



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 26, 2020

Change of Heart

The people who hear Peter's testimony and preaching are cut to the heart. The writer of 1 Peter instructs believers to love deeply from the heart. The disciples who encounter the risen Christ notice afterward that their hearts were "burning" within them as Jesus reveals the scriptures and then himself to them in the breaking of the bread. Whether a call to repentance, hope, recognition, or love, people are deeply affected by encounters with the one raised from death to become followers of Jesus' way. They not only turn from their sin and doubt but literally change direction, going back from Emmaus to Jerusalem with renewed courage, faith, and hope. These heart-changing encounters with Jesus fulfill a promise from God for the whole community, from those who have lived a long life to those who are children.

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

300 Washington Street
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

Pastor, The Rev. Cathy S. Rohrs Minister of Music, Mijin Choi

April 26, 2020 The Third Sunday of Easter

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: Lee Kozlowski
ZOOM HOST: Steve McDermott

Prelude

Welcome & Greeting

Gathering Hymn: "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen"

ELW #377

1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain

Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

2 Walking the way, Christ in the center
telling the story to open our eyes;
breaking our bread, giving us glory:
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. *Refrain*

3 Jesus the vine, we are the branches;
life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
gift of the future now flowing to me. *Refrain*

4 Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent:
death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: O grave, be open!
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. *Refrain*

5 City of God, Easter forever,
golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
river of life, saints and archangels,
sing with creation to God the I AM! *Refrain*

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are raised with him to new life.

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,
for in the beginning you created us in your image
and planted us in a well-watered garden.
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.

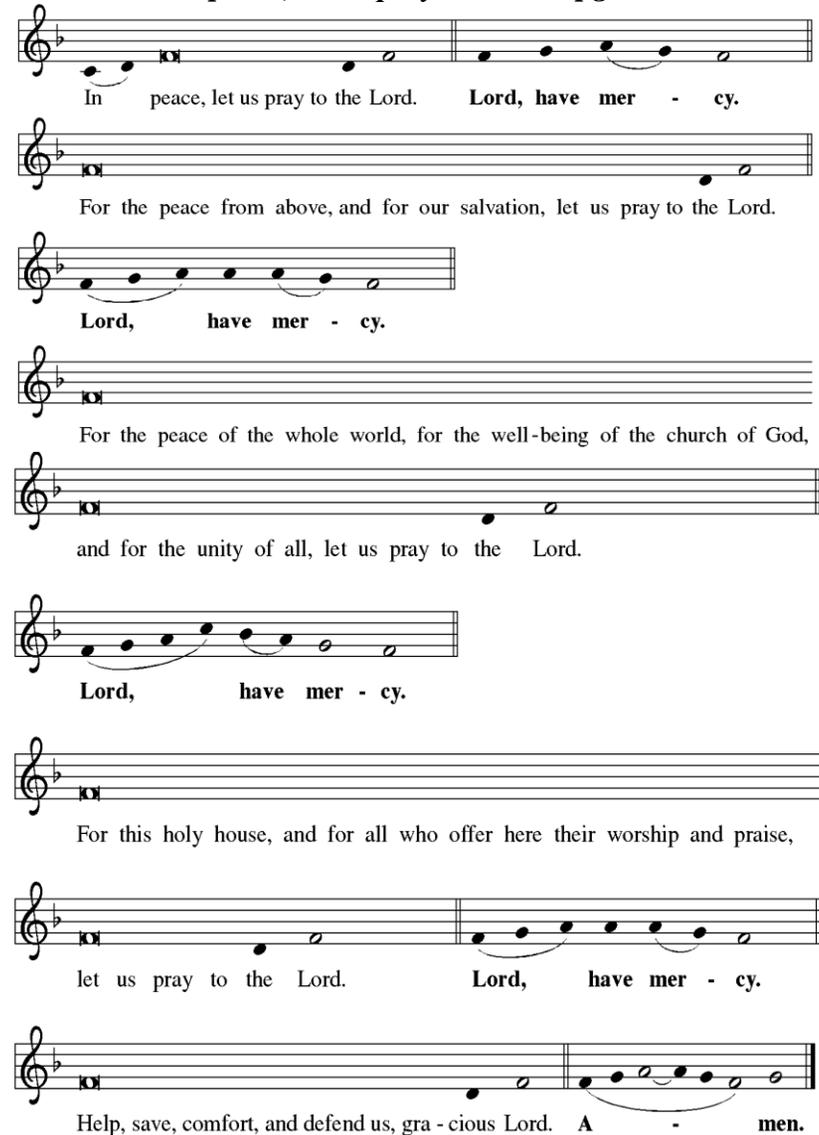
When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.
We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in the font,
and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

Kyrie

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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Hymn of Praise

“Glory to God...” ELW pg., 213

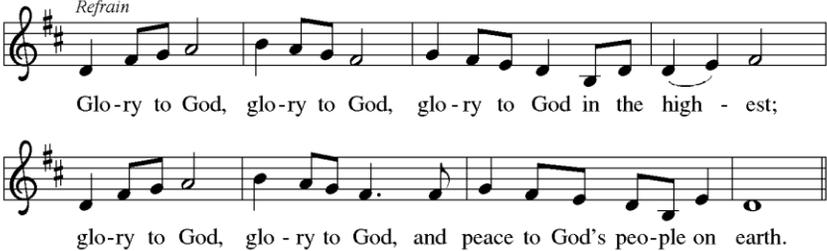
Refrain



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.

Prayer of the Day

☐ Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☑ Amen.

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ³⁶“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.” ³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

☐ Word of God, word of life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

¹I love the Lord, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

²**for the Lord has given ear to me whenever I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴**Then I called upon the name of the Lord:**

“O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”

¹²How shall I repay the Lord
for all the good things God has done for me?

¹³**I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.**

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God's people.

¹⁵**Precious in your sight, O Lord, is the death of your servants.**

¹⁶O Lord, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁷**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the Lord.**

¹⁸I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God's people,

¹⁹**in the courts of the Lord's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

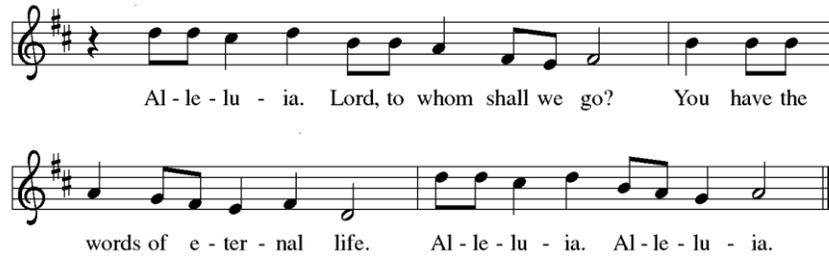
¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. ²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

☐ Word of God, word of life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

☐ The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the Twenty-Fourth Chapter.



The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

¹³Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." ²⁵Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not

necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

☐ Here ends the Gospel.

☑ Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" ELW #674

1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

- 2 Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. *Refrain*
- 3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! *Refrain*

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
Text © 1975 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

We Offer To God

Apostles Creed

**☩ 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

☩ In these days of both sorrow and joy, we are 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 God of the Nations, we pray for those whose hearts are broken and yet are still fervent with love for your gospel, that they are empowered to tell the story of your love in their lives and to show hospitality in response to this love. Lord, in your mercy,

☩ hear our prayer.

A God of Creation, we pray for the end of the coronavirus emergency. We pray that you will empower the scientists and doctors searching for cures and for detection tests. Lord, in your mercy,

☩ hear our prayer.

A God of the Nations, we pray for the broken systems we have inherited and we continue to perpetuate, forgive us. Restrain the nations from fighting over limited resources. Redeem us from cycles of scarcity and violence. Lord, in your mercy,

☩ hear our prayer.

A God of Healing, we pray for all who are sick or lonely or frightened and call upon your name, *especially...* Lord, in your mercy,

☩ hear our prayer.

A God of Provision, fill our Church Council and COVID19 Response Team with your wisdom so they can continue to guide us well through this pandemic. Lord, in your mercy,

☩ hear our prayer.

A God of Salvation, create in our hearts a yearning to rest in your promise of eternal and resurrected life. Give us thankful hearts for those who have died, *especially...* even as we look forward to the hope of new life with you. Lord, in your mercy,

☩ hear our prayer.

P With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our risen savior.

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

☞ 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.
☞ Amen.

Announcements

Closing Hymn:

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

ELW #733

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960

Text © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.
Used by permission.

Dismissal

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

Parts of the service reprinted by permission from Sundays and Seasons, copyright 2014 Augsburg Fortress; from Words for Worship, copyright 2014 Augsburg Fortress; from Lutheran Book of Worship copyright 1978, Augsburg Fortress license #3014-L; from Words for Worship: Year B 2014-2015 copyright 2014, Augsburg Fortress; from Graphics for Worship copyright 1996 Augsburg Fortress license #3016-G. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

PREPARING FOR NEXT SUNDAY, May 3, 2020

ASSISTING MINISTER: Lee Kozlowski
ZOOM HOST: Steve McDermott

Lessons & Psalm

Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

UPCOMING EVENTS

(*events are presented via Zoom)

Sunday, April 26	9:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday Worship*
Monday, April 27	7:30 p.m.	AA*
Wednesday, April 29	6:00 p.m.	WTW To Go
Friday, May 1	7:30 p.m.	AA*
	10:00 p.m.	Until the Wheels Fall Off NA*
Saturday, May 2	5:30 p.m.	Basically Lit NA*
Sunday, May 3	9:00 a.m.	Worship*

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 Winzler.

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: Beverly Radziwon, 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 Ruth Anderson, Beverly Pitkin, Stephanie Wagar, Anthony Matthews, Winnie May, Ed Blasco, Joseph McDermott, Archie Smith, David Albanese, Megan Brancifort.

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.faithecamiddletown.org

Church Phone: (860) 347-6068

Church Email: churchoffice@faithecamiddletown.org

The Rev. Cathy S. Rohrs, Pastor

Please call or text Pastor Rohrs - cell phone: (717) 321-6799 or

email: pastorcathyrohrs@gmail.com