

The Season of Pentecost  
August 25, 2024

Opening the  
**book of faith**



*Le Mars, Iowa*

**[www.livingfaithlemars.com](http://www.livingfaithlemars.com)**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

***Worship together at 11:00 a.m.***



LFLE contact: Kay Michaelson 712-540-5368  
Pastor David Halaas 701-430-3393

**We gather for worship.**

**Welcome! Announcements**

**Hymn #1084** *“O Christ, Surround Me”*

**Page 29 - Confession and Forgiveness**

**Page 31 – Prayer for God’s Mercy** *“Kyrie”*

**Page 31 – Song of Praise** *“Glory to you”*

**Prayer of the Day**

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.**

Let us pray together:

**Holy God, your word feeds your people with life  
that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us  
in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil,  
we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**Hymn #1082** *“O God, You Search Me”*

## We hear God's Word for us.

### **First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18**

*In the Near East, covenant means "agreement" or "alliance." It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.*

<sup>1</sup>Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2a</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. The LORD protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for the LORD is our God.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading: from Psalm 34**

<sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,  
and God's ears are open to their cry.

<sup>16</sup>**The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,  
to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

<sup>17</sup>The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them  
and delivers them from all their troubles.

<sup>18</sup>**The LORD is near to the brokenhearted  
and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

<sup>19</sup>Many are the troubles of the righteous,  
but the LORD delivers them from every one.

<sup>20</sup>**God will keep safe all their bones;  
not one of them shall be broken.**

<sup>21</sup>Evil will bring death to the wicked  
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

<sup>22</sup>**O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,  
and those who put their trust in you  
will not be punished.**

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

### BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

#### **Holy Gospel: John 6:56-60**

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”*

[Jesus said,] <sup>56</sup>“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Concluding the  
 August Sermon Series -  
 "OPENING THE BOOK OF FAITH"*

**Sermon**

**We respond to the good news!**

**Hymn #1048** *“Founded on Faith”*

**Apostles’ Creed** *(page 17 – blue book)*

**Prayers – Hymn #1051**

**Offering  
 Opportunities and Announcements**

**Welcome to God’s Table.**

**Sharing** *the greeting of “Peace”*

**Holy Communion Prayers**

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.**

*....let us proclaim the mystery of faith:*

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## Lord's Prayer

## Holy Communion

### Prayer and Blessing

Let us together pray:

**We give you thanks, almighty God,  
that you have refreshed us through  
the healing power of this gift of life.**

**In your mercy, strengthen us –  
that our living faith may bring peace and hope  
to all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**We go into God's world.**

## Benediction

**Sending Hymn #991 "Go to the World"**

Go in Peace! Serve the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God!**

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## **DON'T FORGET! TONIGHT IS S'MORES & ASHES**

6:30 PM at the Le Mars Municipal Park. Bring a lawn chair and come for fun and fellowship!

Please hold in prayer:

**Gladys** - grandmother of Julie Hurt

**Ali** - sister of Julie Hurt

**Karin** - sister of Ted Hallberg

**Marilynn** - sister-in-law of Rich and Jean Zietlow

**Tyler** - son of Bob and Debbie Gibson

**The family of Pat Heissel**

**The members of First Lutheran Church in Sioux City**

**The Living Faith brother or sister you are praying for**

For more Living Faith Lutheran activities, visit our "News & Events" Page on our website  
at: <https://www.livingfaithlemars.com/blog>