities March 27-April 3**

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

**Monday** 6:00 P.M. Televised Worship and Jazzercise

**Wednesday** 5:00-6:00 P.M. Soup & Sandwich Supper in Gathering Space

 6:15 P.M. Worship

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

 6:00 P.M. Jazzercise

**Sunday** 9:00 A.M. Worship

 10:00 A.M. Sunday School and Fellowship Hour

Orders for Easter flowers are being taken today through March 30. Lilies, tulips and daffodils are available. Please see the table in the Gathering Space to place your order. All orders must be in by Wednesday, March 30.

**Soup and Sandwich suppers are being served prior to Wednesday Lenten Services.** This meal is available from 5:00-6:00 in the Gathering Space.  This year's free will offerings will go to Pink Heals.  *Pink Heals is an organization whose mission is to financially and emotionally support women, men and children battling any type of cancer in Manitowoc County. They have directly impacted the lives of over 400 cancer patients in our community and have provided over $310,000 in financial assistance to those in need.* All are invited.

**Heifer International Project by Mitchell Zutz**

Heifer International helps people in poor countries by providing farm animals and farming skills training. This helps raise their standard of living and helps them become more independent. Mitchell’s goal is to raise $650 so we can **provide one heifer and one pig** to a community in need.

**Piggy Banks** are available in the gathering area so you can collect your loose change and dollars during Lent. Let’s support this great project!