



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

1187 C.R. 128 & U.S. Rt. 20

Fremont, Ohio 43420

Pastor Tim Miller

Church: 419-332-6820

faithchurch@amplex.net

www.faithfremont.org

Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 7, 2026

Setting 3 with Holy Communion

*Congregation please stand as you are able.

Introduction

Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners—the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector and the hemorrhaging woman. As we gather each Lord's day we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God's mercy for the world.

Prelude:

This Is My Father's World

Dorothy H. Sheets

Welcome & Announcements: Joys and Concerns

Signing of the Pew Register by all present.

***Opening Hymn:**

Morning Has Broken

ELW 556

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***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.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

*Canticle of Praise

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

C: O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading:

Hosea 5:15—6:6

Because the people have trusted in military powers and not God, God decides to withdraw from the scene until Israel acknowledges its guilt and seeks God's face. The response of the people does not acknowledge this guilt and is as fickle as fog or dew burned away quickly by the sun. God desires loyalty rather than words or meaningless deeds.

R: A reading from Hosea, the 5th and 6th chapters.

¹⁵ I will return again to my place
until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face.

In their distress they will beg my favor:

^{6:1} “Come, let us return to the LORD,
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.

² After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.

³ Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD;
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;

he will come to us like the showers,
like the spring rains that water the earth.”

⁴ What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?
What shall I do with you, O Judah?

Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.

⁵ Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets;
I have killed them by the words of my mouth,
and my judgment goes forth as the light.

⁶ For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

⁷“Listen, my people, and I will speak: Israel, I will bear witness against you; for I am God, your God.

⁸**I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; your burnt offerings are always before me.**

⁹I will not accept a calf from your stalls, nor goats from your pens;

¹⁰**for all the wild animals of the forest are mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.**

¹¹I know every bird of the mountains, and the creatures of the fields are mine.

¹²**If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the whole world is mine and all that is in it.**

¹³Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats?

¹⁴**Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and make good your vows to the Most High.**

¹⁵Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall honor me.

Second Reading:**Romans 4:13-25**

Paul presents Abraham as a living model of right relationships. For Abraham and for us, a right relationship with God involves trusting that God's promises will be fulfilled because God makes the dead alive and calls into existence what otherwise does not exist.

R: A reading from Romans, the fourth chapter.

¹³ The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was

said, “So shall your descendants be.”¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah’s womb.²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.²² Therefore “it was reckoned to him as righteousness.”²³ Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,²⁵ who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***Gospel** **Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26**

Jesus demonstrates God’s mercy and power, accepting the unacceptable and curing the incurable. Even the dead receive new life.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 9th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹² But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

¹⁸ While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came

in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.”¹⁹ And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples.²⁰ Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak,²¹ for she was saying to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.”²² Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And the woman was made well from that moment.²³ When Jesus came to the leader’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion,²⁴ he said, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him.²⁵ But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up.²⁶ And the report of this spread through all of that district.
The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

***Sermon Hymn:** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

ELW 858

***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 Intercession**

R: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

R: God of mercy, you call us to a life filled with acts of mercy. Ground us in following Christ, that we might extend the mercy we receive. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: God of creation, all you have made is yours. Revive lands in need of healing and make us wise stewards of all you have given us to tend. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: God of the nations, you promise to deliver those who call on you. Bring an end to conflict, bigotry, and injustice in all their forms wherever they are found. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: God of comfort, you provide for those in need. Bring an end to addiction. Comfort people as they mourn. Provide tenderly for those in need, *especially those we name at this time (Pause for 10 seconds for people to be named)*. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: God of blessings, you send the Holy Spirit to provide varieties of gifts in the body of Christ. Accompany those who travel this summer, make our gatherings joyous, and grant us a spirit of hospitality and togetherness. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: God of life, we give you thanks for saints whose lives revealed your faithfulness. May remembering their faithfulness strengthen our own. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

***Offertory:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Offering Prayer**

P: Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

C: Amen.

***The Great Thanksgiving**

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 our 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 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 name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. 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.

***Thanksgiving at the Table**

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
 who preached good news to the poor,
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

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.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
 we await his coming in glory.

P: Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to 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.**

***Invitation to Communion**

P: Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution of Communion

Communion will be continuous. The ushers will invite you to come forward by the center aisle. You will be handed the bread with the words, "The Body of Christ given for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!". Step to the Communion Assistant and take the cup. They will speak the words, "The Blood of Christ shed for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!" Empty cups may be placed in the basket as you return to your seat by the side aisle.

If you prefer gluten- free bread, please let the Pastor know. If you prefer grape juice, please let the Communion Assistant know. If you prefer not to receive or have children who have not yet received, please let the Pastor know and he will offer a blessing.

Communion Hymns:

ELW 608 *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

ELW 617 *We Come to You for Healing, Lord*

ELW 611 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

***Post Communion Blessing**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

***Prayer After Communion**

P: Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Blessing**

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

C: Amen.

***Dismissal**

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

***Postlude:**

Wondrous Love

Craig A. Penfield

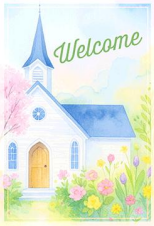
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GOOD MORNING, AND WELCOME TO WORSHIP at Faith

Lutheran Church. What a blessing to take time away from life's busyness to rest in God's presence. "This is my Father's world; he shines in all that's fair ..." (Maltbie Babcock, 1901). Thank you, Father, for this glorious morning!

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Dennis Fahle who joined the church triumphant on May 6, 2026.

LIFT OUTDOOR WORSHIP will be held June 28th at 10 am at downtown Fremont Amphitheater, 209 S. Arch Street. Join us for uplifting music. Pastor C.J. Bailey will share the message and there will be plenty of opportunity to enjoy fresh air and friendship. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, sunglasses and sunscreen, water, and a friend or neighbor.

10TH ANNUAL 2026 BBQ - Rivers of Living Water Cathedral, 604 Howland Street, Fremont, will hold a BBQ with BBQ Chicken & Ribs plus Pulled Pork on **Friday, June 26**, from 11-6 p.m. or until sold out and on **Saturday, June 27**, from 11-2 p.m. or until sold out. A Half Chicken Dinner is \$16, BBQ Rib Dinner is \$18, and Pulled Pork Sandwich is \$8. Dinners include Choice of 2 Sides (Baked Beans, Green Beans, or Cole Slaw), Bread, Dessert and Water. Sandwich Combo for \$10 includes choice of 1 Side, Dessert and Water. Additional Sides for \$1. Open for Drive-thru only. Place order ahead by calling the church and leaving a message if no answer at 419-334-7389. Calls will be returned to get order.

LIFEWISE ACADEMY: Are you able to – Walk students to LifeWise and back to school in Gibsonburg? Help provide financial support? Serve on the LifeWise Gibsonburg Board? Lead as a teacher or substitute teacher? Help organize a fundraising event? Donate your time behind the scenes? Provide supplies? Pray? Consider how God might use YOU to help provide Bible education for public school students during school hours? We are launching this September at Hilfiker for grades K-5!! Want to contribute to the future of LifeWise Gibsonburg? Visit [lifewise.org/\[gibsonburgoh\]](http://lifewise.org/[gibsonburgoh]) or contact Mandy Bentley, LifeWise Gibsonburg Program Director at mandybentley@lifewise.org See also the flyer on the LIFT bulletin board in the coatroom area.

THE CHRISTIAN MISSION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE is having a collection of needed items for the Liberty Center of Sandusky County for the month of June. The Post-It-Notes pull off list of items will be in the Narthex. Please feel free to take as many as you wish. It will get resupplied. **NEEDS LIST:**

13 Gallon Trash Bags, Bleach for Laundry, Pine-sol, Liquid Dish Soap, Sugar, Saltine Crackers, Heinz Ketchup, Jam and Jelly, Cake Mix & Frosting, Brownie Mix, Manwich Sloppy Joe Mix, Hellman's Mayonnaise, Bottled Water, Kroger or Walmart Gift Cards.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

LEARN FIRST AID & CPR – Hosted by Lindsey Firefighters Association.



Training Highlights: Life saving CPR techniques, Use of Automatic Defibrillator Device (AED), Choking rescue for adults & children, Identifying and managing common injuries, How to handle shock, burns, and

fractures and Hands On practice sessions. Your quick response can save a life. Register for one or both of our sessions: **Saturday, June 27th**. CPR 9:30 am – 12:00 pm / First Aid 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm at the Lindsey Fire Station, 238 S. Main Street, Lindsey, Ohio.

Register at: lindseyfire.org/cpr-and-first-aid-class-registration. Cost: Free. For more information or questions: jconklin@lindseyfire.org or 419-680-4026.



SUMMER MUSIC: Make a joyful noise to the Lord! Please consider sharing your gifts of worshipful song through vocal or instrumental music at our 9 am worship service beginning June 7th. You may contact Darla Brown at 419-680-6717 or Parm Boyer at 419-307-1332 if an accompanist is needed. There is a sign-up sheet on the board in the coat room area.



SUMMER WORSHIP: BEGINNING MAY 24TH THROUGH SEPT. 6TH: Worship will be at **9 a.m. only** with Sunday School and Fellowship time to follow.



GET ON BOARD!

THE STATE OF THE FAITH FILLED TRAVELERS 2026 TRIPS

This is the latest information:

Adventures in Columbus – has a change in date. A concert has been booked which canceled us, so our new date is **July 22, 2026**. We received enough travelers and this trip will happen. We are encouraging more people to join us. We should have some very enlightening trips.

Gardens and Castles – (June 26, 2026) This trip will happen. We received enough travelers. Yay! We can still accept more passengers at this time and encourage you to send in your deposits.

Days on the St. Lawrence River – (Aug. 9-14, 2026) This trip has been canceled due to not enough passengers.

Joshua & More (Sight and Sound) – (Oct. 12-15, 2026) we currently have **28!!!!** That means I have already secured all the venues, hotel, tours, restaurants and motorcoach for this trip. We can add more passengers at this time with a **deposit of \$300**.

Please send your deposits ASAP if you are interested in a trip listed above. Sincerely, Yvonne Vogel 419-307-1774.

JOIN US THIS SUMMER FOR LIFT VBS at St. John's Lutheran Church, 212 N. Clover St., Fremont, Ohio on **June 22-25**. The theme is "Just Like Me, Digging in & Growing Deep" with daily themes of - I Wonder, Something to Shout About, Something to Share and Something to Say. Dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. and VBS from 6-7:45 p.m. To sign up go to MYVBS.ORG/LIFTFREMONT. For questions reach out to HeatherRHawn@gmail.com



LIFT COMMUNITY BBQS – Free Food, Games, and Kid's activities. **Tuesdays at 5 p.m. June 9th – August 11th** in Birchard Park. Menu includes Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips, Fruit, Cookies, Water and Lemonade. Support the BBQS – Mail checks to LIFT, 705 W. State Street, Fremont, OH 43420. LIFTchurches.org.



PRAYING DAILY

For healing and hope: Larry Ackerman, Joan Bolen, Mary Ann Diekman, Millie Fetterman, Pat Forsyth, Della Humbarger, Denny Krumnow, Laurie Krynock, Bill Leutenegger, Dean May, Stan Moyer, Nancy

Mylander, Betty Nielsen, Gary Overmyer, Sharon Peña, Sandie Reed, Ken & Gloria Root, Bob Schneider, Jackie Seibert, Janet Tressler, Minnie Weber, Linda Woessner, Jerie Young, Cindy Zorn. Kathy Fletcher, Martina Frost, Craig Johnson, Jackie Mowry, Eric Paul, Dave Wellington.

For the Family of: Denny Fahle, Jane Carpenter

For our Military: Noah Egbert, Troy Halfhill, Jade Kayser, Daniel Linder, Tony Rozzi, Christopher Templeton, & Joshua Tooman.

For our Bishops: Bishop Christian Ndossa, Bishop Yehiel Curry, and NWOS Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Staff

For our partner congregation in Bumila, Tanzania

And its pastor: Pastor Peter Magasi

Ushers Needed



USHERS NEEDED ON SUNDAY MORNINGS –

I would like to appeal to those of you interested in being ushers to please sign up on the clipboards in the coat room area. Thank you very much! Mike Fought, Deacon.

ASSISTING TODAY

Minister: Rev. Larry Michaels **Organist:** Parm Boyer

9:00 a.m.

Greeter: Bob & Nancy Krumnow

Lector: Matthew Reiselt

Acolyte: Jackson Fought

Communion: Kim Smith & Reese Smith

Counters: Dave Kocsis* & Scott Miarer

Fellowship Time Host:

Altar Guild: Cheryl Durnwald & Carol Trick

Ushers: Steve Harder

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK

Minister: Rev. Dane Meuschke **Organist:** Parm Boyer

9:00 a.m.

Greeter: Cheryl, Karly & Kendra Paeth

Lector: Kendra Paeth

Acolyte:

Communion: Cheryl Paeth & Karly Paeth

Counters: Ann Waggoner* & Randy Koch

Fellowship Time Host:

Altar Guild: Cheryl Durnwald & Carol Trick

Ushers: Steve Harder

FAITH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF – June 7 to June 14

Sunday

June 7----- 9 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 10 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time
 2:30-5 p.m. Hall Reserved – 4-H – Jackie Seibert

Monday OFFICE OPEN

June 8-----8 a.m. Men’s Group in Fellowship Hall
 10 a.m. Valley View Tea Time with God
 11:30 a.m. FLCW Visitation at Bob Evans

Tuesday

June 9-----

Wednesday

June 10----- **OFFICE CLOSED**

Thursday

June 11-----3 p.m. Christ Care

Friday

June 12-----

Saturday

June 13-----9:15 a.m. Christ Care

Sunday

June 14----- 9 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 10 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026: ATTENDANCE: 114 – OFFERING: \$10,116.91

GOSPEL MESSAGE

June 7, 2026

Second Sunday after Pentecost

To Be Well

The fourteenth-century mystic Julian of Norwich is famous for writing about a vision of Jesus assuring her that “all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.”

Jesus, in today’s reading, is deeply concerned with the matter of wellness. He uses a metaphor of illness and wellness to defend his decision to keep fellowship with those whom society has rejected, despised, or cast out. Just a few verses later, Jesus performs two intertwined acts of healing, saying to one of the individuals, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well” (Matthew 9:22).

Wellness, for Jesus, is a holistic endeavor. Physical health is one part of the equation, but so are spiritual wholeness, mental and emotional well-being, financial stability, and health in relationships and society. Jesus does not limit his work to any one of these areas. Consistently in the gospels, Jesus is concerned with all aspects of life. He recognizes and works to dismantle all kinds of barriers to full, whole, peaceful living.

Too often, our contemporary society exploits the idea of wellness to sell us a product, to market an unattainable lifestyle, or to guilt us into a particular set of behaviors. Jesus, however, is not trying to sell us something. Jesus invokes wellness as a way of assuring us that he cares deeply about our whole being, and that every part of us is worthy of God’s care and keeping. Jesus desires that we be at peace in our bodies, minds, spirits, and relationships.

When our world and our lives are difficult and painful, we can turn again and again to scripture, which witnesses to Jesus’ deep compassion, empathy, and care for us. He is a living sign of God’s power to comfort and heal. He is our living sign and symbol of resurrection and restoration. He is the embodiment of our divine assurance that all manner of things will, one day, be well, and whole, and at peace.