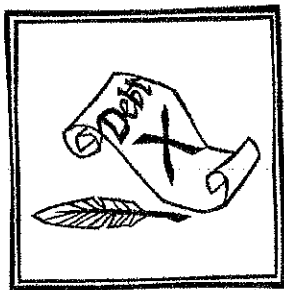


Lord, how often
should I forgive?

MATTHEW 18:21





Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday, September 16, 2023 ~ 5:00 pm

Sunday, September 17, 2023 ~ 9:00 am

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

PRELUDE

"These Things Are True of You"

Jubilation

GATHERING

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Round the Table"

vv. 1 & 2

Larry Olson
Hans Peterson

♩ = 86

C F C Am G

Come to-gether 'round the ta - ble. Come and taste the won - der,

C F C Am F G C

a healing touch and a deep connec-tion from the liv-ing cen-ter of it all.

Last time Fine F C Dm7 C/E

Seek-ing mean-ing on the run you try and save the day.
 Bring a friend or en - e - my or one you hold or blame.
 Hear cre - a - tion groan for life. Will hate and hun-ger cease?

F C Am F

But all is read - y will you come? Love in - vites the way.
 With each oth - er we are one. here in Je - sus' name.
 In the roar of vi - o - lence the world cries for peace.

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✠ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,

you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"I Need You"

D F#m/C# Bm7 D/A
 Lord, look up-on my need. I need.

3 Em7 G/A A/C# D F#m/C#
 — You, — I need — You. — Lord, have mer-cy now — on

6 Bm7 Em7 B/D# Em7
 me. For-give me, — O Lord, — for-give me —

9 Em7/A 3rd time to Coda 1. D G/D 2. D A/C#
 and I will be clean. — clean.

13 Bm Em7 A D A/C#
 O — Lord, You are fa-mil - iar with my ways;

15 Bm7 E7sus E7 Asus A Bm7 Em7
 there is noth-ing hid from You. O — Lord, You know the num-

18 A D A/C# Bm7 E7sus E7 A G/BA/C# D.C. al CODA
 - ber of my days. — I want to live my life for You.

CODA
 21 D G/D D
 clean. —

GREETING

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 103:1-13

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**

³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;

⁴**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

- ⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**
- ⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
- ⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**
- ⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.
- ¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**
- ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
- ¹²**As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**
- ¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

A reading from Romans.

- ¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables.
- ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.
- ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.
- ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.
- ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.
- ¹¹For it is written,
"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."
- ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Help Us O Lord"

♩ = 90

Help us O Lord to hear your word. O-pen our hearts to feel your word. Give us the strength to live your word each day.

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GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you

pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

ANTHEM

"Beautiful Savior"

Jubilation

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Each prayer petition will conclude, "Lord, in your mercy,"
The congregation responds, "hear our prayer."

SHARING OF THE PEACE

THE OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

"Help Us Oh Lord"

vv. 1 & 3

♩ = 108

Em C D Em

Help us, oh Lord, to do what is right and wise.
Teach us to live your king - dom come here on earth.
of - fer in joy what you first to us gave:

Am C D

Help us to see our bro - thers' needs that are in dis - guise.
 O - pen our lives to treat each per - son with e - qual worth.
 Our - selves, our time, the ver - y things that our hands have made.

Em B7

Re - Help us, oh Lord, to feel the
 mind us we're fam - i - ly; we're
 ceive them all now, this is our

C D Em B (last time end on Em)

pain bound in our sis - ters' eyes.
 prayer by bap - tis - mal birth.
 in in Je - sus' name. We

OFFERING PRAYER

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table,
 that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
 Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name.

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

COMMUNION SONG

"Lamb of God"

♩ = 100

E^b (D) (guitar: capo 1) $B^b m/G$ (Am/F#) A^b (G)

Lamb of God,
Bread of Life,
Prince of Peace,
Lamb of God,

E^b/G (D/F#) $A^b Maj7$ (GMaj7) $Gm7$ (F#m7)

you take a - way the sin of the

1, 2, 3 $C7$ (B7) E^b (D) F (E) F7 (E7) B^b7 (A7)

world: have mer - cy on us.

4 $C7$ (B7) E^b (D) F (E) F7 (E7) B^b7 (A7) E^b (D)

world: grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

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DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we invite all present to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is present in the gifts of bread and wine are welcome at the Lord's table. Indoors, the ushers will direct you to come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread from the pastors. Outdoors, you may come to receive communion whenever you are ready. Both

COMMUNION ANTHEMS	"Do This in Remembrance of Me"	Jubilation
	"Nothing But the Blood"	

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.
Amen.

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

CHORUS

C G F G

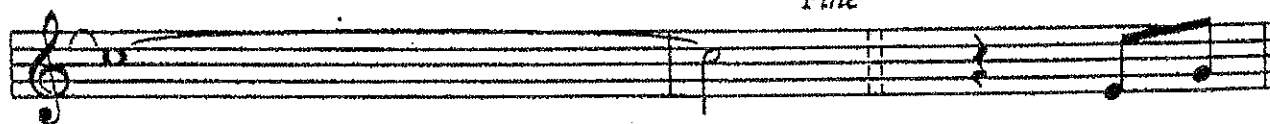
As high as the heav-ens are a-bove the earth,

so great is the Fa-ther's love;

As far as the east is from the west,

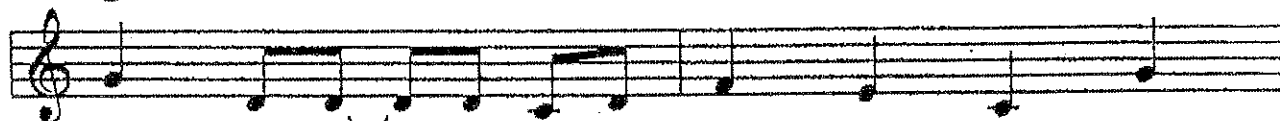


Fine

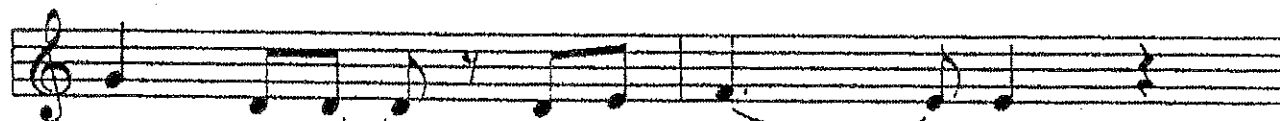


For His

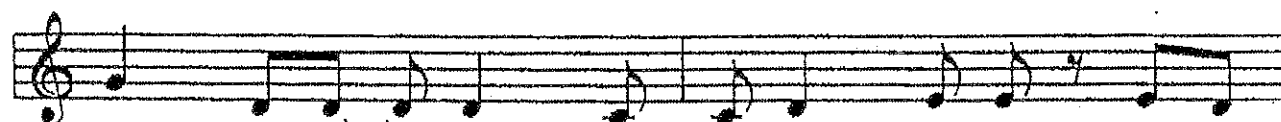
11 **VERSE**



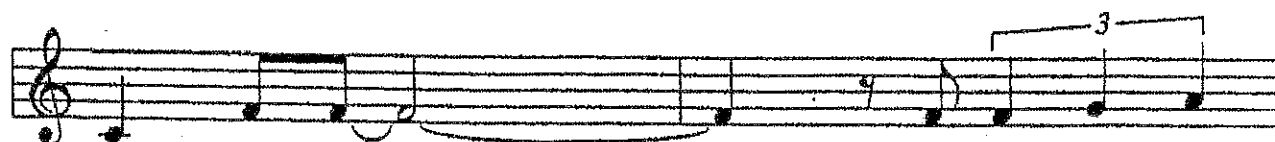
an - ger lasts on - ly a mo - ment, but His



fa - vor lasts for a life - time;

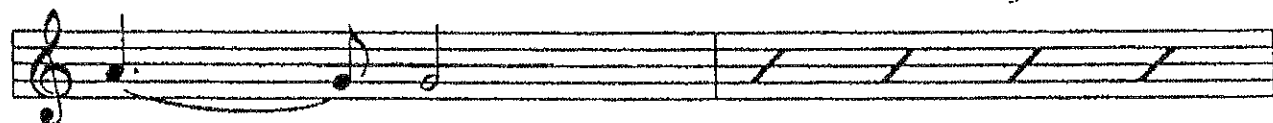


Weep - ing may re - main for a night but re -



joic - ing comes, it comes in the

D.C. al Fine



morn - ing.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.
Thanks be to God.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SHARE IN OUR WORSHIP

SATURDAY	5:00 pm Worship Service
Ushers	Dan & Karen O'Flaherty
Reader	Gretchen Small
Communion Assistant	Joni King
Counters	Mike & Rita Smith

SUNDAY	9:00 am Worship Service
Ushers	Shari Eller & Bill Wittkowski
Reader	Nina Looney
Communion Assistant	Nancy Meyer
Counters	Carol Marten & Kristy Looney

Choir Director	Susan Becker
Organist	Teri Wittkowsi and Susan Becker
Jubilation Leader	Neal Becker

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God's Immeasurable Mercy

Forgive seventy-seven times? Jesus' instruction seems, at best, all but impossible and, at worst, dangerous. Sometimes the Bible has been used to excuse abuse in the name of mercy, but Jesus doesn't mean to condone suffering for its own sake or to commit us to endlessly enduring hurt and harm. Instead, Jesus wants to orient Peter and us to the all-encompassing nature of forgiveness. Seven days make the week complete and whole. Grace also extends to us the promise of wholeness, and yet forgiveness that comes from the heart is immeasurable.

Forgive seventy-seven times. The number suggests that forgiveness isn't to be doled out or strictly accounted for, but rather is endless. Forgiveness is not a singular event as much as it is a process. We are amazed and rightly inspired when some Christians are able to so quickly forgive others even the most horrendous crimes, like the Amish community after the West Nickel Mines School shooting in 2006, or some families of the Emanuel Nine in 2015. But today's gospel does not preclude the rest of us. Probably for most of us, forgiveness is much more the destination we are journeying toward than the place at which we've already arrived. Jesus' encouragement to Peter can encourage us as well.

Every day God calls us back to the everlasting promises made in baptism. Our participation in the church's worship life assures us that forgiveness is not something we endeavor to do alone, but rather is a lifelong journey in which we can turn to one another for support. Every Sunday at Jesus' table, we are freely given the bread of mercy and cup of forgiveness. God's grace sets all of us free to extend that same mercy to others. God's forgiveness erases every debt.

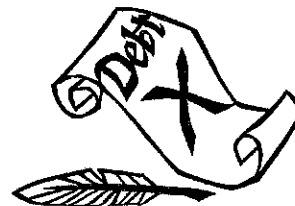
FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor Carrie La Plante Pastor Heather Geest

Worship: Saturday 5 pm Sunday 9 am

Telephone: (563) 285-4501 Email: faitheldridge@netins.net

GRACE - GIFTED FAITH - LIFTED
CALLED TO SHARE, SEEK AND SERVE CHRIST.



The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 16 & 17, 2023

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Today we gather to celebrate God's love and grace as revealed to us through Jesus Christ. For those that might be interested in knowing more about the ministries and activities of the congregation there are some printed materials available for you to take. The materials are located on the counter just inside the east entrance of this building. You can also find more information through the church website at faithlutheraneldridge.com.

CHILDREN are always welcome in worship. Special children's bulletins are available for their use.

VISITOR? CHANGE OF ADDRESS? INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES? HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST? Please feel free to complete the information card located in front of you next to the hymnals and pass the card to the outer aisle during announcements and an usher will pick them up during the call to worship.



The Flowers on the altar are given by Carol Marten in loving memory of her husband, Jerry Marten, on their wedding anniversary date.

If you are interested in providing altar flowers, there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. You may also sign up using the link on our web site, www.faithlutheraneldridge.com



Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people and all who are in need in our prayers.

Ron McFate	Duane Miller	Sue Vogel	Barb Conklen
Sally Puls	Henry Storjohann	Andrew Arp	Glen
Jensen Spencer	Dan Anderson	Kim Pierce	Kelly
Ann Kuehl	Pam White	Jeanette Myers	Vaughn
Madison Russo	Ed Stoltz	Bill Lind	Mary Lou
Janet Bowman	Jerry Schvien	Becky Rehn	Bob
Kathy Stoltz	Judy Knoer	James Deeds	Shawn
Steve Mixdorf	Melissa Alden	Pam Lueder	Don

Ushers and those interested in becoming Ushers...

Our Church Council recently adopted a security plan. The Ushers have a important role in the safety and security of our church. Part of the plan requires quarterly training for the Ushers. The 2nd Training will be held on **Sunday, September 17th @10:15 am** in the Sanctuary. Please plan to attend! **Contact Tom Bauer at (563) 505-5776 for more information.**



CHURCHES UNITED MEAL—Is food your love language? Help serve those in need. Faith is partnering with Churches United to serve a meal on **Tuesday, September 19th** at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport. The Fellowship Committee has already selected the menu. Now we need your help! Check the bulletin board to see what ingredients to donate or sign up to help prepare and serve the food. We hope to see you at this meaningful food ministry.

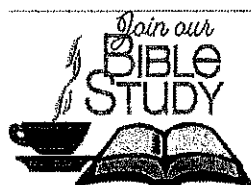
MUSIC & MINISTRY

Holy scripture is described as "The Word of God". In the same fashion, sacred music has been called "The Voice of God". Our music ministry is an avenue through which participants can praise the Lord, and bless their church and each other by offering their musical gifts during our weekly worship services. You are warmly invited to be a part of the music and worship ministry here at Faith.

People of Praise choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 20, at 6:00 p.m., in the sanctuary. All singers, high school age and up, are welcome to sing with us. No experience is necessary!

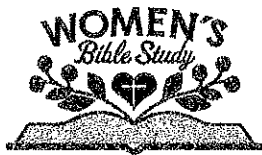
Our chime choir, Resounding Joy, will begin their rehearsals on that same evening at 7:10 p.m., also in the sanctuary. We welcome all those who are high school age and up, and who are able to read music, to be a part of this group. Come join the fun and fellowship as we make music together!

If you have questions, feel free to contact our Music Director, Sue Becker, 386-2896, or susan.becker1995@gmail.com.



Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

Please join us for a weekly study of the scripture together on Tuesday afternoons at 1:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you!



All women are invited to join other Women of Faith for a bible study on Thursday, September 28 at 6:30 pm in the Gathering area. We hope to see you there!

New Members Class



Join us **October 1 at 11:15 am** for a simple meal and conversations to help us get to know each other. If you plan on attending, please email (faitheldridge@netins.net) or call the office at (563) 285-4501 . New Member Welcome will be during the worship services on the weekend of **October 14th & 15th**.

North Scott Homecoming Parade Thursday, October 5th @ 5:15 pm

Homecoming
Parade Tailgate



The North Scott Clergy Group will be hosting a Tailgate Party at Faith Lutheran Church beginning at 5:15 pm on Thursday, October 5, before the North Scott Homecoming Parade. Everyone in the community is invited to come and join us for hot dogs, chips, water, and other treats, so please come and invite your friends to come for some food and to enjoy the parade from our lawn. We look forward to celebrating the Lancers together!



SAVE THE DATE - 50th ANNIVERSARY DINNER OCTOBER 14th

Attention all members who have (or would have) celebrated 50 years or more of marriage! The fellowship team will be honoring you with dinner and fellowship on Saturday, October 14th after the 5 pm church service. Invitations will not be sent out, so please make

sure to RSVP by either signing up on the bulletin board or by calling the church office (563-285-4501) by October 7. If you have questions, please contact Deanna Nielsen at deannasnielsen@gmail.com or 370-7444.



WORSHIP!

We need communion assistants, readers and ushers weekly. Please signup to assist in worship any way that you are able. ***Please consider volunteering and***

sign up on the bulletin board to help our Faith Family heads complete the worship schedule. Thank you! *Nina Looney, Worship & Music Team Leader*



5pm: 30, 9am: 86, Online:38, Total: 154

THIS WEEK'S GLANCE



Saturday, September 16	5:00 pm	Jubilation Worship In Sanctuary & Online
Sunday, September 17	9:00 am	Jubilation Worship In Sanctuary
	10:00 am	Fellowship Hour
	10:15 am	Sunday School
	10:15 am	Usher Training
Monday, September 18	<i>Office Closed</i>	
Tuesday, September 19	9:00 am	Quilting
	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Food Pantry
		Churches United Meal
Wednesday, September 20	5:00 pm	Confirmation Meal
	5:30 pm	Confirmation Conversations
	6:00 pm	People of Praise
	7:00 pm	Youth Group
	7:10 pm	Resounding Joy
Thursday, September 21	6:30 pm	Church Council Meeting
Friday, September 22	9:30 am	Food Pantry
	5:00 pm	Wedding Rehearsal & Rehearsal Dinner
Saturday, September 23	3:00 pm	Wedding
	5:00 pm	Worship In Sanctuary & Online
Sunday, September 24	9:00 am	Worship In Sanctuary
	10:00 am	Fellowship Hour
	10:15 am	Sunday School



Pastor Carrie and Pastor Heather are available for Pastoral Care, but we need your help to know when and where that is needed. Please contact us at the church office **Tuesday thru Friday, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm** at **(563) 285-4501**. **For after-hour emergencies**, please contact **Pastor Carrie** at **(641) 275-1326** or **Pastor Heather** at **(563) 639-9606**.