

THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY SERVICE
Faith Lutheran Church
November 20, 2016 – 5:00 p.m.

Welcome in Jesus' name. Please consider using the prelude as a time for meditation and silent prayer. This is the ideal time for quiet preparation, as we come to worship God. Holy Communion is celebrated tonight. All who are baptized into Christ Jesus are invited forward to receive Holy Communion. Those not communing may come forward to receive a blessing. Communion will be continuous. Please proceed forward at the direction of the ushers. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available. Please indicate to the Assisting Minister if this is your preference.

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

***GATHERING HYMN: "All Creatures, Worship God Most High" –**
Hymn 835

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.

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING – Pastor Denise Anderberg

P: Let us give thanks to God for our country and for our president, for ballot boxes, newspaper editorials, and open borders.

C: For all the freedoms we enjoy.

P: Let us give thanks for this vast world, for diplomats, treaties, and compromise.

C: For peace in a world of war.

P: For police officers, streetlights, and concerned neighbors.

C: For safety from fear and harm.

P: Let us give thanks to God for the Scriptures, for creeds and confessions, for the songs and hymns of God's people.

C: For all good things in our heritage of faith.

P: Let us give thanks to God for a marvelous creation, a redeeming Son, and a transforming Spirit.

C: For all the benefits of our salvation.

P: Let us give thanks to God for purple and orange sunsets, bright red flowers, great gray elephants, and the vast blackness of space.

C: For all the wonders, God, of your creative mind.

P: Let us give thanks to God for Mozart, Michelangelo, and Milton, for pianos, paint brushes, and pencils.

C: For all the wonders of our creative minds, made in your image, O Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to God for Thanksgiving turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie.

C: For the abundance of food that sustains our bodies.

P: Let us give thanks to God for soft beds, warm fires, familiar chairs, and open windows.

C: For the abundant comfort of our homes.

P: Let us give thanks to God for cars that run, brand-new shoes, and long, hot showers.

C: For God's goodness that flows above and beyond our needs.

P: Let us give thanks to God for healthy immune systems, for gifted doctors and nurses, for the miracle of science.

C: For the strength and health of our bodies.

P: Let us give thanks to God for crossword puzzles, learning foreign languages, and the physics that hold our universe in balance.

C: For healthy, strong minds.

P: Let us give thanks to God for newborn babies, pesky little brothers, wise grandmothers, favorite uncles, loving parents, and fresh fiancées.

C: For the families that shaped our lives.

P: Let us give thanks to God for men and women with dark skin and light skin, freckles and curls, pug noses and beards, graceful limbs, and ample laps.

C: For all the beautiful diversity of people, all over the world, who make up the one family of God, bound together in Jesus Christ.

P: For all these things, we give thanks and praise to God.

C: Amen

CHOIR: "With Joyful Thanksgiving" by Nancy Price and Don Besig

Psalm 100 (*To be read responsively*) – Pastor William Runaas, Jr.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

**Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.**

Know that the LORD is God.
It is he that made us, and we are
his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.**

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

*The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

- Intern Matthew Segert

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 6:25—35

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: Intern Matthew Segert

Silent time for reflection

"It is only with gratitude that life becomes rich." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

***HYMN: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" – Hymn 858**

***CONFESSION OF FAITH – APOSTLES CREED** - Pastor Denise
Anderberg

P: Using the words of the Apostles Creed, let us confess our holy faith:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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**

***PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING (*No monetary offering will be collected this evening*)

COLLECTION OF CANNED FOOD OFFERING

***OFFERTORY: "We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing" –**
(*See insert*)

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** (*Spoken*) – Pastor William Runass, Jr.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

HYMN: "For the Bread Which You Have Broken" – Hymn 494

COMMUNION

Hymns Sung during Holy Communion:

Hymn 471: "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Hymn 479: "We Come to the Hungry Feast"

Hymn 490: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

(You many remain seated)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER – Pastor Denise Anderberg

P: Let us pray.

O God, the host at every meal, at this table you spread out a feast for all peoples, the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Send us from this banquet to invite others into these good things, to let justice roll down like waters, and to care for the least of our sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and our Savior.

C: Amen.

HYMN: *Let All Things Now Living

(Congregation stands and joins choir on the third verse)

**♩ Let all things now living A song of thanksgiving
To God the Creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
Who guideth us on to the end of our days.**

**His banners are o'er us, His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
'Til shadows have vanished And darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.**

***BLESSING** – Pastor Denise Anderberg

P: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts
and your minds in Christ Jesus.

C: Amen

***DISMISSAL** – Pastor Denise Anderberg

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Ringing of the Bell

Postlude

Participants:

Presiding Minister

Pastor William Runaas, Jr.

Assisting

Pastor Denise Anderberg

Intern Matthew Segert

Pianist

Rachel Boussetot

Choir Director

Diane Christensen

Acolytes

Ryan Dick

Ushers

Marilyn Schau, Larry Schau

Diane Wilhelm, Herb Wilhelm

Following the worship service, you are invited to the dining hall for food and fellowship. If you are able, please help carry out the canned goods and help clean up. Thank You!

*"If the only prayer
you said
in your whole life was
'Thank You'
that would suffice."*

- Meister Eckhart

Thanks Giving

by Lois Wessels

Thanks for life for each of us.
Thanks for ears to hear the sounds,
Of birds and bees and wind in trees.
Thanks for eyes to see this world
Filled with family and friends.
Thanks for laughter and for tears
When we need to make amends.
Thanks for always being with me,
To help me give myself to others.
With your guidance from above,
To share the simple joy of living,
Always grateful for your love.
Thank you for the trees and flowers,
That color the beauty of this earth.
I thank you every single day
For the moment of my birth.
This, Oh Lord, is my Thanksgiving.
For all that I am, all that I will be,
Thank you Lord for loving me.