

# Personal DailyWalk



Can you imagine...a space for Grace

April 23-29, 2018

**Monday: Exodus 33:19b** I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious...

*“Faith Lutheran Church’s existing building has seen many acts of God’s grace. The Sacraments upheld, strangers welcomed, people fed, tears wiped away, and children uplifted. Just think of what God will lead us to do with new and larger walls and space.”*

**Can you imagine...space for grace** where grace welcomes and touches more and more people.

**PRAYER:** Gracious God, lead us on your path of showing grace to families and strangers. Amen.

**Tuesday: John 13:34-35** “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.”

*“Our son, Brad, grew up in this church. Then he went to college, got a job, married, moved to St. Louis, started a family, and then got divorced. The first Sunday when he and the kids came back to worship with us at Faith, he was a little apprehensive, wondering how he would be received as the “divorced Brad.” He was overwhelmed by the grace and love shown to him by the Faith family, and felt surrounded by that love. That, to us, is the grace of God played out daily by members of Faith Lutheran Church.” (Doreen and Roger Klages)*

**Can you imagine...space for grace** where grace is like the choir anthem that talks about seeing the face of God, hearing the voice of God, and feeling the love of God – in you?

**PRAYER:** Father God, we thank you for your boundless love, and ask that you help us to share with others. Amen.

**Wednesday: Isaiah 40:3-5** A voice is calling, “Share the way for the Lord in the wilderness. Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.”

*“The camping group started a long time ago and it has grown and shrunk and changed and grown again ever since! The best is having our Saturday evening service before dinner. Recently, Dave Filkins started coming up with his sound system and singers so that we can be heard throughout the campground. How awesome is that! We have volunteers cook meat for the Saturday night meal, and everyone brings a dish to share – with prayers said before we dig in. Then we float on Sunday, and stop and play along the route. Rain or shine, it is God’s blessings on us!” (Maureen and Mark Sauer)*

**Can you imagine...space for grace** for people to gather and plan to take the church out of the building?

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**PRAYER:** Lord God, we thank you for the blessings of camping and shared fellowship. Amen.

**Thursday: Romans 12:13** Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

*"NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Southwestern Illinois is honored to be partnering with Faith Lutheran Church. With the support of Faith Lutheran, our local NAMI affiliate has been able to offer a monthly support group for families and individuals impacted by mental illness. The average monthly attendance is 17 participants. The affiliate is able to provide help and hope to local families with the phenomenal support of Faith. Annually, the meeting serves approximately 240 local families."* (Jessica L. Gruneich)

**Can you imagine...space for grace** where organizations can meet to help those in need?

**PRAYER:** Lord God, please help us share our space with other groups so even more people can find the help they need. Amen.

**Friday: Psalm 66:16:** Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me.

*"Until now, putting my beliefs out in front for all to see has never been a part of my comfort zone. But watching and listening to congregants at Faith share their stories – often through song or music—has been a source of growth and healing for me. I enjoy hearing how God has inspired, influenced, and even transformed lives. I receive comfort knowing that I am not alone, and have stories and experiences shared by fellow congregants. I have grown in learning how those experiences are God's plan and design for our lives, whether it be a change in job or relationship, a loss, a triumph, or another challenge of some kind. I can reflect on the times I felt the presence of God in my life."*

**Can you imagine...space for grace** to share deeper inner moments with fellow Christians?

**PRAYER:** Dear God, thank you for your presence in my life. Please help me to share it with others. Amen.

**Saturday: John 1:16** For from his fullness, we have all received grace upon grace.

*"Grace is defined as the free and unmerited favor of God, which I find in abundance here at Faith Lutheran Church. Opportunities abound here at Faith to both receive and extend grace to others, whether it's participation in small groups such as Bible Study, Soul Sisters, Fit4God, or extending it toward others through Be Like Jesus, Convoy of Hope, and Vacation Bible School. Grace is spread through youth mission trips, and internationally through food packing for Nicaragua and Samaritan Purse shoeboxes. During my time here, I've been blessed by the grace within this church through meals after surgeries, and help and prayers while my husband was deployed. It is through grace found at Faith that I feel I am being led to live my life becoming more like Jesus." (Ruth Addison)*

**Can you imagine...space for grace** where we can share God's grace within our church, community, and the world?

**PRAYER:** Lord, thank you for the giving and receiving of grace shared among your people. Amen.

**Sunday: Matthew 5:14-16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works.

*“The Faith ministries that first breathed God’s love in my family’s life were the nursery and Sunday School ministries. Later, God began to nudge us to share what we were learning in our Bible Study with women in our community, which led to having women’s retreats at Faith. This seemed overwhelming, especially when we needed more space to hold our group activities. But God’s Presence is unmistakable in the overwhelming, and I am excited for this time in our Faith journey as we expand our building and share His light and hope in our community.” (Stacie Dichsen).*

**Can you imagine...space for grace** where Faith offers opportunities for people to come in our doors and experience God’s grace and love?

**PRAYER:** Dear God, make our faith bigger than our fear as we expand our space to draw others to your grace, hope, and love. Amen.

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