Cross of Hope Making Faith Connections Small Group Ministry
July 20, 2025
6th Sunday after Pentecost
<u>**Extraordinary Ordinary Faith**</u>

15 Minutes   **Gathering and Check-in … *share where you've encountered God this week*.**

Prayer   Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ELW p42)

45 Minutes   **Introduction:** Perhaps the church, at its best, is "all ears." God urges the faithful, again and again, to "listen up!"—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life. (from Sundays and Seasons)

Discussion Questions:

Read again Luke 10:38-42
    What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
    What is challenging or confusing as you read/hear it this time?
    According to Jesus in this story, what is the only thing needed for faith?
    What do you hear in the Word of God – the gospel?
    Why is it extraordinary that this is the only thing needed?
    What faith practices/disciplines help you listen without (or at least less) distraction?
    What does it mean/look like to abide in the presence of God?

Read again Genesis 18:1-10a
    What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
    How is Abraham's welcome ordinary?
        How is his welcome extraordinary?
    How do you know when a visitor is from the Lord?
    What does the extraordinary news of Sarah's pregnancy reveal about God?

Read again Colossians 1:15-28
    What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
    According to this passage, what are all the things that 'Christ is'?
    What does it mean for us and for the world that Christ dwells in the church? /You and me?

    Read and reflect on Psalm 15 if you'd like.

20 Minutes   **Prayer Requests and Prayer**

10 Minutes   **Wrap Up and Get Ready to Leave Session**

Making FAITH Connections
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