



## **Lenten Worship – Week 1** **Wednesday, March 4, 2020**

First Lutheran Evangelical Lutheran Church, Port Colborne  
St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Welland

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### **Midweek Lenten Series: By Faith**

What is faith? The text from Hebrews 11:1 defines it in this way: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

This series focuses on the book of Hebrews, especially the eleventh chapter. The first four weeks provide a journey through the faith of the Old Testament figures, especially Noah, Abraham, Moses, and the Israelites. The fifth week brings us to Jesus, "the perfecter of our faith," and his path to the cross.

### **Week of Lent 1: The Faith of Noah**

By faith, Noah built the ark, gathered the animals, watched the waters rise, and received the rainbow promise. How do we have faith in things not yet seen?

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## LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE – MARCH 4, 2020

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### Opening Dialogue

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors  
in many and various ways, by the prophets,  
**but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.**

He is the reflection of God's glory  
and the exact imprint of God's very being,  
**and he sustains all things by his powerful word.**

Since we have confidence by the new and living way  
opened for us by Jesus,  
**let us approach with a true heart  
in full assurance of faith.**

**Gathering Song ..... 609 Chief of Sinners Though I Be**

Reading ..... Hebrews 11:1-7

### Reflection

*The reflection concludes:*

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,  
**The conviction of things not seen.**

**Hymn of the Day ..... 785 When Peace Like a River**

### Prayers

Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, let us pray for the  
church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

Faithful God, shower the world with your lovingkindness,  
**that all may know your peace.**

Open our eyes to the needs of our neighbors,  
**that all may know your love.**

Comfort the sick and dying,  
**that all may know your mercy.**

Guide our leaders in the way of truth,  
**that all may know your justice.**

Focus our hearts on the way of the cross,  
**that all may have faith in you.**

Let us pray in the words of Martin Luther:

**Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled.  
My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me.**

**I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love  
may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm  
faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether.  
O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you I  
have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor; you are rich  
and came to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are  
upright. With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the  
fullness of righteousness. Therefore I will remain with  
you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give.  
Amen. (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 87)**

Finally, let us pray with the words our Savior gave us:

**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**

Peace

Blessing

The God of peace,  
who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
the great shepherd of the sheep,  
make you complete in everything good  
so that you may do God's will,  
through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**Sending Song ..... 733 Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

Dismissal

## Hebrews 11:1-7

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Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain's. Through this he received approval as righteous, God himself giving approval to his gifts; he died, but through his faith he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death; and 'he was not found, because God had taken him.' For it was attested before he was taken away that 'he had pleased God.' And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir to the righteousness that is in accordance with faith.