



*Faith*  
Lutheran Church  
*of Rotonda West*  
Listening • Caring • Serving



*Faith Lutheran Church - Rotonda West - Florida*  
*Divine Service Order*

*\* Indicates a time to stand (if you are able)*

**THE GATHERING**

**Welcoming of Guests and Visitors**

**Prelude**

**\*Call to Gather**

**P** We gather in the name of God: Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen!

**\*Gathering Hymn**

*There is a Balm in Gilead*

*ELW 614*

*Refrain*



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;



there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.



1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged and think my work's in vain,

2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,

3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

*Refrain*



but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.

you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."

and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

## \*A BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses. Let us do that responsively, but first individually and in silence.

[Silence is kept for reflection.]

P Gracious God,  
C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you.  
C **Gracious God, have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:  
C **Gracious God, have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit.  
C **Gracious God, have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers.  
C **Gracious God, have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world.  
C **Gracious God, have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life.  
C **Gracious God, have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

P In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. Amen.

[Please, remain standing if you are able.]



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -  
 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from  
 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -  
 4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
 fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.  
 tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.  
 we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

**\*THE GREETING**

**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.

**\*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Together we pray,

**C** **Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

[Please, be seated.]

**THE WORD IS READ**

**FIRST READING**

*1 Samuel 16:1-13*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set

out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”<sup>2</sup> Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’”<sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.”<sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?”<sup>5</sup> He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the LORD.”<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”<sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”<sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.”<sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.”<sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.”<sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

L The word of God.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING***Ephesians 5:8-14*

<sup>8</sup> Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup> for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup> Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, <sup>13</sup> but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

L The Word of God.

C **Thanks be to God.**

[Please, stand if you're able.]

**\*Gospel Acclamation** *We Are Turning, Lord, to Hear You* **S205b**

We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind—  
slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

**\*GOSPEL READING***John 9:1-41*

P A reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. John.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

<sup>6</sup> When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup> saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup> Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." <sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup> He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup> They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup> The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup> and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup> His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, <sup>21</sup> but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup> He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do

know, that though I was blind, now I see.”<sup>26</sup> They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”<sup>27</sup> He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”<sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.”<sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”<sup>30</sup> The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.<sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.<sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.<sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”<sup>34</sup> They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”<sup>36</sup> He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”<sup>38</sup> He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.”<sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”<sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

**P** The Gospel of our Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

[Please, be seated.]

**THE WORD IS PROCLAIMED**

**PASTOR ESTEVEZ**



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,  
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;  
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;  
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,  
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.  
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.  
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

[Please, be seated.]

## MINISTRY MOMENT

*Because of the Welcoming of New Members litany, we will skip the prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession today.*

### RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

L Dear friends, today is a special day for us. We rejoice that we will be receiving five new members of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church into our fellowship. Today, we will be welcoming: **Warren & Kerstin Johnson, Steve & Belinda Priebe, and Mark Rice.** They will join our faith community and Faith family.

L Brothers and sisters in Christ. Hear these words from Holy Scripture: “For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.” Eph. 4:4–6

L In Holy Baptism, our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from His Word, God's loving purpose for us and all creation.

P Brothers and sisters, you have been nourished at his holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I ask you, therefore, new members and the whole people here today, to once again reject sin, and to profess our faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church, in which we were baptized.

[Please, stand if you're able.]

\*P Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

C **I do.**

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C **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.**

**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.**

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C **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.**

P You have made a public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:  
To live among God's faithful people,  
To hear his Word and share in his supper,  
To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed  
To serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**New Members I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

P People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their lives with us in Christ?

**C We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their lives with us in Christ?

**C We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P Let us pray,

**C Faithful God, you work in us and for us even when we do not know it. When our path has led us away from you, you guide us back to yourself. We thank you for calling your servants, Warren, Kerstin, Steve, Belinda and Mark, to the fellowship of your people. Renew in them the covenant you made in their baptism. By the power of your Spirit, strengthen them in faith and love, that they may serve you with joy, to the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

<b>*THE SHARING OF THE PEACE</b>
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P The peace of the Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Please share the Peace with the person next to you.

[Please, be seated.]

## OFFERTORY

*In thanksgiving for God's blessing, we respond with our tithe and offerings.*

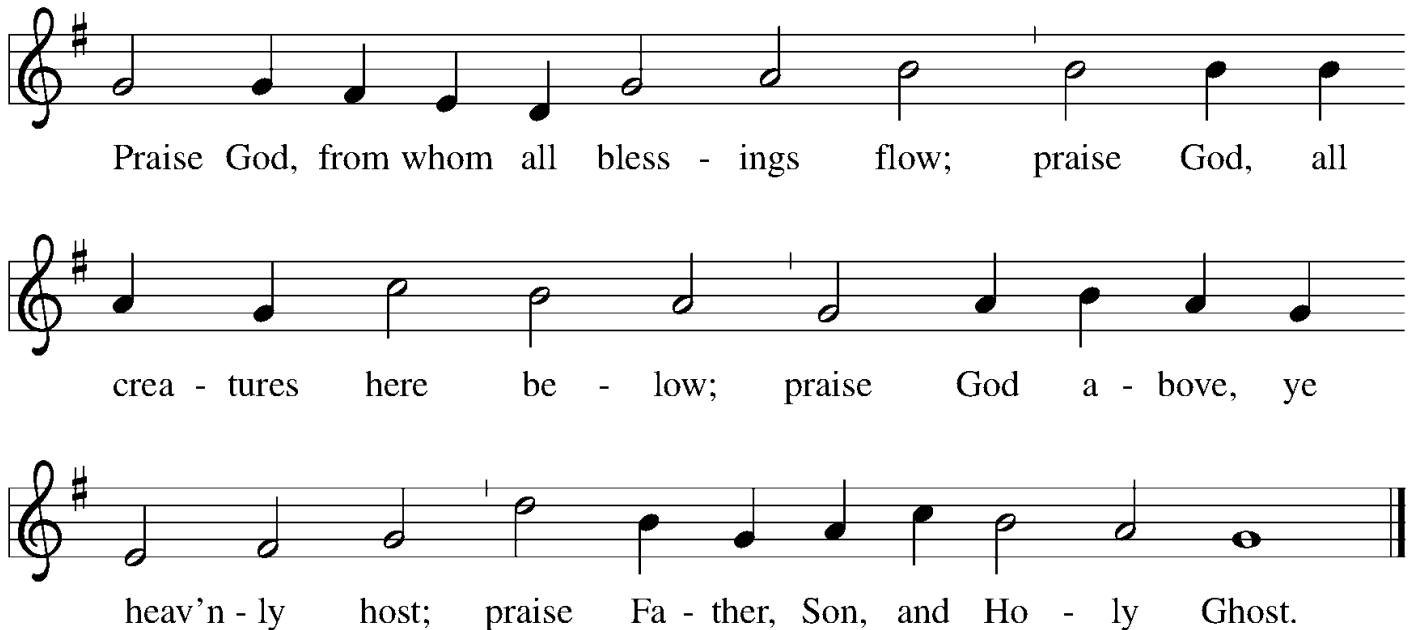
### Offertory Interlude

[Please, stand if you're able.]

### \*Offertory Hymn

*Praise God From Whom*

*ELW 691*



Musical notation for the offertory hymn, consisting of three staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

### \*OFFERING PRAYER

- L Together we pray,  
C **O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### \*SURSUM CORDA

- 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.**

**P** 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 opened the eyes of a blind person and help us see clearly God's desires for us. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*Sanctus** *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord* **S207**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**P** 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.

P 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.

### \*THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Together we 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.**

### \*THE INVITATION

P Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

### THE DISTRIBUTION

*As we celebrate the meal of our Lord, all are invited. If you are a guest and regularly commune at your church, you are welcome to commune here. For those not communing, please keep your hands folded, and you will receive a blessing. Bring your child if you wish for him or her to receive a blessing, too. Both **wine (red)** and **grape juice (white)** are available at communion. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, notify the server. If you are unable to come to the altar rail and would like to receive communion in your seat, please notify an usher.*

[after all have communed.]

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C **Amen.**

P Together we pray,

C **God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love**

for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

P Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✝ bless you now and always.

C Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*In The Cross of Christ*

*ELW 324*



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

**\*THE DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace, and ask God to open your eyes, so you can see.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

## ***Faith's Weekly Announcements***

*Welcome to all of you attending this morning!*

### **An Opportunity for Fellowship**

During Lent we have soup suppers on Wednesdays at 5 pm followed by mid-week Lenten worship at 6 pm. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex for those able to bring soup (in a crock pot) or dessert. We need 4-5 people each week to provide nourishment. There is also a sign-up sheet to help set up and clean up. You are asked to bring a bowl, spoon and (if you like) a sandwich. This is a great time to meet other church friends and enjoy a light supper before the Wednesday Lenten service.

### **Lenten Help**

We still need an usher for the March 25<sup>th</sup> Wednesday evening service. If you can help, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

### **Easter Lilies**

Help us brighten up the sanctuary this Easter Sunday by purchasing a lily for your family, or in memory of someone. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the narthex. We were able to get the flowers at a lower rate so the cost will be \$12.00 each. Make checks payable to "Faith Lutheran Church" and write, "Easter Lily" on the memo line. Place your check in the envelope provided and drop it in the offering or give it to an usher. You may take your plant home any time after the Easter Sunday service.

### **Attendance Last Week: 89**

#### **WE PRAY FOR...**

Debby Porter  
Jim Hughs  
Barbara Rodvik

Tracie Thompson  
Kay Culver  
Ginny Linsberg

Bob Ash  
Shirley Rice

## THIS WEEK AT FAITH

<b>Every week day morning</b>	6:30 am	AA meets at church
<b>Monday</b>	8:00 pm	AA meets at church
<b>Tuesday</b>	8:30 am	Work Crew
	9:00 am	Chicks
	10:00 am	Council
<b>Wednesday</b>	5:00 pm	Soup supper
	6:00 pm	Lenten worship
<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:15 am	Coffee Fellowship
	10:45 am	Morning worship

### Serving Today

**Altar Guild:** Debra Easterday

**Lector/ Worship Assistant:** Kathryn Gallagher

**Ushers:** David & Donna Johnsen, Jan Moynihan

# Faith Lutheran Church of Rotonda

551 Rotonda Boulevard West – Rotonda West, FL 33947

(941) 697-3313

office@alivingfaith.org

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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Pastor: Syl Estevez    Secretary: Barbra Davis

Organist: Candace Montesi    Custodian: Cyndy Hoops

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## **Secretary Office Hours: 9:00 am – Noon (M-F)**

*Our Guiding Principle: GOD'S GRACE WINS....*

*As we WORSHIP Jesus as our Lord and Savior*

*As we LOVE one another, welcoming everyone*

*As we SERVE, inspired by the Holy Spirit*

*As a deep FAITH is taught and caught*

*As we make WITNESS and MISSION our life*



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America