

Weekly Schedule

Every Sunday online worship & printable bulletins

available at faithlilacway.org

(After the 9:30 service has streamed, there may be a slight delay)

Sunday, April 21st Blessing of the Animals

8:30 AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Worship

10:30 AM Treats and Talk

Tuesday, April 23rd

10:00 AM Staff Meeting

2:00 PM Bible Study at Robbins Way

Wednesday, April 24th

10:00 AM Contemplative Prayer

10:30 AM Bible Study

3:30 PM Faith Education

6:00 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Friday, April 26th

Office Closed

Sunday, April 28th

8:30 AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Worship

10:30 AM Treats and Talk

7:00 PM Book Club in the Library

Give
Online



FAITH-LILAC WAY
LUTHERAN CHURCH



FAITH-LILAC WAY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

5530 42ND AVENUE NORTH

ROBBINSDALE, MN 55422

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Sunday Worship

April 21, 2024

Blessing of the Animals



Welcome to Worship

Children are welcome in worship at FLW!

The congregational speaking parts are printed in bold.

All who believe are welcome to commune. You are invited to come forward to receive communion (wine is red and grape juice is white) and bread or a gluten free wafer - or you may pick up a communion kit (chalices filled with grape juice and gluten free wafers) and receive it in your pew.

Prelude

Welcome and Sharing of Peace

Gathering Song

This is My Father's World

ELW 824

This is my Father's world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world;
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world;
he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me ev'rywhere.

This is my Father's world;
oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world;
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let heaven ring;
God reigns, let earth be glad!

Confession and Forgiveness

Creator God, in the beginning, your Spirit moved over the deep; unfolding new life daily.

Darkness and light: **you called them good.**

Skies, lands, and seas: **you called them good.**

The earth and all that fills it-plants and rocks,

Upcoming Summer Events

May 2nd-5th Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly/Elect a New Bishop

May 8th The Gathering Place on the Church Lawn 6:00pm

May 26th Vicar Karen's Graduation 3:00pm Central Lutheran Church

June 9th Cherish All Children 5K Walk/Run 11:00am

June 12th The Gathering Place on the Church Lawn 6:00pm

June 19th Wildfire Every Meal Fundraiser at House of Hope 5:30pm

July 10th The Gathering Place on the Church Lawn 6:00pm

July 14th Whiz Bang Days Parade

August 14th The Gathering Place on the Church Lawn 6:00pm

August 21st Big Band Bash 6:00pm (tentative)

September 9th Robbinsdale Meet & Greet 5:00pm

September 11th The Gathering Place on the Church Lawn 6:00pm



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today! Blessing of the Animals April 21st 9:30am Worship

Furry or feathered family members receive a special pet blessing as we celebrate all of God's creatures! All leashed or caged pets are welcome!

Electronic sign?

During the April 15th Council Meeting, the existing and needing to be replaced in the near future FLW sign on 42nd was a topic of discussion. Do we replace it with another like sign or as almost all churches in the area have done, should FLW go electronic? The council decided to explore the option of an electronic sign. Interested in being part of the conversation and/or research? Contact Dave Fernelius.

Mission of the Month: Small Sums

Small Sums is our April Mission of the Month. Since opening its doors in 2005, Small Sums has outfitted thousands of individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness with the work gear, tools, training, and transportation they need to start a new job. Innovative in their simplicity, Small Sums help folks get licenses, training, transportation, and other necessary items to get to their first and next paycheck. Small Sums mission is to remove these kinds of barriers that keep them from starting a job they've already secured.

To support this ministry, please make a donation to our April Mission of the Month. If writing a check, make the check out to FLW and write Small Sums in the memo line. If donating online, choose the Mission of the Month option.

Bible Study at Robbins Way

On Tuesdays at 2:00pm, all are welcome to join Pastor or Vicar for an hour-long Bible Study with our neighbors at Robbins Way. Enter the building on the Faith Lilac Way side of the building.

Interested in Serving on the Worship Committee?

Do you love worship? Do you have ideas about how we worship at FLW? Do you wish we did something in worship that we aren't? Do you want to see worship change? Stay the same? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please see Pastor Pam. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 14th at 7:00pm in the library.

Interested in becoming a member of Faith Lilac Way?

We'd love to have you join us! For more information please contact Pastor Pam. pas-torpam@faithlilacway.org 763.537.4523

The finned, the feathered, the furry: **you called them good.** Yet we have failed to draw from that goodness in care for God's creation. **Forgive us, God, for the ways we have exploited earth and its creatures.**

We long for new relationships with God's creation that has been entrusted to us.

Help us, God, to make a new community with all that lives alongside us.

May the merciful God who calls us to tend earth and all its creatures, Deepen our knowledge of creation's interweaving, so that our lives are shaped in wholeness and peace with all living things; in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Greeting

The joy of our Lord Jesus Christ, the compassion of God, and the creative power of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise *Praise and Thanks and Adoration* ELW 783

Praise and thanks and adoration,
Son of God, to you we give,
for you chose to serve creation,
died that sinners all might live.
Dear Lord Jesus, guide my way;
faithful let me day by day
follow where your steps are leading,
find adventure, joys exceeding!

Hold me ever in your keeping,
comfort me in pain and strife;
through my laughter and my weeping,
lift me to a nobler life.
Draw my fervent love to you;
constant hope and faith renew
in your birth, your life and passion,
in your death and resurrection.

Prayer of the Day

Creator God, **your first covenant of mercy was with every living creature. When Jesus came to earth, the waters of the river welcomed him, the heavens opened to greet him, and the animals of the wilderness drew near as his companions. May we who are washed into new life with him provide care and justice for this planet and all living things, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Lesson Genesis 1:1-5, 10-12, 20-21, 24-28, 31, 2:7-8, 18-19 (NRSV)

The lesson is from Genesis, the 1st and 2nd chapters.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. The Lord GOD took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the Lord God

Blessing

Compassion, creativity, and joy are ours through Jesus Christ. May the Holy Spirit move us to preserve and enhance life on Earth, giving clear witness to the life-giving purpose of our Creator.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in grace, grow in faith, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgements

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Public domain music: "This Is My Father's World" words by Maltbie Babcock, music by Franklin L. Sheppard. "For the Beauty of the Earth" words by Foliott S. Pierpoint; music by Conrad Kocher.

Worship Leaders

- PastorPastor Pamela Stalheim Lane
- Intern Pastor Vicar Karen Peterson
- Music DirectorAnn Marie Skoglund-Anderson
- Music.....Chancel Choir
- Lector.....Debbie Bren
- Communion Assistant.....Colleen Foster
- UsherRick Anderson
Larry Kuder
- Altar Guild.....Brenda Thompson
- Streaming.....Rory Joygaard
Tommy Thompson



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.**

Announcements

Sending Song *God of the Fertile Fields*

God of the fertile fields,
shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:
forth from your bounteous hand
come gifts your love has planned,
that all in ev'ry land
be clothed and fed.

We would be stewards true,
holding in trust from you all that you give;
help us in love to share,
teach us like you to care
for people ev'rywhere,
that all may live.

As grows the hidden seed
to fruit that serves our need, so your reign grows.
Let all our toil be used,
no gift of yours abused,
no humble task refused
your love bestows.

God of the countryside,
dear to the Christ who died to make us one:
we pledge our lives anew
in faithful love to you.
Guide all we say and do.
Your will be done.

formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104:24, 25, 27,28 and 30 (NRSV)

How manifold are your works, O Lord!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,
living things both small and great.

All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.

You give it to them; they gather it;

you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;

and so you renew the face of the earth.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord;

Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

Gospel John 1: 1-4, 10-13 (NRSV)

The gospel according to John the 1st chapter.

Glory to you O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Vicar Karen Peterson



Hymn of the Day

Touch the Earth Lightly

ELW 739

Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster—
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses, and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us,
using us gently, and making us one.

Creation Creed

**We believe that God creates all things,
renews all things, and celebrates all things.
We believe the earth is a sanctuary,
a sacred planet filled with God's presence,
a home for us to share with all creatures.
We believe every creature joins us in praising God.**

**We believe that God became incarnate
as a part of the earth, Jesus Christ,
that he lived and breathed and spoke among us,
suffered and died on a cross
for all human beings and for all creation.
We believe that the risen Jesus Christ
fills the whole creation,
reconciling all things to God,
renewing all things.**

**We believe the Spirit renews life in creation,
groans in empathy with every suffering creature,
and waits with us for the rebirth of the whole creation.
We believe that with Christ we will rise
and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation,
reconciled, restored, and renewed.**

Prayers of the People

...Risen Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection....through Jesus Christ,
our risen Lord. **Amen.**

Offering

O That I Had a Thousand Voices

Mentzer and König

Offering Response

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

Offertory Prayer

God, our Creator, **through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our thanksgiving and as a sign of our concern for those in need, including all our fellow creatures on planet earth. Amen.**

Blessing of Animals

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon all these animals. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy. Grant the animals health and peace. Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

People are invited to come forward with their animal or a picture of their animal.

God is the source and loving sustainer of all that lives—of species endangered as well as those newly discovered and named. Called as we are to wisely care for this diverse web of life, let us again offer ourselves as advocates, donors, and active stewards, being reverent and mindful toward all creation. Water, earth, and sky are home to us all. We accept God's call, in the name of the Good Shepherd. **Amen.**