



300 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457

*A Congregation of the New England Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Pastor

The Rev. Cathy S. Rohrs

Minister of Music

Mijin Choi

Office Administrator

Robin Aldieri

April 12, 2020

The Resurrection of Our Lord

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34): Christ’s resurrection brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, hear sacred words, and proclaim God’s faithfulness, power, and love. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God’s endless love.

Hidden with Christ

Easter turns the world upside down. It defies our expectations with hiddenness and bluntness: Mary does not recognize the resurrected Jesus (John 20:14), the good news is heralded by an earthquake and terrifying angels and is brought to the women of the church first, rather than to the Twelve (Matt. 28:1-10). The radical reversals prophesied in scripture and revealed in Christ’s life and ministry culminate in the good news we proclaim today: Christ, through death, has triumphed over death. “The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone” (Ps. 118:22).

Easter offers the mystical possibility of transformation in every moment. In this season, what is dying and what is being born? For our communities? For our families? For our world? What is breaking open like a seed to die (John 12:24) so that new life might thrive?

The theme is framed candidly in Colossians: “You have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). In the season of Easter, we are invited to allow old husks to fall away so that Christ’s new life may emerge. This part of the resurrection story is strange, unsettling. We are invited, after all, to share fully in Christ’s death as well as his resurrection (Rom. 6:5; 2 Cor. 4:10-11). Terrifying, but in the mystery of the Holy Spirit’s work in us, we receive it as hope (1 Peter 1:3).

On this Easter day, we are honest about how God is stirring us to transformation, and we may be called to faithfully lament the letting go. Almost simultaneously, as we embody Christ’s resurrection in the present, we celebrate it with great joy (Matt. 28:8). In our desire to be hidden in Christ’s abundant life (John 10:10), we can even name seasons of suffering as Christ’s resurrection emerging (Phil. 3:10).

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

300 Washington Street
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

Pastor, The Rev. Cathy S. Rohrs Minister of Music, Mijin Choi
April 12, 2020 The Resurrection of Our Lord

(Please stand if able, as indicated)

P Presiding Minister **A** Assisting Minister **C** Congregation

Welcome! Peace be with you. While the world is addressing the COVID 19 pandemic, keep your focus on God our Father in heaven who will never leave you nor forsake you. Please do not take any unnecessary risks and wash your hands before you leave your house, when you enter your house, after using the rest room, after touching your face, after touching someone else. Sanitizing your phone is a good idea also. When you feel afraid pray this prayer: "When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you, Lord." (Psalm 56:3)

If you would like to receive Faith Lutheran Church's monthly newsletters, email the church office at churchoffice@faithelcamiddletown.org If you would like to join our Zoom online worship services, please email the church office or call us at 860-347-6068 and leave your name and phone number and we will contact you.

For pastoral emergencies, please text or call Pastor Cathy Rohrs (pronounced "roars") at 717-321-6799.

May God bless you and keep you.

ASSISTING MINISTER: Faith Twining
ZOOM HOST: Steve McDermott

Prelude

Welcome & Greeting

Gathering Hymn: *"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"* ELW #365

- 1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!
- 3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!
- 4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

C Amen.

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

(Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.)

P We give you thanks, O God, O Living One,
for you have created all, and you water the earth abundantly.
Oceans and aquifers praise you. Rivers and streams bless you.

P All life is sustained by you, our Source.

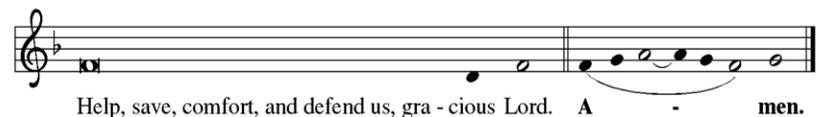
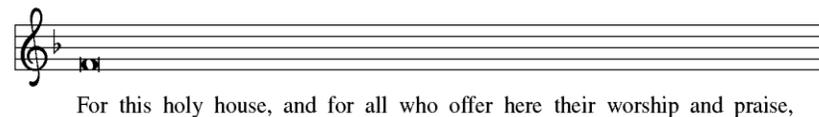
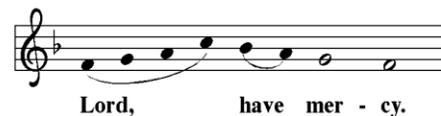
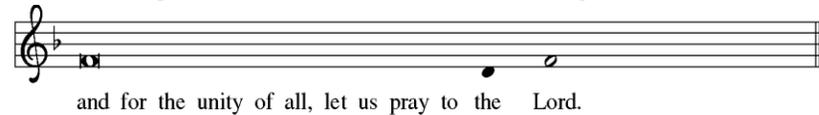
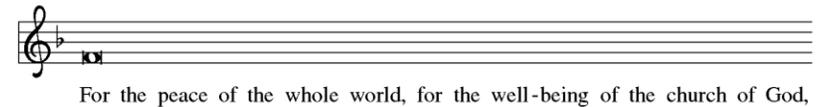
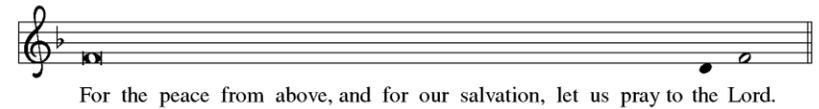
We praise you for Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
who frees us from sin and raises us up to new life.
Here at this font, we touch the river of the water of life,
bright as crystal, flowing through the city of God.
Here, death is washed away forever.
Here, we are grafted into the tree of life,
with leaves for the healing of the world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this assembly,
into this community, and throughout all creation.
Cleanse us from our fears and drown our divisions.
Grant that all may drink of your mercy and peace,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Kyrie

"In peace, let us pray..." ELW pg. 138



Hymn of Praise

“Glory to God...” ELW pg., 213

Refrain



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

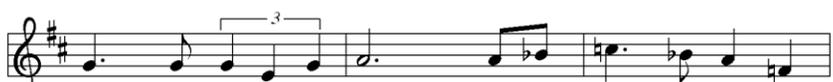


glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

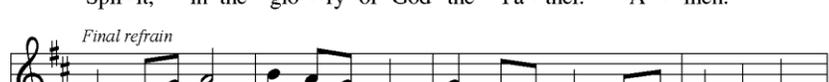


you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

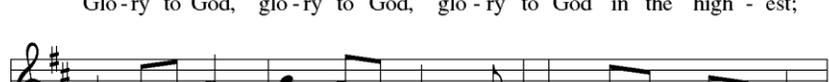


Spir-it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

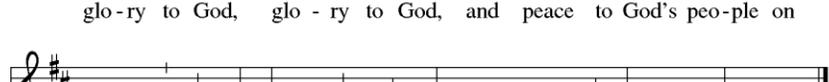
Final refrain



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on



earth, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

P O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

¹Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."**

¹⁴The Lord is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"**

¹⁶The right hand of the Lord is exalted!
The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the Lord.**

¹⁸The Lord indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.**

²⁰"This is the gate of the Lord;
here the righteous may enter."

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³**By the Lord has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Luke 24:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

¹But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body.

⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling

clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles.

¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

P Here ends the Gospel.

C **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!"

ELW #382

1 Christ is risen! Alleluia!
Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia!
Christ is risen from the dead!
Gratefully our hearts adore him
as his light once more appears;
bowing down in joy before him,
rising up from griefs and tears.

Refrain

Christ is risen! Alleluia!
Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia!
Christ is risen from the dead!

- 2 Christ is risen! All the sadness
of our Lenten fast is o'er;
through the open gates of gladness
he returns to life once more;
death and hell before him bending
see him rise, the victor now,
angels on his steps attending,
glory round his wounded brow. *Refrain*
- 3 Christ is risen! All the sorrow
that last evening round him lay
now has found a glorious morrow
in the rising of today.
See the grave its firstfruits giving,
springing up from holy ground;
Christ was dead, but now is living;
he was lost, but he is found. *Refrain*
- 4 Christ is risen! Henceforth never
death or hell shall us enthrall.
We are Christ's, in him forever
we have triumphed over all.
All the doubting and dejection
of our trembling hearts have ceased;
hail the day of resurrection!
Let us rise and keep the feast. *Refrain*

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.

We Offer To God

Apostles Creed

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

**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.**

**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.**

The Prayers of the Church

P Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A Alleluia! God of resurrection, from the very beginning you give the church the gift of women as your witnesses: as preachers, teachers, and leaders. Open our ears to their proclamation this day and always. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Alleluia! God, you are creator. Amid the pandemic, open our eyes to the first fruits of new life around us: to budding trees, nourishing rains, warm breezes, and freshly tilled soil. Inspire our gratitude and renew our commitment to stewardship of the earth. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Alleluia! God, you are reconciliation. You show no partiality among the nations, but instead call all people to the way of peace and health. Renew leaders and advocates for peace with a commitment to the common good and those serving in the armed forces (especially). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Alleluia! We still weep with those who weep, and mourn with those who mourn. Cradle the fearful, the suffering, and the dying, assuring them of your loving presence (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Alleluia! God, you are life. Embolden all who share the baptized life and renew us in faith and in action. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Alleluia! God, you are comfort. Draw near to all who grieve. Refresh us with the promise that you will destroy death and that with all the saints, (especially), we will be made alive forever in Christ. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your son, Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C Amen.

Sharing the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Offering

Opportunities for giving: Please put your offering in our **locked mailbox**, mail your offering to the church, give from your **online banking** app, or use our church **website** www.faithecamiddletown.org to donate by clicking on the “donate here” button.

Musical Offering – Mijin Choi

Offering Song: “*I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me*”

ELW #860

- 1 I’m so glad Jesus lifted me.
I’m so glad Jesus lifted me.
I’m so glad Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.
- 2 Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.
- 3 When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

Text: African American spiritual

The Offering Prayer

A Let us pray.
Generous God,
you feed us with the harvest of the land,
and you provide for our every need.
Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor,
and transform them into a feast that welcomes all,
in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest.

C Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word

P Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C we give you thanks and praise.

P By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

For your Word of life, O God,

C we give you thanks and praise.

P Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of our self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C we give you thanks and praise.

P Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; though Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C Amen.

The 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,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

Sending

Benediction

P May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing.

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

Announcements

Closing Hymn: "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" ELW #367

- 1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds
in praise of love that still abounds:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 Eternal is the gift he brings,
therefore our heart with rapture sings:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Now still he comes to give us life
and by his presence stills all strife.
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
set heart and will on things above
that we conquer through your triumph;
grant grace sufficient for life's day
that by our lives we truly say:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 4 Adoring praises now we bring
and with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father, and our Lord,
to Spirit blest, most holy God,
all the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Dismissal

- A Go in peace. Remember the poor.
C **Thanks be to God.**

PREPARING FOR NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020

ASSISTING MINISTER: TBD
ZOOM HOST: Steve McDermott

Lessons & Psalm

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

UPCOMING EVENTS

(*events are presented via Zoom)

Sunday, April 12	9:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday Worship*
Monday, April 13	7:30 p.m.	AA*
Wednesday, April 15	6:00 p.m.	WTW To Go
Friday, April 17	7:30 p.m.	AA*
	10:00 p.m.	Until the Wheels Fall Off NA*
Saturday, April 18	5:30 p.m.	Basically Lit NA*
Sunday, April 19	9:00 a.m.	Worship*

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Prayer Requests

Worshippers are encouraged to speak the names of loved ones in need of prayer during the Prayer of the Church. You are also encouraged to remember all the following in your prayers. Names can be added to the prayer list by informing the church office once permission has been received from the person being added to the prayer list. O Lord, hear our prayers!

Mission Partners: Genesis Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT and Salem Lutheran Church in Flint, MI.

Mission Supporters: Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, New England Synod Bishop James Hazelwood, Director of Evangelical Mission Kim Bergstrand, and Associate to the Bishop Mark Winsler.

Church Council: Donna Barney (Secretary); Ellen Cassady; Margaret D'Aquila; Mark Diehl (Assistant Treasurer); Heather Karpe; Lee Kozlowski (Vice President); Tom Kugeman (Treasurer); Steve McDermott (President); Pastor Cathy S. Rohrs; Bill Tacke (Financial Secretary); and John Twining.

Prayer Team: Donna Barney, Margaret D'Aquila, Sue Girard, Janet Hayn; Liz Helbig, Heather Karpe, Rick Karpe, Carolyn Krenz, Tom Kugeman and Janet Wright.

Health Issues: Melanie Barney, David Gionfriddo; Fred Rau; Rich Radziwon; Earl Woike; and Giulio Giuffrida as well as our fellow Americans residing in Flint, MI who are still living with inadequate water quality, our NA and AA attendees, ACES families, and the people of United Pentecostal Church.

Life issues: The family and friends of Anthony Matthews, Winnie May, Ed Blasco, Joseph McDermott, Archie Smith, David Albanese, Megan Brancifort, Edie Tyler, Caroline Jarzbek, Ralph Schaffer, Louise Mansueto and Rev. Richard Johnson.

Please remember Faith Lutheran Church in your estate and funeral donation planning.

Purpose of Faith Lutheran Church

God's purpose for our new church is to unite unconditionally, sharing God's love through our growing faith and mission with everyone in the name of Jesus Christ.

Guiding Principles of Faith Lutheran Church

*—Committed to serve
—Forward thinking, future oriented
—Welcoming
—Guided by faith
—Fun, relevant, cool—a place people want to be*

Our Church's Strategic Direction

*Addressing Hunger in Middletown;
Sharing Knowledge;
Serving & Empowering Youth & Seniors;
How? Coordinating assets in our Community to meet needs;
and Communicating about resources & events.*

Contact Information

Website: www.faithelcamiddletown.org

Church Phone: (860) 347-6068

Church Email: churchoffice@faithelcamiddletown.org

The Rev. Cathy S. Rohrs, Pastor

Please call or text Pastor Rohrs - cell phone: (717) 321-6799 or email: pastorcathyrohrs@gmail.com