

# Pastor Sailer's Page

Faith Lutheran Church  
Sioux Falls, SD

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## SOLEMN and GRATEFUL

*Memorial Day is a day of conflicting emotions, especially as one steps onto the sacred soil of a cemetery.*

**M**any of you will be visiting cemeteries this Memorial Day weekend. The feelings are many, and they are conflicting: ...you remember your loved ones ... you wish they were still here with you, but you're glad they are "with the Lord"...you're happy for them, but you're sad for you...you're grateful for their lives and the blessing they were to you; at the same time, there's a melancholy that creeps into your gratefulness. I've often said, at funerals and memorial services: "You hurt so deeply because you have loved so deeply."

Such is life in this fallen world, as we await the Lord's return, the new creation, and the eternal reunion with Him and all the saints. We live in the "now, not yet" that marks the Christian's life. Now, we are the children of God. But we don't have the perfection promised us. Now, we have the certainty and joy of forgiveness (Christ has died! He has risen!). But our sin, which still has us in its clutches, brings us down again and again. We don't yet have complete freedom from its awful effects. Not yet.

On Sunday or Monday, you will stand on the sacred ground of a cemetery. You will be grateful. You will be solemn. Death, our last and greatest enemy, has done its ugly worst. We trust God that He has used death as His gateway to everlasting life, where He will give us His best forever.

God has already given us His Best – His dear Son Jesus for our salvation. Listen! *"He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?"* (Romans 8:32). And listen to this! *"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us. ... we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies"* (Romans 8:23).

This Memorial Day weekend, may God give you His PEACE and JOY in Christ, as you remember

and give thanks for your loved ones. And may all of us remember, with thanksgiving to God, the ultimate sacrifice so many service men and women have made for our country (for us!) so that we have enjoyed relative peace as we live our days as citizens of this great country!



**CASUAL DRESS! SUNDAY SERVICE<sup>2</sup> IS ALMOST HERE!**

Can you believe it's almost time for Sunday Service<sup>2</sup>? Next Sunday, May 31, is that annual Sunday morning of a 9 a.m. service (Service #1), featuring a theme centered on acts of mercy and compassion, followed by opportunities to go and do acts of compassion as members of serving teams (Service #2). *Service #1 (worship service) + Service #2 (serving teams) = Sunday Service<sup>2</sup>!* Then, we all get together, at about 11:30 a.m., to enjoy the burgers and hotdogs prepared by one of our service teams and to share stories of what the Faith servants have experienced in helping folks with laundry, picking up trash, washing cars, and visiting folks in nursing homes.

Casual dress is encouraged next Sunday! Please wear jeans or shorts and the bright yellow shirts provided for SS<sup>2</sup>.

There are still serving groups that need more helping hands, and there's still opportunity to donate food or drink. Sign up today! Thanks.

*"By this we know love,  
that He laid down His*

life for us, and we ought  
to lay down our lives for  
the brothers. ... Little  
children, let us not love  
in word or talk but in  
deed and in truth” (I John 3:16, 18).